

# MDG report hails Dar on under-5

By **ORTON KIISHWEKO**

THE Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) report for 2014 has hailed Tanzania's notable reductions in under-five mortality rate, arguing that it should encourage all global health actors to commit to achieving a fairer and more equitable world for children. The report, which examines the latest progress towards achieving the MDGs, reaffirms that 90 per cent of chil-

dren in developing regions now enjoy primary education and disparities between boys and girls in enrolment have narrowed.

"There have been notable reductions in the under-five mortality rate since 1990 and particularly since 2000 in some low-income countries such as Tanzania," notes the report.

It notes that there were 53 countries in 1990 that had an under-five mortality rate

of twenty or fewer deaths per thousand live births, of which 36 countries had at least halved their under-five mortality rate and 11 had reduced it by at least two-thirds by 2012.

It adds that reducing under-five mortality requires political will, applied consistently in support of child and maternal health through concerted action, sound strategies and adequate resources.

"The success of a signifi-

cant number of countries in achieving Goal 4 should encourage all global health actors to commit to achieving a fairer and more equitable world for all children," points out part of the report

The report comes as the United Nations team has crafted new goals for 2030 targeting to succeed the expiring MDGs

Reacting to the post-2015 agenda, the Economic and Social Research Foundation

(ESRF) Executive Director, Dr Hoseana Lunogelo, said in Dar es Salaam that Tanzania was one of the countries which participated in the consultation process to define the post-2015 MDG development agenda

A team, known as the Open Working Group (OWG), had already tabled its objectives that now awaited a formal vote by member states of the UN during the upcoming General Assembly

in New York in September.

The vote in favour by a simple majority would mean the goals will be adopted to replace the MDGs, launched in 2000.

The eight MDGs included: To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, improve maternal health, combat HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases, ensure en-

vironmental sustainability and develop a global partnership for development.

The OWG was a result of a decision made during the Rio+20 Conference in Brazil at which member states agreed to launch a programme to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals to build on the MDGs.

Some of the proposed new goals are to end poverty in all forms everywhere, to end hunger, achieve food se-

curity and improve nutrition and promote sustainable Agriculture and to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages.

According to the Permanent Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office, Regional Administration and Local Government (PMO-RALG), Mr Jumanne Sagini, for the first time they were increasing the scope of contributions in planning the post-MDG agenda.