



## **Youth Action Volunteers (YAV)**

### **Statement Regarding Dishonest Public Officials**

Youth Action Volunteers (YAV) appreciates the culture of transparency which has been practiced by the government of Tanzania over the past years. YAV welcomes and commends the call by President Jakaya Kikwete for dishonest public officials to be held accountable for the improper documentation and misuse of public funds.

Youth Action Volunteers joins the President of the United Republic of Tanzania in condemning poor governance and lack of accountability by government officials. Furthermore, YAV is concerned by the seemingly lack of debate by parliamentarians and lack of action by government ministries and departments (MDAs) in addressing the improper documentation of expenditure amounting to 1,299,696,563 Tanzanian shillings as reported in the Controller and Auditor General's (CAG) report for 2005/06.

Good governance, transparency and accountability are key components for a sustainable and prosperous democracy. The proper management of public funds is essential to realizing good governance. Transparency and accountability are best achieved by involving various stakeholders (CSOs and citizens) at all government policy making and implementation levels.

The CAG's office can and does play a crucial role in increasing transparency and accountability, improving governance and reducing corruption in Tanzania. The CAG's office is an essential component of the government structure as it monitors the effective implementation of all policies in all MDAs. Increasing accountability, improving governance and reducing corruption have been the recommendations by the CAG reports for various MDAs over the past fiscal years.

Addressing the shortfalls noted in the CAG's report for 2005/06 will go a long way in reducing corruption and increasing transparency by ensuring that public servants do not act in an irresponsible manner when it comes to public funds. Public funds are in essence the citizen's (taxpayers) money. Impunity should not be tolerated by the government and citizens of Tanzania for those officials found misusing public funds as fiscal discipline is crucial in the fight against poverty.

Youth Action Volunteers calls for the proper and immediate documentation of the funds amounting to 1,299,696,563 Tanzanian shillings by the respective MDAs that were improperly reported in the year 2005/06. Furthermore, YAV demands proper accounting and documentation of all central and local government activities in the future. We expect serious consideration and implementation of the CAG's recommendations.

In addition, YAV re-affirms the need for increased downward transparency and accountability, of public servants, by involving citizens, civil society organizations

(CSOs) and other stakeholders in the public money expenditure processes rather than only upward to central government. Citizens should at the same time be demanding action from their respective MPs as these leaders are custodians of their tax money.

We applaud and encourage continued commitment by the President to foster the culture of transparency, increased accountability, improved good governance in the bid to combat corruption and the misuse of public money in Tanzania. YAV is optimistic that the call by President Jakaya Kikwete will prompt serious and full debate of audit reports in parliament and amongst citizens in the future.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irenei Kiria', is written over a light green circular stamp. The signature is cursive and fluid.

Mr. Irenei Kiria  
Executive Director of YAV  
20<sup>th</sup> April 2007

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