

**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF ZANZIBAR
LEGISLATURE SUPPORT PROJECT
2012 4TH QUARTER PROGRESS REPORT**

Introduction

The House of Representatives of Zanzibar as one of the implementing partners in the Legislature Support Project continued implementing the project in 2012. During the last quarter ending 31st December, 2012, the House undertook a number of activities aimed at strengthening capacity of Members as well as Secretariat of the House for the purpose of enhancing the ability of members in fulfilling their constitutional mandates more efficiently and effectively. For that quarter, the following main activities were undertaken.

Establishment of Members' Business Centre

Through establishing and equipping a business centre, the House seeks to enhance Members' working environment by facilitating access to information to assist them in engaging in House debates more efficiently and effectively. Through the Business Centre, it is also expected that there will be better and more effective engagement between members and their constituents. During the period under review, in addition to installing a heavy duty photocopier, heavy duty printer and five desk computers, work aimed at enhancing internet services was also done. The Business Centre is now fully equipped to meet Members' needs and hopefully improve their performance.

Challenges

As already identified through a previous independent capacity assessment and confirmed by the members themselves through a validation seminar, one of the main challenges in the effective use of the Business Centre is the lack of sufficient computer skills among the majority of members. To address this challenge, further training of members in basic computer skills is scheduled to take place during the House during the first quarter of 2013. Depending on need, further tailor-made training will be considered under the project.

Seminar on Legislative Drafting

In recognition of the central role of Committee Clerks in assisting members and their respective committees, the House organized a training seminar for Committee Clerks for the purpose of building their capacity in analyzing bills and advising committee members accordingly. The committees and individual committee members especially the inexperienced ones, rely on Committee Clerks for advice on technical aspects of bills. Through this seminar, the House sought to improve the competences of Committee Clerks in analyzing bills, appreciating the fundamental principles underlying legislative drafting, techniques in drafting bills, substantive

legislation, legislative sentences, choice of diction and things to avoid in legislative drafting.

The seminar, which involved all Committee Clerks - lawyers and non-lawyers alike - added value to the work and contributions of Committee Clerks. Feedback from participants' own self-evaluation suggests that the training had significant impact especially for those who have no legal training. They acknowledged that while prior to the training they barely acted professionally in advising members with regard to bills analysis, the training had enlightened them. As such, it is expected that in future committee discussions on bills, the newly trained Committee Clerks will make a significant contribution in their respective committees.

Challenges

Despite evident improvement in the committee clerks' appreciation of basic legislative drafting, a key challenge was encountered during the training. The differences in areas of expertise especially between lawyers and non-lawyers among the Committee Clerks resulted in different levels of understanding of the subject. To address this challenge, different training groups of lawyers and non-lawyers will be organised in the future.

Study Visit to Zambia and Kenyan Parliaments

Two delegations of Standing Committee Chairpersons each led by the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker undertook study visits to the parliaments of Zambia and Kenya, respectively. In addition to sharing experiences with their counterparts and learning from each other, the visit also focused on different thematic areas including ways of conducting effective oversight, strengthening the financial autonomy and independence of parliament and enhancing professionalism and independence of the parliamentary service. The delegations discussed with their hosts, the experiences of different legislatures in making their parliaments more independent and therefore improve their capacity to discharge their constitutional mandates more effectively.

As a result of the study visits, the House is preparing to convene a roundtable meeting to discuss the findings of the visits and prepare for the enactment of the House of Representatives Administration Act to enable the House to perform a more effective role vis-a-vis other branches of government in the governance of the country and more broadly, in engaging citizens and interest groups

Seminar on Public Hearings

During the period under review, the House conducted a two-day seminar on Public Hearings. The seminar was aimed at familiarizing Members on the concept of public hearings and the procedures and principles underlying public hearings especially during discussion of bills and budgets. Members were trained on the provisions of

law and standing orders of the House in relation to public hearings. Members were also exposed to the experiences of conducting public hearings in mainland Tanzania. In order to ensure focused discussions, the seminar was initially conducted for only two of the seven standing committees. Similar seminars will be conducted for the rest of the committees during the lifespan of the project.

