



**Speech by Dr. Donald Mmari, Executive Director,
REPOA On the Occasion of REPOA's 21st Annual
Research Workshop 6-7th April, 2016 at the Ledger
Plaza Bahari Beach Hotel, Dar es Salaam**

*Guest of Honour, Your Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, Vice President of
the United Republic of Tanzania,*

Honorable Charles Mwijage, Minister for Industry, Trade and Investments,

Your Excellency Ambassador of Norway Hannie-Maria Kaastard

Your Excellences Ambassadors and Heads of Diplomatic Missions present,

Permanent Secretaries in the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investments,

Prof. Yadon Kohi, Chairperson of REPOA

Prof. Justin Lin, our Key Note Speaker

Members of the Press,

Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to welcome you all to the 21st REPOA Annual Research Workshop. **Karibuni sana.** First and foremost, allow me to express my gratitude to the Guest of Honour, Her Excellency, Vice President of Tanzania, Samia Suluhu Hassan, for agreeing to set aside time from her very busy schedule to grace this occasion. We understand the current workload of our leaders, and fully subscribe to the hard work and stance of the 5th phase Government in reinforcing discipline and accountability in public service as an important ingredient for accelerating socioeconomic transformation and inclusive development.

Your Excellency, As most of you already know, the core business of REPOA is to generate knowledge through **research, capacity building, and policy dialogue**, focusing on economic and social development areas. The ultimate purpose of our work is to contribute to improving the quality of life of the people of Tanzania, and beyond. We do this through independent and credible research, shared through publications, policy briefs, policy seminars and roundtables, media briefs, direct engagement in policy reviews and development, and through large workshops as the Annual Research Workshop being held today.

Your Excellency, REPOA engages in strategic research, both individually and in collaboration with other national, regional, and international research and policy organizations. We place high priority on deepening understanding of economic growth and underlying structural transformation in order to enhance inclusiveness and participation of citizens in the development process. We examine social policy as an integral part of development policy, and in particular social protection in its transformative role to enhance income stability, human capabilities and to prevent deprivation. Issues of governance and accountability are equally important to our research programme, since we believe in cultivating inclusive and

participatory systems of governance as fundamental ingredient towards transparent, accountable, and efficient delivery of public services.

REPOA's emphasis on objectivity, quality of its work, and contribution to policy dialogue and development has earned it a very high reputation. For two consecutive years, a global survey conducted by the Think Tank and Civil Societies Programme at the University of Pennsylvania have ranked REPOA as the top think tank in Tanzania, and 18th out of 92 think tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Our work have been made possible with core financial support from the Embassy of Norway, Embassy of Sweden, DFID through the AcT programme, IDRC Canada through the Think Tank Initiative (TTI), and through research collaborations, including those with Irish Embassy, UN-WIDER under DANIDA support, CMI and The National Bureau of Statistics under Norwegian Embassy support, AGRA, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The World Bank, AERC, World Food Programme, UNICEF, Southern Voice, Centre for Democratic Development (CDD) Ghana, Institute of Development Studies (IDS) Nairobi, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), World Economic Forum, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, IDRC, Open University UK, ILO, FAO, SADC, EAC, IFPRI, ESRC, African Development Bank, The Brookings Institute, Prime Minister's Office (Labour and Employment), Poverty Eradication Division in the Ministry of Finance and Planning, President's Office–Planning Commission, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries, and many other Ministries, Departments and Agencies that have supported our work.

We also thank those who provided us with core funding in the past, including the Embassies of the Netherlands, Denmark, and Finland. I believe they will continue to collaborate with us in the days to come, and

others will join too. Core financial support to think tanks is still necessary for sustained delivery of public goods such as research capacity building, publications, and policy dialogue, particularly so in an environment where endowments, foundations, government and public private sector funding of research are very limited.

