

POLICY BRIEF

APRM Zambia, Tanzania and Sierra Leone Review Reports

I. Commendable practices in the Zambia Review Report

Democracy and Political Governance

1. Support for Liberation Movements.

In the struggle for political Independence in most Southern African States and during the fight against Apartheid regime in South Africa, Zambia provided support and assisted liberation movements in southern Africa, and often paid the price. There is no doubt that, to date, Southern Africa is the most peaceful region in Africa. Zambia takes this credit.

2. Maturing Democratic Practice

Unlike other Africa states, Zambia has had peaceful elections and transfer of power since the regime of President Kenneth Kaunda to date. During the change of leadership, it has been peaceful without fights and conflicts which usually accompany most elections in Africa. This has matured the democratic practice which is manifested in the peaceful change of leaders through the ballot boxes and the acceptance of defeat by incumbent leaders. This has been exemplary to most African states planning to hold elections and change of leadership.

3. Public Hearings on Breach of Children's Rights

The Zambian Human Rights Commission organizes Public Hearings on issues that undermine of Children's Rights, including violence against women. Submissions are made by all stakeholders from all quarters, including children themselves. The hearings create awareness on the rights of children and the measures to be taken in safeguarding them. This indeed enhances respect for children rights in Zambia.

Socio-Economic Development

4. Social Cash Transfer Scheme

In 2004, Zambia introduced the Social Cash Transfer Scheme to cater for majority of Zambian households headed by elderly, widows, children, or either disabled or chronically ill individuals in the need of basic social protection. It provides small, regular grants to households with under-five old children in selected districts with the highest levels of poverty and under-five mortality rates. Instead of providing transfer in kind such as food aid, the government provides cash transfers which are flexible and can be used to the recipient's own set priorities. Besides, the administrative and logistical costs of such a program are much lower than those for transfer in kind.

II. Commendable practices in the Tanzania Review Report

Democracy and Political Governance

1. The Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar

The Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar to form the United Republic of Tanzania is unique for being the only surviving pan-Africanist project involving the union of two independent African countries, through the adoption of a federal or quasi-federal constitution, with shared sovereignty between the countries of the Union. Given the historical and inherited major diversities within each of the parties, the Union offers useful lessons to countries seeking to join together, especially in terms of how to sustain diversity in unity.

2. Political Stability and Peaceful Transfer of Political Power

The United Republic of Tanzania is a peaceful and stable country that successfully built a strong national unity and significantly reduced the impact of ethnic or regional divisions. The use of Kiswahili as a national language largely contributed to this unity, which is Nyerere's legacy. Following the re-introduction of plural politics in 1985, Tanzania successfully held four presidential and parliamentary elections. Tanzania's Constitution provides for two presidential term limits of five years each. So far, at the end of two successive tenures, Presidents have left office without attempting to extend their term limits. This practice has served to consolidate and deepen the democratisation process in the country. It is important to note that the peaceful transfer of power in Tanzania has taken place within the ruling party. The challenge will come when handing over power from one political party to another.

3. Political Reconciliation in Zanzibar

Power-sharing arrangements entrenched in a Government of National Unity (GNU) were an innovative approach to bring the long standing political conflict in Zanzibar to an end. Under the new constitutional arrangement (Constitution of 2010), the party that wins the presidency in Zanzibar is required to form a government in collaboration with the party or parties represented in the House of Representatives. The party that takes the second position in the election gets the post of First Vice President and ministerial portfolios are distributed in proportion to the share of seats in the House of Representatives. This arrangement significantly reduces the political stakes involved in elections in a situation where electoral political competition was a zero-sum-game and a matter of life and death among the two main contending political forces on the islands.

4. URT Declaration on Jurisdiction of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights

The United Republic of Tanzania is one of the first countries in Africa to ratify the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights which came into force in February 2006. The URT made a declaration under Article 34(6) of the Protocol in June 2009 thus accepting the jurisdiction of the

African Court in respect of direct access by individuals and NGOs. Only five African countries - including Burkina Faso, Ghana, Malawi and Mali - have made the optional declaration to date. The first case against the United Republic of Tanzania - on independent candidacy - was filed on 2 June 2011 by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

Socio-Economic Development

5. Zanzibar Success in the Fight against Malaria

Zanzibar's anti-malaria strategy, closely modelled on the World Health Organisation's Roll Back Malaria Initiative, was hugely successful. According to an official with the Zanzibar Malaria Control Programme, the Zanzibar Government successfully reduced malaria infections down to one or two cases per week. Until recently, malaria was the leading cause of death in Zanzibar. Mosquitoes breed easily in the many rice fields on both Zanzibar and the smaller island of Pemba. More than 90% of malaria cases are of the most virulent strain, from *Plasmodium falciparum* - the mosquito species that transmits malaria in Africa. Alongside treated bed nets, the other main plank of Zanzibar's battle against malaria is the use of Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy (ACTs).

