

STATEMENT Policy Forum highlights issues that need to be addressed for the Budget to have an impact

# NGOs network pinpoints six key issues on Budget

By The Citizen Reporter  
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**Dodoma.** Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) yesterday commended the government for its efforts in improving service delivery to Tanzanians.

They also called upon the government to act on at least six specific issues if the new budget for the 2018/19 financial year is to have a positive impact on people's lives.

In their statement issued under the Policy Forum umbrella, the NGOs want the government to improve revenue collections; increase education allocation and employ more workers in the health sector.

In the statement delivered by the Policy Forum manager for policy analysis, Mr Nicholas Lekule, the NGOs also want the government to ensure that it disburses in full and in good time the funds budgeted for the agricultural sector.

Noting that the youth of Tanzania need special impetus that is carefully orchestrated by various government departments and agencies, Mr Lekule said that this is with the aim of ensuring that youths are able to employ

themselves – and also become employable.

Furthermore, it is the Policy Forum's view that the government will also come up with a system that would improve relations between the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) and taxpayers.

"We would also want to remind our members of Parliament (MPs) to remember the importance of advising the government regarding the need to endorse a realistic budget," Mr Lekule said, reading from the joint statement.

This, Mr Lekule went on, is based on the fact that revenue collection targets have consistently been missed during the past few years, thereby creating challenges in budget execution that result in slowed-down pace of project implementation, or altogether halting planned implementation of development projects.

Figures cited by Policy Forum show that, until April this year, the government had managed to collect Sh21.9 trillion only – equivalent to 69 per cent of the targeted collection of Sh31.7 trillion for the 2017/18 budget.

Specifically, Policy Forum is of the view that MPs will spend a good chunk of their time discussing ways of improving revenue collection.

"The collection process must also be fair; one that improves relations between taxpayers on the one side, and their government on the other," the Policy Forum statement reads, adding that, partly as a result of this, the number of taxpayers should go up.

After collecting the revenues, the money must also be put to proper use, in line with approvals as per the national legislature.

"We emphasize strict discipline in the expenditure of public resources," the statement stresses.

MPs, the Policy Forum statement says, must also critically analyse the sectors that are closely linked to the government's overall industrialization agenda so that they (the MPs) can accurately advise on the required linkages for Tanzania to meet with its economic growth aspirations.

Established in 2003, the Policy Forum is a network of 76 Tanzanian civil society organisations that are drawn together by their specific interest in augmenting the voice of ordinary citizens. The underlying objective is to influence policy processes that help in poverty reduction, equity and democratization with a specific focus on public money accountability at both the central and local government levels.

# ACT Wazalendo's Budget proposals

By Rosemary Mirondo  
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**Dar es Salaam.** As the debate on the next financial year's Budget is expected to start in Parliament today, opposition party ACT Wazalendo has proposed areas for improvement as it seeks economic growth and smooth execution of the estimates.

The party leader, Mr Zitto Kabwe, said the government's Budget tabled last Thursday was not friendly to workers for not relieving them in taxes and that it did not prioritise sectors that stir economic growth and touch lives of more Tanzanians.

"When the finance minister tabled the Budget he mentioned agriculture as the first priority, but the numbers do not show if it's really a priority. Imagine, agriculture budget is just 0.52 per cent of the total budget. Is this really a priority?" asked Mr Kabwe when presenting his party's post-budget analysis yesterday. He also said the proposed Treasury Single Account (TSA) which would be used for collection and payment of government funds was a good idea but may affect efficiency of other organisations especially

the cereal boards. He proposed it delayed for thorough preparations.

"We are still not aware of the whereabouts of Sh1.5 trillion as reported by the Controller and Auditor General and possibly it was directed to expenditure that was not approved by the Parliament. Putting all funds in this single account is even more dangerous...maybe until 2021," said Mr Kabwe.

He also said even the current budget is likely to miss revenue targets by 25 per cent as business transactions were declining.

## Tax proposals

Mr Kabwe proposed to scrap the value-added tax (VAT) on tourism saying it was slowing growth of the \$2 billion sector which is currently the leading foreign exchange earner.

