

## TANZANIA

DANIEL EL-NOSHOKATY  
ILIANA VELKOVA

JULY 2016

[www.kas.de/tanzania/en/](http://www.kas.de/tanzania/en/)

# Symposium on 'Unemployment - Challenges and Opportunities for Youths in Tanzania'

UNLOCKING YOUTH POTENTIALS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**On 12 July 2016, the Civic Education Teachers' Association (CETA) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) jointly convened a symposium in Zanzibar on 'Unemployment and Migration - Challenges and Opportunities for Youths in Tanzania'.**

Recognizing that youths continue to face many challenges such as unemployment, exclusion from decision-making and fierce competition in the labor market, the objective of the event was to stimulate debate on these challenges and discuss how youth potentials could be incorporated more effectively in decision-making processes and production activities in Tanzania.

After inviting all participants to sing a patriotic song together, Maalim Iddi H. Iddi, CETA Representative in Zanzibar, opened the one-day symposium and gave the floor to Miriam Fischer, Desk Officer for Sub-Saharan Africa at the KAS Headquarters in Berlin. She expressed her sincere thanks to CETA for their close cooperation in organizing the event and pointed at the potential room for addressing the many challenges associated with unemployment.

In his welcome remarks, Daniel El-Noshokaty, Resident Representative at KAS Tanzania, underlined the importance of discussing youth unemployment in Zanzibar and encouraged the audience to actively engage in all the discussions because the

event is about them and their future. While mentioning that unemployment can be a stepping stone to migration and can lead to dangerous developments such as extremism, he shared his personal experiences upon graduating from university. In his view, 'one key to fewer youth unemployment is a better connection between the needs of the labor market and the curriculum of the universities'.



*Group photo, from left to right: Daniel El-Noshokaty, Hon. Mohamed Aboud, Miriam Fischer*

The opening speech was then delivered by Hon. Mohamed Aboud, Minister of State at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's Office in Zanzibar. He acknowledged that unemployment amongst youths is there, in fact everywhere, not just in Zanzibar and hinted at the direct link between economic development and youth unemployment. To end on a more positive note, the Minister stated that an enabling environment for the youth can only be created jointly, following his conviction that 'a shared problem is a solved problem' and if one is ethical, trustworthy and hard-working, one can achieve

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

## TANZANIA

DANIEL EL-NOSHOKATY  
ILIANA VELKOVA

JULY 2016

[www.kas.de/tansania/en/](http://www.kas.de/tansania/en/)

a lot and seize the many opportunities offered by the increasingly globalized world.

Salim Salahi, Representative from the Zanzibar Association of Employees, held the first presentation on unemployment. He began with providing insights into global demographic trends and highlighted that youths make up 70 percent of the world population. Showing that youth unemployment is a global challenge, Salim Salahi turned to Zanzibar and shed light on the most recent developments. He mentioned that the unemployment rate in Zanzibar has increased from 5.5 percent in 2006 to 14.3 percent in 2014 and underlined that 20 to 24 year olds are mostly affected by this reality.

Moreover, with unemployment being a principal driving force behind a migration decision, Salim Salahi later addressed the issue of rural-urban migration and indicated that youth unemployment in urban areas tends to be higher than in rural areas with stiff competition being the most common reason for unemployment followed by lack of experience and relevant skills.



*Salim Salahi, Representative from the Zanzibar Association of Employers (ZANEM), giving an introductory presentation to unemployment in Tanzania*

While speaking about the growing labor force and the decreasing employment opportunities in the labor market, Salim Salahi concluded that the promotion of tourism-related employment, employment in Zanzibar's cottage industry as well as youth capacity building initiatives are now more than ever needed.

Father Benjamin Mbilinyi from the Zanzibar Inter-Faith Centre (ZANZIC) presented then the consequences associated with unemployment and stressed the challenges and opportunities for the youths with reference to recent facts and figures. He specified policies, regulations, laws and practices that differently impact youth employment. Amongst others, he also elaborated on the vicious cycle of unemployment and drug abuse in the midst of despair, the recourse to alcoholism and criminal activities including theft and robbery.



*A student sharing her views on unemployment in Zanzibar in the follow-up discussion*

Students eagerly engaged in the follow-up discussions and raised a variety of concerns about the current trends in Zanzibar. One participant, for instance, stated that the government should create more support schemes, offer more credit facilities and encourage young people to pursue self-employment. Others, in contrast, feared that corruption, as a long-standing phenomenon, makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible, for young people to secure funds for projects and start-ups. They had a rather pessimistic view of seeing this happening in the near future.

Furthermore, aside from inadequate guidelines and programs for youth entrepreneurship, students shared the opinion that there is a discrepancy between the education sys-

**Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.**

**TANZANIA**

DANIEL EL-NOSHOKATY

ILIANA VELKOVA

**JULY 2016**

[www.kas.de/tansania/en/](http://www.kas.de/tansania/en/)

tem and the skills needed to match labor market requirements. Some students even suggested that there should be more capacity-building in the tourism industry because, to the disadvantage of many Zanzibaris, it is currently dominated by foreign workers.

Later on, Almas M. Ali from the Zanzibar Youth Forum (ZYF) offered a sociological perspective on the consequences of unemployment and stated that some people tend to equate the problem of unemployment to 'a timed bomb'. Youths who are unemployed are, according to him, easily caught in a religious or ethnic extremism trap. Moreover, he placed emphasis on women's situation of unemployment, which is even more precarious than men's, given that women are much more likely to fail to secure employment opportunities.

seek to 'own a job, not to have one' because in this way they can succeed in bringing the job to themselves and can make an impact without waiting to no avail for the job to find them.



**Konrad  
Adenauer  
Stiftung**

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung e.V.  
European and International  
Cooperation

Country Office Tanzania  
Isimani Street, 24  
P.O. Box 6992  
Dar es Salaam Tanzania

Phone: +255 22 2153174

Fax: +255 22 2151990

Email: [info.tanzania@kas.de](mailto:info.tanzania@kas.de)



*Students attentively listening to the presentations in the Raha Leo Hall, Unguja*

In addition, Almas M. Ali illustrated that employment in the private sector has increased substantially, and yet reminded the audience that the public sector still remains a major formal employer in Zanzibar. He ended by saying that although the youths are the future engine of Zanzibar, their representation is still neglected in many policies and programs specifically designed for them need to be coordinated more adequately to overcome the countless hurdles posed by unemployment.

In his closing remarks, Goodluck Justine, Project Coordinator at CETA, remarked that it is important for the youth to change their mindsets on job preferences. They should