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Presentation title

Advancing inclusive governance in Zanzibar through the political participation of persons with disabilities (PWDs), before and after the 2025 general election

Zanzibar Legal Context

Vs

Zanzibar Context on PWDs

Inclusion of PWDs before and after 2025

Structural and socio-political barriers that historically limited PWDs' representation

Drawing on my follow-on project experience, this presentation will highlight the pre-election interventions and examine post-election achievements.

Achievements

1. Evidence of a historic shift from symbolic inclusion to substantive representation
2. Achievements by women with disabilities appointed to legislative bodies
3. Appointment of both a minister and a permanent secretary with disabilities
4. Review of the gender and inclusion policy (2015) for the election regulatory authority (ZEC)

Key Takeaways

- Zanzibar has transitioned from symbolic to substantive political inclusion of PWDs following the 2025 general election.
- Strategic pre-election advocacy significantly increased leadership opportunities for PWDs, particularly women with disabilities.
- High-level appointments of PWDs reflect growing political commitment to inclusive governance.
- Institutional reforms, including updates to electoral inclusion policies, are strengthening disability-responsive governance systems.
- Sustaining progress requires continued collaboration, policy enforcement, and investment in disability-inclusive leadership.

Conclusion

Lessons learned and actionable recommendations for sustaining institutionalized disability-inclusive leadership in Zanzibar and beyond.

THANK YOU