Before introduction of VAT on tourism services, the number of visitors was growing by 12 per cent but after the imposition of the tax the sector grew by just 3 per cent.

Mr Kabwe said the removal of VAT on sanitary towels was a good move, but asked the government to exempt excise duty on the towels and abolish income tax on manufacturers of the products to make them affordable.

# Continental body seeks to change fortunes of 1.5m smallholders

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President John Magufuli is talking about industrialisation, and Agra in its third term stresses commercialising agriculture, thereby making smallholder farmers rich," Prof Hatibu stated.

"We will support the crops prioritized in ASDT-II – which is also well-positioned to transform agricultural systems and increase the productivity and income of smallholder farmers. We can help to ensure food security of the country without necessarily restricting the export of cereals,"

he added.

Agra's mission is to trigger a revolution that transforms agriculture into a highly-productive, competitive and sustainable system that assures food security even as it lifts millions out of poverty.

The planned investment will focus on supporting the government of Tanzania in planning, coordinating, implementing and creating an enabling environment, Prof Hatibu explains.

The initiative includes partnering with the government in the roll-

## MORE INFORMATION: AGRA PRIORITIES IN TANZANIA

AGRA's strategy prioritises initiatives that complement the work of other actors to significantly increase smallholder farmers' income and food security by enhancing productivity, strengthening linkages between market and production systems, supporting government to deliver on its priorities and supporting development of an improved enabling environment. Targeted interventions will address critical resource gaps to catalyze private and public sector investments in each of the AEZs with the overall goal of directly impacting 1.5 million smallholder farmers over the next 5 years (from January 17, 2017) with the potential to indirectly impact another 2 million smallholder farmers. The cost of this five-year plan is estimated to be \$28 million.

out of ASDP-II, and strengthening coordination and delivery in the agricultural sector – as well as creating an environment enabling policy that attracts increased private sector investments. Investments should

focus on scaling up agri-systems and farmer-level initiatives in three selected priority agro-economic zones (AEZs), and enhancing supply chains efficiency through effective agribusiness deal-making platforms.

Furthermore, they should aid in expanding market access through value-addition, structured trade, quality enhancement and aggregation; as well as strengthen input supply systems and linkages to output markets to facilitate the uptake of yield-enhancing agricultural technologies.

## Weather Forecast for Dar City



**Today.**  
Mostly Sunny.  
Min: 21°C  
Max: 31°C



**Tomorrow.**  
Partly Cloud.  
Min: 21°C  
Max: 29°C

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## fromweb.



**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

The denuclearization deal with North Korea is being praised and celebrated all over Asia. They are so happy! Over here, in our country, some people would rather see this historic deal fail than give Trump a win, even if it does save potentially millions & millions of lives!

**The ECLT Foundation @ECLTFoundation**

This year's World Day Against Child Labour will be used as a platform to promote decent work for young workers and continue to raise awareness on the issue of #childlabour. Find out what your govt. is doing and

## What people say about current issues

be a part of the conversation using #GenerationSafeandHealthy pic.twitter.com/cQ2UWol658

**Narendra Modi @narendramodi**

Spoke about India's economic transformation and how we can build on this to achieve further growth. Also talked about the key agendas that would help us build a New India by 2022, when India marks 75 years of Independence.

**Mufti Ismail Menk @muftimenk**

Train yourself not to take revenge when someone does something bad to you. Whenever someone hurts you or is unjust towards you, know that

the Almighty is aware of all that's going on. Never doubt that He will mete out justice when the time is right!

**IMF @IMFNews**

Japan's combination of artificial intelligence (#ai) and #robotics may be the answer to its rapidly shrinking labor force, but what does that mean for the future of work? Our June 2018 issue of Finance & Development magazine goes in-depth

**Robert T. Kiyosaki @theRealKiyosaki**

There are two kinds of money problems, not enough money and too much money; I know which problem I prefer. #richdad

## CORRECTIONS

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Thank you.



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