

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**



MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT – TANZANIA

MCA-T Hands Over Songea-Namtumbo Road Sites to Sogea Satom – France Contractors

On 15th June 2010, a team of experts from Millennium Challenge-Account-Tanzania (MCA-T), Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) in the presence of the Ruvuma Regional Authorities conducted the Songea-Namtumbo road kick off meeting, including a site handing over event to both the Supervision Consultant Nicholas O’Dwyer and the Contractor Sogea Satom-France.

The kick off meeting focused on contractual matters, clarification of key issues and definition of responsibilities among the consulting engineer and the contractor for a smooth take off and implementation of the project. The kick off meeting was preceded by a stakeholders meeting held on 14th June 2010 with representatives from regional and district authorities, politicians, private sector road users, public utilities providers, members of the press and representatives of the communities in the project areas. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss issues related to the project and the expected benefits to be accrued to the stakeholders. The stakeholders’ meeting was chaired by the Acting Regional Administrative Secretary, Dr. Tarimo. In his opening speech, Dr. Tarimo emphasized three important issues regarding the upgrading plan for the Songea - Namtumbo road. Firstly, the upgrading plan of the road did respect the wishes of the people along the road during the resettlement exercise and also considered important environment factors. Secondly, the road was expected to improve trade and business and will further provide job creations. Thirdly, the road was both a national and regional asset which would facilitate for an easy access to critical social services and markets.

The handing over ceremony was performed at Lumecha Village in Songea and was marked by the MCA-T Director of Transport Sector Project, Eng. Salum Sasillo on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Bernard S. Mchomvu to the representative of Sogea Satom-France, Mr. David Curtarello. The occasion was witnessed by the Acting Regional Commissioner, Mr. Saveri Maketa, MCC Resident Country Director, Mr. Karl Fickenscher, MCC Senior Director Infrastructure, Mr. Jonathan Saiger and other representatives from the region, districts, MCA-T, TANROADS, supervision consultant Nicholas O’Dwyer and Lumecha village residents.

It is important to note that on the 25th May 2010, MCA-T signed the works contract with Sogea Satom-France worth USD 46,963,435.11 (TShs 62,250,383,576.76) with the view to upgrade to bitumen standard the Songea - Namtumbo road (67km).

Upgrading of the Songea to Namtumbo road is one of the Mainland Trunk Road Activities under the Millennium Challenge Compact signed by President George W. Bush and President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete on 17th February 2008 to reduce poverty by stimulating sustainable economic growth in Tanzania through targeted investments in transportation, energy, and water infrastructure.



MCA-T Director of Transport Sector Projects, Eng. Salum Sasillo (3rd R) handing over a document to a Representative of Sogea Satom-France Mr. David Curtalello (3rd L) to signify the handing over the site for Songea Namtumbo road (67km). The event was witnessed by Acting Ruvuma Regional Commissioner, Mr. Saveri Maketa (4th R), MCC Resident Country Director, Mr. Karl Fickensher and MCC Senior Director Infrastructure, Mr. Jonathan Saiger (C). Others (R-L) Resident Engineer, Mr. P. Rushton, MCA-T Procurement Officer, Mr. N.P. Mwamwaja, TANROADS Regional Manager, Eng. A. Kisimbo, and TANROADS Project Coordinator, Eng. A. Maeda.

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Millennium Challenge Account-Tanzania (MCA-T) is an autonomous and independent Government Entity established to implement a \$698 million grant that will reduce poverty by improving infrastructure and thereby promoting economic growth. MCA-T is supported by Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), a United States government agency designed to work with developing countries. For more information visit www.mca-t.go.tz or www.mcc.gov .