



**policy forum**

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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Policy Forum has decided to dedicate this month's debate to the Tanzania National Budget for 2009/10. The debate is titled "**Tanzania National Budget 2009/10. What did it not say?**"

The National Budget which was tabled in the House on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2009 showed that the government planned to spend a total of 9.5trn/- in the fiscal year beginning July 1. But, how much does the budget give to the six priority sectors mentioned, Agriculture, education, infrastructure, health, water and energy? Will the government be able to raise revenue from its limited resources and meet its national vision and aspirations?

Moreover, as outlined during the minister's speech, the 2009/10 budget has been prepared when the world is facing an unprecedented global economic crisis which that has already affected some domestic revenue sources. What are sectors that are most likely to be affected?

The Budget also proposed to abolish the excise duty exemption granted to mining companies as the government is losing substantial amount of revenue from this exemption. What are mechanisms in place that the government will use to realize these prospects?

Whilst it is recognized that the national budget should stipulate clearly on how government plans to use its resources to achieve its vision and targets, it remains a challenge for the government it sets out to collect resources and spend on some critical services like health, education, water and agriculture.

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, 26<sup>th</sup> of June 2009. Invited participants at the meeting include representatives of Government, private sector, civil society, donors, the media and concerned citizens. The discussions are held over 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 **Moses Kulaba** of the Policy Forum Budget Working Group and **Gregory Smith** of the development Partners' Group.

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Signed for Policy Forum

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