

Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the Society

WORKSHOP WITH WAWATA IN MBAGALA

From Friday 07th September 2018 to Sunday 9th September 2018, Wanawake Wakatoliki Tanzania (WAWATA) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) jointly convened a workshop on "Women's Rights and Responsibilities in the Society" in Mbagala, Dar es Salaam. This leadership training viewed the role of women in the family, community and church.

The workshop was opened with a prayer by Grace Mushi, Ubungo Deanary Secretary General followed by a welcome note of Judith Bernard Mndolwa, Ubungo Deanary Chairperson. Mrs. Mndolwa also presented the objectives of the workshop which are to empower woman with leadership skills they need as a woman in the family, church and society. In addition the participants wrote down their expectations that were reviewed, at the end of the three-day workshop. Many women emphasized their expectations in gaining knowledge of their responsibilities as leaders as well as learning how to implement actions and face challenges.

After a short round of self-introduction of all 85 participants, which aim was to learn about the working fields of the women, Program Officer of KAS in Tanzania, shortly introduced the work of the foundation that besides others strengthens Tanzania's civic society. Afterwards the Guest of Honor, Rev. Fr. Benedict Shayo opened the workshop with a motivational speech emphasizing

ing that women are important prophets, teachers and leaders. Despite the fact that women often still don't hold the same role in the society as men, due to traditions and other misconceptions about women, they are the ones who make an important impact in the society.



Group photo with all participants

Before the tea break Fr. Benno Kakudo gave the first presentation on the topic of Leadership and Communication. As a leader it is important to guide the group but while doing so it is necessary to respect and listen to the opinions of the group members. Communication is not always mutually understood. Therefore it is essential to be aware of the verbal and non-verbal communication.

The workshop continued with a Group activity and discussion on Leadership and Communication instructed by KAS. The participants were given a Group task that required communication and leadership skills. The idea was to support the women to imple-

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ment their new gained theoretical input with a practical task and reflect their own handling. This program item led to a lot of participation and discussion.



Group activity

The following presentations were held by Donesta Simon Byarugaba, vice chairperson of laity council. At first, she talked about the role of a woman in the family, community and church. The presenter encouraged the participants to take their stand as catholic women in the church and in their families because the teaching of children leads to teaching of the whole society. Mrs. Byarugaba's second presentation provided an overview on woman's rights according to the Tanzanian law. She explained the law of marriage, the right to own land, the employment act and the young persons act. The discussion helped the participants to clear any questions and also allowed space to talk about challenges they face in their role in Tanzania.

The workshop aimed for the participants to develop a work plan for a way forward that will empower every woman and advance her in the position of leadership. This was done in a Group discussion. The findings were presented afterwards with the help of the moderator of the past three days, Agness John Olomi. Before the Workshop was evaluated, Erasto Ndeuka, Program Manager of KAS held a concluding presentation on self-reflection challenging the WAWATA leaders to further educate themselves as well as gain and share information within each other.



Presentation of the work plans

At the end of the leadership training the participants expressed their satisfaction and emphasized their confidence in positive, sustainable results of a continuing collaboration with KAS.



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In the fourth presentation, Fr. Almadius Rwegina gave an overview on the success stories of catholic woman in over 150 years of Christianity in Tanzania. As a young priest he wanted to esteem the women in their role in order to encourage striving for changes.

The third day of the workshop started with a presentation of Fr. Benno Kakudo on challenges and opportunities of woman in the society. He expressed his understanding for the difficulties women in Tanzania face every day.