Impact

The seminar has had significant impact on the conduct of parliamentary business. There has been noticeable improvement in public hearings especially during consideration of bills. More stakeholders are now participating in analysis of bills. It is hoped that the relative success in public participation in analysis of bills will be replicated when Standing Committees convene public hearings on the draft budget.

Induction of Clerk of the House

The new Clerk of the House appointed in March, 2012 and as a Chief Executive Officer of the House and advisor to the House, it was imperative that the Clerk be exposed to various fora for the purpose of building his capacity to fulfil his functions. As such, the Clerk attended training in parliamentary practice in Australia and New Zealand. During the training, which involved senior staff from different legislatures from other parts of the world, the Clerk interacted with and shared experiences and perspectives on parliamentary practice in different legislatures.

Apart from parliamentary practice skills, the Clerk also benefited from training on parliamentary administration, ethical leadership and management. This training is expected to significantly improve the capacity of the Clerk in serving the House and individual members of the House, and more generally improve the services of the Secretariat to members and the House at large. Further training for the Clerk is planned for the first quarter of 2013.

Purchase of buses for use by Standing Committees

During the period under review, UNDP facilitated the purchase of three 16-seater buses for use by Standing Committees. The need for the buses arose from a realization that the lack of reliable means of transport was not conducive for the effective performance of Standing Committees. Without reliable transport, the capacity of Committees to conduct public hearings, undertake site visits and investigative missions, was severely constrained. The availability of means of transport under the control of the House will go a long way in bringing the legislature closer to the people and enhance overall parliamentary performance.

Inaugural meeting of the Project Board

On 18 November 2012, the inaugural meeting of the LSP board was convened at the House of Representatives Building in Mbwani, Zanzibar. The Board comprises the following members:

1. Hon. Pandu Ameir Kificho, Speaker of the House of Representatives (Co-Chairperson).
2. Mr. Philippe Poisot, UNDP Country Director (Co-Chairperson)
3. Hon. Ali Abdalla Ali, Deputy Speaker and Chairperson of the Constitution and Justice Committee (Member)
4. Hon. Mahmoud Muhammed Mussa, Chairperson of the House (Member)
5. Hon. Mgeni Hassan Juma, Chairperson of the House (Member)
6. Hon. Salmin Awadh Salmin, CCM Chief Whip and Chairperson of the Finance, Trade and Agricultural Committee (Member)
7. Hon. Hamza Hassan Juma, Chairperson of the Committee on Oversight of State Leaders' Offices (Member)
8. Hon. Makame Mshimba Mbarouk, Chairperson of the Communication and Works Committee (Member)
9. Hon. Asha Bakari Makame, Chairperson of the Livestock, Tourism, Empowerment and Information Committee (Member)
10. Hon. Amina Iddi Mabrouk, Chairperson of the Women Development and Social Welfare Committee (Member)
11. Mr. Yahya Khamis Hamad, Clerk of the House of Representatives (Member)
12. Mr. Mark Montgomery, Department for International Development, UK (Member)

The Board's technical team includes staff from UNDP, UN Women and the House of Representatives.

The purpose of the meeting was to, inter alia, familiarize members of the newly established Board with the terms of reference of the Board, discuss the progress report on the implementation of the LSP, consider and approve the annual work plan for 2013, and determine frequency of meetings of the Board. As reflected in the minutes of the meeting, the Board approved the draft work plan with amendments. The Board also expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the project and the evident positive results of the project activities to individual members and the House at large.

Parliament Advisor

During the period under review, a UNDP parliamentary specialist, Mr. Takawira Musavengana was brought on board to advise on the implementation of the project and other parliamentary strengthening matters. Mr. Musavengana has since been allocated an office in the parliament building. With the LSP board and parliamentary advisor in place, it is expected that the performance of the project will improve significantly in the next reporting period.

Conclusion

Despite the fact that the House of Representatives' busy schedule which included the budget session, committees sittings and the related activities, the planned activities were implemented effectively. As confirmed by the project board, the implementation of LSP activities has improved the capacity of members and staff of in discharging their functions more competently and effectively. The House extends its gratitude to UNDP, DFID and other development partners for their support through LSP.