

## **Manufacturing And Transformation In Tanzania: Assessing Policy Response In Changing Development Paradigms by Prof. A.V.Y. Mbelle**

Transformation is desired for many reasons such as creation of employment opportunities in higher productivity sectors; greater private sector role, addressing gender imbalances, etc.

At the heightened desire for transformation lies Manufacturing, with developed country experiences showing that Manufacturing remains a key driving force of overall economic growth. This is largely attributable to its higher productivity and scope for innovation; with the assertion that competitiveness of manufacturing is one of the basic determinants of long-run sustainable growth. For Manufacturing to play this role effectively, an enabling policy framework must be in place.

The urge for economic transformation in Tanzania dates back to independence days with the desire to correct the three colonial legacy ills of poverty, ignorance and disease. Tanzania Development Vision 2015 resounded this urge. Further articulation has been made in subsequent development policy frameworks for achieving TDV 2025 aspirations such as Second Five Year Development Plan.

The route to transformation through Manufacturing in Tanzania has been influenced by a number of developments such as changing global development paradigms that have often called for policy refinements. Has policy national policy been positioning Tanzania's Manufacturing to play this transformational role?

This paper uses long run analysis to examine the role of Tanzania's Manufacturing sector in delivering transformation in the context of changing global development paradigms and how national policy has influenced its performance.

The main finding of the paper is that national policy has not been consistently supportive. In view of this finding and in light of the development of Second Five Year Development Plan, the paper suggests corrective approaches.