

Newsletter



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ZANZIBAR ANNUAL NGOS FORUM
(ZANGOF) 2022



Strengthening NGOs and Government
Partnership for the Development of Zanzibar
March 12 - 14, 2022



ZANZIBAR ANNUAL NGOS FORUM (ZANGOF 2022)

Dear Esteemed Readers

Welcome to our special newsletter of Zanzibar Non-Government Organization Forum (ZANGOF) of 2022 organized by the Office of NGO-Registrar-Zanzibar in collaboration with Association of Non – Governmental organization of Zanzibar (ANGOZA) which took place from 12th to 15th March at Golden Tulip Hotel grounds, Zanzibar.



This year theme was

“strengthening NGOs and Government partnership for development of Zanzibar”.

Recognizing the importance of this Forum, THRDC participated and facilitated the participation of about 25 civil society organization from both Unguja and Pemba. ZANGOF 2022, was an opportunity for these organizations to improve its relationship with the government and increase networking among themselves and other stakeholders.

For THRDC, this was a significant event regarding the establishment of THRDC-Zanzibar Office in 2021. The Coalition is effectively collaborating

with the government of Zanzibar to improve working environment of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). Recently, the coalition has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Judiciary to collaborate in improving access to justice.

Apart from the Judiciary, THRDC also works closely with the Commission for Human Rights and Good governance (CHRAGG), Police, Ministry of State, President Office, Legal Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance. Currently, THRDC in collaboration with the Judiciary of Zanzibar are conducting a need assessment to improve access to justice in Zanzibar.

ZANGOF 2022, brought together about 250 organizations in the country to discuss NGOs role and contribution to development. The forum also gave an opening to a thematic discussion on interactions between the government and civil society based on concrete and practical experience from non-governmental organizations including human rights defenders.

It was a prospect to identify recognized needs to strengthen cooperation between the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and NGO for the development of the county.

Allow me to drop my pen for you to enjoy your reading.

Mr. Abdalah Abeid

THRDC Zanzibar Coordinator.

President Mwinyi appreciate CSOs support to the government and calls for more partnership



H.E Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar and Chairperson of Zanzibar Revolutionary Council officiated Zanzibar NGO Forum 2022. In his opening speech, president Mwinyi commended Civil Society (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) for their contribution to national development by supporting various government initiatives to improve lives of the people.



“ *I appreciate your support in education, health, democracy, human rights and promoting peace. I call for development partners to continue supporting NGOs. Since the inauguration of the House of Representative in 2020, I have been emphasizing on promoting good relationships between the government and NGOs because their role in development remain significant to the isles* **”**

say Dr. Mwinyi



▶ ***Ms. Nuru Maro presenting THRDC work before H.E Dr. Hussein Mwinyi***

President Mwinyi added that, engaging civil society organization and Non-governmental organization in decision making is important for both immediate relief and longer-term transformative change by defending collective interests and

increasing accountability; providing solidarity mechanisms and promoting participation; influencing decision making and directly engaging in service delivery. President Mwinyi added that, both the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the Union Government under President Samia Suluhu Hassan are committed to strengthen collaborations.

“ *we cannot talk about any development without recognizing CSOs and NGOs contribution. We will continue improving the working environment for CSOs.* **”**

Concluded Dr. Mwinyi



President's calls for NGOs and CBOs focus on their objectives urging the Registrar of NGO in Zanzibar to maintain a good relationship with the Civil Society Sector. He calls upon strengthening campaigns against corruption and promote peace and stability.

The government of Zanzibar urge NGO intervention to COVID -19 Campaign

Providing his remarks, Hon. Masoud Mohamed Ali-State Minister, President's Office (Regional Administration, Local Government and Special Department) stated that, the government of Zanzibar recognizes NGOs contribution to development and urge non-state interventions in fighting COVID-19 in the isles.



In ZANGOF 2022, one of the THRDC work presented in CSO exhibition was “CSO Position Paper and Strategic Intervention Areas on COVID-19”

This position paper analyses effects and proposed possible mitigation strategies for all key sectors (informal

sector, education, health, trade, agriculture, pastoralism, fishery, extractive industry and economy generally); and, gender groups (women, indigenous, remainders, prisoners, youth, children, refugees, people living with HIV, person with disabilities and elderly).

This position paper was disseminated to THRDC members and non-members to identify key strategic areas where this organization can invest in fighting COVID 19. The Civil Society Sector is complementing government efforts in fighting COVID 19 through; civic education to create awareness; provision of preventive materials; and working in health sector to improve health care.

