

# Tackling Inequalities in the Context of East African Transformation

*Discussion on Political Dimensions of  
Inequality: From Policy to Action*

Tom Kagwe, J.P.



# Box? Policy to Action

- ▶ Thinking **INSIDE** the Box?
- ▶ Thinking **OUTSIDE** the Box?
- ▶ Thinking **AGAINST** the Box?

# POLITICS AND POWER

- ▶ **POLITICS**: Science that DETERMINES, WHO gets WHAT, WHEN, WHY, HOW, WHERE and from WHOM based on POLICY
- ▶ **POWER**: State AUTHORITY or INFLUENCE which is GAINED / ACCESSED, CONSOLIDATED and UTILIZED to determine State DIRECTION on POLICY

# POLITICAL ACTION BASES

- ▶ Political Institutions, based on the CONSTITUTIONS of Eastern Africa
- ▶ Political Systems, especially on ELECTORAL Processes and Outcomes

# POLITICAL ACTION BASES

- ▶ Political Economy, especially BUDGETARTY formulation and support
- ▶ Political Ideologies, LIBERAL or ILLIBERAL, WELFARE or DEVELOPMENTAL, TRADITIONAL

# THE TEN Ds: Moving Forward?

- 1) **D**ecolonize and/or de-socialize the MIND (Paulo Frere, Okot P'Bitek, Frantz Fanon, etc.)
- 2) **D**econstruct the political, social and economic LIVES (Archie Mafeje, David Ndii, etc.)
- 3) **D**elegitimize some LAWS (Mahmood Mamdani, Julius Nyerere, etc.)
- 4) **D**emystify political POWER (Julius Nyerere, Nelson Mandela, John Atta Mills, etc.)

# THE TEN Ds: Moving Forward?

- 5) **D**ebunk past MYTHS about development and/or societies (Adam Smith, Karl Marx, Walter Rodney etc.)
  
- 6) **D**isengage the IFIs (IBRD, IMF) or “donors”, and odious debts (Alexander Sachs, John Rawls, Thomas Sankara, etc.)
  
- 7) **D**econstruct the STATE in Africa (Frantz Fanon, Thandika Mkandawire, Archie Mafeje, etc.)

# THE TEN Ds: Moving Forward?

8) **D**efeate liberalism, neo-liberalism, and bring on a “PARADIGM SHIFT” (Thomas Kuhn, Walter Rodney, Abdalla Bujra, etc.)

9) **D**eclassify colonial and post-colonial records and HISTORY (Caroline Elkins, David Anderson, John Ouko, René Dumont, etc.)

10) **D**etermined broad LEADERSHIP, patriotic, and professionally ethical (Thomas Jefferson, Dedan Kimathi, etc.)



**END**

**THANK YOU**