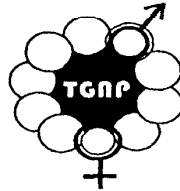


**4TH ANNUAL GENDER STUDIES CONFERENCE
(AGSC) '99**



**STRATEGIES FOR ACQUIRING A LEADERSHIP
POSITION AND REMAINING IN THAT POSITION:**

A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

(Translated from Kiswahili)

**By Hon. Corona F. Busongo (MP)
Tabora Municipality**

**Paper presented at AGSC '99, 27th - 30th September, 1999 at
TGNP Gender Resource Centre, Mabibo, Dar es Salaam**

1. Many leaders starting from the low level of a ten cell leader are men. Women are very few.
2. Women leaders at Branch level are very few. For example, among the 76 Branches in Tabora Municipality, Women Branch Chairmen are only two.
3. Tribal customs and traditions do not allow a woman candidate to be accepted.
4. Many times women follow the advice of men during elections.
5. Some religions state that women do not deserve to lead. Since many Tanzanians are believers in different religions, this also greatly contributes to women missing votes.

Which strategies to follow

In order for a person to be elected, the comparison amongst candidates must take place. How does a candidate become accepted by the electorate? In order for a woman candidate to be accepted, she has to conduct serious campaigns to demonstrate her capabilities:

1. Strong communication abilities are needed– To explain party policies and her awareness of the people's development.
2. Her character and morals amongst the people as well as the electorate should be acceptable.
3. A woman candidate should care for the people and should be close to them so that she is aware of their problems. Thus, she will be more acceptable to the electorate.

If a women candidate passes the muster of the opinion polls and is recommended for the Parliamentary Seat, what follows is a campaign for the different candidates vying for that Seat. Here, the main task is in the Party and the candidate. Many scandals take place when the Party and the candidates begin campaigning. A woman candidate faces many impediments. For example:

1. Money will be needed for communication. Transport is essential to be able to meet the electorate. Many women have low financial capability.
2. Arrangements for mobilisation of groups are highly needed to sensitise campaign meetings.
3. Loud speakers are needed in order to be heard properly, and the electorates need to hear you clearly to be able to elect you.
4. Different committees are needed to receive good results.

implement these responsibilities, the Constitution has made it clear the Powers and Rights of the Parliament in Section 100 and 101.

The Parliament of Tanzania is led by Parliamentary Rules. These rules are divided into sixteen parts / sections. All these sections give directions on how to implement the activities within and outside the Parliament as well as ethics to be followed. This includes the parliamentary attire. On the whole, there are 124 Rules.

How to get a Parliamentary Seat

In my introduction, I explained about the source of a Seat of Parliament, which is the Constitution. I explained how the Constitution gives directives of this important Pillar of Representation. The Constitution states that the Electoral Commission will direct and manage elections. Parliamentary Rules are stipulated in the Constitution and they direct all the activities of the Parliament.

The Constitution of a country gives two conditions for a person to be a Parliamentarian. These conditions are:

- a. He/she should be a citizen of the United Republic over the age of 21 years and should be able to read and write in Kiswahili and English.
- b. He/she should be a member of a Political Party and should be proposed by that party.

These conditions of the Constitution in its implementation provide a very wide window of opportunity to a person with these two qualifications. Looking closely, you will discover that, in these opportunities, especially the one of constituency, both men and women have equal opportunity constitutionally.

Coming to the second condition, that a candidate should be proposed by a Political Party, its implementation procedures are arranged by the Party itself. Let me use the example of the Ruling Party, CCM. It has a procedure that before a candidate is nominated, he/she has to pass through 'an eye of a needle' of opinion polls from the members of his/her Party. The procedure of opinion polls is democratic in that it involves political leaders from different levels, starting from ten cell leaders, members of Political Committees of a Branch and Ward, members of Implementation Committees of Party Organs such as Parents, Youth, and UWT, Chairman of Villages and the Local Government, etc. The implementation at this state is usually very difficult.

A voter is a person who is accustomed to seeing a leader as a man and not a woman. In order for a woman to get votes, it is important for her to have additional qualifications to those of a man. The reasons for this difficulty in elections are as follows:

Strategies for Acquiring a Leadership Position and Remaining in that Position: A Member of Parliament *(Translated from Kiswahili)*

Introduction:

It is a great pleasure today to have this rare opportunity to give my contributions to this important gathering. As we enter the 21st century, this conference will give us an opportunity to exchange views and learn from different experiences.

I personally would like to give you my contributions on how I worked laboriously until I received this leadership position and representation, that is the seat of Parliament of Tabora Municipality.

