

Press Release  
For immediate release

## **Young Tanzanian developers open up education data Marking the Open Government Partnership Summit, a new site that collates and visualizes Form 4 examination results is released**

**Dar es Salaam, 31 October 2013:** As the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Summit kicks off in London, with the participation of, among others, President Jakaya Kikwete, a group of young Tanzanian developers is releasing their work to showcase the value of open data. The shule.info website collected data on Form 4 examination results since 2004 and presents the data through a range of easy to navigate and use visualisations.

Working in their spare time, Arnold Minde and his team, spent almost two years collecting the data from a range of online sources. Since the National Examinations Council of Tanzania (NECTA) did not make this data easily available on its own website at that time, the team had to spend a lot of time sourcing the data from public sources and verifying it.

The website will be of interest to different stakeholders in education, from parents to policy-makers, who will be able to find data of interest to them and visualize and interrogate it. Students can access a report card by providing their candidate and centre number, policy makers can look at data from individual schools and regions to highlight areas of success and failure, and parents can compare schools to inform choices about their children's education. Names of examinations candidates are not released.

The site is also designed to be a resource for the media to report on trends, highlight bright spots and investigate anomalies. The site highlights the world of possibility that is brought to life when data are made open.

In the context of Tanzania's commitment to the Open Government Partnership, this site provides a clear illustration of the benefits of open data. When citizens are allowed to participate directly in the business of government, through access to data and information, innovation abounds. As Tanzania moves into the next phase of making government open, the site highlights a new partnership model for conducting the business of government, which lies at the heart of the Open Government Partnership.

*"Open data is not just a dry concept that lives in high level conferences." said Arnold Minde who was responsible for the development of the website, "Open data is about all of us having access to the information we need to ensure that government is living up to its commitments and having the ability to contribute our ideas and thinking to solving the challenges we face as a nation. With truly open data, we can join hands with government and others to take our country forward."*

The website hosting and broadening access is supported by Twaweza. Rakesh Rajani, Head of Twaweza and Civil Society Co-Chair of the Open Government Partnership, says *"It is fantastic to see the spirit of the young people who have developed Shule.info, and what they have developed. We have chosen to showcase this work because it is a terrific example of how opening up data can be so useful. We hope that this site will lead to greater openness on the part of government in releasing data in accordance with open data standards, and greater collaboration between government and independent groups to make this data more easily accessible by people."*

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### Notes to Editors

- The website can be accessed at [www.shule.info](http://www.shule.info)
- Shule.info is a living site currently released in Beta or trial version. Feedback about the site is welcome from all parties, particularly media at [matokeo.shuleni@gmail.com](mailto:matokeo.shuleni@gmail.com)
- The website was developed by Arnold Minde and a team of Tanzanian developers, and supported by Twaweza. [www.twaweza.org](http://www.twaweza.org)
- Please note that NECTA have recently also made examination data available online <http://www.necta.go.tz/opendata/>
- OGP was launched in 2011 to provide an international platform for domestic reformers committed to making their governments more open, accountable, and responsive to citizens. Since then, OGP has grown from 8 countries to the 60 participating countries indicated on the map below. In all of these countries, government and civil society are working together to develop and implement ambitious open government reforms [www.opengovpartnership.org](http://www.opengovpartnership.org)
- Over 1,000 delegates from over 60 countries will come together in London from 31 October to 1 November 2013 for the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Annual Summit. [www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/open-government-partnership-summit-2013](http://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/open-government-partnership-summit-2013)