Simbachawene lauds THRDC Contribution in Human Rights Promotion and Protection

The minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs Hon. George Simbachawene has commended efforts being taken by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) in supporting the government's initiatives to promote and protect human rights;

“THRDC is doing a

good job to promote and protect human rights in the country. I know your work in supporting government initiatives to protect human rights, keep it up”

said Simbachawene.



Ms. Nuru Maro, Advocacy officer from THRDC presenting before the minister who represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan. Hon. Simbachawene was more interested with “The Tanzania Civil Society Report on the Status of the Implementations of the UPR recommendations” and commended that, the report will ground Tanzania’s final submission to United Nations Human Rights Council.

NGO Registrar of Zanzibar applauds THRDC-Zanzibar collaboration with the government



The registrar of Non-governmental organization in Zanzibar, Mr. Ahmed Khalid Abdullah applauded THRDC Zanzibar @thrdczanzibar for continuous collaboration with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

“*this year ZAANGOF theme is **“strengthening NGOs and Government partnership for development of Zanzibar”**. I would like to use this opportunity to call for more partnership from the civil society organizations. I would like to thank THRDC Zanzibar for their effective collaboration and engagement with the government of Zanzibar.***”**

Says Mr. Khalid

Recently, the coalition has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Judiciary of Zanzibar to collaborate in improving access to justice. Currently, THRDC in collaboration with the Judiciary of Zanzibar are conducting a need assessment to improve access to justice in Zanzibar. Apart from the Judiciary, THRDC also works closely with the Commission for Human Rights and Good governance (CHRAGG), Police, Ministry of State, President Office, Legal Affairs, Public Service and Good Governance. THRDC have more than 55 organization members from Zanzibar working on nine human rights thematic areas.

US Ambassador hails HRDs Commitment to promote human rights in Zanzibar isles



H.E Donald Wright, US ambassador when he visited THRDC at ZANGOF Exhibition

THRDC was delighted to be visited by H.E Donald Wright, US ambassador to Tanzania in ZANGOF CSO exhibition. Among other things, THRDC shared its work including striving to maximize Protection, Respect and Recognition of HRDs through Protection, capacity building and advocacy.

“ *Congratulations for working to capacitate human rights defenders in Zanzibar, especially organization working to address gender based violence regarding the prevalence in Zanzibar. Human Rights need to be promoted and protected, thumbs for protecting HRDs.* **”**

Hon. Wright.

ZANGOF calls for more policy engagements

ZANGOF 2022 included various sessions discussing NGO-Government partnerships. Advocate Onesmo Ole Ngurumwa-the THRDC National Coordinator lead a break through session on Policy engagement as a way of thinking about how non-governmental organizations, the government, stakeholders, communities and ordinary citizens can work together to achieve complex, societal goals. It involves participating effectively



▶ ***Mr. Onesmo Ole Ngurumwa talking to participants of the break through session on Policy engagement***

in the policy-making process and aspirations regarding how to have a positive impact on the lives of people in different societies.

In this session, it was deliberated that, NGO/CSO should be open to introduce themselves and their work to the government; a need of CSOs unity working on same thematic areas; CSOs should know their target respondents and a need to capacity building on advocacy strategies and stages for meaningful engagements.

On his party Mr. Onesmo commented that,

“ *We as NGO and Human Rights Organizations should know how to engage with relevant stakeholders to influence changes. Example; if you are working on youth policy, organization working with youth should be capacitated to influence those changes through strategic engagement and collaboration with relevant stakeholders.* **”**

Mr. Ole Ngurumwa

On other hand, Ms. Jamila Mahmoud-The Executive Director of Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association acclaimed that,



“ *Policy engagement is friendlier and aspires to a approachable environment to achieve more than what you expected in a long run.* **”**

Says Jamilla

The definition of charitable organization need widen to include CSOs

One of the challenge discussed in ZNGOF 2022 was NGO being taxed as corporate organisations. Non-profit organisations are paying corporate tax arising from members' subscription fees, donations and grants at 30% on Annual Taxable Income. Conversely, there charitable organization are not taxed as corporate organisations. Yet, there are bureaucracies in grating an NGO

with a charitable status because most of Civil Society Organisation are non-profit working for development communities. But, the definition of charitable organisation covers religions institution only.



► ***Ms. Nuru Maro from THRDC contributing on NGO taxation during ZANGOF 2022 sessions.***



There is a need of widening the definition of charitable organization by aligning it with that of NGOs law. It should also be clear to the tax authorities that, any amount of money received by a CSO as project fund is not expected to generate profit.

Therefore, any legislation or provision or practice which charges CSOs taxes on basis of generating profit should be amended.



Suggested Ms. Maro.





Mikocheni B, Eyasi Road, P.o.box 105926,
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania



+255 769 642208



info@thrdc.org.tz



www.thrdc.org.tz

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