

## 2005 budget speech

### Notes on priorities for social services

Quality health, education and water are essential to human well being and to eliminating poverty.

In addition, access and quality of these services is what will make a difference in the survival and development of children in this country.

Despite commendable efforts, access to quality basic services by the poor is still a huge challenge. Not resolving this problem will result in denial of fundamental rights and to a worrying widening gap between the haves' and the have nots'.

## THE 2005/06 NATIONAL BUDGET

The budget **seems** to give high priority to key elements of MKUKUTA. This is much appreciated.

In continuation, we do hope that the sectoral budgets for health and education will address the following priorities.

## PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH

For a progress in terms of access and quality, the following priorities need urgent consideration:

### 1. Health workers

- Efforts to rehabilitate health facilities are important and appreciated, but health service delivery cannot rely on the surroundings only. It is the people who provide services that ultimately save lives. They are a priority.
- The human resource situation remains in crisis. Only 30-40% of the staffing requirements are met in key cadres.
- The situation is much graver in health centers and dispensaries than in hospitals. About 20,000 workers are needed to fill this gap in the next 5 years

- The gap between urban and rural is widening: Dar es Salaam has 30 times more medical officers and specialists than rural districts.

Issues to address:

- Immediate action/commitment to recruit new skilled personnel, especially the nurses so much needed to support safe deliveries.
- Plans to increase health worker salaries which are currently appalling
- Providing better monetary incentives to health workers particularly those in remote areas
- Having mechanisms for equitable deployment of staff to correct the current rural-urban disparities

**2. Drugs and medical supplies**

- The last DHS shows encouraging trends in infant and child mortality that will need consolidating and improving upon, but the maternal mortality rates are still alarmingly high.
- Quality of health services is low, with the poor suffering most. Drug stock-outs are still common and important supplies like safe syringes, gloves and other instruments are lacking in the majority of health care facilities. This does not enable people to trust these services.

Issues to address:

- Funds for the provision of drugs and medical supplies should meet the needs of health facilities across all levels (from dispensaries to hospitals). The supplies should be able to last to avoid frequent stock-outs
- Timely allocation and transfers of operation funds that enable health facilities to function on a day to day basis.
- Urgent attention is needed to funding and delivery of ARVs that do not further undermine the health system.

**3. Equitable access to health care services:**

- It is a sad fact that many Tanzanians are not able to access health care because they cannot pay for it. Children's and women's health is too vital to be denied on account of a few thousand shillings.
- Health financing policies are based on payments for services while exemptions for the poor have failed to work properly. It is now urgent to put in place strategies that actually work for the poor.

Issues to address:

- The search for sustainable health financing mechanisms should support the fundamental principle of equity.
- Clear resources need to be allocated to guarantee access to basic health care and essential obstetric care to women, children and those who cannot pay
- Adequate social protection need to be developed to help people when faced with catastrophic health expenditure

#### **4. Accountability and Transparency**

Council Health Boards have been established in all councils, as have health facility committees. However, majority of these have yet to be inaugurated and so are not yet functioning.

##### Issues to address:

- Information on health sector funding and drugs to be made available in forms and languages that are clear and understandable, so as to effectively enable public scrutiny.

## **PRIORITIES FOR EDUCATION**

A number of achievements are being realized with the Primary Education Development Plan (PEDP). To continue improving on these outcomes it is our hope that the education budget will address the following:

### **1. On the 10 US Dollar per child Capitation grant**

- There is a need for clarity on whether the grant will be fully funded and disbursed on time.
- The money must reach the schools on time and in a predictable manner, so the schools can effectively plan.
- The Education Public Expenditure Tracking mentioned that 40% of the CG had not reached school levels – the reasons need to be found and acted upon.

### **2. Teachers and teaching conditions**

Again here, good progress on infrastructures, but providers of services are important. Teachers and quality of the teacher is what will make a difference in children's learning.

The budget should address:

- Pay conditions :
- That means improved salaries to all cadres of teachers ,
- Provisions of incentives for working in remote areas.
- A greater ease of access to salaries, especially for those working in remote areas.
- In addition, address the need for child centered approaches that will give better learning achievements.

### **3. Addressing the existing disparities in the number and quality of teachers between rural and urban areas.**

Issues to address:

- Government expenditure in training and equitable deployment of teachers between urban and rural centers

### **4. Secondary education**

A continuum in education is very important, and secondary education should be accessible to all so that more students get a chance at tertiary level education.

Issues to address:

- SEDP budget is 1.3 Trillion shillings over 5 years. A clear understanding of the sources of funds for SEDEP and whether there is a gap in the required funds

### **5. Accountability and transparency**

There have been improvements in this area through establishment of school boards and committees. More needs to be done to further these achievements.

- Improvements in the public sharing of expenditure in a language and style that promotes public scrutiny.
- Improve involvement of members of these boards and committees in planning and monitoring of services

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