Author's response to reviews

Title: The decentralisation-centralisation dilemma: recruitment and distribution of health workers in remote districts of Tanzania

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Author's response to reviews:

To the Editor In chief.

International Health and Human Rights (BioMedCentral) 28/04/09

Re: Submission 3 of the manuscript titled: “The decentralisation-centralisation dilemma: recruitment and distribution of health workers in remote districts of Tanzania”

Kindly refer to the above caption.

On behalf of my co-authors, I hereby submit a third version of our manuscript with the above title to be considered for publication in the journal of International Health and Human Rights, (BMC).

We have accordingly made the following changes as suggested:

• Addresses of the authors and their full institutional affiliations have been provided
• Changes have been made in the abstract section and the word ‘Introduction’ used in the earlier versions now reads ‘Background’.
• Footnotes have been removed and incorporated in the main text
• A sentence has been added in the authors’ contribution section that reads “ all authors have read and approved the manuscript to be submitted as it is”
• References number 3, 20 and 28 have been checked and corrected accordingly. Note that, reference number 20 is a technical (not formally published) report prepared for the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare-Tanzania, by the three mentioned institutions. Hence we considered the three institutions as the publishers
• All the minor revisions have been made as suggested

• Additionally and specifically in the paragraph under the heading that reads “Partial re-centralisation in the context of decentralisation: from 2006”, changes have been made in the fifth sentence. The sentence now reads: Based on these needs, the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, the Public Service Commission in collaboration with the Civil Service Department liaise with the training institutions to find candidates to fill the identified gaps. In addition, vacancy announcements are made by central authorities to target those already in the labour market.

Once again, thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in your esteemed journal

Regards,

Michael A. Munga (Corresponding author)