



TANZANIA AIDS FORUM (TAF)

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PRESS STATEMENT TO CONGRATULATE PRIME MINISTER DIRECTIVE ON USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

With great honor, I would like to submit my highest regard to the Prime Minister Hon. Mizengi Kayanza Peter Pinda for his statement while in Dodoma Tuesday 18th November 2008. The statement was directing ministries to seek approval from his office for meetings and workshops as a way to ensure judicious use of public funds.

Tanzania AIDS forum have been closely following the budget process, undertaking budget analysis and auditor general reports on both local government and ministries. We have noted with concern that the budget process is closed and information on budget is not accessible. Also that the Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks contain unnecessary workshops and they may not necessarily aim to meet targets in MKUKUTA or those in international declaration which the government has signed. We therefore join hands to congratulate hon. Prime minister for this initiative.

Probably the issue is not to seek permission to hold such workshop, but rather ensuring that the budgeting process are result oriented. In this process we question how effective the budgeting process are and why should the implementation require permission if the budget was already approved. We would like to advise that the budgeting process be opened up to bring multi-stakeholders so that the government budget are scrutinized before they go to the parliament and they are geared to achieve MKUKUTA results. This is probably a crucial stage than preventing spending as the ministries and other government agencies will be measured by their budget performance.

According to auditors general report however, we would like to remind the prime minister that the two notorious leakages of public funds are public procurement and weak internal control. We would like to remind the prime minister to turn to these and make firm statement in the same weight as he did for the workshop and meetings.

On behalf of the board of the forum, I would like to thank the government for the continued efforts to improve judicious public spending.

Sincerely

Dr. Peter Bujari
Chair of the board

Members of Board of Directors

NETWO+, CONCERN, TAWG, CCT, BAKWATA, TNW+, TANOPHA, HDT, CHAWATA, TANESA