

Editorial

This is the fourth issue of *UTAFITI* (New Series). It is coming out as Vol. 3 No. 1, 1996. It is hoped that No. 2 of the same volume as well as No. 1 and No. 2 of Vol. 4, 1997 will all be out by the end of 1997. From 1998 onwards the endeavour is to bring out the two numbers of the relevant year on time thus restoring the confidence of our esteemed subscribers and contributors. Particular gratitude has to be expressed to the Swedish aid agency, SAREC, which has continued to support the efforts by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the University of Dar es Salaam, to restore *UTAFITI* to its former academic publishing reputation.

In this issue there are seven articles covering topics ranging from the human rights issue, the rights of pastoralists, labour migration, the land issue, drug abuse among the youth, aspects of engineering education, and a linguist's view of how Tanzanians conceptualise the notion of being responsible. All these topics should be of interest to an informed multidisciplinary audience with special interest in development issues pertaining to Tanzania, and the Third World in general.

The first article discusses how the discourses on human rights may be located in the socio-economic struggles that are raging in Third World countries. It is written by Professor Issa Shivji of the Faculty of Law of the University of Dar es Salaam. Professor Shivji's radical view of the essence of the human rights debate can be said to be echoed in most, if not all, of the subsequent articles. The second article takes up the issue of human rights in the arena of the provision of education to pastoralists families in Tanzania. It seeks to show how state intervention in the lives of pastoralists could be made to relate to the cultural heritage and the basic economic interests of the pastoralists. The article is written by Professor Victor Mlekwa of the Faculty of Education of the University of Dar es Salaam.

The third article by Dr. M.J. Mbonile, who is currently the Head of Department of Geography at the University of Dar es Salaam, offers a critical discussion of the results of a study of how the people of Makete District in South Western Tanzania have sought to break from what he calls "the vicious circle of labour migration". The fourth articles is a review of the Report of Presidential

Commission of Inquiry into Land Issues in Tanzania, (popularly known as the Shivji Report). It discusses salient points raised both by the Shivji Report and other writers on the land question in Tanzania and in the Third World in general. These points are all linked to the struggle for self-determination, which is a basic human right, by peoples who have in history been subjected to slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism. The article, written by Professor Horace Campbell who used to teach at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania but is now with the Department of African American Studies at Syracuse University in New York in the USA, ought to prompt further debate on the land question in Tanzania in the light of impending legislative measures being contemplated by the Tanzanian state, with the apparent approval of the World Bank.

The fifth article, discusses the issue of drug abuse and drug trafficking, and how the human rights of Tanzanian youth could be said to be impossible to promote where these youths are exposed to the international web of the activities of drug barons. The article is written by Dr. M.K. Possi of the Faculty of Education at the University of Dar es Salaam who specialises in the problems of educating learners with special needs.

The sixth article, written by Dr. Martha Qorro who is a Lecturer in Communications Skills, discusses the problems of language teaching across the curriculum, taking up the case of how Civil Engineering students at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania have over the years been assisted in acquiring engineering report writing skills. Once more, an issue such as the acquisition of an academic skill is shown to be linked to issues of relevance to those interested in empowering learners from socially disadvantaged groups, which is what the majority of the Engineering students in Tanzania are.

The seventh and last article presents the results of a study by a linguist seeking to uncover the cognitive mappings that Tanzania speakers of English seem to have of what being responsible is. The article is written by Dr. Stephen Lukusa who is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and it provides textual evidence to support his thesis that Tanzanian speakers of English conceptualise being responsible slightly differently from its conception by native speakers of English. A political scientist recalling the campaigns by ex-President Mwinyi of Tanzania calling on Tanzanians to act responsibly (popularly known as '*kuwajibika*' in Kiswahili) should find Dr. Lukusa's article interesting.

Readers are invited to assess the articles published in this issue and send us their critical comments in order to assist the Editorial Board to improve the quality of the *UTAFITI* journal. You are invited to contribute to the revival of the fortunes of the *UTAFITI* journal by sending us an article or even a short commentary on any of the previous articles or reviews published in *UTAFITI*. In the next issues there will be space set aside for short comments from readers. Let there be debate, for instance, on the land issue.

Dr. A.F. Lwaitama
Chief Editor