

ELECTION MANIFESTO OF CONSTITUTION AND ELECTION WOMEN COALITION

2015 GENERAL ELECTIONS



INTRODUCTION

The 2015 general elections are of historical importance in the women liberation struggle in Tanzania. This year marks 20 years since member states of the United Nations agreed on a Platform for Action on women's liberation known as **the Beijing Platform for Action**, one of the most progressive blueprint for advancing women's rights. A Tanzanian, Getrude Mongela was the secretary general of the 1995 Beijing Conference. The Platform for Action made comprehensive commitments in 12 critical areas of concern including the participation and inclusion of women in all levels of leadership, economic and legal empowerment, the right to safe maternal care, the rights of the girl child and the elimination of harmful traditions and cultures.

Twenty years after Beijing what is the status of women in socio-economic, and political leadership in Tanzania? The 20th anniversary of Beijing opens a new era to reconnect, regenerate commitment, charge up political will and mobilize the public. This is what has driven us into defining political empowerment as the priority agenda in the 2015 general elections. Additionally, it is a continuation of our pursuit to engage with the constitutional review process as we submitted twelve

(12) demands to the Constitutional Review Commission to make it gender responsive.

Who are we ?

This manifesto which has been prepared by TGN mtandao has brought together voices from the Coalition of Women Constitution and Election representing more than 65 CSOs. The Election Manifesto is making specific demands to the existing government, to political parties, to candidates and to the government which we are going to entrust responsibilities of governance in the next phase. As voters, and taking into consideration the rights of women as spelt in international human rights instruments, as well as the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania:

- We collectively demand that electoral resources for this year 2015 to benefit both women and men fairly and
- That, purposeful measures to be undertaken to level the play ground.

What does the Manifesto aims at?

The overall goal of this Manifesto is to provide a unified voice of women and the various marginalised groups particularly women with disabilities, demanding effective, and equal participation in this year's election. In specific the manifesto aims to:

Specific objectives :

- Highlight our demands for the 2015 elections
- Spell out specific challenges which women face in electoral processes
- Articulate the responsibility of government in overseeing gender responsive, free and fair elections
- Propose strategies for inspiring electorate and particularly women to participate in the electoral process.
- Advocate for alternative electoral processes which promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

Situation of Women's participation in the election process

Women are important stakeholders in the electoral processes. They constitute a majority of voters, members of political parties and are playing a critical role in production and reproduction of our society, yet, their participation in electoral processes as nominees and candidates to various electoral positions has been very low. For example, in the two elections of 2005 and 2010, the number of women nominated by their political parties to contest in the elections was less than that of the men as shown in the table below:

Selection of Parliamentary Contestants within Parties

No	Party	2005 Election			2010 Election		
		M	F	% F	M	F	%F
	CCM	213	19	18	215	24	10
	CHADEMA	133	11	8	154	25	14
	CUF	200	13	6	168	14	8
	NCCR	63	8	11	52	15	22

The table shows that no party has reached the 30% threshold in the selection of women candidates for parliamentary seats

(Source: TGNP Contextual analysis 2012)

Principles guiding the Manifesto:

The rights of women to participation in electoral processes has been provided for in various international, regional and human right instruments. These includes The Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR:1948), The Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW: 1979, Articles 7:a, b and c), and the Security Council Resolution ((UNSC 1325 (2000), The Millenium Development Goals as well as the Maputo Protocal. The Constitution of the URT (1977) spells out the rights of women to participate in electoral processes as aspirants and contestants.

While the constitution of most of the political parties have provisions for gender equality but in practice political most of them use women in mobilisation of party membership and in campaigns.

Women's Demands

Current Government

The government of the URT has overall responsibility and accountability in leveling the play field through putting in place procedures, rules and regulations to facilitate inclusive electoral process.

- To control electoral expenditure in order to ensure that public resources for the election are used in a manner that will benefit both women and men.
- To urge political parties to adhere to gender equality principles in nominating women candidates and ensure that they are supported to win.
- To support women candidate to access public media during campaigns
- To support all individuals with various disability including impaired vision, hearing, physical disabilities, to participate in electoral process.
- Ban the use of derogatory, defamatory and abusive language, particularly that which is offensive to female candidates and to people with disabilities and or facing other challenges

National Election Commissions (NEC and ZEC)

- Put in place procedures to enable eligible, women and persons with special needs including impaired vision, hearing, people with albinism and physical disabilities, pregnant women and those with infants as well as the elderly to fully participate in the elections as voters and as candidates for various positions.
- Strengthen gender accountability system, especially law enforcement agencies, to protect women's rights during the election.
- Demand political parties to adhere to gender equality principles in their internal party systems and during elections
- To oversee free and fair election from women point of view.

