PREFACE

This book comprises of a collection of issues that emerged from research findings of a large collaborative Project on "Capacity Building at Higher Education Institutions in Tanzania in the Development of Oil and Gas Sector." The Project was initiated by the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM). The University of Aberdeen, Scotland later joined the Project, became a collaborator and provided support in funding an application from the European Union. (EU) The EU grant contract ended officially in March 2018 with a no-cost extension until September 2018. It is through this Project that UDSM provided research grants to several sub-Projects that targeted different disciplines in the two institutions. The targeted beneficiaries of the Project were Tanzanian citizens whose knowledge on issues of oil and gas is comparatively low.

The research findings of the sub-Projects, from diverse topics covered in the book reveal, among other things, that dominant literature on oil and gas had portrayed fear, tension and in some cases conflicts in oil and gas producing countries. This has been attributed to the resource curse theory. However, this book brings a different perspective to the understanding of this literature. The focus of the book is on the national scale and aggregate quantitative data which forms the main approach in the resource curse thesis. It also draws from the legal and mostly the social-cultural and economic issues of oil and gas at its early stages, i.e. the investment stages. In this regard, it not only fills in gaps on existing literature but provides an understanding of the processes in the investment process in oil and gas and communities expectations. It thus offers a balance between those who seek to investment in the sector, the government and the communities.

The editors of this book together with contributing authors have brought to the fore critical issues to ponder upon for both the general public and policy makers engaged in oil and gas in the country. The book is the first of its kind in the country and at the University and it serves as a baseline for understanding very fundamental issues of oil and gas in the country. The University is proud of all of these researchers and thankful to the collaborators in Aberdeen and the EU for financial and technical support. There is no doubt that the book has fulfilled some of the key goals of the project that included building the capacity for oil and gas through improved educational Programmes and capacity building of staff at the UDSM (post-graduate Programmes and staff exchange). In addition, the book provides guidance for the creation of a conducive research and knowledge exchange environment in sustainable development of oil and gas issues at the UDSM in particular and Tanzania in general.

It is hoped that the knowledge produced from this new field of research in the country will reach different stakeholders; academics in different fields, students of higher learning institutions, policy makers and the general public. In this respect, a wider circulation of the book is therefore envisaged to promote growth of a sound oil and gas industry that is premised on the legal framework while at the same time supporting the National energy and industrial policies which

seek to ensure that the domestic market for energy is sufficed and support the local industries in addition to exporting for fostering of inclusive and sustainable national development.

Director, Research

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