

Human Development Trust (HDT)



PRESS STATEMENT

TANZANIA NEEDS CHANGES IN SYSTEMS AND FRAMEWORK OF GOVERNANCE THAN CHANGE IN LEADERS

For many years we have been told that this country is poor and we are often hearing statements that there is rule of law. For over ten years we have witnessed sentiments from high ranking government officials that there are efforts to curb corruption, with only petty corruption featuring and brought to justice. The recent advancements on grant corruption known as “*Mafisadi*” is a shame to the whole of Tanzania in the face of the world; the scenario calls for overhauling management systems and framework of governance rather than change in leadership. The change of cabinet by the president is commendable, but as an old saying stated “*it is like putting fresh wine in an old jar*”. Tanzania needs a new jar and open new chapters for people based management.

It has to be known that public funds belong to the “*wananchi*” and wherever they are misused it’s the poor people who will pay. In the famous Richmond for example, payment of 150 million per day which only benefits few people is a shame! We have witnessed pupils sitting up to 100 in one class in Dar Es Salaam, which grossly compromises the quality of education. Taking a unit of 4 million shilling as the cost for constructing one class room, there would be 37 classes built each day and there would be 13,687 classes built each year. Wouldn’t this investment in the education infrastructure be a more substantial improvement than something that is benefiting only a few? Yet the mwananchi are asked to contribute for class rooms in addition to paying hiked power tariff and highest VAT in East Africa.

The fact that the above reported scam (by parliamentary probe committee) happened and passes unnoticed (with probably similar activities happed in many more occasions) indicate that the system is weak and mechanisms need to be build to protect the rights and safety of honest workers. Honest leaders can not resist pressure from above if they are not protected, hence the spirit of serving ‘*master*’ than serving the wananchi.

Firing those implicated in grand corruption and resignation will not change this country, as this is described as firefighting management. For elite, and indeed some Tanzanians are, this is just a tip of the iceberg and overhauling of the system to ensure rule of law and systems are functioning can not be over emphasized. We call upon the head of the state to reinstate the sound public management systems and respect to laws and policies for the betterment of the country than individuals.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bujari', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Signed by

Dr. Peter Bujari
Executive Director
Gaboron, Botswana