

PEACEBUILDING IN TANZANIA: CHALLENGES AND PROSPECTS

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INTRODUCTION

Background and Definitions

- ▣ Peacebuilding term first used by civil society organisations in the 1970s.
 - Defined differently by different organisations and people. One commonality - human security at the centre of peacebuilding (human security agenda)
 - Originally used in a post-conflict context. Eventually used to refer to any stage of the conflict

Introduction (cont'd)

Activities

- ▣ Wide range of efforts by diverse actors in govt (including the military) and civil societies at community, national and international levels
- ▣ Objective: to address the root causes of violence and ensure that people are free from fear, want and humiliation, before, during and after violent conflicts.

Introduction (cont'd)

The Inevitability of Conflicts and Peacebuilding

- ▣ Sun Tzu (500 BC) “the distinction between war and peace is blurred and wars are permanent”
- ▣ Clausewitz (1831) “the distinction between war and peace is sharp and conflict is interrupted”
- ▣ As long as wars and conflicts are inevitable, peacebuilding is permanent

TANZANIA AND THE “OTHER FACE OF CONFLICTS”

- ▣ No civil wars, insurgents or rebel activity. Apart from participation in the liberation wars of southern Africa, the war against Idd Amin of Uganda in 78/ 79 - the only war since independence
- ▣ Island/ paradise of peace? **Yes, BUT...**
 - US Embassy bombing in 1998)
 - Young Tanzanians lured into terrorist organisations
- ▣ Conflicts in Tanzania summarized into six categories

Conflicts in Tanzania (cont'd)

- ▣ **Category 1: Conflicts resulting from wars in neighbouring countries**
 - Conflicts in the GLR and spill over effect
 - Refugees
 - Small arms proliferation
 - Environmental problems

Conflicts in Tanzania (cont'd)

- ▣ Scarcity of resources
- ▣ Armed robberies
- ▣ Transit for illegal trafficking including human trafficking
- ▣ Problem exacerbated by porous borders, corrupt officials, poverty

Conflicts (cont'd)

- ▣ **Category 2: Conflicts Resulting from “Negative Peace” Mind Sets**
 - Misconception of the notion of peace and conflict (limiting conflict to ‘hard conflict’ and neglecting ‘soft conflict’).
 - Emphasis on sub-regional, regional and global conflict rather than local conflicts (e.g. The *Mwl* Nyerere Foundation)
 - Less emphasis on peace education.

Conflicts in Tanzania (cont'd)

Category 3: Religious Conflicts

- ▣ Tensions between Christians and Moslems (especially since the 1990s)
- ▣ Occasional riots in cities and towns
- ▣ Acid attacks and killing of religious ministers and burning of churches.
- ▣ Some Moslems blaming the govt for favouring Christians and vice versa.
- ▣ Not all Moslems are against Christians, and vice versa

Conflicts (cont'd)

Category 4: Environment Related Conflicts

- ▣ Fighting over the remaining scarce resources
- ▣ Population explosion exacerbates the problem
- ▣ Massive migration to cities (especially the youth) or to more productive areas, which in turn become exhausted.
- ▣ Gold and other gemstones mining
 - The case of Barrick Gold Mine (pollution and invasion)

Conflicts (cont')

Category 5: Land Conflicts

- ▣ Pastoralists versus peasants
- ▣ Unclear land policies?
- ▣ Eviction of peasants to give way to investors
- ▣ Natural Resources
 - The case of Mtwara and Lindi gas reserves
 - The ensuing demonstrations

Conflicts (cont'd)

Category 6: External Policies

- ▣ Mainly SAPs conditions for aid (austerity measures)
- ▣ Cost sharing, cutting down expenditure on health and education
- ▣ More suffering for the majority of poor people
- ▣ Riots by workers, students and the general public

Conflicts (cont'd)

Political Conflicts

- ▣ Occasional clashes (including in Parliament) between supporters of opposing political parties
- ▣ Clashes between the police and supporters of opposition parties (the cases of Pemba and Arusha)
- ▣ Serious political differences in Zanzibar. Govt. of national unity (2010)
- ▣ Some elements not satisfied with the present structure of the Union – ongoing hot debate

Strategies

- ▣ Dialogue – the best strategy
- ▣ The political agreement in Zanzibar (*muafaka*) reached through dialogue
- ▣ Caritas International, a Catholic Charity Organisation is a good example. Its main focus: promoting dialogue between Christians and Moslems
- ▣ Some Churches and Mosques do preach in favour of political and religious tolerance
- ▣ Nascent civil society organisations involved

Strategies (cont'd)

- ▣ The President and religious leaders occasionally meet for talks
- ▣ The Quran Teachers Association of Tanzania (*JUWAQUTA*). Recent meeting on “Role of Quran Teachers in Building Peace, Tolerance and Stability in Tanzania”
- ▣ *Kondrad-Adeneuer Stiftung* working in partnership with *JUWAQUTA*)
- ▣ Poverty alleviation policies
- ▣ Arts and Peacebuilding? (visual arts, literary arts, performance arts, movement arts). Research continuous

Challenges

- ▣ Weak peacebuilding capacity
- ▣ Poverty and unemployment
- ▣ Poor education and awareness among the masses
- ▣ Fragile democracy
- ▣ Poor communication with and among the masses
- ▣ Underutilization of indigenous knowledge
- ▣ Volatile neighbours
- ▣ Donor dependence

Conclusions

- ▣ Conflicts – natural phenomena in human beings? Expressed in violent or non-violent ways.
- ▣ Their inevitability calls for permanent peacebuilding
- ▣ The Challenge: Improving peacebuilding strategies
- ▣ Peacebuilding: - A broad project encompassing a wide array of activities and processes. It includes both tangible and intangible dimensions

Prospects

- ▣ Some conflicts have been put under control
- ▣ Relative peace despite the exhibition of factors that would encourage serious conflict
- ▣ The Development Vision 2025 with emphasis on peace, stability and unity is encouraging.
- ▣ Economic growth at the average rate of 7% encouraging
- ▣ Recent discovery of natural gas and uranium
- ▣ Poverty alleviation policies in place.
Implementation?
- ▣ Are all actors fully committed?

Conclusions (cont'd)

- ▣ Driving factors for violent conflicts in Tanzania:
 - Negative peace mind sets
 - Unsatisfactory land policies
 - Intolerance (mainly political and religious)
 - Natural resources
 - Environmental degradation
 - Wars in neighbouring countries

Recommendations

- ▣ Review, reformulate agrarian and natural resources policies for the protection of marginalized and vulnerable groups, enhancing national cohesion and empowerment, limiting negative impact on environment.
- ▣ Take advantage and promote the 'culture of peace'
- ▣ Vibrant civil society

Recommendations (cont'd)

- ▣ People's involvement
- ▣ Cooperation at all levels (national, sub-regional, regional, international)
- ▣ Assist neighbours to achieve peace
- ▣ Enhance democracy and adhere to democratic values (good governance, accountability, human rights, freedom of the press, freedom of expression)

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