

Christian teachings and the social market economy- ethical guidelines for economic participation in accordance with the Bible

On 28th of February 2017, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), together with the Christian Professionals of Tanzania (CPT) jointly convened a round table discussion on the topic "Christian Teachings and the Social Market Economy" in the New African Hotel in Dar Es Salaam. CPT is a catholic NGO organized and active at local and national level. Economic experts and representatives of Christian organizations were invited to discuss the compatibility and intersections of Christian doctrine with the social and economic policy model of social market economy.

Three years after the unification of Tanzania, the Arusha Declaration was adopted in 1967. For the following decades, it was the basis for the country's politics and economy. At the heart of the Declaration is the 'Ujamaa' - a Swahili term for the family and the community, which used to manifest 'African socialism' and the autarchy of the Tanzanian society. Since the exposure of the Tanzanian market to the international market economy, however, the country has been lacking institutionalized structures to control potential risks and opportunities of international political as well as economic integration. In the opinion of the stakeholders it is therefore necessary to draw up a guideline that determines a future Tanzanian economic model.

At the beginning of the event, Erasto Ndeuka (KAS) and Rev. Dr. Charles Kitima of the St. Augustine University (SAUT DSM) cordially welcomed the participating guests and sketched out the framework of the discussion. Rev. Dr. Charles Kitima emphasized, that a democracy needs a clearly defined economic system so that, among others, the opportunities and challenges of the international free market economy and the management of the global financial and economic crisis can be successfully mastered. The model of social market economy offers such an orientation as it takes into account cultural and societal characteristics and has already proved itself in the European post-war period. Moreover, the democratic legitimacy, the social orientation and the inviolability of human dignity are guiding principles of such a model, and therefore indispensable to the existence of a democracy.

The participants agreed that, in order to guarantee a successful development of a sustainable Tanzanian economic model, civil society and religious actors must be integrated into the process. A social-market-economy-model for Tanzania should therefore be conceived according to the bottom-up principle, in order to be legitimized by the broad masses. Religious leaders - as trust persons of the population - shall interact as mediators with the communities and can also contribute ethical guidelines and religious conceptions of economic participa-

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tion in the process.. Rev. Dr. Charles Kitima (SAUT DSM) explained metaphorically: 'In order to introduce and teach a prosperous economic model in Tanzania, the blessing and protection of religion is needed.' In this context, he highlighted the partnership with and commitment of the 'Christian Professionals of Tanzania '(CPT), and the 'Christian Council of Tanzania' (CCT).

While discussing the concept of social market economy, the participants presented their different positions and views. Rev. Fr. Raymond Saba of the "Tanzania Episcopal Conference" (TEC) noted that many principles of social market economy already exist in society. The common good and solidarity have always been an important part of the culture in Tanzania. According to Grace Masalakulangwa of ISCEJIC, which is a platform of civil society organizations dealing with the strategic problem of minerals, oil and gas degradation, religion is the central point from where an economic model should start.

Tanzania, however, should not be regarded as an island," said Rev. Fr. Raymond Saba. As a member of the East African Community (EAC), Tanzania needs to consider the influence of the partner countries and adjust the targets accordingly. Prof. Prosper H. Ngowi, Professor of Economics at the Mzumbe University of Tanzania, agreed and added that the Extend of cooperation should be clearly defined. He admits that one must first concentrate on a country before moving on to an international context.

At the end of the discussion the participants agreed: An interactive and regular cooperation between economic experts and representatives of the religions is necessary, so that a model of the social market economy can be developed which meets the needs of the Tanzanian population. At the same time, Rev. Dr. Charles Kitima (SAUT DSM) confirmed that such a project is not a one-time

event. Rather, it is a long process that ultimately can lead to more growth and competition, improved educational opportunities, strengthened social infrastructure and that can reduce poverty. However, the achievements of this event are a first step which can serve as solid footing for further measures.