

**OPENING SPEECH BY THE PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF HEALTH,  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER, ELDERLY AND CHILDREN AT THE 18<sup>TH</sup> JOINT  
ANNUAL HEALTH SECTOR TECHNICAL REVIEW MEETING 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

- Dr.Zainab Chaula –JAHSR-Co chairs: Deputy Permanent Secretary (Health), President’s Office, Regional Administration and Local Government
  - Madame Norzin - Lead Troika,
  - Professor Muhamad Bakari Kambi-Chief Medical Officer, MoHCDGEC, Tanzania Mainland,
  - Representatives of Partner Government Ministries in Health development,
  - Commissioners, Directors and Section Heads, MoHCDGEC,
  - RMO’s and DMO’s present,
  - Representatives of Development Partners,
  - Representatives of Private Sector, Civil Society and Faith Based Organizations,
  - Staff from the MoHCDGEC,
- 
- Invited Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning!!

On behalf of the Government of Tanzania and the Ministry of Health, Community Development Gender, Elderly and Children and on my own behalf, allow me to take this opportunity to first welcome you to this 18<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Health Sector Technical Review Meeting. It is my pleasure and great honour to address this important partnership forum that has brought together technical experts and valued stakeholders in our joint efforts to improve the performance of the health sector in Tanzania. The two days Technical Review Meeting is being held in preparation for the Policy Meeting scheduled to take place on 8th December 2017. I would therefore, like to appeal to all of you for your full cooperation and active participation during these two days.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Government in collaboration with development partners, civil society organisations, private sector, research institutions and other health sector stakeholders have used Sector Wide Approach to review and assess the implementation of strategic health sector issues. Together, we have made a solid foundation for our partnership and in consolidating the gains made in the health sector. The Technical Review Meeting gives us an opportunity to discuss the progress made and challenges of implementation for the last fiscal year. We all take note that these two collaborative instruments give us the opportunity to identify priorities and improve our policy recommendations for the next fiscal year.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The theme for this 2017 review meeting points to one priority area where much has been invested but Mothers continue dying of pregnant related condition; therefore we declare that:

**“Together we can make a difference; maternal death is unacceptable”**

**Kwa pamoja tunaweza, Vifo vya Akina Mama wajawazito havikubaliki"**

This theme addresses the Unfinished business in the MDGs as well as aligns with the 2030 SDGs. The review meeting was preceded by a Joint Field Visit that included representatives from the Government, Development Partners and other stakeholders in three different regions (Singida, Tanga and Sumbawanga ).

The aims of the field visit were to:

- 1) Have a joint in-depth appreciation of the Maternal Health Conditions and Issues around the Tanzanian
  - Community
  - Primary Health Care Services
  - The CHMT
- 2) Continue building the Integrated trust partnership working arrangements and spirit.
- 3) Develop priority concerns for better Performance from all levels of service delivery.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The presentations of findings on specific areas will be shared as per the agenda items in front of you and the status of implementation of the last year’s policy Commitment. We shall all remember that one of the key commitments we made last year was to send money directly to where services take place. Furthermore, we will have an opportunity to discuss critical issues from the health sector performance presentation. I am informed that our colleagues from PORALG have conducted an in-depth health Infrastructure and Human Resources analysis at the Primary Health Facility level. All these shall inform us as we make decisions on priorities.

Health Policy has just graduated (2007-2017) and we have taken advantage of your availability to share and discuss the future look.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Fifth Government has a Clear motto. 'Towards a middle level income country' come Tanzania 2025. We shall all agree that Health remains a vital input to this motto and we need to develop at health care system at the level of this development, and with a call for right balance of health promotion and prevention in order to allow active participation in Social and Economic activities.

In the above context; this meeting has room to discuss what can be done to achieve this vision. We have to focus on all aspects of health, both in terms of community health, primary health care and at the same time to support the quickly growing competencies related to Specialisation and Super-specialised services at the move towards a sustainable health sector.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At this stage allow me to appreciate the extra-ordinary performance of the Health Sector Technical Working groups and the Health SWAp in Tanzania. I am informed that we are doing well at the National level with our SWAp performance arrangement and in the Coming year we would like to strengthen decentralised SWAp. Related to that arrangement and in collaboration with PORALG, and Development Partners we have managed to support all Public Health Facilities to have 2017/18 Facility Planning Guide and Health Plans. A performance framework and contract is as well in place for annual appraising This deserves applaud.

I am informed that in 2018 it is planned to finalise decentralised partnership mapping and strengthen both the Public and Private Planning through a decentralised SWAp. This is a bright 'home grown' reform and innovation and is aiming at moving health to the hands of all households in Tanzania as planned in HSSP IV

I would like to extend my sincere appreciations to all the Development Partners specifically the Basket Financing Partners for working hand in hand with the Government to realise this reform and as well supporting and financing these Technical Review meetings which bring evidence to all of us. I wish more partners could join the basket.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

At this juncture I would like to remind all of us that at lunch time tomorrow we are expected to have 2018/19 policy recommendations.

May I therefore wish you all fruitful discussions and two hard working days to deliver the recommendations.

With those remarks I now have the honour to officially declare this Technical Review Meeting opened and thank you all for your kind attention. I wish you all a fruitful Technical Review Meeting.

ASANTENI SANA.