

AJESR 2024
CSOs Remarks
Madinat Al Bahar
April 17th 2024

- Your Excellency Minister of Education and Vocational Training Madam Laila Muhamed Mussa
- Honorable Members of Parliament present
- Principle Secretary Ministry of Education and Vocational Training Mr. Khamis Said
- Deputy Principle Secretaries
- Retired Principle Secretaries
- Directors from MoEVT and other Ministries
- Development Partners and CSOs
- Regional and District Education Officers
- Head teachers and teachers
- Students
- Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen
- Protocol Observed

Assalaam Alaykum warahmatullah wabarakatu

First and foremost I would like to thank the Almighty God to allow us to be here today full of health. Second, I would like to congratulate all those who participated in these 3 days of this meeting.

Dear Guest of Honor

These three days are filled with achievements and lessons especially for us in the civil society organizations. Our eyes have been opened to new issues and areas that need to be worked on underscoring the saying in Kiswahili of “Mcheza kwao Hutunzwa” because we believe that the Ministry of Education is home to all of us here.

Honorable Minister,

As CSOs, we value the opportunity to be consulted and included in the preparation, deliberations and development of recommendations of this important platform. For the 7th year now, the Ministry has given CSOs space to participate, share our views and contribute our voices to the issues and challenges facing our sector. We highly appreciate this level of cooperation that you have shown to the CSOs sector. We applaud and encourage that you continue this same spirit of unity and togetherness for the sake of our children and the development of the nation.

Honorable Minister,

We also sincerely congratulate the MoEVT and the sector as a whole, for working on the recommendations that were presented in the previous AJESR 2023. We noted that there were

achievements in terms of infrastructural development, increasing technology tools and devices among other achievements.

Honorable Minister,

We commend the progressive efforts of the MoEVT, under the able leadership and supervision of the Minister, the PS and Deputy PSs, for being able to come up with the Education Transformation Sector Plan and that was presented during this AJESR. We consider this a major milestone and leap in the right direction towards achieving the desired goals and vision of the sector.

We recognized that wherever there are achievements, challenges are not far behind. In the past 3 days we have discussed several challenges that the sector is encountering including continued shortages of classrooms and other infrastructural facilities especially at the pre and primary levels, including insufficient furniture, teaching and learning materials and technology devices, persistent shortages of teachers and teacher allocation challenges, unclear roles of district education officers all of which result in low performance and proficiency, especially in literacy and numeracy especially at the lower levels.

As CSOs, based on the deliberations and discussions over the past 3 days, we would like to propose the following recommendations which we believe would both enable greater cooperation and contribution towards the sector and ultimately help to ensure we are able to effectively implement the ambitious plan laid out.

1 -We insist that the Govt recognize the work of both CSOs and the private sector by providing exemption or reduction of taxes on investments and service provision contributing towards the development of the education sector. This will motivate and incentivize us to continue contributing to the development of the sector.

2- Given the growing number of private schools on the islands and their growing and undoubtably contribution towards the education sector, we request that the Ministry continue to improve the relationship with private schools through improved dialogue and engagement.

3- Right now globally the trend is towards localization, we therefore request that development partners make greater effort to involve and include local CSOs in their efforts and where possible to encourage collaboration and cooperation amongst CSOs rather than competition. Where capacities are insufficient, DPs should employ a strategy of enhancing local capacities rather than preferring external organizations.

4- We have noticed that many challenges discussed over the past 3 days have not been backed by sufficient evidence or data and are therefore going to be difficult to solve without evidence. In order for the proposed transformation agenda to take effect, we insist on there being sufficient data and evidence generated and appropriate research conducted on every aspect of the challenges being discussed in order to be able to see the gravity of the problem and the gaps that our organizations will be able to provide support in.

5- Additionally, we would like to insist, for the sake of being able to truly assess effectiveness, that schools which are being used as pilot schools for the new curriculum, be provided with all of the resources necessary including sufficient teaching and learning materials, teachers and equipment in order to be able to truly see gaps in the curriculum.

6- In terms of sector coordination, we congratulate the progress so far, however, in order for there to be effective coordination in the future, we insist that the quarterly ZESC meetings be regularized as platforms to discuss progress of plans across the sector. We also recommend

technical working groups be formed under the major issue areas identified here including: Quality Learning, Teacher Workforce Development, Innovation and Digital Literacy, and Financing and Private Sector Engagement to name a few. These committees should be composed of both govt, CSOs and development partners and should help with reducing duplication of efforts and enhance coordination, sharing of data and resources as well as best practices.

7- We applaud efforts by the Ministry to ensure that learning assessments in literacy and numeracy however we emphasize the need to also include assessments targeting children with special needs, as well as assessments of life skills and values along with conducting regular assessments of teacher competencies and proficiencies in key competency areas based on their work.

Honorable Minister,

I would like to close this speech by thanking you sincerely for your visionary leadership and for your unwavering support to CSOs in the education sector. We applaud you for taking innovative initiatives to transform the sector including the formation of the education transformation taskforce as well as the taskforce formed to investigate challenges in the private sector. We commend you for your boldness to tackle challenges head on rather than run away or avoid them. We encourage you to continue in the same spirit and assure you that we are behind you and will support you every step of the way.

We extend our gratitude to all who have attended these 3 days and for your valuable contribution. We are hopeful that next year, we will come to discuss even greater achievements and progress than we did this year.

God bless Tanzania, God Bless Zanzibar and God Bless this important platform as a whole.

Thank you for listening.

Good bye.