

# TEMCO

TANZANIA ELECTION MONITORING COMMITTEE

## NEWSLETTER



**ISSN: 0856-7743 Issue No. 4. April 2010**

### INSIDE



Updates on the Final Month of the Voter Registration Process in Zanzibar-----Pg 1

---



The Shehas' Persistent Powers in the Voter Registration Exercise-----Pg 3

---



Women Turnout in Zanzibar Very Encouraging----Pg 5

---



Updates on Maridhiano and the Forthcoming Referendum for the Government of National Unity in Zanzibar----- Pg 7

---



Major Lessons---Pg 9

## Contents:

---

1. Updates on the Final Month of the Voter Registration Process in Zanzibar	.....1
2. The Shehas' Persistent Powers in the Voter Registration Exercise	.....3
3. Women Turnout in Zanzibar Very Encouraging.....	5
4. Updates on Maridhiano and the Forthcoming Referendum for the Government of National Unity in Zanzibar	.....7
5. Major Lessons	.....9

## 1. UPDATES ON THE FINAL MONTH OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS IN ZANZIBAR

The Tanzania Election Monitoring Committee (TEMCO) deployed another observer team to scrutinize the final month of voter registration and updating of the Permanent Voter Register from April 6th to May 5th 2010 which was the last day of the exercise. The registration process was in progress in all the designated registration centres. The TEMCO observation team noted that the process was going on well. In this phase of the registration process ZEC was determined to register all eligible voters so as to have a reliable Permanent Voters Register ready for the 2010 general elections in Zanzibar. With reference to the earlier complaints, ZEC was specifically concerned with avoiding the registration of under-age and non-resident voters.

TEMCO observers both in Pemba and Unguja noted that ZEC personnel involved in the registration process had improved tremendously with regard to the handling of the registration exercise. This is attributed to their accumulated experience drawn from previous phases of the registration process. TEMCO observers also noted that ZEC's recruitment of the registration personnel gave a high consideration to female applicants. It was observed that in almost all registration

centres the ratio between female and male personnel was 2:1. In terms of security, two to three police officers were deployed at each designated registration centre. One of them was in the registration hall while the other(s) were guarding the premises surrounding the centre. This time TEMCO observers reported no cases of coercion, intimidation or threats to the prospective voters by the police force.

Moreover, TEMCO observers reported that people with disabilities were given first priority when they showed up for registration. There were no reports of discrimination or ill-treatment of physically challenged persons in both Pemba and Unguja. Moreover the registration personnel went further to accord a preferential treatment and priority to pregnant women and elders.



*TEMCO observers in a photo with the Pemba North Regional Commissioner Mr. Juma Kassim Tendwa (centre)*

ZEC continued to monitor the registration process closely by forming different teams that went around supervising the work of AROs and other persons involved in the registration centres. TEMCO witnessed District Commissioners (DC), Officer Commanding District (OCD), District Registration Officers (DRO) and other ZEC officials moving from one centre to another, monitoring the way the registration exercise was carried out. However, given the nature of political friction between the members of Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) and the Civic United Front (CUF), the registration centres in Mji Mkongwe constituency, which is a CUF stronghold, were given more attention than other constituencies in Unguja.

### **Observed Problems**

By and large the exercise of updating the Permanent Voter Register (PVR) was carried out smoothly. However, there are mixed evaluations among members and supporters of political parties. TEMCO observers found out that CUF supporters especially from Pemba did not approve of the recruitment of the ZEC registration officers. Some of the CUF supporters alleged that almost all personnel who were recruited by ZEC to carry out the registration exercise in Pemba were staunch supporters of CCM, and they included those who were appointed by the government. This, they claimed, made the whole registration process sympathetic to CCM. According to CUF supporters, it is no wonder therefore, that prospective voters who were refused to register for unjustifiable reasons were, to a large extent, CUF members.

