

**Speech by Hon. Dr Batilda S. Burian (MP)
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**On the Occasion of REPOA's 12th Annual Research Workshop
28th March 2007 at Dar es Salaam**

Chairperson; Your Excellencies and Heads of Diplomatic Corps; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen

It is indeed an honour to be here with you to address this occasion of REPOA's 12th Annual Research Workshop. Let me express my special appreciation to Prof. Joseph Semboja, Executive Director of REPOA and the REPOA team for inviting me to this occasion. It is also a rare opportunity to share with you some ideas and experience on research on poverty alleviation. Thank you very much!

Chairperson,

The term research has been used in so many contexts with such a variety of meanings that it is difficult to sort it all out. However, generally it can be defined as creation of new knowledge. The role of research and its use in African countries like Tanzania can never been underestimated, particularly, the participatory research approach in assessing with the people at the grassroots the problems they faced and possible solutions for improving the livelihood and social well being.

Today we are gathered here to discuss the latest research findings and methodologies on "Poverty Alleviation in Tanzania."

Chairperson,

Research is not just information gathering; research is not just arranging facts; research is not just a sales pitch. Research originates with a question or a problem. It is a clear articulation of a goal with a specific plan of procedure. In the development process in Tanzania, research provides valuable inputs to the development and retirement of policy as well as practice. It plays a central role in creating and increasing knowledge and supporting innovation. I think here we are all aware of the crucial role that research plays in promoting the intellectual resource in Tanzania. I am convinced to say that all of us have developed some interest and that discussions will bring up dialogue with fruitful deliberations.

Chairperson,

When I was going through the workshop programme I realised that papers to be presented in this workshop will focus mainly on topics addressing the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Prior to the MDGs, Tanzania had a number of policy initiatives and strategies to address the above problems. Implementation of the MDGs has been mainstreamed in national development frameworks which include the Development Vision 2025, National Poverty Eradication Strategy (NPES), the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS I from 2001 – 2004) and the current National Strategy for Growth and Poverty Reduction MKUKUTA.

MKUKUTA identifies three major clusters for poverty reduction outcomes:

- Growth and reduction of income poverty;
- Improvement of quality of life and social well being; and
- Good governance and accountability.

It is not my intention to lecture you on goals and targets of MKUKUTA; since I believe most of you here are expertise and champions in this area. So, allow me to remark on efforts made by Government in implementing the MKUKUTA. I know this will not be new to many of you, and especially REPOA since you are a member of the MKUKUTA Monitoring System – Team.

Chairperson,

Notable achievement have been registered in all clusters, for example, we have made real progress by increasing primary school enrolment rate to 96% and reduce mortality rate by a third over the last five years. Our economy is now picking up despite all odds, and we are projecting to move from the current GDP of 5.8 and stride back to our previous GDP of 6.8% and even surpass by 2-4 digit points.

Tanzania has taken quite a good number of steps to ensure that the above-mentioned strategies are implemented. For example, in good governance, efforts to promote ethical behaviour among public servants, the following institutions have been established:

- i) The Prevention of Corruption Bureau established by the Prevention Corruption Act No. 16 of 1971.
- ii) The Ethics Secretariat which oversees the adherence to the leadership code of Ethics No. 13 of 1995.
- iii) The Human Rights and Good Governance Commission.
- iv) The Public Service Commission, and
- v) The Good Governance Coordination Unit in the President's Office.

Chairperson,

Promoting good governance is the responsibility of all Tanzanians. Tanzania has taken quite a good number of steps to ensure and reliance good governance in social and economic development. The Government of Tanzania is fully committed to the principles of good governance as clearly indicated in the National Framework on Good Governance (1999). This commitment is further expressed in the Tanzania Vision 2025, which states that inter alia "*Tanzania cherishes good governance and the rule of law in the process of creating wealth and sharing benefits in society and seeks to ensure that its people are empowered with the capacity to make leaders and public servants accountable.*"

Governance therefore, is an instrument for the promotion and realisation of development, equity, unity and peace. As such, good governance is a promoter of dignity, stability and fair administration of justice. The Government of Tanzania on its part wants to see good governance filtering through the national socio-economic structure, thereby ensuring a culture of accountability, rewarding good performance and curbing corruption.

Chairperson,

Allow me Chairperson, to sum up this remark by saying that in order for REPOA's work in Research on Poverty Alleviation to be successful and meaningful, they must be addressing felt needs, finding solutions and facilitating empowerment of the socially excluded. I therefore, I challenged REPOA to continue researching on ways and how to as a government we can scale up the implementation of MKUKUTA with a broader horizon.

At the moment our greatest challenge is to increase the magnitude of the overall economic growth for poverty eradication. It would benefit both of us if you could also come up with researched proposals/ideas on what need to be done to achieve the growth rate of 8 – 10% per annum as envisaged in the Vision 2025.

From the topics to be discussed I have noted that there would be presentation on the smallholder fancy issues of natural resources and their contribution to rural livelihoods. Therefore, I urge you, when discussing, try to see how as a government we may facilitate to ensure that we broaden the base of production on various sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, mining and trade.

Lastly, we would like to be more informed from an empirical study on how best we could tackle issues of macro-micro linkages so as to translate policy measures into real benefits to the poor and making economic growth pro-poor.

Chairperson,

I note with appreciation the support that REPOA provides in building the capacity of civil society through information, building capacity and dialogue on policy matters. It is through the combined efforts that we learn from each other and work together to ensure progress towards our shared goal of improved governance and accountability. Therefore, from the experience that we will be sharing in this workshop it is my hope that you will be encouraged to undertake research and conduct discussion on how to encourage and support increased governance and accountability and other poverty reduction strategies through every aspect of our society.

On behalf of the Government I would like to thank both developing and cooperating partners for their un-quantifiable contribution to REPOA. We see this kind of support to REPOA and other credible civil society as right investment that adds value to the overall effort of building synergies and strengthening partnership. So I would like to urge then to continue extending their support and assistance to REPOA.

Chairperson, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. Once again let me thank the organisers for inviting me to officiate this important workshop for the development of our country. It is now my honour and privilege to declare REPOA's 12th Annual Research Workshop open.

Thank you very much for your attention.