

## HEALTH PROMOTION TANZANIA (HDT)



### Shifting gears; Tanzanian Parliamentary Speaker Hon. Job Ndugai takes leadership in TB



In less than a year a year after the UNHLM\_TB in New York, Tanzanian Speaker of Parliament Hon. Job Ndugai has taken leadership to inspire religious leaders to participate in identification of TB missing cases. Tanzania committed to reach 561,000 adult cases and 72,600 TB children by 2022.



To ensure leadership of important community leaders, the HIV/TB Parliamentary Standing Committee Chair Hon. Dr. Oscar Mukasa worked with Health Based NGOs (Health Promotion, NACOPHA, NTLP, AGPHAI, MSH, FHI, NACOPHA) to invite the Speaker of the Parliament to inspire religious leaders and media to take an active role in identifying missing TB cases.

In a one day meeting that was held in Dar es Salaam bringing together 35 participants (Religious leaders and media), resolved that they will sensitize their congregation on TB, and asked government to provide drugs at all levels of health facilities both at government and private.

These commitments were a result of a meeting that was chaired by Hon. Job Ndugai on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The event aimed to provide political leadership on TB and inspire religious leaders in identifying TB missing cases. Religious leaders appreciated the major TB signs and symptoms to include, weight loss, coughing blood, sweating at night, and evening fevers.

Speaking at the conference, the expert from National TB and Leprosy Program Dr. Kamala noted that approximately 18 million Tanzania have TB and that about 70 people die each day of TB. It was therefore an urgent need to involve every constituency in identifying those who are not being diagnosed. In his remarks Bishop Mark Mamalwa advised that the initiative will be successful if involves traditional healers, as more often people start receiving services from them before consulting medical services. A follow up meeting is expected to be held in Mwanza end of August to sign resolution for the same.

Health Promotion Tanzania (HDT) is a National NGO affiliated to Action Global Health Partnership ([www.action.org](http://www.action.org)) focusing on diseases of poverty including TB epidemic. Health Promotion works on public health programs that includes community based health promotion, as well as policy and budget advocacy. Through Global Health Advocacy Partnership, we advocate for replenishment of Multilateral financing institutions such as GFATM, GFF, GAVI and at the same time hold Government accountable on meeting its domestic resource mobilization obligation. For more information on please visit <http://healthpromotiontanzania.org>.