The complaint about partisan inclination on the side of ZEC personnel was also voiced in the CUF dominated constituency of Mji Mkongwe. CUF Director of Youth, Mr. Makame told TEMCO observers that on 16th April, 2010 the CCM biased registration officials were trying to register a group of 20 illegal voters at Haile Selas voter registration centre. CUF members decided to prevent the registration of illegal voters and in the process, one soldier from the Tanzania People's Defence Force (TPDF) was physically confronted by the CUF supporters. The soldier was rescued by the police force from getting into more trouble..

The occurrence of this incident was later confirmed by the police officer who was in-charge of the Haile Selas registration centre. The policeman who identified himself with one name Mr. Ahmad told the TEMCO team that it was him who rescued the soldier who was assaulted by CUF supporters at Jamhuri Garden on the said date at 12:05. After the incident Mr. Ahmad took the soldier to Mkunazini police station. Much as this centre is located near a secondary school, school sessions at Haile Selas School were suspended for the day and students were allowed to go home. The police force later brought to the registration centre a patrol car with six armed policemen, but no further violence was reported after the intervention of the police force.

Another shortcoming observed during the registration process was the imperfectness of the working equipment. It was observed in some registration centres

that computers and the required peripherals were not working properly. At Kijini registration centre for example the computer mouse was not working properly. The ARO of that station Mr. Kiponda was then forced to use a

computer from Kiongoni registration centre which delayed the registration process. As such, photographs were taken at Ukongoni registration centre but the registration was done at Kijini.



*A camera operator Miss. Amina Salim taking a photograph of one of the prospective voters who came to be registered in a Permanent Voter's Register at one of the designated registration centres.*

## **2. THE SHEHAS' PERSISTENT POWERS IN THE VOTER REGISTRATION PROCESS IN ZANZIBAR**

Complaints continued to be aired against the Shehas in Zanzibar as the process of voter registration and updating of the Permanent Voter Register came to an end. Complaints about the role of Shehas were reported in the previous TEMCO newsletters and continue to linger on. According to TEMCO observers, the Shehas seem to

wild more power and to dictate terms on who should be registered and who should not. It was noted by TEMCO observers that Shehas were very important in the issuing of the Zanzibar Identification Card (ZAN ID) which is the basic legal requirement for one to be registered as a voter.

ZAN IDs are issued to Zanzibaris below 44 years old after they had presented a birth certificate and those who were older than 44 years of age had to present an affidavit. Moreover, both groups are supposed to fill in forms from the Shehas. The Sheha has an important role of confirming the residential status of the applicants. It is alleged by CUF members that in the conduct of their duties, the Shehas favoured CCM supporters at the expense of CUF. TEMCO observers reported that the Mtambile CUF Ward officer in Pemba blamed the Sheha for the recurrent conflicts between political opponents in the ward. He alleged that the Sheha processed the application of CCM supporters very fast but delayed all applications presented by any one he suspected to be a CUF sympathizer.

This was also reiterated by the CUF Director for Elections Mr. Juma Said Sanane in an interview with TEMCO observers on 5th May, 2010 at the CUF offices- Vuga. Mr. Sanane said that some Shehas refused to recognize CUF members so that they can be given a ZAN ID. He further reported that about 200,000 CUF supporters in Unguja and Pemba will not exercise their constitutional right to vote because they were refused to obtain a ZAN ID by the Shehas. Not surprisingly, in some Shehas, verbal confrontations erupted when the Shehas refused to recognize some people as residents. 'Sometimes Shehas can refuse the registration of their own sons, if they know that they support the opposition block', the CUF supporters told TEMCO observers at one of the registration centres.

In general, the Shehas continued to

dictate terms on who should be registered in many of the registration centres. While the Assistant Registration Officers (AROs) are supposed to be in charge of the registration centres, TEMCO observers noted that in some registration centres the Shehas were giving orders on who should be or should not be registered. According to TEMCO observers in Pemba, the Shehas prevented some eligible voters to register even though they had ZAN IDs, but demanded that they should show a ZEC ID which shows that they voted in the 2005 general elections in Zanzibar. Juma Hamisi Omary of Pujini, for example, told the TEMCO observer on 13th April, 2010 that he faced some difficulties during the registration because he did not have the 2005 ZEC ID. A similar concern was voiced by Yahya Abdala and Habibu Issa on 20th April 2010. They argued that ZEC announced that a ZAN ID will be the basic document for one to be registered; they therefore could not understand why they should be required to produce a 2005 ZEC ID as well.

