

Event Report

September 2024
Country Office Tanzania



Youth Training on Political Landscape Analysis September 23–24, 2024 | Pemba, Tanzania

Overview

Zanzibar Fighting Against Youth Challenges Organization (ZAFAYCO), with support from Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), conducted a two-day training event in Chake Chake, Pemba. The goal was to equip 33 young participants from diverse backgrounds with tools for objective political analysis and active participation in democratic processes. This training, a follow-up to a similar session in Unguja, focused on fostering political literacy and critical thinking among youth in Pemba.



Objectives and Approach

The training aimed to:

- Strengthen understanding of democracy, governance, and civic responsibilities.
- Build skills for neutral, evidence-based political analysis.
- Promote awareness of electoral systems and political engagement strategies.

The event adopted an interactive approach, encouraging participant-led discussions and case analyses, which fostered open dialogue and collaborative learning among youth from various civil society organizations, political parties, and community groups.

Key Topics and Sessions

The training covered the following main areas:

- Fundamentals of Democracy and Political Science: Introduction to democracy, governance, and political science, providing a foundation for further discussions on political ideologies and democratic structures.
- Political Landscape Analysis: A deep dive into Zanzibar's political history and party dynamics, including the role of youth in democratic development.
- Electoral Systems and Advocacy: Analysis of Zanzibar's electoral systems, democratic engagement tools, and advocacy strategies for fair governance.

Each session included presentations, group activities, and Q&A to promote engagement and real-world application of political analysis techniques.

Outcomes and Feedback

Participants showed a marked improvement in:

- Analytical Skills: Enhanced ability to analyze political trends and democratic principles, such as free speech, judicial independence, and the rule of law.
- Civic Awareness: Increased understanding of civic rights and responsibilities, with a focus on active participation, legal rights, and electoral integrity.
- Advocacy Capacity: Strengthened skills in political advocacy, with participants eager to apply their insights to improve democratic engagement in Zanzibar.

The feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, noting the value of critical analysis skills and a deeper understanding of the roles they can play in governance.

Challenges Encountered

- Knowledge Gaps: Varied levels of political knowledge among participants highlighted the need for foundational political education.
- Gender Disparity: Female engagement was notably lower, pointing to a need for more inclusive outreach and support for female youth in political training.

Recommendations

To enhance future training impact:

- Expand Political Education Initiatives: Target foundational political training to bridge knowledge gaps and support informed participation.
- Promote Inclusivity: Implement strategies to encourage gender balance and broader demographic representation.
- Support Media Freedom and Civic Engagement: Advocate for free media and use technology to increase youth involvement in governance.

Conclusion

This youth training in Pemba was a significant step in fostering democratic values, political literacy, and advocacy skills among the youth. By cultivating a generation of informed, engaged citizens, the program contributes meaningfully to a transparent, accountable political landscape in Zanzibar.

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

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