

**MANAGING THE GOVERNMENT OF TANZANIA: IS
KIKWETE ON THE RIGHT TRACK IN CONFORMING
TO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS?**

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Abstract

Millennium development goals have become a pillar in cognising good or bad governance. Most governments, today appeal for fulfilment of the MDG because partly they give a signal on the extent to which development is going to be attained. This article presents an assessment of the extent to which the government of Tanzania under the leadership of Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete has fulfilled the MDG. The article utilises documentation as the data collection strategy. It has further done some comparative analysis of the pace of attainment of the Goals versus past regimes of the same country. The paper concludes that, so far, the fourth regime has done the best in achieving what is disclosed in the Development Millennium Goals. Most goals have become evident to the people of Tanzania, and that just like marketing is crucial for various new products, governments must learn to market what they have achieved.

Keywords: Millennium Development Goals, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Development

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1. INTRODUCTION

The quest for development has become a motto of the day in local and international perspectives. Most countries have found embarking on weighing development through comparative analysis that is set by various international conventions or declarations. Such goals include the 2000 Millennium Development Goals (MDG), which narrate the need for conforming to international standards for the purpose of reducing poverty and improving the living standard of the people. The need for such conformity differs among countries due to varied levels of development. In this regard, we presume that the poorest countries would need more of these goals than would be for the developed nations.

It is from this perspective this paper saves to assess the conformity to Millennium Development Goals by one of the least developed countries in Africa, in the name of Tanzania. We appreciate the fact that development refers to the improved life standard attained at a certain prescribed period through scientific analyses (Norman, 2005; Todaro, 2004).

The push for the paper is realised through trying to reiterate the people of the world on the contribution of the leaders in boosting development of any country. It is understood that good governance is considered as the pillar in development and in reducing poverty. However, good governance is dependent on the leaders of these countries. In other words, you cannot claim to have good governance under incompetent leaders. In this view, this article assess the regime of Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the forth president of the United Republic of Tanzania in conforming to the MDG, which in turn brings forth reduction of poverty and thus improved livelihood in particular macroeconomics. In this vein, Annan (2007) reveals that good governance is perhaps the single most important factor in eradicating poverty and promoting development.

The Millennium Declaration, adopted by all 189 United Nations Member States in 2000, promised a better world with less poverty, hunger and disease; a world in which mothers and children have a greater chance of surviving and of receiving an education, and where women and girls have the same opportunities as men and boys. It promised a healthier environment and greater cooperation—a world in which developed and developing countries work in partnership for the betterment of all. The declaration established eight Millennium Development Goals

(MDGs) and time-bound targets by which progress can be measured. With the 2015 deadline looming, how much progress has been made? In addition, is the pace of progress sufficient to achieve the goals? The MDGs break down into 21 quantifiable targets that are measured by 60 indicators. This paper presents an assessment of progress based on selected indicators. Trends and levels are assessed because of information available as of June 2011. The latest available data for most indicators are from 2009 to 2011; for a few indicators, the data date back to 2005 or 2007.

The MDG assessed are 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 2) Achieve universal primary education 3) promote gender equality and promote women 4) Reduce child mortality 5) improve maternal health 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases 7) ensure environmental sustainability 8) develop a global partnership for development.

The paper entails to reveal the contribution of regimes in power in promoting or hindering the fulfilment of the goals. In most cases, we have not been able to assess the performance of the leaders, in particular presidents due to lack of premises or gauges from which we can judge their performance. This article attempts to weigh the performance of the President of Tanzania in relations to specific goals- the MDG.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

The need for development is inevitable for the resilience of present and future generation. Development and governance are twin sisters. None can stand alone if development connotes the improved livelihood. Akindele (2012) sees that the need for good leaders is crucial in enabling the increased pace of development. Norman (2011) suggests that the management of materials and human resources is solely dependent of the regime in power, in assimilating competent based credentials at the expense of none competent. Due to the importance of good governance in development, Governments are driven to fulfil some roles before being granted some loans and grants. Good governance has become a central value for accessing support from developed nations, and international financial institutions such as International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB).

