

**PAPER ON "IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP
CONCEPT IN TANZANIA" PRESENTED BY HON. CELINA KOMBANI, MINISTER OF
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Open Government Partnership (OGP) is a global initiative that aims at promoting ***transparency, accountability, citizen empowerment, fighting corruption*** and ***encouraging the use of new technologies to improve governance***. In other words Open Government Partnership is a coalition of Governments, citizens and Civil Society Organisations working together to advance transparency and accountability in Government.

When coming into power in 2005, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania H.E. Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete vowed to continue efforts to strength good governance in the public service. In his inaugural speech to Parliament in 2005 he said, I quote:-

"...My Government will be guided by good governance, transparency and accountability. We will respect the rule of law, and we will respect the principle of separation of powers between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary. We will empower each branch to discharge its responsibilities. The Fourth Phase Government will strengthen the public service and fight social ills without fear or favour"

2.0 THE RATIONALE FOR TANZANIA JOINING OGP

The United Republic of Tanzania joined the OGP initiative in September, 2011. The intention is to make Government business more open to its citizens in the interest of improving public service delivery, government responsiveness, combating

corruption and building greater trust. The adoption and implementation of OGP aims at complementing various Government initiatives that are currently being implemented in Tanzania, including the following core reforms:-

- The Public Service Reform Programme (PSRP)
- The Local Government Reform Programme (LGRP)
- The Legal Sector Reform Programme (LSRP)
- The Public Finance Management Reform Programme

3.0 INTERVENTIONS ON GOVERNANCE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

OGP in Tanzania is built on key pillars of good governance which are transparency, citizen participation, accountability, technology and innovation:-

3.1 Transparency

Current measures taken to improve transparency include:-

- 3.1.1 Parliamentary role as oversight to Government is done without encumbrance or interference from other organs of the state ie Executive and Judiciary. There are also live broadcasts of Parliamentary sessions.
- 3.1.2 There is freedom of the press. There are a number of private daily, weekly and monthly news papers and journals. Likewise, there are a good number of private television and radio stations.
- 3.1.3 The report of the Controller and Auditor General is made public and debated openly in Parliament.
- 3.1.4 The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania is in the process of reviewing its Constitution whereby views have been collected from a wide range of stakeholders and the citizenry at large.
- 3.1.5 In 2007, the Prevention of Corruption Act, Cap 329 was repealed and replaced by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act. Under the new legislation, the scope has been widened to broaden and

enhance good governance and eradicate Corruption. The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau has been strengthened.

3.1.6 Tanzania has joined the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) to ensure transparency of activities in the extractive industry.

3.1.7 Tanzania is also a member of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). This African Union led initiative compliments the objectives of the OGP initiative whereby a country conducts self-assessment, done by an independent team and drawn from various stakeholders such as the academia, Parliamentarians, the private sector, civil society and ordinary citizens. The AU panel validates the report.

3.2 Citizen Participation

Citizen engagement ensures community involvement in decision making on matters that affect them. It also enhances legitimacy of Government's action. The Government has instituted several measures to engage citizens' which include the following:-

3.2.1 Establishment of Citizen's Website in 2007 to allow citizens to give their opinion, ask questions and get feedback from the Government.

3.2.2 Formulation and approval of Local Government budgets through a participatory approach known as "Opportunities and Obstacles to Development" (O&OD).

3.2.3 Establishment of Public Expenditure Review (PER) dialogue. PER is a high level dialogue between Government, Development Partners, CSOs and other social groups/needful people. It is a technical advisory forum that the Government uses to draw views/comments for improving planning, budgeting and financial management.

3.2.4 Establishment of Annual Policy Dialogue to review PER, General Budget Support (GBS) and National Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (NSGRP) (MKUKUTA acronym in Kiswahili). This

is a single event that draws about 1,000 participants from the Government, CSOs, Private Sector, Development Partners and Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs) whereby inputs from the forum feed into the National Plan and budget process.

3.2.5 Open and transparent system of village land allocation that requires the Village Assembly to pass a resolution to allocate Village land.

3.3 Accountability and Integrity

The values of integrity, transparency and accountability in public administration are key to any Government. Sound public administration involves public trust. Citizens expect public servants to serve the public interest with fairness and manage public resources properly. Integrity and accountability are a prerequisite to and underpin public trust as a keystone of good governance. Over the past two decades especially towards the end of 1990s, the Government has been instituting several accountability and integrity as follows:-

3.3.1 Introduction of Client Service Charters in Government Institutions aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in public service delivery. The Charter specifies the services and goods that the clients are expected to receive from the institution, clients' rights and obligations and the feedback mechanisms available to enable the institution monitor and evaluate its performance.

3.3.2 Establishment of the National Anti-corruption Strategy and Action Plan (NACSAP) in 1999. The NACSAP provides a framework within which MDAs, Regions and LGAs are required to initiate concrete measures to address corruption in their areas of jurisdiction. A NACSAP National Steering Committee has been established drawing

members from Government and Non-State Actors to oversee implementation of the strategy.

- 3.3.3 Establishment of Institutional Integrity Committees at Central and Local Government levels with the responsibilities of ensuring adherence to ethical behavior and professional standards at work places.
- 3.3.4 Introduction of Public Expenditure Tracking Surveys (PETS) whereby, Government in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations track the implementation of budget and assessment of value for money.
- 3.3.5 Strengthening of the Internal Audit function by appointing a Chief Internal Auditor General who oversees all internal audit activities in all MDA's, Regions and LGAs. Internal Audit Units are now reporting to the Chief Internal Auditor General instead of reporting to the institution's management in which they are based.
- 3.3.6 Establishment of Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) to manage public expenditure in accordance with approved budgets.
- 3.3.7 Enactment of Election Expenses Act of 2010 to enforce accountability of campaign financing by Political Parties. The Act aims at controlling the use of money beyond the threshold provided and curb corruption practices in elections.

