

EVENT REPORT

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V.

TANZANIA

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JULY 2018

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Islamic Economic System vis-à-vis Social Market Economy

Book review in Dar es Salaam

On Monday, 23rd of July 2018, the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the Tanzania Quran Teachers Organization (JUWAQUTA) jointly convened a discussion on the Islamic Economic System vis-à-vis Social Market Economy. The aim was to discuss the second version of the Islamic Economy book which gives insights into the economic system according to the Islamic teachings. Participants also discussed the Social Market Economy by using the example of Germany. Leaders of different Islamic organizations and institutions as well as experts in Islamic economy were part of the event in Dar es Salaam.

The book review started with a short opening prayer, followed by an introduction of participants and welcome remarks by Erasto Ndeuka, Project Manager of KAS. Thereafter, Sheikh Khamis Mataka (BAKWATA) talked about the draft of the book. The Sheikh underscored the valuable content of the book and ensured that the book will enable the Muslim community to realize that they can be economically active without going against their faith. Sheikh Mataka requested the participants to read the publication critically and provide additional inputs if any.

Dr. Abdallah Tego, lecturer at the Muslim University of Morogoro, analyzed the cur-

rent situation for Muslims. He explained that Muslims are lagging behind in economic opportunities mostly because of Islamic teachings that go against the current economic activities. Therefore, Muslims cannot participate in the economy. Dr. Tego explained that a lot of Muslims in Tanzania are locked in the poverty trap, due to the lack of saving opportunities and knowledge about it. Another reason is the fact that the current economic system is based on interest which is not provided in Islamic faith. He underscored the importance of Zakat, one of the pillars in Islamic faith which is an obligation for affluent Muslims to give to the poor. The lecturer pointed out that Islamic faith and economic activities go well together. He gave an example from the Quran that even the prophet Mohammed established a market beside the mosque after his arrival in Medina. Dr. Tego recommended that the economic education should be part of the Islamic teachings in order to show the Muslim population that economic activities go not against their faith.



Dr. Abdallah Tego (Muslim University of Morogoro) talking about the economic system according to the Islamic faith

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After these inputs, Erasto Ndeuka gave an overview on the historical development of Social Market Economy in Germany. Dr. Tego linked on that and gave further insights into opportunities and obstacles of the Social Market Economy.

The following discussion was opened by Sheikh Ally Mkozogore, Deputy Chief Kadhi of Tanzania. He noted that the publication is a vital tool in uplifting Muslims from their backwardness after groping in the dark for many years saying that the publication will show Muslims the way out of the poverty trap. Participants suggested that the publication should be available in a simplified language in order to make sure that the publication reaches a population at large. Further suggestions for improvements were also contributed by attendees.

Erasto Ndeuka noted in the closing remarks that the project had reached a critical stage at which participants should not lessen the pace. He also emphasized that further inter-faith discussions about the economic system according to the teachings of Islam are needed. Sheikh Alhad Musa Salum, National Chairman of JUWAQUTA, thanked the participants for their inputs and KAS for the cooperation and contribution to the publication. He closed the book review by saying that the book launch shall involve key stakeholders including government representatives. The event was finished with a closing prayer.



Tawig Ibrahim (General Secretary of JUWAQUTA) stating his position on further steps

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After the lunch break participants conferred about further steps. They agreed that economic education according to the teachings of Islam should be part in both teachings – in the training of Madrasa teachers as well as in the education of pupils. Furthermore, the participants confirmed that there is need to make this publication available for policy makers in order to sensitize them. Before the closing remarks were spoken, the leaders discussed and agreed on further details for the book launch.