

REPOAs 21st Annual Research Workshop - Making industrialization work for socio-economic transformation.

Remarks by H.E. Hanne-Kaarstad, Ambassador of Norway

Your Excellency Vice-President of the *United Republic of Tanzania*, Samia Suluhu Hassan;

Hon. Minister for Industry, Trade and Investment, Charles John Mwijage;

Prof. Mkenda & Dr. Meru, Permanent Secretaries at Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment;

Chairperson of REPOA Board of Directors, Prof. Major General (mstaafu) Yadon M. Kohi;

Executive Director of REPOA, Dr. Donald Mmari;

Distinguish professors, researchers and guests;

All protocol observed.

- It is truly an honour for me to be here today, and to give remarks on this important event.
- The aim is to promote policy dialogue based on evidence from research and experience of Tanzania and other countries on industrialisation, structural change, and socio-economic transformation. A very timely topic for the future development of Tanzania and for the new Government, who has already underlined the importance of open dialogue with private sector stakeholders as well as the Academia and Research institution in order to create a new momentum for the broad-based and inclusive economic growth. Let me use this opportunity to wish the Government, here represented with H.E. the Vice President and Hon Mwijage all the best in their endeavours to fulfil this goal.
- Over a period of 21 years, REPOA's annual research workshop has become one of the most significant platforms to share evidence-based knowledge and to promote policy dialogue in Tanzania.
- In my view, think tanks and independent research institutions, such as REPOA, can play a unique role in the development of a society.
- I would suggest that research is relevant when it is applied. I would also suggest that policymaking and interventions are likely more effective when based on evidence. Obviously, linkages between research and policy promotes development.
- The topic of REPOA's 21st Annual Research Workshop underlines this point: "Making industrialization work for socio-economic transformation" is a challenging research thesis statement. Without doubt, it is also a challenging policy issue.
- The Tanzania Development Vision 2025 sets out the overall goal of transforming Tanzania into a middle-income country through a strong, competitive economy.

- The upcoming second Five Year Development Plan's main objectives are to mobilise and organise the national resources strategically in order to nurture industrialisation for economic transformation and human development.
- Smart interventions require evidence-based policymaking, and applied research could potentially contribute significantly to an effective implementation of the Second Five Years Development Plan.
- Collaborations between research organisations from different parts of the world, not only strengthen the extent and quality of research, but can also contribute to more informed and innovative policymaking and public debate. Norway is funding a collaborative programme for research, capacity building and policy dialogue, jointly implemented by REPOA and CMI, in collaboration with the National Bureau of Statistics.
- The programme's objective is to enhance the empirical understanding of key prospects and challenges facing Tanzania as a new petro-state, and to provide contextualised and evidence based policy analysis.
- Tanzania is rich in natural resources, not only in quantity but also in diversity. This may provide it with a "competitive advantage" in terms of industrialisation.
- However, resource-abundant countries have, on average, experienced lower growth and lower economic and social development over the last four decades than their resource-poor counterparts. This phenomenon is well known as the 'resource curse'.
- Hence, there is a risk that resource-based industrialisation does not work for socio-economic transformation.
- Research may give some answers, and could potentially reduce risk if such a industrialization path is taken.
- Looking at my own country, Norway, the development of academia in the early days of the petroleum era, was effective in avoiding the resource curse. Several of the institutions have over the years provided valuable research, analysis and policy advises – towards industrial players, policymakers and regulatory bodies as well as civil society.
- It is my hope that during these two days, you will have rich discussions around the specific objectives. To enhance the understanding of the strategic roles of industrialisation on economic growth and structural change, and how the two relate to socio-economic transformation, both in theory and in the practical context of Tanzania. This understanding may promote further research and deepen policy dialogue and informed policy development with the aim of realising the aspirations of the Vision 2025.
- I am very optimistic towards the outcome of this workshop. With its theme, it may lay a good foundation for an innovative and fruitful policy dialogue during the implementation of the Second Five Year Development Plan.

Asanteni sana!