The attainment of development is crucial. However, the leader of the country can determine the tune and thus the speed to which a nation should go. In this view, we note that heads of state can improve or weaken the development of any country. Nyerere (1967) reveals that the potentials for developing our African countries lie on three main attributes: Land, people (human resource) and good leadership, which is now popularly known as good governance. Various literatures have become evident on the need of land and human resources (Norman, 1997; 2000; Nyerere, 1967; Armstrong, 2001). Nevertheless, less has been disclosed on the role of political leaders in enabling countries to attain the desired development. To some, assessing the performance of the heads of state, it is perceived as an attack to these big leaders.

We however, believe that the most cadres of leaders, which are supposed to be assessed by various professional people, are top leaders of the country. They are the people to which the lives of the people depend on them. When they walk, we also walk, when they run we also do the same. Not to wonder, Mahathir (1974) the former Prime Minister of Malaysia had this to reveal: 'I have been dreaming to be the Prime Minister of this country, Malaysia so that I can enforce what I believe was lacking in making the country join the first world..?'

The initiatives for improving the country at international level have been on various ladders. However, the most popular in recent years are the Millennium Development Goals. These emanate at the Millennium Summit General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2000, world leaders committed to the Millennium Declaration of the United Nations that set key objectives for the 21st century.

The Declaration embodies an unprecedented consensus, outlining a common vision of peace and security, development and poverty eradication, securing human rights, and ... democracy and good governance. It includes development goals (MDGs) to be achieved by 2015 that focus on several key areas of human well-being.

African leaders have been the victim of evil words thrown at them, in relation to the performance of their government. With huge multipartism forces, emanating from various challenges, which include global warming, environmental suffrage resulting from cutting of trees and burning of

forests, which is, of course a reality in Tanzania and East African in general, it is hard to tell of whether these problems are associated with the weakness of the president and or his regime. It is thus imperative to have an assessment made from a sound package of credentials, which will help to provide a picture of the performance of these leaders in specific areas. Norman (2011) suggests that scientific credentials must be developed to assess the performance of various leaders, short of that most leaders and professional people would be disregarded even when they ought to be praised.

3. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study has utilised documentation as the main strategy for data collection. A comparative analysis has been made through descriptive methods and analyses of the data have been employed using percentiles, tables and charts. The data have been summarised using excel and SPSS. The paper has analysed eight development goals as fulfilled by Tanzania through the leadership of fourth President Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. The identified Goals are: 1) eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 2) Achieve universal primary education 3) promote gender equality and promote women 4) Reduce child mortality 5) improve maternal health 6) combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases 7) ensure environmental sustainability 8) develop a global partnership for development. Results of performance as narrated in the United Nations world assessment have been key in our discussion.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In Tanzania, particularly during the fourth regime, the performances of the MDG have been improving. The improvement of poverty alleviation, which is gauged on the basis needs poverty line from 1990 to the year 2000, has been at 7%. The improvement from the year 2005 to the year 2012 has been at the rate of 34.2%, which is about 24% more than what was averaged in 2005.

Primary school enrolment has improved from 60% in 2005 to 92% in 2012. The United Nations projects 100% by the year 2015. Under five-mortality rate has also improved from 120 in 2005 to 75 in 2012. It is expected to be 64 during the year 2015. Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live

births) has decreased from about 150 in 2005 to 75 in 2012. The pace of improvement exceeds any single pace of improvement noted from independence. We anticipate that the death rate for the year 2012 will be reduced largely due to the efforts of protecting the deaths through free distribution of mosquito net to all Tanzanians including children. So far as of now, we note close to zero deaths resulting from malaria. The noted deadly decease in Tanzania and Africa at large.

In Tanzania and Africa as a whole, Malaria is ranked the first killing decease followed by the HIV/AIDS. Such efforts of providing free mosquito nets for the people of Tanzania is record in itself as not country has ever dared to provide such service, except Libya which is strongly backed by oil as her economic strength. Equally, maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) has been reduced from 578 in 2005 to about 160 in the year 2011. For obvious reasons, health sector has been made firm and thus the number of death of mothers at birth is expected to be reduced drastically.

