

**Popularising Policy and Influencing Change through Action Research,
Advocacy and Creative Communication**

Colloquium: Livingston Club Hotel, 12-14th August 2002-08-11

Opening Address, Emmanuel Kallonga, HakiKazi Catalyst

Honourable Guest of Honour, the District Commissioner for Bagamoyo, Facilitators and Discussants, Colleagues participating in this unique gathering, on behalf of HakiKazi Catalyst, and all the people who have made this dream come true, I welcome all of you to this colloquium.

In the next three days, we aim to enable individuals and organisations to share experiences and skills about popularising policies and the critical relationship policies have to action research, creative communication and advocacy.

Honourable guests and fellow participants, HakiKazi Catalyst, has been involved in popularising poverty related development policies in Tanzania, for over two years now. Our experience has been built in association with the following processes:

- The PRSP in October 2000, funded by DfID
- The first progress report on the PRSP, from August 2001, funded by UNDP through Ministry of Finance
- ZPRP, Zanzibar Poverty Reduction Plan, funded directly by UNDP

We have reached a point where HakiKazi wants to share these experiences with other individuals and organisations about:

- Skills for popularising policies
- The impact of action research and advocacy on policy
- Creative communication to generate policy awareness

This gathering involves people from civil society in both the mainland regions and Zanzibar, government institutions and the private sector.

The objectives of bringing everyone together are these:

1. To provide and opportunity for civil society organisations and policy makers to interact and exchange ideas, opinions and experiences on the subject of creating knowledge about policy issues in Tanzania.

2. To build a shared pool of contacts, skills and understanding that can allow stakeholders involved with providing knowledge about policy, to learn from different strategies, and empower ourselves collectively through this contact and information sharing. Building on this, we seek to make a contribution towards building social movements and knowledge networks which will ensure the right of all people to access and understand policy information, and be able to engage with it constructively.
3. Generate analytical tools related to policy that can enable all stakeholders to bring to the attention of policy makers, the implications of grassroots experiences, and the possible alternative futures they offer.
4. With technical back-up from Seafield Research and Development Services, a very concrete outcome of the colloquium will be the production of a user friendly guide that I hope everyone will feel a sense of ownership of, and which can be used to promote the popularisation of policy and its feedback to policy makers.
5. To create a bridge for interaction between like minded organisations generating knowledge about policies, working at micro level with those working at macro and global level.

Lastly,

6. This colloquium is not the end of a process. We are seeking to create more opportunities from this gathering, to formulate learning programmes, participatory research initiatives and continuous policy feedback.

Honourable Guest of Honour, and fellow participants, this gathering would not have happened without the support of the following institutions:

- The Vice President's Office, Poverty Eradication Division
- UNDP
- REPOA
- Save the Children, Tanzania office
- Caledonia Centre for Social Development in Scotland, for technical support

HakiKazi would like to thank all these sponsoring partners and assure them of a gathering oriented to achieving the objectives set out above, and of our wish for future collaboration with them. We would also like to acknowledge specific contributions from DfID and DNDP for enabling the popularisation work on PRSP on the mainland and ZPRP in Zanzibar. It is the experiences

of these engagements that we would to share with our fellow participants over the next three days.

Honourable Guest of Honour, the District Commissioner for Bagamoyo, I kindly invite you to open our colloquium