

# EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

## TANSANIA

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MARCH 2017

# NEXUS BETWEEN EMPLOYMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES IN TANZANIA

OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR THE YOUTH

**On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, the Civic Education Teachers' Association (CETA) organized a symposium for secondary, college and university students in Songea in collaboration with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) which addressed the generation of employment and natural resources in Tanzania.**

The aim of the event was to raise awareness among young people about the natural resources in their region and related employment opportunities. The event provided an insight into various economic sectors (e.g. agriculture and tourism) and discussed potential challenges and opportunities in the implementation of business ideas. To this end, successful business people from the region were invited to answer the questions of the participants and to report from practice.

(District Commissioner of Songea). Afterwards, Justine Goodluck (CETA) and Richard Shaba (KAS) welcomed the participants and encouraged the students to actively participate in the event. The District Commissioner followed his previous speakers and emphasized the relevance of education as it would give students the ability to take advantage of the opportunities offered by resource availability.



right to left: Richard Shaba (KAS), Stefanie Brinkel (KAS), Prof. Mushala (AJUCO), Denis Mpagaze (AJUCO)

The symposium started with a presentation about natural resources by Professor Mushala, Archbishop James University College (AJUCO), Songea. Ruvuma is a region that is endowed with a variety of natural resources, including minerals (e.g. coal, uranium and copper), different waterbodies (rivers and lakes), national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and fertile soil for crops. Particularly in the sectors of tourism, agriculture and nature conservation, the region offers a variety of incentives that could be used to generate jobs. At the same time, he



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Richard Shaba (left) with the guest of honor Pololet Kamando Mgema, District Commissioner Songea, (center)

At the beginning of the event, the students sang a patriotic song and warmly welcomed the guest of honor Pololet Kamando Mgema



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drew the participants' attention to the challenges related to natural resources. Access to natural resources is often very limited and is subject to strict rules and regulations. The registration of a company in Tanzania is a lengthy process with a variety of bureaucratic regulations. In addition, access to credits is difficult for someone who cannot provide the financial institutions with any security. As the young people from the Ruvuma region mostly come from poorer families, the financing problem was attributable to a large proportion of the participants.



Denis Mpagaze (AJUCO) about challenges and opportunities for youths

Subsequently, Prof. Mushala gave the floor to Denis Mpagaze, lecturer in communication studies at Archbishop James University College. In the beginning, Mpagaze outlined the problematic labor market situation in Tanzania. 13 per cent of young people are unemployed and up to 800,000 young people are flooding the labor market every year. He emphasized that, given the natural wealth of resources in the Ruvuma region, there was no excuse for missing jobs, as a youth shall be creative and have the courage to face challenges of unemployment. With a variety of proverbs, Mpagaze underlined his explanations. So he quoted George Bush, who said, "If you have a hammer, find a nail." In the context of the symposium, the hammer represented the wealth of the Ruvuma region. He also criticized the education system in the country as it produces job seekers where there are no jobs.

The problem was, he pointed out, that the students were paralyzed by thinking along

predefined lines, so that their curiosity and creativity are blocked rather than used to benefit from the available resources and to create jobs.



Participant during a question and answer session

Following the two presentations, the participants had the opportunity to take part in the discussion and to ask the presenters further questions. They were keen to learn who would take over the costs, and how to know whether the profits made would remain with the producer. Some of the young people questioned the economic security in the country and said that there was not much confidence in state support. In addition, there was a lack of markets where raw materials could be traded and sold, the participants mentioned. The educational system needs to face these challenges and shall offer a curriculum in which the pupils receive more entrepreneurial training. Practical activities such as gardening and agricultural work could be part of the school education and the learned knowledge could be applied directly.



Participant proposing to sell his smartphone to generate capital for founding a business

Professor Mushala and Denis Mpagaze accepted the students' questions and replied that the markets were available in the coun-

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try. "We have corn in Sumbawanga, while the people in Tanga are hungry. We have fruits in Tanga, the people of Dodoma do not. We need to open up our market and build our own networks." If the infrastructure allows it, one could get these problems under control. Mr. Mpagaze encouraged the participants with the words: "Your own network of people is your market."



Participants during the discussion

After the lunch break two entrepreneurs from Ruvuma region, Steven Mateso and Imani Ngongi, were invited to report on their employment and experience in the sector of natural resources. Both completed their school education and found themselves faced with the problem of unemployment in their region. As a result, they became self-employed. Imani Ngongi founded his company 11 years ago, buying a small piece of land on which he planted trees. After some time, he sold the wood and invested in new land. Today he owns 14 hectares of land on which he plants and then sells the most varied trees. He appealed to the youths to make a virtue out of their misery. He added, "Let's create jobs so that we can provide for our families. It is necessary that we promote the private sector in the country".

The students were visibly impressed by the presentations. "If Steven Matesso is able to be self-employed, why not us," asked one of the participants. Another participant added: Young people should not complain about the missing capital if at the same time they had smartphones that cost money every day – "Let us use this capital to gen-

erate income, or we sell it and do something that will bring us income." Several students agreed to this idea and gave other examples of everyday life that could be used to generate jobs.



Group photo of CETA and KAS