

**Speech by Professor Samuel Wangwe, Executive Director, REPOA's  
Board of Directors On the Occasion of REPOA's 17th Annual  
Research Workshop 28<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 at the Whitesands Hotel,  
Dar es Salaam**

*Guest of Honour, Your Excellency, Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Honorable Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Regional Commissioners present, Members of Parliament, Your Excellency Lead DP for REPOA basket funding Ambassador Dr. Ad Koekkoek, Your Excellencies Ambassadors present here and Heads of Diplomatic Missions, Chairperson of REPOA Prof. Esther Mwaikambo, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen*

1. Once again this year I am glad to welcome you all to the 17<sup>th</sup> REPOA Annual Research Workshop. Karibuni sana.
2. As most of you already know REPOA is in the business of research and capacity building on poverty and related development challenges. We address poverty by generating and sharing knowledge on poverty and its economic, social and political dimensions to inform evidence based policy action by our

stakeholders in government, academia, civil society, private sector and development partners.

3. REPOA engages in strategic research, collaborative research as well as in commissioned research. In the recent past REPOA has been rebalancing by giving greater space for **Strategic Research** as the focal point of REPOA's knowledge creation activities and capacity building efforts. Poverty analysis and its multi-dimensions is addressed through deepening understanding in three interrelated areas.

- a. First is deepening understanding of the growth and development process with priority placed on inclusiveness and wider participation in the economy.
- b. Second, understanding of social protection and vulnerability.
- c. Third, understanding of governance and accountability.

The presentations in this workshop are structured along the lines of these three interrelated themes.

4. Research on poverty and all its dimensions (economic, social and political) has shown that meaningful efforts to reduce and ultimately eradicate poverty require a comprehensive socioeconomic transformation. It is in this context that the theme of this 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Workshop is “**Socioeconomic Transformation for Poverty Reduction in Tanzania**”. The experience of socioeconomic transformations has shown that such transformations are primarily championed by the top political leadership. It is in the context of these experiences that we offer a special welcome to our guest of honour, His Excellency Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. We express our appreciation for making time for this event amidst your very tight schedule and heavy national responsibilities.

5. After the opening address of His Excellency, which we believe will guide our subsequent deliberations we shall have the opportunity to have the key note speech delivered by no other than Dr. Philip Mpango, Executive Secretary of the Planning Commission which is chaired by no other than your Excellency. His presentation will be discussed by two professors from countries which have made

impressive progress in socioeconomic transformation of their economies in recent years. That is the Head of the Developing Economies Study Department at the Institute of World Economy in Vietnam, Professor Do Duc Dinh, and the Dean of the College of Humanities and Development at China Agricultural University and Senior Research Associate at China International Poverty Reduction Centre in Beijing, Prof. Li Xiaoyun. The two professors will bring to the audience the experience of their respective countries and share with us the secret of achieving such drastic reduction in poverty in their countries over the last one or two decades. The panel discussion will be chaired by the Governor of the Bank of Tanzania, Prof. Benno Ndulu.

6. The rest of the day will be devoted to various aspects of socioeconomic transformation. This includes transformation of agriculture and the rural economy, transformation through industrialization, employment and the labour market, public service reforms, natural resources and foreign direct investment. These papers will address socioeconomic transformation in the respective themes.

7. Allow me to mention other presenters of papers those who have travelled over long distances to share with us their experiences and insights on transformation. Dr. Matteo Rizzo from SOAS of University of London will share with us insights on employment and labour market reforms and Dr. Keith Jefferis former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Botswana will share with the experience of using mining revenues for development of the economy. Dr. Jefferis will share secret of successfully avoiding the Dutch Disease or the natural resource curse and successfully harnessing mining revenues for transformation.
8. The second day of the workshop will feature presentations largely from the researchers who have received capacity building research grants from REPOA as a strategy for creating a bigger pool of researchers on issues of poverty and related development challenges which REPOA is addressing in its Research programme.
9. It is our expectation that the rich and diverse experiences that are represented in this hall will be shared generously among us. All

participants are encouraged to participate fully in sharing their knowledge and experience during the two days of the workshop.

10. At the end of the workshop we expect to achieve four things:
  - a. share knowledge and experience on issues relating to socioeconomic transformation,
  - b. Disseminated key research findings,
  - c. achieve capacity building of researchers;
  - d. generate ideas that will go into our research agenda.

Lastly I welcome you again to this workshop and urge you to be generous in sharing your knowledge and experience in the next two days.

Thank you for your attention.