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This is the fifth issue of UTAFITI (New Series) which is coming out as Vol. 3 No. 2, 1996. It is a special number on the state construction of gender as manifested in a multiplicity of subject matter from land law to the education of people of disability. Apology is offered to our subscribers for the delay in publishing the number as well as the other volumes which are long overdue: Vol. 4 No. 1 & 2, 1997 and Vol. 5 No. 1 & 2, 1998. Financial constraints which have now been amicably resolved caused the delay. Gratitude has got to be expressed to the Swedish aid agency, SIDA/SAREC, which has renewed its commitment to continue supporting the publication of UTAFITI (New Series) for at least the next three to four years. Special gratitude has also got to be extended to the French Institute for Research in Africa (IFRA) based in Nairobi, Kenya which had firmly pledged to support the publication of this special number to the tune of US $2,000. Unfortunately, technical delays in the transmission of the generous IFRA offer has meant that this number of UTAFITI (New Series) has come out thanks only to the SIDA/SAREC support mentioned earlier. IFRA's support is all the same acknowledged since it will now partly be used to expedient the publication of subsequent Volumes of UTAFITI, i.e., UTAFITI (New Series) Vol. 4 No. 1 & 2, 1997 and Vol. 5 No. 1 & 2, 1998. The intention is to publish these two volumes by the end of this year (1999) in addition to publishing Vol. 6 No. 1 & 2, 1999 also by the end of this year. Advantage has got to be taken of the generous offer of financial support by SIDA/SAREC to bring the production of the journal's numbers up to date.

There are six articles in this special issue of UTAFITI. The six are introduced by a special critical article, titled as the State Construction of Gender, written by a Guest Editor commissioned specifically to provide a summary of the contents of the six articles as well as a critical commentary on what can be regarded as the running thread tying all the six articles together with regard to how they treat the question of gender relations defining the various aspects of Tanzanian socio-economic life.

Prof. Marjorie Mbilinyi was particularly suited to offer this service of a Guest Editor to a special issue of UTAFITI on gender since she is and has been one of the foremost scholarly activists of the gender equity movement in Tanzania and in the Eastern and Southern Africa region as a whole.
The reader is invited to send the Chief Editor critical comments on the Guest Editor's Introduction as well as on the six articles themselves. You are also invited to begin or continue supporting the publication of *UTAFITI* by sending us articles and book reviews to be considered for publication and by taking a subscription or renewing one. Readers' short commentaries on articles which appeared in previous numbers of *UTAFITI* are particularly welcome.

Dr. A.F. Lwaitama
Chief Editor
May 1999