3.4 Technology and Innovation

Investment in technology and innovation is key in achieving the spirit of open government. Technology and innovation will provide the necessary platform for improving transparency, citizen participation, accountability and integrity which are the key pillars of open government. Governments'

commitment to improve technology and innovation remains to be one of the top most agendas. Initiatives to date include:

- 3.4.1 Approval of National Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Policy in 2003 has set the platform to transform Tanzania into a knowledge-based society. The policy has been a foundation for Government departments, learning institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), as well as other entrepreneurs to acquire ICT solutions to support service delivery. Some of service delivery systems that are currently in place are; Financial Management Systems, National Payroll Systems, Human Resource Management Systems, Websites and sector specific support systems.
- 3.4.2 Construction of the Terrestrial National Optic Fibre Cable (OFC) covering a distance of 10,674 Km. This initiative will ensure Central and Local Governments in the country are connected to this Backbone. The completion of the OFC will enhance access to information and data sharing among different stakeholders.
- 3.4.3 Establishment of Tanzania Beyond Tomorrow (TBT) e-education Development Programme. The programme focuses on the development of e-learning in Schools, Adult and Non-Formal Education centers and Colleges, e-Management and Administration in Education, e-Library and Education Management Information System (EMIS). The use of ICT will facilitate and enable remote learning and increased collaboration among students and teachers leading to improved equity in education service provision.
- 3.4.4 Establishment of Telemedicine services focusing on provision of distance clinical health care barriers and improving access to medical services to save life and handle emergency cases in remote

communities. The existence of Health Management Information System (HMIS) for collection and management of health related data for planning and monitoring to inform decision making.

3.4.5 Establishment of Water Sector Management Information System (WSMIS) containing a web based water point mapping system as a tool for planning and monitoring of water distribution services.

4.0 COUNTRY COMMITMENTS UNDER THE OGP

Under the Tanzania *Five Years Development Plan 2011/12 – 2015/16* the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania has underscored its commitment towards the principles of transparency, accountability and integrity of the public service and enhance public awareness and partnerships in the prevention and combating corruption; enhancing operational capacity of government institutions and strengthening mechanisms for accountability and sanctions on implementation, enforcement and compliance to legislative, policy, regulatory and operational rules and enhancing the rule of law.

The United Republic of Tanzania participated in the High Level Open Government Partnership Event in Brasilia, Brazil on 17th – 18th April, 2012 whereby the Tanzania OGP Action Plan for 2012/13 was submitted.

The OGP Action Plan focuses mainly on three service delivery sectors of *Health, Education* and *Water*. In this respect, in order to improve and sustain good governance efforts, the Government has committed itself to implement the following:-

4.1 Increase the availability of information about Government activities. This means that citizens have the right to seek for information on Government

- activities. The commitment is to promote increased access to information and disclosure of Government activities at various levels of the Government.
- 4.2 Support citizens participation by promoting public engagement including full participation of women, increasing the effectiveness of the Government by making policy formulation and decision making processes more transparent.
 - 4.3 Implement the highest standards of professional integrity through by having robust anti-corruption policies, mechanisms and practices, ensuring transparency in the management of public finances and Government purchasing and the rule of law.
 - 4.4 Develop and/or review Client Service Charters and make them accessible to citizens
 - 4.5 Improve Government and Ministries websites to make them robust and responsive as platforms for citizens to participate in the running of Government.
 - 4.6 Prepare legislative amendments and Regulations to strengthen asset disclosure of public officials.
 - 4.7 Increase access to new technologies for openness and accountability by harnessing new technologies to make more information public in a way that enables people to understand and influence decision in Government.

5.0 ACHIEVEMENTS

5.1 Education Sector

- Educational circulars, reports/researches and sector documents have been posted in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Education website
- The Ministry has established a complaints register and is operational.
- Basic Education Statistics (BEST) book with National data is posted on the Ministry's website.

5.2 Water Sector

- Ministry's website is in place and reports have been posted (www.maji.go.tz)
- Client Service Charter of the Ministry of Water has been reviewed and published on the website
- Water points data has been published on the website in machine readable format
- Financial Reports of Agencies under the Ministry (EWURA and DAWASA) have been posted on their respective websites

5.3 Fiscal Sector

- Citizens' Budget has been developed and published on the Ministry of Finance website.
- Quarterly Budget Execution Reports are being posted in the Ministry of Finance website
- Detailed disbursement of Donor General Budget Support, Project Grants and Loans are posted on the Ministry's website every month.

5.4. Health Sector

- Amount of funds allocated for procurement and distribution of medicine, supplies, medical supplies and reagents for all health facilities are posted on the Ministry's website.
- The Ministry of Health client Service Charter has been reviewed

6.0. CHALLENGES

- 6.1 Given the big size of the country and insufficient infrastructure it has been difficult to disseminate, popularize and domesticate the OGP programme comprehensively to grass root levels. Efforts are being made to popularize

this programme through radio and television programmes, newspapers, and workshops.

6.2 Civil society and private sector participation has been relatively low.

6.3 Implementation of the commitments needs adequate resources. Scarce resources hinder effective implementation.

7.0 CONCLUSION