In another incident, the Sheha of Mtangani (Pemba) prevented two prospective women voters from registering because they had voted somewhere else in 2005. Mrs. Bikombo Omary Ali voted in Unguja but was then married to Mtangani. Likewise, Salama Saburi Farhani voted at Pujini (Pemba) in 2005 but later got married to Mtangani. The two prospective voters had a legitimate reason for transfer but the Sheha refused them to be registered in the Permanent Voter Register. The AROs had to contact ZEC officials who after reviewing the case allowed the two voters to register.

### 3. WOMEN TURNOUT IN ZANZIBAR VERY ENCOURAGING

Women turnout for the registration in both Pemba and Unguja was very impressive in the second phase of the process. TEMCO observers noted a laudable involvement of women who came to register in the Permanent Voter Register. Although the registration process was mired by long discouraging queues the women endured the process and many of them got registered. This shows that the women in Zanzibar have now recognized the importance of voting as their basic constitutional right.

he was surprised that women queued for long hours waiting to be registered while they are supposed to be at home attending to domestic activities. His argument is drawn from the fact that the Zanzibari society, like many other societies that follow Muslim culture, women are supposed to be custodians of the houses and in most cases they are not expected to get involved in politics. However, the women in Zanzibar seem to be more active in registering as voters in the same way as men

In an interview with some women, one of them told the TEMCO Observer on 15th April, 2010 at Skuli ya Kilindi that 'she would rather miss any other social event than her right to vote.' Another woman reiterated that 'politics is in the blood of every Zanzibari; voting is only one avenue where you see many Zanzibaris participate including women.', she said. One anonymous man told the TEMCO observer that



*Women queuing at Skuli ya Kilindi registration centre on 15th April, 2010*

In Chakechake and Mkoani districts, TEMCO Observers noted that the turnout for women was higher than men. In many registration centres visited by the TEMCO Observers the attendance of women was overly impressive. In support of this observation, records at the registration centres also showed that female voters edged male voters. This was further substantiated by statistics obtained from ZEC Head Office for the two districts as it is shown in Figures 1 and 2 below.