The government of Jakaya Kikwete has instituted a policy of dispensary in every village, and a health centre per ward. Normally villages in Tanzania constitute about 250 houses or more. In addition, a ward can be made of about two villages or more. This policy of health centre per ward and a dispensary per village has made it possible for pregnant mothers to meet their needs without travelling long distances. Number of kilometres used to be walked by Tanzanian population for the sake of following health services has been reduced. This is a notable effort made by a perceived poor country, and it is acknowledge being the highest pace of improvement in Tanzania since independence.

In addition, birth attended by skilled health personnel has improved from 40% in 2005 to 95% in 2011. This too is a result of efforts to increase the graduate personnel in health sector. This efforts have made possible for students pursuing degrees in medicine to get 80% and above of the support from the government. Universities providing training in medicine has increased to five universities from the then two colleges. Middle training schools have also increased drastically.

Access to portable water for rural population has increased from about 50% in 2005 to about 70% in 2011.

The trend has been the same in Tanzania Zanzibar. For example, water has improved from about 50% in 2005 to about 70% in 2011. The population living below basic needs has decreased from about 34% in 2005 to about 20% in 2011. Primary school enrolment has also improved from about 65 in 2005 to about 95% in 2011.

TANZANIA MID-WAY ASSESSMENT AT A GLANCE

Mainland

MDG	1990	2000	2008		2015	Glance
			Actual	Expected**		
Proportion of population below basic needs poverty line	39	36	33.64	25.0	19.5	
Under-5 Underweight (%)	28.8	29.5	22	18.4	14.4	
Under-5 Stunted (%)	46.6	44.4 (1999)	38	29.8	23.3	
Primary school net enrolment rate	54.2	58.7	97.2	87.2	100	
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	191	153	112	99.6	64	
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live birth)	115	99	68	59.6	38	
Maternal Mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	529	-	578	244	133	
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	43.9	35.8	63	77.1	90	
HIV prevalence, 15-24 years	6	-	2.5	<6	<6	
Access to potable water :% of rural population	51	42 (2002)	57.1	67.6	74	
Access to potable water :% of urban population	68	85 (2002)	83	79.5	84	

** = Computed as % passage time thus 2008 is equivalent to 18 years or 72% time that has elapsed

Zanzibar

MDG	1990	2000	2008		2015	Glance
			Actual	Expected**		
Proportion of population below basic needs poverty line	60	-	51	38.4	30	
Under-5 Underweight (%)	39.9	25.8	7.3	14.3	20.0	
Under-5 Stunted (%)	47.9	35.8 (1999)	23.1	30.6	23.9	
Primary school net enrolment rate	50.9	67.0	83.4	86.3	100	
Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	202	14.1	101	105	67	
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live birth)	120	89	61	62.4	40	
Maternal Mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	377	323	473	173	94	
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	37	-	47	75.2	90	
HIV prevalence, 15-24 years	0.7	-	0.6	<0.7	<0.7	
Access to potable water :% of rural population	46	46	59	65.4	73	
Access to potable water :% of urban population	68	90	83	79.5	84	

Source: United Nations Development Programme, UNDP, 2012.

Unlikely to achieve

likely to achieve

achievable

5. CONCLUSION

The performance of the government of Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, which is the forth-democratic government of Tanzania, the perceived one of the best country that applauds democratic principles in Africa is remarkable. It has been learnt that all regimes of Tanzania government from the first regime of Julius Nyerere, Ali Hassan Mwinyi and the third regime of Benjamin

Mkapa just as other governments the world over, have been working hard to ensure improvement of their country social, political and economy. However, the pace of development manifested in the forth regime in conforming to the millennium development goals suggest remarkable achievement which has not been made by any of the predecessors. Certainly, this presupposes that the predecessors had, in one way or the other created an appealing environment for the fourth regime to thrive. We are in a position of concluding that the performance of the government of Dr. J.M Kikwete is in conformity to the millennium development goals. The performance, necessarily poses a challenge to any of the successors in the presidential elections of 2015 on how best could the same apprehend the intervention of social and economic development of Tanzania. Altogether, every good has its weakness. The future of Tanzania will depend solely on how best one would attempt to honour what the past regimes have made and from their work to focus fixing the lope hole if any.

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