

**Speech by Professor Joseph Semboja**  
**Executive Director of REPOA**  
**On the occasion of REPOA's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Research**  
**Workshop**  
**18 March 2010 in Dar es Salaam**

Right Honourable Prime Minister, Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda,

Professor Esther Mwaikambo, Chairperson of the REPOA Board of Directors,

Ambassador Ad Koekkoek from the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands,

Excellency Ambassadors present:

- Anne Barrington from the Embassy of Ireland,
- Staffan Herrstrom from the Embassy of Sweden,
- Dianne Corner from the British High Commission,
- Bjarne Sorensen from the Embassy of Denmark,
- John M. McIntire, Country Director of the World Bank,
- David Robinson, Resident representative, IMF,

Honourable Professor Jumanne Maghembe, Minister for Education and Vocational Training,

Professor Hans Binswanger from Tshwane University of Technology, Pretoria, South Africa,

Permanent Secretaries present,

Vice Chancellors,

Members of the REPOA Board of Directors and Technical Advisory Committee,

Heads of diplomatic missions,

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Today is an extremely important moment for all of us at REPOA. We are honoured to have the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania open our Annual Research Workshop for the second year running.

REPOA and the intellectual community appreciate the Government's support for knowledge creation and social dialogue. On behalf of REPOA and the participants here today, we look forward to more support and interaction with the Government. In turn, the intellectual community will exercise its capabilities and fulfil its duty to development in Tanzania.

Last year the insightful presentations led to in depth discussions. We are pleased to note that these discussions continue, as growth for development is integral to the national development agenda.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, once again, you are most welcome.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

REPOA's Annual Research Workshop is Tanzania's largest and longest running research workshop. Initially conceived as a research capacity-building workshop, this event has gradually grown to include policy dialogue, and draw in a wide circle of intellectuals. All participants value this opportunity for knowledge sharing and networking. In its desire to

further enrich this annual event, REPOA is at the forefront of policy dialogue and will continue to strive for excellence.

This is the third consecutive Annual Research Workshop to focus on the theme of growth and development. Two years ago we began to discuss growth in more general terms, moving on last year to the role of the state in promoting growth and development, and today we will focus on agriculture, for growth and economic transformation.

This year's workshop brings together a rich gathering of recognised experts in development. I am delighted that a respected scholar, Professor Hans Binswanger from the Tshwane University of Technology in Pretoria, will present the keynote paper on 'Kilimo Kwanza: Promoting Agriculture for Economic Transformation in Tanzania.' I have no doubt that Professor Hans Binswanger will provide a platform for thought, and encourage a social dialogue amongst the participants here today. The contributions by Ambassador Ad Koekkoek and the panellists' interventions by Honourable Professor Jumanne Maghembe, as a scientist, Professor Bruno Ndunguru, from the Tea Research Institute of Tanzania and Professor Andrew Temu, from the Sokoine University of

Agriculture, will provide a thought provoking environment for learned debate and knowledge sharing. Right Honourable Prime Minister, as a politician and Government leader, your views on this subject will be invaluable.

I am convinced that after this workshop we shall have accumulated rich knowledge in growth and development that is both locally grounded and takes into account the global environment in which we operate. It is vital to conserve this wealth. In our research and academic culture an analytical document on the process of growth and development will serve useful intellectual and policy purposes. Therefore, REPOA will compile and publish the presentations and discussions on growth and development from this and the previous two years' Annual Research Workshops. This will strengthen further the linkage between our workshops and policy makers and the intellectual community.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

This year REPOA has begun the fourth strategic plan, 2010 to 2014, which will guide this organisation through its second decade of operation. The preceding strategic plan was characterised by the rapid expansion

and diversification of operations, which resulted from an increased demand for services in knowledge creation and facilitation. These challenges continue to provide a positive stimulus to the development of a dynamic organisation. Valuable insights from external reviews, and stakeholders, have helped shape the strategic direction for the next phase. Therefore, this fourth strategic plan sets out the framework for a period of consolidation, a time to reflect and concentrate our efforts in areas we consider REPOA can make the most effective contribution to development in Tanzania.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Building the capacity of researchers continues to be the major area of focus for REPOA, and continues to be an important component of the Annual Research Workshop. Therefore, in addition to the papers presented in the plenary session, twenty one research papers will be presented and discussed. These papers provide a vital platform for researchers to present their work, receive constructive feedback from peers, and valuable advice on areas which require revision. Workshop participants are requested to appreciate the differing levels of expertise of our researchers and support them fully in this capacity building initiative.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to those who provide financial and moral support to REPOA to conduct its activities in the areas of research, capacity building, fostering dialogue, and responding to stakeholders' needs. The Chairperson has mentioned and thanked the REPOA basket fund contributors. Their generous funding is vital to Tanzania's development in the field of research. I would also like to acknowledge, with gratitude, the active support provided by other key stakeholders; development partners from other nations, academics and academic institutions, researchers and other research organisations, members of civil society organisations, and the media. We welcome support from those development partners who have not yet joined our basket funding arrangement.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, I am proud to report that, REPOA is one of the few organisations outside the public sector receiving financial support from the Government of Tanzania; for this we are most grateful. We understand that the fourth phase Government has pledged to support research much more vigorously than before. It is my sincere hope that

due to the central role REPOA plays in policy dialogue and development,  
the level of financial support to REPOA will continue to grow.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I thank you for your attention.