



# BUILDING ACCOUNTABLE AND CREDIBLE CSOs IN TANZANIA

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## The role of the Government in building credible and accountable CSOs in Tanzania

Recognition of constructive engagement and collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) is an important ingredient to achieving better governance in any nation.

### THRDC's Advocacy

On 23rd of October 2018 in Dodoma City, Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) as a CSOs, organized a reflection session between Civil society and various government actors both at central and local levels to communicate on the reform of laws, frameworks, plans and policies as its three advocating role. As the main theme of the meeting states; "Building Accountable and Credible CSOs in Tanzania" Participants were urged to focus on the role of the Government and CSOs in building credible and accountable CSOs in Tanzania



## 'DESPITE of good environment for CSOs operation in Tanzania there're challenges'

The THRDC Board Chairperson Ms. Vicky Ntetema, who was also a moderator of the session, opened the meeting whereby she directed the discussants to start by elaborating on whether there is a good environment for operation of CSOs in Tanzania or not

Andrew Komba, a Director of Sector Coordination, Presidents Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), who also was among of the panelists of the session, said, "despite of some challenges, there is a good environment for CSOs operation in Tanzania"

"This is because there is good relationship of the government with its institutions and the CSOs Sector, the structure of the Local Government Authorities' good mechanisms for smooth operation of CSOs in the country, and the Government to recognize the contribution of CSOs country wide" he added

Speaking as a panelist Mr. Leonard Baraka, the Registrar of NGOs in Tanzania, he said that, there is a conducive environment for the operation of CSOs in the country since legal framework has provided best ways for the operation for them to conduct their activities.

## CHALLENGES FACING CSOs

During the discussion the following challenges identified to face CSOs in the country despite their vital roles

- ★ Lack of cooperation between Government Officials and CSOs
- ★ Communication Gap between NaCoNGO and NGOs  
Absence of online Registration of NGOs
- ★ Little identification of CSOs Contribution to the National Economy
- ★ Inefficient of NGOs Self-Regulatory Mechanisms
- ★ Reluctance of the Government in Accepting Recommendations from the CSOs Sector
- ★ Little knowledge among CSOs on how to acquire permits from the PO – RALGA
- ★ Absence of online Registration of NGOs



Ms. Vicky Ntetema - THRDC Board Chairperson and Moderator of the Session



From left to right is Ms. Vicky Ntetema (THRDC Board Chairperson and Moderator of the Session), Dr. Andrew Komba – Director of Sector Coordination, Presidents Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALGA) and Mr. Leonard Baraka – Registrar of NGOs

### 'CSOs Sector must save people's interests and not else'

Dr. Komba from the PO – RALGA, advised leaders in CSOs Sector not to serve their own political agendas but a sacrificial Job on behalf of people.

He also assured CSOs that, the Local Government Authorities will always cooperate with CSOs in the implementation of their activities so that to overcome the presence reluctance of some Government Officials in order to serve people. In his remarks, Mr. Suleiman Ismail the General Secretary of NaCoNGO also a panelist, said CSOs in Tanzania should focus on building a good relationship between the government and the CSOs Sector it self

### CSOs call for identification

CSOs have called upon the government to accept some vital recommendations from the CSOs members so as to make their activities alive in communities they serve.

The Government should make more efforts in the documentation of reports and statistics in order to establish proper contribution of CSOs to the national economy.

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For the government to count and identify the CSOs contribution, these NGOs must be in good terms in order to be strong “CSOs have lacked good relationship among themselves. For instance some CSOs have even been sending unreasonable letters to the Registrar of NGOs accusing each other in their operations” Mr. Baraka insisted

## PARTNERSHIP Agreement

While responding to Adv. Leopold Masha, Advocacy Officer from THRDC, on whether the Ministry is ready to cooperate with CSOs to develop a Guideline on how to make applications for permits, Dr. Komba Said, his ministry is ready to cooperate with CSOs to combat the problem as for now applications for permits can be done through online (e-mail), or by presenting letters physically to the responsible ministry