The Police Force

- We call upon the Police force or any other institution responsible for public protection and safety not to abuse their powers which would result in disturbing the peace or in any way infringe democracy

Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB)

The Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) should play its oversight role in monitoring cor-

ruption, including sextortion in order to take necessary measures against culprits

Demands to the Candidates

In the previous elections, we have witnessed candidates who did not meet the needed qualifications using money to buy votes. We are already witnessing some symptoms of this nature at the preliminary stages of this year's election. We consider corruption particularly election related as poison to our democracy and development in general. We therefore make the following demands to our candidates:

- Candidates should not use the power of money to solicit support. Alternatively candidates should use the power of word to solicit support.
- Candidates to uphold high level of integrity, dignity, patience, vision of defending the rights of minorities including women, people with disabilities, the elderly, youth and children.
- Candidates to demonstrate history free of any kind of abuse, including gender based violence against women and children
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding and detailed analysis embedded in the principles of gender equality
- Demonstrate to have an agenda and ability to: analyze, create and implement an agenda that carries the core issues of liberating a woman citizen

Demands to Political Parties

Political parties are considered as key players in competitive democracy. Additionally political parties are 'goal keepers' in determining who gets in, who is screened out in electoral processes. The constitution of the URT (1977) Article 39 (1) (c) requires that all who aspire for electoral position should belong to a political party. Thus, parties have great power in determining who enters the electoral race, who to be left out as well who should win. In the light of this, we, women rights activists are concerned that political parties have been using women and sometimes young men to campaign and mobilise membership. When women stand for nomination by their respective political parties, most of them are screened out by their political parties. As women rights activists, we are concerned that most of the political parties have not demonstrated a desire to conduct inclusive election processes.

Most political parties continue to show discriminatory practices in nominating women candidates and in supporting them to winning stages. In the light of this, we demand political parties to do the following:

- Political parties to realize that they are public entities which have to respect the laws of the land including provisions which spell out the rights of women to participate in electoral processes on equal footing as men.
- Political parties have to demonstrate in practice

a desire to build internal democracy through transforming structures and internal processes that are discriminative against women in leadership positions within the political parties

- “Political parties are urged to ‘walk the talk’”:
 - o To adhere to gender equality principles as spelt out in the laws of the land and international human rights instruments which the country is a party during nomination of candidates to electoral positions
 - o To put in place voluntary election expenditure rules in order to level play ground for women contestants.
 - o To have in place a code of conduct spelling out gender responsive ethical standards which will guide electoral processes.
 - o To take purposeful measures that will lead to provision of support of women candidates from the nomination of candidates to the winning stage

As voters we have spelt out criteria which will guide our choices on which political parties to support during this forthcoming elections:

- Political parties which have demonstrated a political will to dismantal the patriarchal systems which discriminate women in all aspects of life
- Political parties demonstrating readiness to open doors for women participartion in leadership

- positions within the party
- Political parties which have nominated their candidates (presidential, members of parliament, and counsellors) based on the following criteria: spirit of nationalism, personal integrity, moral ethics, including respect of women's rights in public and private spheres. Candidates who do not have a history of engaging in corruption including sexual corruption

Demands to the incoming government

To the government which we are going to entrust it with the responsibility to govern and lead us in the coming five years, we collectively make the following demands:

- Facilitate increase of women in decision making organs.
- Promote transformation of oppressive socio economic systems including norms and traditions that discriminate against women
- Put in place strategies that will empower women to participate effectively in all spheres of life
- Strengthen gender accountability systems and processes.
- Put in place systems and processes that will

empower women economically particularly those in rural areas as well as informal sectors. Encourage financial institutions including formal banks to support women to access financial resources.

- To take measures that will limit excessive use of force by law enforcers when on duty
- Take measures that will fast track the law of the child and revision of the 1971 law of marriage to ensure equality of marital rights and inheritance rights..
- Strengthen security and protection of citizens including security at household level
- Improve quality of education to all including supporting girl child to access, retain and perform well at all levels.
- The government which we are going to entrust it with responsibilities to govern should put in place institutions and process that will ensure that the resources of this country will benefit women and men

CONCLUSIONS

We the members of the constitutional Coalition and Election, collectively declare that the patriarchal system as all other oppressive socio economic systems cannot build a democratic inclusive electoral system. Additionally, such system cannot reduce or eliminate poverty and we are fully aware that the ultimate destiny of our country is in our hands. We have the power to bring the change we wish to see if only we sustain our collective voice. We hence declare that we are going to do the following:

- We are refusing to sell or buy our electoral rights
- Refuse to continue escorting our fellow male politicians, we demand to sit together in decision making table
- Refuse marginalisation as we carry collective power
- We are claiming our spaces in electoral processes as voters, nominees and candidates

**Agenda ya Mwanamke,
Turufu ya ushindi 2015!**



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