



**PRESS RELEASE
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Policy Forum and HakiElimu have decided to dedicate this month's debate to the current DDT policy in Tanzania. The debate is titled "**DDT Policy for Malaria Control in Tanzania**".

In Tanzania, like elsewhere in Africa, Malaria remains the largest single burden of disease and an enormous public health problem ranking number one in both outpatient and inpatient statistics. It is a major cause of mortality in children under 5 and its socio-economic impact includes costs of treating the disease, low productivity due to days lost to sickness, days away from school, and decline in tourism, all contributing to poverty and underdevelopment.

Despite this, many efforts to combat and control malaria have hardly been successful although simple, effective and affordable preventive and curative measures exist. These include better public health education and communication, improved case management, use of insecticide treated mosquito nets, and prevention and prompt treatment of malaria in pregnancy. However, such measures face many challenges due to limited human, material and financial resources rendering the goal to combat and control the disease elusive.

Due to these setbacks and the need for a more integrated approach to fighting malaria, DDT use especially for indoor residual spray is being seriously looked into as one of the alternatives. This has led to substantial debate on the pros and cons of using DDT; its impact on human health and the environment; and the alternatives to its use.

These issues, along with the status of DDT policy in Tanzania, will feature as part of the discussion during the Breakfast Debate on Friday, 29th February 2008. 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 this month the venue will be the **CENTER FOR ENHANCEMENT OF EFFECTIVE MALARIA INTERVENTIONS (CEEMI)** Conference Room on **Ocean Road/ Kivukoni 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 jointly organized by Policy Forum and HakiElimu. Presenters for this month's debate are experts from the Ministry of Health- Vector Control Unit, Mr. Dismas Mwalimu and Mr. Paul Saoko- Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR).

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Signed for Policy Forum
