



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 27, 2008**

Policy Forum and HakiElimu have decided to dedicate this month's debate to HIV/AIDS Budgeting in Tanzania. The debate is titled "***Budgeting for HIV/AIDS in Tanzania: Can funding increments have a positive impact?***" The debate will focus on the HIV/AIDS budget allocations for the financial years of 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Given the gravity of HIV/AIDS in Tanzania, it is important that the vast amounts of funds disbursed by donors and the substantial resources spent by the government in fighting the epidemic be monitored and analysed carefully as a way of measuring the country's prioritisation of the problem. Another reason for monitoring and analysing public expenditure on HIV/AIDS is that it helps provide useful advice to the government on strategic budget allocations; helps gauge the country's commitment to international declarations; helps strengthen government accountability; gives an indication of the achievement of human rights issues of equity.

Although the need for monitoring and analysis of HIV/AIDS budgeting is evident, experience from the HIV/AIDS Working Group's recent budget tracking and analyses reveal that there are difficulties in gathering budget information, something that needs to improve if civil society and other stakeholders are to be fully engaged the HIV/AIDS policy processes and there is to be transparency and accountability in HIV/AIDS expenditure.

These issues 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 HIV/AIDS Working Group, Dr. Peter Bujari and Mr. Beng'i Issa of the Tanzania Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS).

For more information, contact Richard Angelo at PA2@policyforum.or.tz or on telephone number 2772611.

Signed for Policy Forum
