

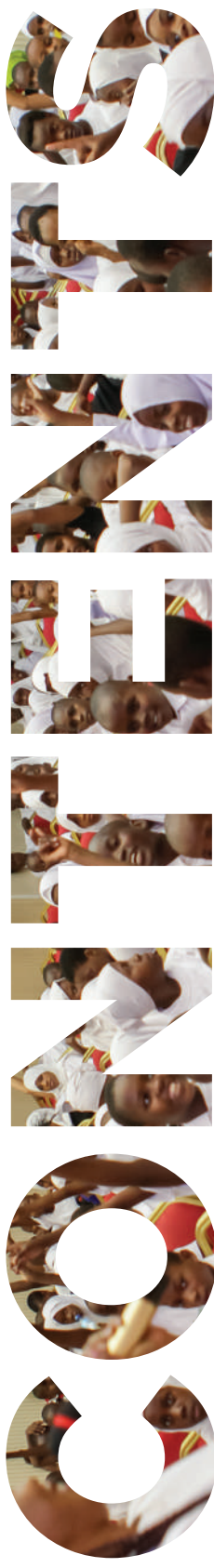
AJENDA YA MSICHANA FORUM 2018

“THE ROLE OF SOCIETY IN PROTECTING
AND ADVANCING GIRLS’ RIGHTS”



EVENT HELD AT MTANA HALL - LAPF BUILDING
KIJITONYAMA - DAR ES SALAAM
ON 11TH AUGUST 2018





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INTRODUCTION



Msichana Initiative is a nongovernmental organization advocating for girls' right to education in Tanzania by addressing and finding solutions for challenges they face that limit their access to quality education. The aim is to ensure that a girl child is not subjected to any form of discrimination that may hinder her from realizing her right to education. The organization works with girls and young women in the age category of 10 to 25 years, focusing on issues such as child marriage and teenage pregnancies.

On 11th August 2018, Msichana Initiative held its Ajenda ya Msichana Forum in Dar es Salaam. This is one of the key programs of the organization, bringing together girls and other stakeholders of girls' rights to discuss about issues and challenges faced by girls that hinder them from realizing their right to education and providing solutions. The forum provides a platform for girls to amplify their voices and seek support to address issues that affect them and own the agenda.

This year's forum brought together more than 500 different participants, including girls from different primary and secondary schools in Dar es Salaam; survivors of child marriage and pregnancy; parents; representatives from organizations advocating for rights of a girl child; Msichana Initiative partners; the British High Commissioner to Tanzania; and government officials. The guest of honour was Ms. Mary Rusimbi, a prominent feminist and women's and girls' rights activist, currently the Executive Director of Women Fund Tanzania.

The main speakers at the event were: Ms. Mary Rusimbi, the Executive Director of Women Fund Tanzania; Ms. Rebecca Gyumi, the Executive Director of Msichana Initiative; Ms. Ummy Nderiananga, Chairperson of SHIVYAWATA (Tanzania Federation of Disabled Peoples' Organizations); Ms. Susan Mashibe, pioneer of female-led aviation services in Tanzania; and Ms. Stumai Simba, an entrepreneur who sells porridge. Other speakers were Mr. Barnabas Kaniki from Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA); Mr. Filbert Bayi, former athletics champion and Secretary General of the Tanzania Olympic Committee and founder of the Filbert Bayi Foundation; Ms. Christine Mwanukuzi, a girls' and gender rights activist, currently the Assistant Representative at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Tanzania; Ms. Angela Benedicto, founder of WOTE SAWA organization and currently Msichana Initiative board member; Ms. Lydia Charles, leader of girl power team and TV presenter at FEMINA HIP; Ms. Sarah Beda, Msichana Initiative's Communications Officer; Tumaini Omari, a Standard Seven pupil at Tandale Magharibi Primary School – based in Dar es Salaam; Esther Jumanne, a survivor of child marriage from Tabora; Sofia Evarist, a survivor of child marriage and pregnancy from Shinyanga; and Rose Erasto, a representative from Msichana Clubs.

