



policy forum

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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Policy Forum has decided to dedicate this month's space to the Tanzania National Budget for 2011/12. The debate is titled "***The 2011/12 Government Budget: Does it address what people expect?***"

The National Budget which was tabled and endorsed by the national assembly on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2011 showed that the government planned to spend the sum of Tsh 13.5 trillion in the new financial year. But, how much does the budget give to the five priority sectors namely, Electricity, water, infrastructure, agriculture and irrigation and job creation in the private and public sectors?. Will the government be able to raise revenue from its limited resources and meet its national vision and aspirations?

Moreover, the budget has also announced a package of measures including; holding down unnecessary expenditures and slashed taxes on farm equipment, heavy industrial oil and animal feed to mitigate commodity price hikes and supporting agricultural production. In this budget, like in the previous one, government announced economic policies and legal regulatory measures to stimulate economic development for poverty reduction.

The most critical issue that majority of people were complaining of before the 2011/12 budget was tabled was the increased cost of living among citizens. Does the current budget proposal reflect the commitment of the government to mitigate high costs of living to the citizen? How then is the government set to mitigate high cost of living among the citizen of which is attributed with the increase in prices of goods and services?

The Budget also planned to take several measures to revolutionalise agriculture sector as a way to address unemployment problem and thus improved productivity could create a mixture of employment opportunities. These measures include: the development of Southern Agricultural Growth Corridor of Tanzania which is an integral part of Kilimo Kwanza Vision".

Having the Government presented its budget, how different then is the current budget from the past one? Does the budget proposal feature the priorities in the recently developed 5-years Developed plans, MKUKUTA, MKUZA and vision 2025 as we aspire to be the middle income country by 2025?

These issues, together with the trends in expenditure specifically to this year's national budget will feature as part of the discussion during the Breakfast Debate on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> of June 2011. Invited participants at the meeting include representatives of Government, private sector, civil society, donors, the media and concerned citizens. The discussions are held over a light breakfast and enable participants to reflect and debate the issues.

The 7:30 People and Policy Debates are held on the last Friday of every month and the venue will be the BRITISH COUNCIL along **Ohio Street**, from 0730 to 0930. Their main purpose is to examine and debate the extent to which policies serve ordinary people, and identify imaginative questions and solutions.

The debates are organized by Policy Forum. The main presenters for this month's debate are **Nicholas Lekule** of the Policy Forum Budget Working Group and **Usu Mallya** of TGNP.

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Signed for Policy Forum