

## CHALLENGES HINDERING TANZANIAN YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN SADC REGIONAL INTERGRATION.



## Introduction Background.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has been in existence since 1980, when it was formed as a loose alliance of nine majority-ruled States in Southern Africa known as the Southern African Development Coordination Conference (SADCC), with the main aim of coordinating development projects in order to lessen economic dependence on the then apartheid South Africa .

The Southern African Development Community comprises of 16 nationals. Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia as well as Zimbabwe and also this country are considered as the founder members of SADC. The main objectives of Southern African Development Community (SADC) are to achieve economic development, peace and security, and growth, alleviate poverty, enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa, and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration. This community hold large number of young people who seems to be behind when it comes to SADC issues it is estimated that in Africa more than 60% of the population are young people and according to Africa Union Commission.

### 1.1 The rationale for the choice of the case study.

The case study of this paper is based on a through literature review, and an informal discussion with Tanzanian youth, According to Africa Union Commission It defines youths as people between the ages of 15-35 years and the National Youth Development Policy of Tanzania also defined youth as young men and women from the age group of 15 to 35. In Tanzania almost 70% of the population are youth, and they have played a great role in development issues, by referring to the involvement of youth in different sectors like Industrial development, trade, mining and other sector youth are involved though factors that affecting youth, including employment, sustainable livelihoods, education, skills development, health, youth participation, national youth policy, peace and security, law enforcement, and youth with disabilities. Tanzania as the one of regional member state Tanzanian youth have voice to SADC matters but there are some challenges that hindering them to participate in Southern African Development Community

### Justification.

Young people are more potential when it comes to developments matters because they holding huge per cent of the population. Southern African Development Community has agendas that support youth but yet few of them know about those opportunities for instance the SADC Youth Parliament it is that well known by youth. Hence the establishment of The Southern Africa Youth Forum (SAYoF-SADC) as the body of coordination between youth and youth organizations to the secretary of SADC, by increasing the demand for young people to be important players and stakeholders in the region integration. .SAYoF has playing a great role to make sure the voice of young people has been head across the region by believes that, youth in the SADC Region should be stakeholders, stockholders and leaders not only beneficiaries of regional and state resources as indicated in the Youth Development Model (YDM)

y recognizing importance of youth in Southern African Development Community (SADC), 23 and 24 May 2019 in Windhoek, Namibia SADC held meeting with Youth from regional, the aimed to improving the quality of life for young people as well as providing a conducive environment for youth empowerment. And the meeting was well discussed the thematic areas rerated to regional policy development and strengthening of institutional arrangements for advancing youth matters.

This show that there is the importance of Tanzania youth to participate in regional Integration so they can be familiar with SADC matters, thereby this paper is going to analyses the Challenges or problems that hindering youth to participate in SADC Regional Integration process.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 Challenges hindering youth to participate in the SADC Regional Integrations process.

Youth issues have been address as Cross-Cutting issues hence without consider that youth itself its topic need to stand alone, Most of youth matters have been discussed by elders who think they know youth problems better than themselves. Hence young people feel like SADC issues or process are not belong to them because are not the one who makes decisions, if they will be involve in their matters it will encourage youth ownership, resource identification, and grabbing the opportunity hence to the development of the region. If youth are involved in tackling issues that concern them, they will be able to strategize and develop solutions

Youth are getting information from wrong source or less information about SADC issues: Another challenge that hindering young people to participate in the SADC matter, there is no center of information that may allow young people to get accurate information about the regional integrations process therefore young people do not understand how , where to go to get those information. Example Regional community need to have an App (since the world is shifted to technology) that will help to feed all information about SADC in centered so young people can be close with SADC matters. And those who get the information about the SADC are few compared to who does know about it.

Low awareness about SADC benefits to Youth : Southern African Development Community has tried to expand through his region to provide opportunities and importance of the regional development still there low awareness to youth about the SADC opportunities and how to snatch it, Furthermost young people doesn't know what are the functions of SADC when it comes to integrations process.

Underprivileged visibility of SADC integrations process: Dissimilar from East African Community which is well known by majority of Youth in Tanzania unlike from SADC it give the impression that there is no enough publicity about the regional integrations process that can be realize by youth, SADC needs more publication so that the information can be reach to a huge amount of youth.



## **Purpose of the case study**

The purpose of this study is to analyse the engagement of youth in SADC matters and what are the challenges that hinder young people from participating in Southern African Developments Community matters. Also to strengthen the SADC youth forum and summit so that the voice of young people can be heard across the regions.

## **2.2 Point of Learning**

In conducting this research there are a few challenges that have been encountered most of the young people who were approaching most of them there are were not aware of SADC issues rather than heard the name but did not know how it operates and its functions. Also in annual Corporate Plan 2022/2023 in its main focus does not explain or have a plan for youth it explains it too generally. Youth should be termed as an important key that can be seen not included as a cross-cutting issue alone it should stand alone.

## **2.3 Opportunities**

Southern African Development Community through its objectives which are aims to bring development across the region and ensure that all members of the community are getting equal opportunities for development matters. SADC Also has the SADC Youth Empowerment Policy framework 2021 -2030 which includes the opportunity for young people to amplify youth voices

Youth employment promotion: A SADC Youth Employment Promotion Policy Framework and Strategic Plan was developed and approved in 2016 and is being implemented through a number of strategies in all countries. Minimum standards of social protection for youth were implemented.

## **2.4 Conclusions and Recommendations**

Youth matters should be considered as issues to be standalone through the different SADC forums and should involve youth as key characters to enhance their voice to be heard across the region to strengthen the youth coordination structure which can emphasise youth involvement in the regional integration process. In SADC RISDP 2020-2030 there are three core pillars interlinked with cross-cutting issues in which youth fall in it, in order to strengthen the participation of youth in the SADC integration process there is a need for a separate pillar that will speak about youth matters and their engagement. The following are the Recommendations to SADC that can lead youth to participate in SADC matters.

## **Recommendations.**

Create a youth National platform for the SADC integration process which will provide information to young people on opportunities that are provided by the region.

Conducting research that influences to know our matters and what youth want can easily create a place for young people and include their needs in upcoming SADC visions like the SADC Vision of 2050.

Promoting institutions that facilitate giving information and feedback on different issues for the members of the state in SADC.

The provision of different projects that facilitate improvement in social, economic, and political activities is a good thing to the members of a state.

Establishment of local assemblies in each member state for young people to understand SADC opportunities.

Involvement of young people in agenda, policy-making, and youth to become one of the SADC stakeholders

SADC should have a plan for an unplanned disaster like COVID-19 for member states so that when it happens they plan to face it. Emphasize building capacity of young people to the members of the state which encourages them to participate well in SADC

## References and Recommended Sources

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