

Launching of: Nyerere on Education 8 December, 2004

**Welcome Address
Elieshi Lema**

Honourable Guests, Colleagues, Friends, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have great honor to stand before you, our esteemed guests, on behalf of myself as Chairperson of HakiElimu and Director of E & D Limited, to welcome you to the launch of a book on a collection of essays on education by a visionary leader and thinker, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere.

Karibuni sana.

Current reforms in the education sector in progress since 2002 address both the institutional framework and issues of quality. The Primary Education Development Plan (PEDP) policy states that schools should provide “an enabling and supportive environment, where learners participate actively in the process” and that teachers should have “skills that are academically sound, child-friendly, and gender-sensitive”. The ultimate goal is to achieve an education for Tanzanian children and youth that will arm graduates with skills to meet the challenges of today’s world, which include, increasing poverty, economic marginalization in the national and global marketplace, cultural alienation from our own in favor of the more powerful and many more.

A thinking society generates ideas that arise organically from the challenges of its development; and an education system is also designed to meet these same challenges so as to equip the learner with skills to tackle them. Generation of knowledge is an indicator

of a developing society, while the use of knowledge to advance our goals is indeed a tool for achieving progress.

The book we are launching today: *Nyerere on Education/ Nyerere kuhusu Elimu* was produced with the objective of enabling Tanzanians to reflect on the kind of education that will best answer to Tanzania's needs and participate in a debate concerning the current reforms in education sector in the context of our social, political and cultural situation and needs within a globalized world. The intention, therefore, is not to review and critique the essays as an end in itself, but to use them as a springboard for a much needed public debate on education.

In the light of the above, 20,000 copies of the book will be distributed free across Tanzania to schools, public libraries, teacher education colleges, universities and CBOs involved in education initiatives at local levels. All the print and electronic media-houses – those that are known, will get three free copies each so that they can inform themselves and take lead in promoting the debate. The Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, who has supplied most of the articles and been a key partner in the publication of this book, will also distribute 500 free copies.

Also, each participant here today will get one free copy. I hope you will read and share it, and contribute to the debate! The book will be sold for only Tshs. 3,000 – a fairly affordable price for such a book, and additional copies can be purchased here.

On behalf of the editors and the publishers, I thank you for coming and wish you an enjoyable launch.

Let me now welcome our keynote speaker, Mr. Jenerali Ulimwengu.