

Toward MDGs and vision 2025

THE top priority of United Nations is the attainment of the millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals are aimed at alleviating abject poverty and increasing access to social services to a majority of people in developing countries.

These goals include the halving of poverty by 2015 to 50 percent. The other goals are the attainment of Universal Primary Education (UPE) by that period and the reduction of infant mortality rates.

MDGs also include the improvement of maternal health and achieving gender equality and economic empowerment combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases are also a priority in MDGs. Lastly there will be emphasise in enhancing international cooperation in fighting poverty.

The pre-requisite of attaining of MDGs is an increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the least de-

veloped countries of which Tanzania is one of them.

Most of the Paris club and non-Paris club countries have cancelled old debts owed to them by Tanzania. The multi-lateral donors like IMF, World Bank and the African Development Bank should also cancel old debts owed to them by LDCs.

The Blair Commission for Africa, which has recently released its report is a step in the right direction in fighting poverty in Africa. Africa is the only continent in the world whose development has stagnated over the past 25 years.

As Tony Blair said "poverty is a scar in the conscious of the world. This has led to the proposal of the establish of International Financial facility. It is expected that over the next five years there will be a flow of about \$ 100 billion to finance economic and social services including education, HIV/AIDS programmes and physical in-

frastructure.

Like the NEPAD arrangement these goals will be attained if the G8, EU and USA give their support to the Tony Blair initiative. Past experience has shown that pledges by G8 to increase aid flow to Africa and LDCs have fallen short of expectations.

It is also pertinent that the

cause of Africa's under development and also increase transparency and accountability and promote good governance at the public service and corporate levels.

There is a need to increase the absorptive capacity of increased aid flows and this calls for ownership by government of development plans in all sectors of the economy.

M D G s should also be aligned to the attainment of vision 2025 which intends to raise the per capita income of

Tanzania from the current \$ 260 to \$ 2000.

The other goal of the vision is to make Tanzania a semi-industrialised country by year 2025 with mining and manufacturing contributing 40 percent of Gross Domestic

Product. Increase in school enrollment, life expectancy and reduction of child and maternal health are also the goals of vision 2025.

For MDGs and vision 2025 to be realised there should be a doubling of ODA to Tanzania and more debt relief and eventually debt cancellation.

The private sector has a role to help Tanzania attain Millennium Development Goals. This needs to attract investment in labour intensive industries to create jobs and income generating opportunities.

Market access to the EU and the US for goods from LDCs will also contribute to higher economic growth and poverty reduction in poor countries.

Tanzania and other African countries need to create a better investment climate to attract FDI from the north.

Sustenance of political and macro-economic stability with low and stable inflation

rates is a necessity to attract local and foreign investment.

Fighting corruption and promotion of good governance will also attract investors to Africa. Investment in infrastructure will reduce the cost of doing business.

Tanzania has already shown the way with the holding of meetings of National Business Council and investors round table.

This gives opportunity to local and foreign investors to air their complaints directly to the President who is the chairman of National Business Council.

As he told investors in Berlin a few months ago that they should be bold enough to say if they have been asked to give bribes in the investment process.

Increase in investment will lead to higher economic growth and poverty reduction and contribute to the attainment of MDGs and vision 2025.

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By Theo Mushi

