

**Speech by Professor Esther Mwaikambo  
Chairperson, REPOA's Board of Directors**

**On the Occasion of REPOA's 15th Annual Research Workshop  
18-19 March, 2010 at White Sands Hotel, Dar es Salaam**

*Right Honourable Prime Minister Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda,*

*Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,*

*Ladies and Gentlemen*

Once again, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Research Workshop.

On behalf of the REPOA Board of Directors and the intellectual community, may I offer a special welcome to our guest of honour, Right Honourable Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, and express our appreciation for accepting to grace this important event for the second time.

Right Honourable Prime Minister, REPOA and the intellectual community appreciate the commitment of the Government of Tanzania in supporting the think tanks work. This is important for the development of our nation and we value this political and executive support.

I would also like to welcome His Excellency Ad Koekkoek, Ambassador for the Netherlands Government who stands here today to represent Development Partners who contribute to the basket for financing the REPOA Strategic Plan. As this Annual Research Workshop is the first one into REPOA's new strategic Plan 2010-2014 I would like to thank, the Netherlands Embassy, the Swedish Embassy, the Finish Embassy and DFID, for your continued contribution to the basket for financing REPOA's work. I am glad to mention that the government of Tanzania also continues to contribute to the basket. We thank all for the generous support.

Last, but not least, I am pleased to welcome Prof. Hans Binswanger from Tswane University of Technology in Pretoria. I am glad and proud that an African scholar is here with us to discuss issues of strategic importance to Tanzania and Africa in general.

I now would like to invite Professor Joseph Semboja, REPOA's Executive Director, to give us his opening address.

***(Address Ambassador of Netherlands)***

Now I would like to invite His Excellency Dr. Ad Koekkoek from the Embassy of Netherlands, to give his opening address.

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***(Address Ambassador of Ireland)***

Now I would like to invite His Excellency Anne Barington from the Embassy of Ireland, to give her opening address.

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***(Address Hon. Mizengo Pinda)***

Now I would like to invite His Excellency the Prime Minister to give his official opening address.

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***(Address Prof. Hans Binswanger.)***

Now I would like to invite Prof. Hans to give the keynote paper for this event.

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***(Vote of Thanks by Dr. Servacius Likwelile).***

Now I would like to invite Dr. Servacius Likwelile to give Vote of Thanks.