

**OPENING SPEECH OF THE
1st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MKAPA FELLOWS ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION (MFAA) BY DR DEO MTASIWA CHIEF MEDICAL
OFFICER- MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE ,
20TH NOVEMBER 2009, MILLENIUM TOWER, CREST AND YOUNG
CONFERENCE CENTRE , DAR ES SALAAM**

**Dr Ellen Mkondya Senkoro- Chief Executive Officer – Mkapa Foundation,
Management Team - Mkapa Foundation
Mkapa Fellows Alumni**

I am honoured to stand in front of you today to officiate the first Annual General Meeting of the prestigious Mkapa Fellows Alumni Association commonly known as MFAA. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to the entire team of Mkapa Foundation for inviting me and giving me this privilege to grace this important ceremony.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The formation of Alumni is not a very new thing in Tanzania as well as in the rest of the world. We are used to hear different Alumni formed by graduates of Universities or those who have received a Fellowship. But Mkapa Fellows Alumni is a unique one in the sense that it is composed of a group of health professionals who have special experiences of the real

challenges of this country, the critical shortage of health workforce for a certain period of time which affects HIV and AIDS service delivery and the overall health care system.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am not saying that the Fellows have been experimented purposely but rather, I am emphasising on their rich experience and that is what brought us today. Most of us are witness of the launching of the Alumni which took place the day before yesterday and officiated by H.E Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein- Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Part of his speech emphasised on the experiences gained I quote “I urge each one of us to make use of their rich experience gained during their stay in the rural areas.” Thus I reckon you as Fellows have faced the challenges and contributed effectively in solving some of the challenges in the context you were operating.

Mkapa Fellows

It is the experiences you have gained that we as Government would like to capitalize on through the Mkapa Fellows Alumni and today we are happy to observe that you are conducting your first historical election to get their office bearers who will now move forward the Alumni with support from the Mkapa Foundation, before they stand on their own feet.

Mkapa Fellows

This meeting today is a special one, which you need to make good use of hours set for discussions. I am informed that you participate by 100% in the formation of the Alumni under the guidance of the Facilitators. Thus the constitution is a result of your work and ideas and this was never imposed on you by the Mkapa Foundation. This is a good beginning and I commend the Mkapa Foundation for having made that decision. I thus urge all of you to read the constitution thoroughly and understand it very well. This will enable you to identify your path and be able to elect leaders who will lead you in attaining the Mkapa Fellows Alumni vision and mission. I also take this opportunity to commend the good work done by the interim secretariat that has been moving the Alumni till today, whereby the elections will be conducted .

Mkapa Fellows

I cannot say much on leadership since we had the whole day of yesterday discussing about it. In the same context I urge you to elect a good leader who will follow the qualities of leadership referring to the nine (9) C's of leadership that were elaborated by His Excellency Benjamin William Mkapa the Settler of the Foundation.

I am informed that the Alumni also involve Fellows from batch II and from batch III who have been in the field for more than two years today. This is enough time for all of you to understand one another and thus be able to make a good decision of who will be on the driver's seat.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The government recognises the Alumni are disposable to all organisations, including the Government and partners and should be used effectively to support the strengthening of health services in Tanzania. We have witnessed some of Fellows have been appointed by the government to be the District Medical Officers, which signifies that they have shown leadership characteristics and are expected to deliver and lead the team. We noted also some of the Fellows due to lack of qualified government employees they have assumed managerial positions and had to make a number of potential advancement in managing health services of the district.

Mkapa Fellows

Forming Alumni is not a huge task however the challenge is on making it effective and sustainability. . Having heard that the Alumni was launched by the Vice President, the local and International community will be expecting more technical assistance from you. I am informed that after this AGM meeting, you will be developing your work plan for the next financial year. I urge you to put down strategies which will enable you to continue serving the community as per your constitution. I thus further call upon the Mkapa foundation to continue supporting the Mkapa Fellows Alumni through advisory role and initial technical and financial mobilisation, until when the Alumni is at a stable and sustainable stage.

I do hope during this day you will discuss critically on issues pertaining to the Alumni and come out with potential deliberation that will be acted upon by the Alumni and the Foundation. I wish you a fruitful meeting.

With these few remarks, it is my pleasure to announce that the First Annual General Meeting of the Mkapa Fellows Alumni Association, officially opened.