What is the source of a Seat of Parliament? The source of a Seat of Parliament is the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977 (Chapter III, Section 62 until 101, page 31-49). The first part of this Chapter explains that the Parliament has two components – The President and Members of Parliament. The responsibility of Parliament, according to the Constitution, is to enact laws. Part II explains about the Members of Parliament, Constituencies and Election of Members of Parliament. This means that Members of Parliament from the Constituencies and Women MPs are not less than 15%; 5 Members of Parliament are elected by the House of Representatives and Attorney General.

This Chapter further discusses the Electoral Commission – Section 74, which is given all the powers of managing all types of elections starting from the position of a Counsellor to a Member of Parliament. In Section 7H – 8 it is explained that the Parliament can enact laws for creating conditions for the management of Elections of Members of Parliament who are representing constituencies. (For the implementation of this section, a law has been enacted for the election in 1985 and the amendments made thereof.)

The Constitution also provides details about constituencies, including how they are divided, keeping in mind availability of means of communication and the geographical situation of an area which is intended to be divided into constituencies.

Section 78 gives directives and sets out conditions for election of Women Members of Parliament from their Political Parties. Political Parties will propose to the Electoral Commission names of women keeping into consideration equal representation between parties that have won election in the constituencies and of seats in the Parliament. Activities of the Parliament and the procedures on how to carry them out are put in the Constitution. Section 89 explains about the Standing Rules of the Parliament. The procedure to enact laws and how to exercise the responsibility of enacting the laws is in Section 97. In order to

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What to do after achieving the Parliamentary Seat:

After a woman Member of Parliament has got her seat, people's expectations are very high. The people expect her to do ten times more than a fellow Member of Parliament who is a man.

Notwithstanding her success as an MP, a woman Member of Parliament is confronted with a series of impediments that can obstruct her completion of duties. One of these impediments is election court cases.

The election law provides a candidate and electorate with the right to take legal action in the court of law if they are not satisfied with the election proceedings or if there is a breach of law during the election process which has rendered the election not to be fair and safe. This opportunity is mostly utilised by men candidates when they are defeated by a woman candidate. This is evident amongst women candidates who have been successful in the past elections. For example:

1. Hon. Kate Kamba won the Masasi Seat in 1985. When a case was filed against her, she was successful.
2. Hon. Shamimu Khan won the Morogoro Municipality Seat in 1990. When a case was filed against her, she was successful.
3. Hon. Teddy Magayani won the Kasulu West Seat in 1995. When a case was filed against her, she was successful.
4. Hon. Anna Makinda won the Njombe Seat in 1995. When a case was filed against her, she was successful.
5. Hon. Corona F. Busongo won the Tabora Municipality Seat in 1995. When a case was filed against her, she won.

First of all, women Members of Parliament who get seats from the Constituencies are very few. The 1995 Election had 231 Constituent Seats. Women Constituent Members of Parliament were eight. Among the eight women MPs, five had cases filed in courts. Women Members of Parliament from the Mainland are six and, among them, five had election cases in courts.

Certainly you can say that contesting a case in court is a constitutional right for a person. If he is not satisfied, he is entitled to take legal action. But it was evident that many of the cases were merely fabrications. There were such allegations as bribery, insufficient election papers, voting papers counted in the dark, etc. These claims and many others were alleged about each of us. In the courts, each accusation was required to have concrete evidence proving that it was actually committed. In fact, many of the claims were fabrications that were aimed at making the women be in trouble, despair, and also frightened. Cases require money to contest because it is important to employ advocates to assist in responding to the legal issues. Witnesses are also needed for these cases and

are paid for their rendered services. A great deal of time is used until the case comes to an end.

If I take my own personal experience, immediately after being declared the winner of the Tabora Municipality Seat on 1 November, 1995, I received a summons on 11 November, 1995 when I was accused of getting the Seat illegally. Three fellow candidates among the twelve whom I vied for the Seat were challenging my success, giving 21 points against me. I immediately began to prepare myself for this election case. I had to employ two advocates and one Legal Officer. The case was heard in the High Court of Tabora under Judge J. Mkwawa for three months continuously. After all the trouble, the High Court ruled that all the 21 points put forward had no legal backing. I was therefore declared the legitimate winner of the Parliamentary Seat of Tabora Municipality on the 5th of August, 1996.

Since the Election Law states that, if a petitioner is not satisfied with the ruling, he/she can appeal to the Court of Appeal, my petitioners appealed. The case was therefore transferred to Dar es Salaam in the Court of Appeal. Preparations took one year – the whole of 1997 – in front of a panel of judges. After serious legal exchanges of views between the advocates and the Legal Officers, the panel of judges gave their ruling on 6 November, 1997 in my favour. They declared that the claims had no legal basis. I was declared the winner of the Tabora Municipality Seat.