Your Excellency, The presentations in this workshop are structured around the theme “**Making Industrialization Work for Socioeconomic Transformation**”. The choice of this theme was deliberate. The aspiration number one of the African Union “**Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want**” desires a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, with economies that are structurally transformed to create shared growth, decent jobs and economic opportunities for all. Recent initiatives in the African region are focused on industrial transformation. REPOA recently participated in the preparation of the SADC Industrialization Strategy, and The East African Community Vision has regional trade and industrialization as one of its development agenda. And above all, the focus of Tanzanian Second Five Year Development Plan is on accelerating transformation driven by industrialization. REPOA has engaged very actively in informing the development of the Plan, and commits to continue working with the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investments and other MDAs in that same spirit.

Your Excellency, we are very confident that your **opening address** will guide our subsequent deliberations on the prospects and challenges of industrialization as a strategic imperative for achieving the desired socio-economic transformation. In addition we will have the opportunity to listen to the **keynote speech** delivered by **Professor Justin Lin from Peking University**, China. Prof. Lin is honorary dean at the National School of

Development, and Director of Center for New Structural Economics at Peking University. He was previously the Senior Vice President and Chief Economist at the World Bank, and has authored many books that are relevant to the subject we are discussing. The keynote address will be discussed by three distinguished speakers. Mr. Lawrence Mafuru, Treasury Registrar of the Government of Tanzania, Col. Joseph Simbakalia, the Director General of EPZA, and Mr. Godfrey Simbeye, the Executive Director of Tanzania Private Sector Foundation.

The first session this morning will be chaired by Prof. Joseph Semboja, the Executive Director of Uongozi Institute, previously the Executive Director of REPOA, who has rich experience in policy research and institutional development. I am pleased that my immediate predecessor, Prof. Samuel Wangwe is also here as our chief resource person, drawing from his rich experience on the subject of industrialization, rooted from his PhD Thesis 36 years ago.

Apart from the keynote presentations during the opening session, there will be other paper **presentations and panel discussions from experts and distinguished scholars** from Tanzania and from other countries, selected strategically to share their experiences on industrialization and inclusive transformation.

Your Excellency, please allow me to recognize those who travelled over long distances to share with us their experiences and insights on the challenges and prospects of achieving rapid industrial development and transformation; Prof. Finn Tapp from UN-WIDER in Helsinki; Prof. Odd-Helge Fjelstad, Dr. Siri Lange, Dr. Espen Villanger, and Dr. Kendra Dupuy from CMI, Norway, Prof. Ragnar Torvik from Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Indrid Sjursen from Norwegian School of Economics; Prof. John Page from the Brookings Institution, Prof. Marc

Wuyts from the Netherlands, Prof. Maureen Mackintosh and Prof. David Wield from the Open University of UK, Dr. Ahmed Helmy Fuady from the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Prof. Tetsushi Sonobe from the Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPs) in Japan; Dr. Ernest Etti from ACBF in Zimbabwe; Dr. Julius Gatune from ACET, Ghana, Dr. Madina Guloba from EPRC, Uganda, Dr. Adan Shibia from KIPRA, Kenya.

May I specially recognize the presence of Hon. Jesica Eriyo, Deputy Executive Secretary of the East African Community (EAC).

Your Excellency, It is our expectation that the rich and diverse **experiences** that are represented here will be **shared generously** among us and subsequently be synthesized to inform the ongoing initiatives to accelerate industrial development in Tanzania, including the Second Five Year Development Plan. All Participants are encouraged to participate fully and share their knowledge and experience during the two days of the workshop. I take this opportunity to thank most sincerely all the paper presenters, chairpersons, discussants, and all distinguished participants for sparing their valuable time to support REPOA's research and policy dialogue during the next two days.

At the end of the workshop **we expect to have achieved four things:**

- a. shared knowledge and experience on issues relating to industrialization and transformation for inclusive growth
- b. Disseminated key research findings and synthesis for policy recommendations
- c. Achieved research capacity and raise awareness on the new research projects through poster presentations
- d. Generate new ideas to inform our future research agenda.

I once again express our sincere gratitude to the Guest of Honour and welcome you all to this workshop.

Thank you for your attention.