

THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR REMARKS
JOINT ANNUAL HEALTH SECTOR REVIEW POLICY MEETING
NOVEMBER 26TH, 2018

Honorable Minister/s,
Permanent Secretaries,
Chief Medical Officer,
Development Partners,
Commissioners, Directors and Senior Government officials from the Ministries,
Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and
Fellow representatives of the Private sector
Member of the media and Invited guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Habari za Asubuhi.

I thank God and feel honoured to be with you today and be part of this important high-level policy meeting, speaking on behalf of the Private Health Sector. I stand before you to deliver the Private Health Sector remarks jointly prepared by the Private Health Sector Group, which includes Faith Based Organization and self- sustaining health service providers.

We are grateful for being given this opportunity to be among the main speakers in this high level meeting. We thank the organizers for continuing to recognize the importance of involving us – the Private Sector in the Joint Annual Health Sector Review and JAHSR Policy meetings, as key partners in the Health Sector.

Honorable Chairperson,

We would like to congratulate the Government and all the stakeholders in the health sector in successfully implementing most of the agreed policy commitment areas prioritized for the FY 2017/18. We acknowledge the efforts of the Government, Development Partners, CSOs, Private Sector, and the communities (*Wanainchi*). We urge all of us to sustain these success stories as we still have challenges and a number of areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve our HSSP IV as well as the Country's

Vision 2025. Generally, there are big improvements and notable achievements made that deserve to be applauded.

We recognize and commend the high commitment and efforts made by the Government and the Development Partners on increasing and improving the health infrastructure thereby increasing accessibility of health services in the Country. While the ongoing efforts to improve infrastructure continues, we know that, the demand for qualified personnel, equipment, medicines, and supplies will also increase. The Private Sector would like to emphasize on proper coordination of the efforts to ensure rational use of the scarce resource. Presently, there are private not for profit (FBOs) facilities serving as designated hospitals, soon these hospitals will be replaced by public hospitals following the ongoing efforts to build new public hospitals. The Private Sector is concerned about the transition process and fate of the designated hospitals and the populations we serve. This should actually be of concern to all, looking at the present population annual change of about 3%. This means that each year we have another extra 1.5 Million Tanzania, requiring expansion of services to cater for them all. We recommend a road map to be developed to facilitate smooth transition, agree on time frame towards change of status of the hospitals so that services to the community is not jeopardized.

Also, we applaud the government for successfully rolling out the Direct Health Financing Facility system to almost all the public health facilities. This should mean that there is no challenge of delayed funding now. This should translate to, increased efficiency in health service delivery at the primary level. Specific health indicators and targets set will therefore be achieved.

Honourable Chairperson

We have noted an increase of budget allocation for health commodities from TZS 30 billion in 2015 to TZS 270 billion in 2018/19. Despite of the effort and commitment made to increase the budget, the availability of essential health commodities especially in the facilities is still a challenge and need to be addressed. Coordination and management of the supply chain needs to be strengthened in order to improve accessibility of quality health commodities. We have also noted that, 90% of health commodities available in the country are imported. The Private Sector will continue to advocate for conducive policy and business friendly environment which will facilitate and attract

investors to invest in the local manufacturing of health commodities hence addressing the challenges related to costs and stock out of supplies.

Honourable Chairperson

We acknowledge efforts and achievements made in response towards fighting HIV/AIDS, malaria, and Tuberculosis infections. We have noted that, there is a significant reduction of these diseases' morbidity and mortality rates. We know that efforts to reduce the high rates of maternal and neonatal deaths are still going on. It is unfortunate that maternal mortality has remained persistently and unacceptably high at 556 per 100,000 live births as per DHS 2015/16. So far we have not fared well hence joint and deliberate efforts are required to ensure that expecting mothers and newborns are facing a lesser risk of dying in the near future than it is now.

Honourable Chairperson

While we are celebrating the achievements, the Private Sector is urging the Government and other Stakeholder to accelerate the process of developing and approving the National Health Policy and the Health Financing Strategy. These are key for increasing accessibility of quality health care services.

The Private Health Sector believe that, the Health Financing Strategy may greatly contribute to the reduction of the health financing gap, enable Tanzanians access affordable and quality health care services and sustain the services provided by both public and private institutions. We believe that the private health sector will be fully incorporated in the conceived national health insurance plan.

Honorable Chairperson,

The private health sector highly appreciates the conducive and enabling environment that the Government continues to nurture for smooth operationalization of the private health sector activities and investments. The 19th Joint Annual Health Sector Review platform provided us a unique opportunity to meet, review and discuss matters related to health care service delivery in a constructive and participatory manner that makes Tanzania to be one among countries which observe good governance. This would not have been possible without a dedicated and committed Government leadership through your respective Ministries. The Private health sector is keen and continues to support the current initiative of