Figure 1: Voter Turnout by Gender in Chakechake District

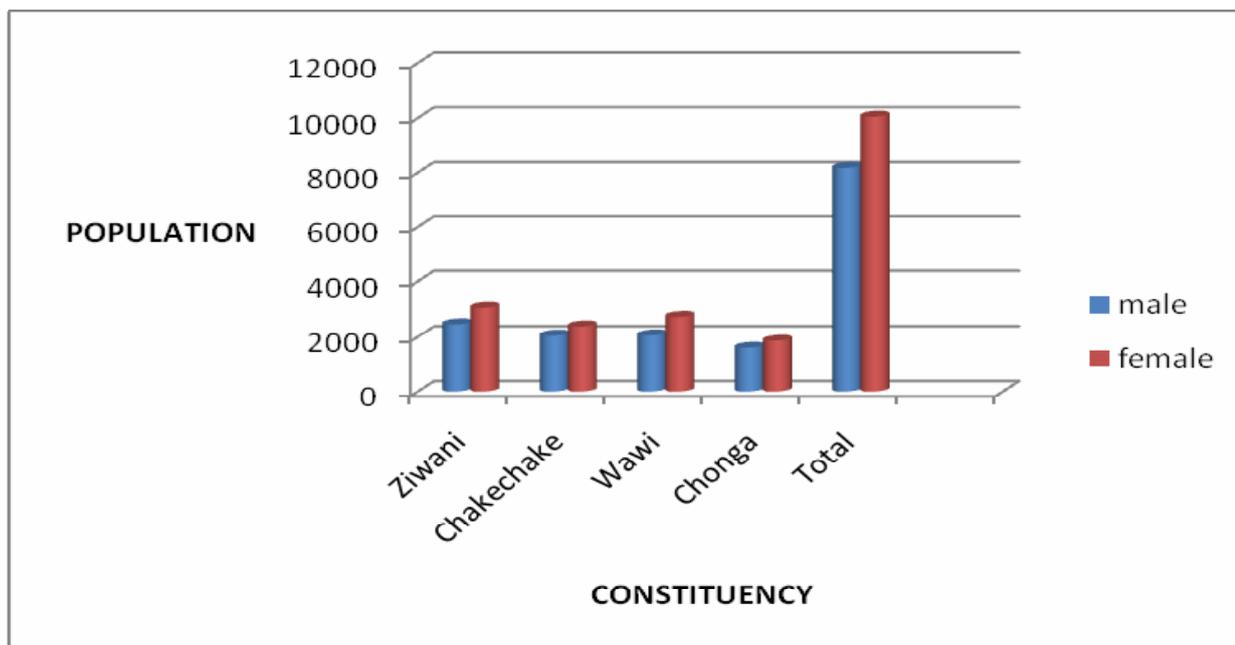
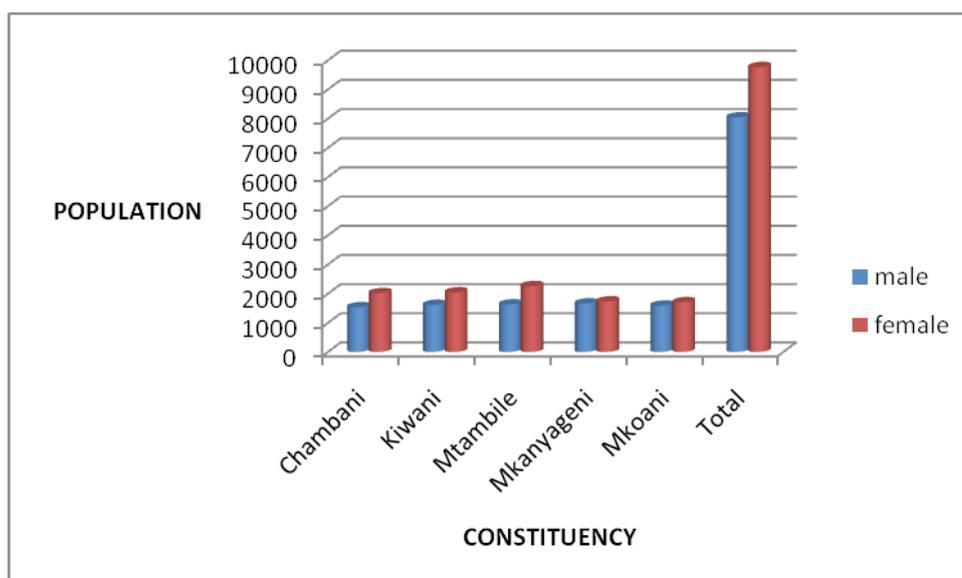


Figure 2: Voter Turnout by Gender in Mkoani District



TEMCO observers in Pemba reported that even sick women were brought to the registration centres by their relatives so that they could not miss an opportunity to register themselves as voters. For example, one sick woman was brought to the Kendwa Skuli registration centre on 20th April 2010. This shows how women in Zanzibar have become active with regard to participation in this important stage of the electoral process



*A sick woman on the cart being escorted to register at Skuli ya Kiwani- Kendwa (Pemba)*

#### **4. UPDATES ON MARIDHIANO AND THE FORTHCOMING REFERENDUM FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY IN ZANZIBARS**

Maridhiano, which was born out of an extraordinary meeting between the outgoing President Amani Abeid Karume and CUF Secretary-General Seif Sharif Hamad on November 5th 2009, has ushered in a new hope to erstwhile political enemy camps in the Isles. Both members of Chama Cha Mapinduzi and the Civic United Front interviewed by TEMCO Observers seem to be quite happy with the maridhiano process.

