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STEFAN REITH PHILIPP KANNENGIESSER CÄCILIE RADERT

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Social Market Economy, Youth Employment and Social Security

Perspectives of the Young Generation in Tanzania and Germany

On the 1st of August, 2014 KAS invited Tanzanian students of the exchange programme PAMOJA to a discussion roundtable on the topic "Social Market Economy, Youth Employment and Social Security - Perspectives of the Young Generation in Tanzania and Germany" in Dar es Salaam. PAMOJA (in Swahili "together") enables German and Tanzanian students to participate in an annual study exchange between the Westphelian Wilhelms-University in Münster and the Mwalimu Nyere Memorial Academy in Dar es Salaam.

The discussion roundtable took place only a few days before the departure of a group of Tanzanian students to Germany and aimed at familiarizing Tanzanian PAMOJA students with the principles of a social market economy as to provide them with the basic knowledge that enables them to gain deep and well-founded insights into the German economic and social system during their stay. The main focus was laid on the perspective of the young generation, especially with respect to the issue of youth unemployment, which is a challenge for African as much as for European governments.

The conference was opened by Richard Shaba, programme coordinator of KAS Tanzania, who introduced the participants briefly to the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and to the foundation's most important working activity fields in Germany and Tanzania. Thereby, Richard Shaba called upon PAMO-JA students, being the future decision maker in politics, economics and society, to be aware of upcoming responsibilities and to take the opportunity to inform themselves in Germany about topics that could also be of interest to the development process in Tanzania. According to Mr Shaba, the question of finding the right balance between a liberal market economy, state-led policies and a social security system was also an important future topic in the case of Tanzania, especially for the younger generation. Richard Shaba's opening speech was followed by PAMOJA representative Fidelis Deus, who gave insights on the establishment and aims of PAMOJA and on the founding principles of the student initiative, which are based on joint cooperation and on the equality of all parties.



Richard Shaba welcomes the PAMOJA students to the discussion roundtable.

The Principles of a Social Market Economy in Africa

In order to tune the student into the event topic, the KAS short film "Kühlschranklehre" has been shown. This film highlights the differences between a planned economy as opposed to a free and social market economy in an uncomplicated and punctuated manner. On this basis, the event was then continued with a detailed talk on the principles of a potential African social market economy by Dr. Camillus Kassala, dean of the East African Statistical Trainings Centre in Dar es Salaam.



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Dr. Kassala referred initially to the "Arusha Declaration" of 1967, which is attributable to President Mwalimu Julius Nyere. The "Arusha Declaration" contained among others a clause concerning the objective of respecting human rights and the dignity of the people. Dr. Kassala emphasized that these principles, which were articulated about 40 years ago, are nowadays missing in Tanzania's civil society. Therefore, the "Arusha Declaration" was receiving renewed significance, even though the proposed economic model that is endorsed by the "Arusha Declaration" has not proven to be workable. According to Dr. Kassala, ethics and moral were absent in Tanzania's current market economy. Ruthlessness instead of solidarity was the order of the day, especially as far as those who cannot participate in the free market without support are concerned. Tanzania was therefore lacking a social balance. A social balance which ensures that deprived civic groups are not being abandoned by state and economy - a balance, which has already been anchored in the "Arusha Declaration" and which forms the basic principle of a social market economy, such the passionate plea of Dr. Kassala.



Dr. Kassala calls upon the young students to realize social equity in Tanzania.

Role model Germany: A Social Economic System to See and Learn from

As a precedent of a well-functioning social market economy which succeeds in harmonizing basic social rights and economic efficiency, Dr. Kassala mentioned Germany. He subsequently called upon the students present to learn from Germany's social economic model during their journey and to advocate after their return for improved educational opportunities and for the correction of social problems in Tanzania. "I expect you to make the demands of the Arusha Declaration and the model of a social market economy in about five or ten years a reality here in Tanzania", thus the urgent appeal of Dr. Kassala. Dr. Kassala's speech aimed at encouraging the young students to take on more responsibility in the society and to demand their fundamental social rights from the state.

The students of PAMJOJA revealed themselves to be very interested and asked many questions, already during the talk. Hence, Dr. Kassala was asked in the subsequent discussion to give more detailed information on the history and significance of the "Arusha Declaration". Dr. Kassala took pleasure in responding to this request. Afterwards, he confronted the students together with Mr Shaba with critical and provocative questions, in order to make them thinking out of the box. For instance, students were required to describe their behavior in various scenarios in which they would take on different social positions. The very different replies and reactions led to an intensive debate among the participants who were thus stimulated to think further and to reflect upon their self-image.

Perspectives of the Young Generation

After a shared lunch which allowed for a rather informal discussion, Cäcilie Radert, intern at KAS Tanzania, gave a second speech on the German social market economy from the perspective of the young generation. Miss Radert explained the history of the social market economy in Germany and followed thereby the question of how much social security a functioning German market economy can bear in practice. Thus, Miss Radert referred to the challenges that the German social market economy currently faces, as for instance demographic change and the subsequent problem of how to finance Germany's pension scheme. In the subsequent discussion, solutions to the

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problems were jointly elaborated, as enquired by PAMOJA students, and it was also discussed to which extent the situation in Germany can be translated into a Tanzanian context.



The Way Forward: A Social Market Economy in Tanzania

At the closing of the conference, the PAMO-JA students thanked the presenters and expressed their interest to gain deep insights into Germany's social economic model during their study trip, as to then use their experiences and new-acquired information to advocate for the implementation of social fundamental rights in Tanzania. Dr. Kassala's appeal for the implementation of an African social market economy in Tanzania has thus been well received.

KAS Tanzania will in future further support the debate around the design of a sustainable and socially just economic order, which is being conducted by the young generation with great interest and advocacy, as part of civic education programmes in schools and universities. Given their knowledge about both the Tanzanian and German situation, the students of PAMOJA are accordingly important ambassadors and multipliers.



Impressum

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