6. Maternity Care for Expecting Mothers

The APRM acknowledged Tanzania's good progress in health care service delivery. Government's policy of providing health centres in all districts of the Republic to support and care for pregnant women is commendable and a step in the right direction. This is intended to reduce high maternal mortality, a major health challenge in many African countries. Tanzania has very high levels of home deliveries. These deliveries are attributed to poor geographical access to health facilities, lack of a functioning referral system, and inadequate capital at health facilities in terms of space, skilled attendants, and equipment.

7. Village Community Banks

The Government's National Micro-finance Policy established the basis for a micro-financial system serving the low income sector of society to evolve. The policy also supported the establishment of various types of MFIs, including credit and savings institutions (CSI), credit only (not-for-profit organisations), micro-finance banks and private banks. One of these credit and savings institutions operating at the village level with very large coverage is a set of village community banks, popularly known as VICOBA for short. Village Community Banks are informal, village-based savings and credit groups promoted in mainly rural areas in various parts of the country. VICOBA is primarily a savings club with a membership of not more than 30 participants per group. The informality and flexibility of the VICOBA framework has made it possible to reach many people in Tanzania. The loans empower them to meet their small and short-term financial needs for income generating activities, social obligations, and financial emergencies, without having to resort to other sources for funds.

III. Commendable practices in the Sierra Leone Review Report

Democracy and Political Governance

1. Ward Committees

Sierra Leone's Ward Committee System is a Commendable Practice. Each Local Government Council Area has Ward Committees. They comprise not more than ten councillors, five of whom must be women from each Ward, elected at a public meeting of residents in the Ward. The main function of a Ward Committee is to mobilise residents for self-help and development projects. Their composition and functions ensure gender balance and self-help in development.

2. Powers of the Anti-Corruption Commission

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) of Sierra Leone started operations in 2002 with the power to investigate corruption cases and make recommendations to the Attorney-General on cases to be prosecuted. Since then, it has carried out Governance and Corruption Perception Surveys from which it has published Best Practices Guides and made recommendations to MDAs on record-keeping, monitoring and audit.

In 2008, the ACC Act was revised and amended to strengthen the Commission by vesting it with the power to prosecute corruption cases in its own right. The new Act has expanded the scope of offences under ACC's coverage to include new ones such as illicit enrichment and abuse and misuse of office. The new Act also provides protection for whistle-blowers and informers and makes it compulsory for all civil servants to declare their assets.

Economic Governance and Management

3. Policy Hearings and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Process

Policy hearings have been introduced in the budgeting process since 2004. These hearings, organised at a broad sectoral level, provide a platform for discussing and reviewing sectoral policies as the first stage in allocating expenditures between and within sectors.

4. Reforming the Public Procurement Process

The APRM review noted that substantial progress has been made in reforming the public procurement process and it is generating good results. Sierra Leone has adopted and implemented a transparent public procurement process. In 2006, 30 percent of the contracts above the small purchase threshold were awarded through competitive processes, compared to 10 percent in 2003. In 2009, 43 MDAs prepared procurement plans compared to 23 a year earlier. An estimated 74 percent of public procurement tenders above the minimum national threshold were conducted by open competition, in 2009.

Corporate Governance

5. Memorandum of understanding between SLIBA and the Anti-Corruption Commission

The Sierra Leone Indigenous Business Association (SLIBA) and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) jointly collaborate on advocacy and standard setting. The agencies work together in the area of training and anti-corruption education, as well as capacity building, and enforce compliance with investment promotion and adherence to business-related laws and policies.

Socio-Economic Development

6. Sierra Leone's Four Key Actions to Ensure Gender Equity

Sierra Leone has taken key steps in the area of gender, including: (i) enactment of important legislation such as the Domestic Violence Act 2007, the Devolution of Estates Act 2007, and Registration of Customary Marriage and Divorce Act 2007; (ii) restructuring of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Gender and Children Affairs to ensure adequate autonomy and resources; (iii) establishment of Family Support Units at police stations for addressing violence against women; and (iv) ensuring women's participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and peace building.