

**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MOHAMMED GHARIB BILAL,
THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
AT THE OPENING OF REPOA'S 18TH ANNUAL RESEARCH WORKSHOP
DAR ES SALAAM, 3RD APRIL 2013**

***Professor Yadon Kohi,
Chairperson of the Board of Directors of REPOA;***

Honourable Ministers & Deputy Ministers Present,

Regional Commissioners;

Members of Parliament;

Your Excellency and lead development partner for REPOA, Dr Ad Koekkoek;

Excellencies, Ambassadors and Members of the Diplomatic Corps Present;

Professor Samuel Wangwe, Executive Director of REPOA;

Datuk Chris Tan, Director, PEMANDU, Office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning.

It gives me great pleasure to participate at REPOA's 18th annual research workshop which gives us the opportunity to see the momentum for policy discourse on Tanzanian developments. This year's theme on "the Quest for Inclusive Development" is a logical extension of the discussions you had last year under the theme "Socioeconomic Transformation for Poverty Reduction". The Tanzanian Government views policy dialogues and exchanges among stakeholders of development as a vital step in the process of finding solutions to our development challenges. REPOA's Annual Research Workshop is one clear avenue for such dialogues, and I am glad to note the presence at this workshop of diverse stakeholders of development, representing; policy makers, research and academia, civil society organizations, development partners, and the private sector. Clearly, it is the joint efforts and partnerships of all these stakeholders that can make the realization of the quest for inclusive development aspired in our National Development Vision 2025 possible.

This event has brought together intellectuals, policy makers, and development practitioners not only from within Tanzania, but also from other countries. I welcome all participants, particularly from outside our borders, to enjoy the traditional hospitality of Tanzania, in addition to sharing their development experience.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Participants;

Since independence our Government has initiated and implemented various policies and programmes aimed at stimulating growth and fighting poverty and other vices in our society. Our Development Vision 2025 envisions Tanzania as a middle income country with a dynamic and competitive economy by 2025. A competitive and a dynamic economy,

however, cannot come about or be sustained in society characterised poverty and inequality. It can only be achieved and sustained when economic growth is both robust and inclusive. Inclusiveness, as intellectual exchanges at this workshop may prove to be, is a broad term and often difficult to come to terms with. However, inclusive development must, at minimum, ensure that the majority of the population participate in the development process, through productive employment and engagement in diverse forms of productive economic activities, as well as broader access to basic social services.

Over the past ten years, Tanzania has managed to sustain high rates of economic growth, despite various constraints, including the global financial crisis, international trade imbalances, and challenges of technology and innovation divide that make hampers competitiveness of small economies. This economic growth, measured by the growth in GDP at an average of 7%, and per capita income growth of 3.8% between 2000 and 2011, has not been accompanied by a significant reduction in income poverty. Poverty headcount declined only marginally to 33.6% in 2007 from 35.7% in 2001. While it can be concluded that the recorded economic growth has not been pro-poor based on these statistics, it cannot be concluded with certainty that it has not been inclusive. This is because the same statistics show us that inequality, as measured by the Gini coefficient did not change, remaining at 0.35 between 2001 and 2007.

In addition, the Government have made significant efforts in expanding access to key economic and social services. These efforts include construction and upgrade of roads; increasing the supply and reliability of electricity; improved access to health services; increased enrolment in primary, secondary, and tertiary education; and in the increased access to safe water. The results of these investments and expanded access are also reported in the Poverty and Human Development Report for 2011 released last year. The report shows remarkable achievements in some milestones of social development. These includes an increase in net enrolment ratio from 66% in 2001 to 94% in 2011, along with gender parity; increased transition rates from primary to secondary schools from 12% in 2002 to 45% in 2010; increased net enrolment in secondary schools from 6% in 2002 to 35% in 2011; increased number of students enrolled in higher learning institutions from 31,000 in 2002/03 academic year to 140,000 students in 2010/11 academic year; increased life expectancy from 51 years in 2002 to 58 years in 2010; and declines in under-five mortality from 147 deaths per 1000 births in 1999, to 81 deaths per 1000 births in 2010. These achievements, however, are not without challenges. Some learning outcomes at schools show concerns on quality management in the education sector; child malnutrition remains a problem, and the interventions to address vulnerability across a variety of vulnerable members of our society remains limited.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Participants;

The challenge for ensuring inclusive development is not insurmountable. It only needs the existence of appropriate policy instruments, public investments, and mechanisms to ensure that people engage in productive economic activities. Our Government has continued to put emphasis on policy reforms and increased public investments aiming at eliminating barriers to progress and development. However, new challenges emerge continuously, which needs continuous thinking and innovation on the efficient and effective means of addressing them. I believe the participants at this workshop will exchange various experiences and deliberate on how to enhance our prospects for attaining inclusive development, taking into account the context of our history, geography, and political economy.

