



Press release, Sunday 12 December 2010
Hon Maige's 'cleaning' of ministry commendable

The Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ezekiel Maige's move to 'clean' by investigating misdeeds committed in the ministry and imposing a ban on international trips is the right step in the direction of reducing unnecessary use of taxpayer's money.

Hon Maige among other measures imposed a ban on international journeys by his ministry's officials saying that they should remain in the country implementing their duties and instead visit our tourist attractions, before warning that stern measures would be taken against irresponsible officials who have been causing the government revenue to drop.

Actually, for the year 2010/11, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism has allocated a total of Tshs 5,184,245,100 for travels out of which Tshs 666,115,000 is for out of country travels and Tshs 4,518,130,100 is for in country travels.

In the recent years, there has been an outcry from different stakeholders on how the government allocates and spends its financial resources. While inadequate funds have been one of the challenges that the government is facing in implementing its different programs, concerns have been how well it uses the available resources.

Sikika has since 2008 been advocating for the government to cut down on unnecessary expenditures. In this, six items in the government budget are referred to as unnecessary expenditures. These are 'Training' (domestic and foreign), 'Allowances' (non-discretionary, discretionary, and in-kind), 'Travel' (in-country and out-of-country), 'Acquisition of New Vehicles', 'Fuel, Oil and Lubricants' and 'Hospitality Supplies and Services'.

Sikika hails measures taken by Minister Maige as they go a long way not only in safeguarding taxpayer's money but also in making sure that officials within the ministry execute their duties diligently.

We, therefore, urge other ministries to borrow a leaf from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism by investigating the misdeeds committed in the ministries such as petty corruption for the benefit of the public.

Sikika would like the government to remain committed to its promise of cutting [unnecessary expenditure](#) and should take measures to make sure that ministries follow in Hon Maige's footsteps as this will go a long way in improving service delivery and improve the general public's lives.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Irenei Kiria'.

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