

THE STATE OF POLICY ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT & VIOLENCE AT THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF ZANZIBAR(SUZA)

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HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- The State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) is a PUBLIC academic Institution in Zanzibar situated in the South region of Zanzibar. It was established by act No. 8 of 1999 of the Zanzibar house of representatives which Was then amended by act no. 11 of 2009, and further re-amended By act no. 7 of 2016. The latter amendment has justified SUZA to merge with other Zanzibar higher learning institutions; These are the Zanzibar institute of financial administration (ZIFA), college of health sciences (CHS) and the Zanzibar Institute of tourism development (ZIToD). His Excellency Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, the president of Zanzibar and chairman of The revolutionary council is the chancellor of the university. The university became operational in September 2001.

THE STATE OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT & VIOLENCE AND ITS POLICY

- According to women's rights advocacy group, the Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA). Zanzibar, the semi-autonomous archipelago of the coast of East Africa, has one of the highest rates of violence against women in Tanzania.
- TAMWA conducted a study in 2014 found men committing sex crimes often walked free through lack of evidence and because victims refused to testify to avoid the shame and stigma attached to rape and police ill-equipped to deal with such cases.

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- A major challenge we have in Zanzibar is **CULTURE OF SHAME AND SILENCE** : It affect communities in Unguja and Pemba Island, has made it difficult to measure the prevalence of sexual harassment and sexual violent
- People are not ready to speak out. There are so many untold stories in the society even in our campuses

SUZA-POLICY ON HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE

- In spite of the fact that challenges on sexual harassment and violence in Zanzibar is highly affecting women and children, so far The State University of Zanzibar (SUZA) has not yet established a specific policy on the Harassment and Violence. It is in the process and currently works with the project and collaborates with stakeholders for fighting against the issue.

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- Through TRANSLED project we have a research agenda in Youth, Gender and Development.
- Currently we develop a programme of Master degree of Education in Youth, Gender and Development is waiting for approval from Tanzania Commission for Universities to start this academic year.
- Output of the project is to establish a university gender centre: last financial year we got small building . In this building will have offices, a seminar room for conducting a seminar and workshops on gender related issues. waiting for office equipment, furniture, books from our procurement unit. Also to recruit some staff.

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- In this financial year we plan the gender centre to start it operational.
- Next to prepare a gender policy.

Conclusion

SUZA which is the only public university in Zanzibar is under process of formulating 'Gender Policy' by preparing several facilities especially gender educational programme, gender centre where several educational materials on gender will be available, gender focal person.

It should be noted that other projects on gender fighting efforts are highly invited to collaborate with us in making our Island 'A ZERO SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND VIOLENCE'

THANK YOU ALL - ASANTENI SANA