

## Closing Address

Emmanuel Kallonga

Mr Kallonga's closing address considered how much the colloquium had done of what it set out to do. He had mentioned six objectives in his opening address.

*1. to provide an opportunity for civil society organisations and policy makers to interact and exchange ideas, opinions and experiences on the subject of creating knowledge about policy issues in Tanzania.*

The colloquium included an informal seating arrangement and a set of groupwork activities that encouraged people to interact and exchange ideas. The colloquium involved more than 70 participants from a wide range of stakeholder organisations - this objective can be said to have been achieved.

*2. to build a shared pool of contacts, skills and understanding and to use it for mutual support and information sharing. To use this pool as the root of a knowledge network which builds rights based social movements that enable people to access and understand policy information and to interact with it constructively.*

The contact database which has begun at the colloquium will be distributed with the report but many more contacts have already been made. The challenge that lies ahead is in figuring ways of working together to build effective knowledge networks and thus build social movements. Several of the presentations gave practical ideas about how this might be done.

*3. to generate tools for analysing policies. These should focus on grassroots experiences and should help to generate alternative ways of being and doing. They should also enable ordinary people to bring their views to the attention of policy makers at all levels.*

The presentations about Action Research and Participatory Poverty Assessment from REPOA, ESRF and Kihacha offered a range of possible tools and procedures that can help grassroots people analyse their situations and feed their ideas to policy makers. Many of these will develop through field testing, and new variations will doubtless emerge.

There is a need to strike a balance between extractive and participatory research and between analyses which seek to clarify policies and those that seek to critique them. The guiding principle is that policies and actions at whatever level in the system should increase rather than decrease the level of social justice. The Poverty Monitoring Master Plan provides a framework through which a lot of useful information might flow.

*4. to build a sense of ownership of a user friendly guide to the process of popularising policy and giving feedback to policy makers.*

The 4D model upon which the guide will be based was analysed piece by piece and modified in the light of the experience of different participants. Most contributors seemed to appreciate the model and the way that it helped to put their activities in a larger context.

The main modifications to the model involve

- a much richer understanding of the processes of distribution and discussion
- an appreciation that the model can be applied at all levels from international through to very local (ie at macro, meso and micro levels – vertically and horizontally)
- a realisation that the 4D process is the same for all creative communication methods – not just the written word.

*5. to create a bridge between like minded organisation working at different levels ie from international through to local*

The 'language of discourse' remains a problem. The gap in knowledge, skills, attitudes and values of actors at the different levels remains large. The bridge will have to be built from both ends. The 'experts' will have to learn to speak so that ordinary people can understand them better and ordinary

people will have to build their capacity to quickly analyse and understand the implications of macro policy on their micro situations.

Hakikazi Catalyst is an example of a meso CSO. It is trying to build bridges by demystifying messages coming from above and by arranging for feedback of messages from below (and sideways). But the task is enormous and more organizations will have to get involved. This colloquium has perhaps helped to point the way. The process should also run much more smoothly once the four Technical Working Groups in the Poverty Monitoring Master Plan begin to function effectively.

*6. to support a process of sharing between stakeholders in the process of poverty reduction. This process has already begun but it still has a long way to go. We must work out joint learning programmes, participatory research initiatives and ways of providing continuous feedback to policy makers.*

The colloquium began and ended with participants reflecting on skills – both on those they already have and those they need to develop. These have been sorted and analysed. Various groupwork activities outlined possibilities for joint action. The colloquium had the support of some of the country's main research and training institutions and some key funding organisations and government departments. The pool of shared understanding is growing.

This colloquium was not designed as a training workshop but rather as an opportunity for a wider range of stakeholders to come together and share experiences and felt needs. While no definite action plans have been designed (let alone costed and funded!) the field of possibilities is now more clearly mapped.

We have engaged in DIALOGUE and made a good start on ANALYSIS.  
The challenge is to take ACTION which leads to CHANGE

SUCCESSFUL EMPOWERMENT  
means that facilitators  
LOSE CONTROL