It was reported in the February 2010 issue of TEMCO Newsletter that both President Amani Karume and Seif Sharif Hamad convened public rallies to inform their supporters that they had decided to bury their differences and past animosities and that they were determined to open up a new political era in Zanzibar. It was believed that the formation of a coalition government was a proper solution so as to

end a long drawn political dispute between the two major opponents in Zanzibar. The call for a coalition government was brought to the House of Representatives in January 2010 by Hon. Abubakari Khamis Bakari, a CUF Member and leader of opposition in the House of Representatives, who moved a motion calling for a bill so as to form a Government of National Unity. A referendum bill was therefore tabled and it was unanimously endorsed by the House of Representatives on 30th March, 2010. The referendum bill was later signed by President Amani Karume; and the referendum to decide on whether or not to form a government of national unity after the elections is scheduled to take place on July 31st 2010.

TEMCO Observers noted that the process of issuing ZAN IDs was made easier after maridhiano compared to the situation

before the meeting of the two leaders was acknowledged by members of both parties. This in turn increased the number of prospective voters who were registered in both Pemba and Unguja. Commending the maridhiano process the CUF Director of Elections Mr. Juma Said Sanane told the TEMCO observers on 5th May 2010 at Vuga that Zanzibar is now free from political squabbles because of the maridhiano. This opinion was also echoed by party agents representing both parties at the registration centres.

The leaders of both parties in Zanzibar believe that the referendum will certainly endorse the wishes of President Amani Karume and the CUF Secretary-General Seif Sharif Hamad to create a future peaceful Zanzibar. Speaking about the referendum, Mr. Juma Sanane said that CUF is expecting a YES vote from all its members inasmuch as they have

approved the initiatives of the two leaders. Mr. Sanane was also optimistic that given the harmonious relationship of supporters of the two parties, even CCM members will likely vote for the coalition government.

## 5. MAJOR LESSONS

The second phase of the voter registration exercise in Zanzibar ended on 5th May, 2010. This phase witnessed a smooth registration process which was made possible by observable cooperation between the key stakeholders involved in the process. Key to the success of this exercise was the Maridhiano process that has ushered in a peaceful political atmosphere in Zanzibar. We have also noted a laudable involvement of female voters who turned up to the voter registration centres in impressive numbers.

However, some stakeholders complained that time allotted for the registration exercise was not enough. This implies that given the arduous nature of the exercise, ZEC has to allocate enough time so that all qualifying people can be registered. It is important to note however, that as noted by TEMCO Observers, ZEC officials were not too rigid with the deadline. For instance, the ZEC information officer told TEMCO Observers that ZEC was planning to continue registering voters who had obtained ZAN IDs even after the deadline. The ZEC information officer admitted that they had registered only 80% of the total eligible voters in Zanzibar.

Time may not be the only factor that could have hindered 20% of the Zanzibaris from registering. There are other bottlenecks that TEMCO wishes to highlight for ZEC and other authorities to take into account in order to improve the exercise in the future.

- Shehas to continue to be blamed for partisanship behaviour by favouring certain voters on party ideological grounds. Many voters who were refused to register blamed the Shehas for denying them to exercise their constitutional right. The role of Shehas in the electoral process is crucial but it should be redefined by ZEC so as to avoid unnecessary conflicts and to ensure impartiality and objectivity.
- Many voters who were refused to register lacked a ZAN ID. It is provided in the 1985 Election Act that to qualify for registration a resident of Zanzibar must have lived in the Isles for 36 consecutive months. This rule appears to deny businesspersons and other residents who are working outside Zanzibar their right to register as voters. This provision should be reviewed to make sure the rights of all citizens are taken care of.

# THE TANZANIA ELECTION MONITORING COMMITTEE



Zanzibar