Our economy has remained primarily agricultural, which contributes to about 24% of GDP. The sector employs about 75% of the national labour force, yet agricultural productivity and rural incomes remains low. It is equally true that access to various economic and social services are not universally similar between urban and rural areas, and even across regions and districts. This is not a desirable condition for inclusive development, but it is not an easy task to resolve either. The experience from many other countries have shown this to be the case, for the issues of inclusive development are subjects of debate in developed countries alike. Indeed, this condition sets a clear argument for a more proactive role of the state in economic management so that long-run outcomes of economic activities pursued by all actors, markets and non-market, are geared towards achieving inclusive development. Proactive engagement of the State includes the setting of national development priorities and coordinating their implementation.

With this need in mind, the Planning Commission, which is chaired and coordinated from the Office of the President, has increasingly played proactive roles in setting development priorities and in developing a framework for coordination and monitoring of implementation. The Five Year Development Plan 2011/12-2016/17 sets out priority areas of focus for the next five years as of operationalizing our National Development Vision 2025. At the beginning of this year, the Government established a system of overseeing and evaluating implementation of government programmes and projects directly from the Office of the President, starting with six sectors. This is an important step towards enhancing coordination of government priorities in line with the agreed priorities for national development. But the role of state must be complimented by efforts of other actors, especially the private sector. It is in this context that new framework for Public Private Partnership (PPP) is high on the government agenda. In 2009, a PPP Policy was launched, which was followed by PPP legislation in 2010 and associated regulations in 2011. Following these legal instruments, the preparations of operational guidelines for implementing PPP is underway. What is critical however is to look at the PPP in a broader economic empowerment agenda, so that the notion of PPP should not be confused with privatization of public assets or an avenue for large and foreign enterprises only.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Participants;

In every conference and workshop I attend on Tanzanian development, it has become a tradition to characterize Tanzania by its abundance of natural resources. Indeed, this is the case. We have vast reserves of forests, minerals, natural gas and diverse wildlife. While these resources have contributed to our current economic growth, challenges remain in translating these economic gains into rapid and broad-based growth and development. I am glad to note from the programme of this workshop that you will be discussing this subject, with reference to the experience of other countries as well, on how natural resources can more effectively be used to leverage inclusive development. We look forward to recommendations for further action in this area.

As I mentioned already, Tanzania has made enormous strides in promoting inclusive development, especially through increased access to education and health services, and in improving economic infrastructure. However, challenges remain in many fronts, and proposal for new ways of providing these indispensable services more efficiently and effectively are welcome. I believe research can play a big role in informing policy processes on innovative mechanisms of delivering better results and achieving to achieve a common goal.

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Participants;

I believe that I have outlined some basic elements of inclusive development and how Tanzania has strived to, and still striving to achieve it. I wish to reiterate that our quest for inclusive development requires dramatic socioeconomic transformation. But this process must begin with changes in our attitudes and mind-sets. We must be prepared to be accountable for our own actions, before we hold others to account for their actions. We must be prepared to sacrifice leisure for hard work, to sacrifice desires for personal accumulation for national prosperity, and to sacrifice complaints for actions. I hope that this workshop will also deliberate on this important prerequisite for change in the context of relative roles of the state, private sector, civil society organizations, and individuals.

In conclusion I would like to propose discussion around the following:

1. What can we learn from our own policy and institutional trajectory of inclusive development? What worked and what did not, and why?
2. What can we learn from other countries about inclusive development, and what differentiates our development path from them?
3. What should we do differently to achieve the desired levels of inclusive development? In particular, which actor should play what role?

Mr. Chair and Distinguished Participants;

The role of research in informing our economic development planning and development coordination processes cannot be overemphasised. I thus urge REPOA and other research institutions to continue undertaking policy-relevant research and use all avenues available to ensure that their research findings are disseminated and utilized for the benefit of our nation.

In closing, I would like to assure REPOA that our Government will continue supporting you in different ways to help in fulfilling your mandate in the interest of all Tanzanians. Once again Let me express my appreciation on behalf of the Government of Tanzania to the governments of the countries of the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway as well as the Think Tank Initiative that is administered by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada for their support of REPOA's Strategic Plan for 2010-2014. Your continued support is evidence of the trust you have on the credibility of REPOA, and this gives us assurance of continued access to high quality policy research, capacity building, and informed policy dialogue, not only up to 2014, but hopefully in future years. I call on other development partners to support REPOA in this noble cause.

Mr. Chair, it is now my honour and privilege to declare REPOA's 18th Annual Research Workshop officially open.