The petitioners were not satisfied. They wanted a panel of five judges to hear the case afresh. Things started again for the hearing of my case by five judges. The date for hearing the case was 20 March, 1998. The Court did not see the need for having five judges. A panel of three judges was appointed to review the case. Since the claims put forward had no legal basis, they did not see the need to waste their time in hearing a case that had no legal basis. They gave their judgement on the same day and ordered that this case should not be brought to court again. "Let the Member of Parliament do her work." My election case was heard by seven judges in three different sittings. Before the case the 'Opinion Polls' on the side of CCM was a challenge similar to the Election case. Personally, I can say that for me to get a Seat of Parliament I had to win in five different stages:

1. To win the Opinion Polls organised by CCM.
2. To win the election by the electorate of Tabora Municipality.
3. To win the election case of Tabora High Court.
4. To win the election case in Dar es Salaam Court of Appeal.
5. To win the election review case in Dar es Salaam Court of Appeal.

It is evident that after all this trouble, to get a Parliamentary Seat is not an easy thing. One has to exert extra efforts before reaching this stage.

After these upheavals, what should a Member of Parliament do?

The people of your constituency still need your services. The people's expectations of their Member of Parliament are very high.

A woman Member of Parliament is expected to work very hard in order that the electorate views her as useful and has confidence in her for the coming term. The problems in her constituency related to social services, education, health, water, etc. must be solved and people have to see the changes. Economic services such as the communication and transport industries should be dealt with. The issues of calmness, security and peace and the constituency should be followed up as the electorate expects you to take immediate action.

In order to be able to achieve all these yourself, you need to possess the ability to follow up. You need skills on how to conduct campaigns and how to assist in obtaining projects for your constituency.

When you are in Parliament as a representative of the people, you must contribute to the draft laws presented in the Parliament as stipulated in the Parliamentary Rules. The Parliamentary Rules give seven opportunities. These opportunities are as follows:

- 1) To ask any question to a Cabinet Minister on public issues that are under his authority: under Rule 34(1).
- 2) To present specific requests in the Parliament: under Rule 28 after fulfilling the conditions set out under this rule.
- 3) To use the opportunity provided by the daily notion of adjourning the Parliament where any Member of Parliament can give personal explanation or may need an elaboration to be given by a Minister on any issue under his authority under rule No. 21(9).
- 4) To present a personal motion in the Parliament Rule 44(1) which gives any Member of Parliament an opportunity to propose any issue which is under the jurisdiction of the Government to be discussed in the Parliament.
- 5) To present to Parliament a personal draft law under Rule 68 (1) which empowers any Member of Parliament to present a draft law with the aim of enacting a new law in order to eliminate a problem or problems in the community.
- 6) To propose amendments to draft laws presented in the Parliament, under Rule No. 70(4) that empowers a Member of Parliament to make any amendment in any draft law including Government bills.
- 7) To propose a motion to form a Committee under Rule 103(2) which empowers any Member of Parliament to raise a motion to request the Parliament to accept to form a Committee for investigating a specific issue and after that to report to the Parliament.

In order to be able to implement this opportunity, making preparations to get information is needed so that what you propose is useful to your constituency and the nation as a whole. As I see it myself, this opportunity has not been properly utilised. The different seminars conducted will give an opportunity to look deeper; to receive the education required for a Member of Parliament to give his/her contribution.

In order that you remain in the position of a Member of Parliament, there are many things you should do. One of the most important is to understand better your constituency and what the people need:

1. Social Services: Education, Health, Water
2. Economic Services: Agriculture, Industries, and Commerce, Communication and Transport, Tourism, etc.
3. Administrative Services: To ensure that issues related to Defence and Security: Peace in an area is essential.
4. People's lives in the constituency, including their problems and how to solve these problems; in most cases they look to their MP for solutions.
For example:
 - (a) Different economic groups, projects for the groups, etc. require an advisor.
 - (b) When different institutions / organisations get stuck on an issue, they need the MP to assist.
 - (c) Person problems, e.g. pension, transfer of a student, medical treatment, etc. need assistance from the Member of Parliament.

I appeal to the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP) and all those who appreciate the development of women to see the importance of coalition building to implement the following:

1. To mobilise Tanzanian women, who make up 51% of the population, to take up positions of leadership starting from the position of Chairman of the village street, Counsellorship to Constituent Member of Parliament.
2. To mobilise the women electorate to vote for candidates who vie for different leadership positions.
3. Different organisations which provide assistance to see the needs to go to the regions, districts and villages where the majority of women live, to meet them during their various economic activities.
4. NGOs should not remain in urban centres and the city of Dar es Salaam. They should go to the places where the majority of the women live, particularly areas that are disadvantaged.
5. Sponsors should assist in providing funds for seminars to educate women leaders and increase their capacities. They should be given the opportunity to receive different skills so that they can contribute more in their present leadership positions.

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