

TZ needs new path for development

By Ludger Kasumuni

@TheCitizenTZ

Lkasumuni@tz.nationmedia.com

Dar es Salaam. Participants of a recent meeting organised by the German NGO, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), have said it is important for any national dialogue on development to include the four Ws & H. These are questions that are important as they help offer clarity on the debate over which development path the country should take.

Four Ws: The questions include; Why the country needs new development model; What kind of model should be taken; Which path such agreed model should take and When such model should be practiced.

Single H: The single H in this case focuses upon how the model should be designed and the ways of practising it for the benefit of majority of Tanzanians. The KAS meeting organised last month involved 12 university students. In the meeting there was a consensus that Tanzania needed the new development model that can create workable mindset among Tanzanians on how to contribute positively towards development.

Speaking on the sidelines of the meeting, a lecturer from St Augustine University, Dr Charles Kitima said Tanzania grapples with confusing development model for almost three decades. "The country possesses a confused socio-economic model which weakens the private sector," Dr Kitima says. Explaining on why Tanzania needs a new socio-economic model, the KAS resident director, Mr Daniel El-Noshokaty said there is a great need for Tanzania to create a powerful and nationally agreed development model like what they did in Germany after the demise of fascism under Adolf Hitler in 1940s.

Mr El-Noshokaty noted that the stance of such German NGO was not to attract Tanzanian interests to borrow the German social economic system that combines positive elements of socialism and the free market economy, but to mobilise young people for filling a vacuum of development model. "In 1939 in Germany, after the 12 years of dictatorship, we built a consensus of instituting a new economic order which is working very successfully," said the KAS

country representative.

The KAS projects manager in the country, Dr Stephanie Brinkel also told Political Platform that Tanzania needs to emulate the ways Germany and Nordic countries built national consensus through mixed socio-economic systems that incorporate positive elements of socialism and capitalism.

"We think that there is a development gap in terms of mindset which can be filled. You should design the development model which can fit the historical and cultural conditions of your country," said Dr Brinkel.

Economists who analyse the development paths of Germany and Nordic nations (Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden), agree that the secret behind the success of those countries was building social democratic model under the multilateral aid programme known as the Marshall Plan that took place during the period of post-World War II.

Tanzania built underdeveloped free market economy and capitalist social values during colonialism, but at post-independence. In 1967 under Arusha Declaration Tanzania adopted a version of socialism which is Ujamaa. Ujamaa which was implemented between 1967 and 1985 was neither scientific socialism nor capitalism, experts say.

Already all Tanzanian administrations have implemented the Five Year Development Plans, but the problem of poverty is still there. Even the current regime led by Dr John Magufuli is implementing the Five Year Plan that started in 2016/17, focusing upon industrialisation.

But experts say still 18 per cent of 54.2 million Tanzanians are wallowing in abject poverty. On why, what, when model and which path to take for Tanzania to fill the development vacuum, it can be summed up as follows; the country has a vacuum which has existed since 1985.

Regarding to which path to take and when to build, it is now clear that national consensus should be built on designing a path. Germany took 12 years, but Tanzania can reach consensus after few years. On how to embark on such model it is also clear that a national dialogue is called for.

From the above analysis, it can be deduced that time is ripe for the country to begin walking to talks about what Tanzania needs now.



A cross-section of pupils from various schools in Dar es Salaam participate in the workshop organised by Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung recently in the city. PHOTO/COURTESY