The event was moderated by Ms. Sarah Beda from Msichana Initiative and Ms. Lydia Charles from FEMINA HIP. The theme for this year's forum is "Nafasi ya Jamii kwenye Kulinda na Kutetea Haki ya Msichana" (The Role of Society in Protecting and Advancing Girls' Rights).

FORUM SESSIONS



Forum sessions included remarks, speeches, sharing of success stories, keynote speech by the guest of honour, panel discussions a plenary session.

OPENING REMARKS

BY MSICHANA INITIATIVE BOARD MEMBER

– Ms. Angela Benedicto



Opening remarks were delivered by Ms. Angela Benedicto, one of the members of the Msichana Initiative Board. She started by thanking the Almighty God and welcoming the participants to the event, insisting that such forums are very important discussing ways of protecting a girl child and her rights. She acknowledged the Msichana Initiative Executive Director and her team for doing a good job of advocating for girls' right to education and thanked Msichana Initiative partners for supporting the forum, to ensure girls' voices are amplified. She also thanked the guest of honour for reserving time out of her busy schedule to attend the forum. She noted that the forum presents a platform for everyone to reflect on issues that affect the welfare of a girl child and how she can be protected.

Speaking about challenges faced by a girl child, Ms. Angela Benedicto informed the invited guests that such challenges include child marriage and child pregnancy, which hinder educational opportunities for girls. She also mentioned bad and discriminatory customs and traditions and the law of marriage – which allows child marriage – as factors that contribute to challenges faced by girls. She called upon all participants and other stakeholders to deeply reflect on how these girls can be protected from practices such as child marriage and child pregnancy that prevent them from fully realizing their fundamental rights, especially right to education.

In concluding her remarks, Ms. Angela Benedicto called upon all stakeholders to join hands in protecting children and advancing their rights. She promised the board's continued support and the organization's collaboration with the Government and other stakeholders and partners to ensure a girl child is protected and her rights are realized. Lastly, she urged the girls to believe in themselves and 'fly high like a falcon.'

¹ Msichana Initiative has established girls' clubs at different schools in Tanzania.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND SPEECH

BY MSICHANA INITIATIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
– Ms. Rebecca Gyumi



The opening remarks were followed by introductory remarks, delivered by the Msichana Initiative Executive Director, Ms. Rebecca Gyumi. She started by thanking all the invited guests for attending the forum and recognized the presence of different such guests, including the guest of honour – the Executive Director of Women Fund Tanzania, Ms. Mary Rusimbi; the British High Commissioner in Tanzania, H.E Sarah Cooke; government officials; Msichana Initiative partners; and representatives from other organizations. She thanked the partners who support Msichana Initiative to prepare and hold the forum, namely: Global Fund for Women, OSIEA, Voice and CBM. She also recognized the presence and thanked the panelists and girls from different schools and backgrounds, most of whom coming from the districts of Dar es Salaam. She urged the girls to take full advantage of the forum and raise their voices.

In her speech, the Executive Director of Msichana Initiative spoke about the importance of education for a girl child, legal protection of a girl child's rights, need to amend the Law of Marriage Act to outlaw child marriage, challenges faced by girls and some key statistics on youth and child marriage. She also spoke about deliberate steps that need to be taken to safeguard rights of girls.

Ms. Rebecca Gyumi expressed her gratitude to all invited guests, especially girls, who had taken their time to attend the forum to discuss challenges faced by a girl child and provide possible solutions. She noted that Msichana Initiative seeks to enable and inspire a girl child to reach her

dreams, especially through education. To achieve this, she informed the invited guests that the organization works directly with community members, the Government and girls' clubs at schools. She also remarked that Tanzania is among top 10 countries in the world with many teenagers and young people.

Speaking about the legal protection of girl child's rights, Ms. Rebecca Gyumi stated that Tanzania has ratified a number of regional and international conventions on the rights of children, including girls and has made several commitments to protect their welfare. She added that domestically the Government has taken several steps to protect rights of children, including amendment of the Education Act to criminalize an adult man marrying or impregnating a schoolgirl. However, girls who are out of school are not protected by this law. She mentioned the Law of Marriage Act 1971 as a major factor contributing to prevalence of child marriage in Tanzania, thus the need to amend the law to increase protection of a girl child.

She noted that girls face many challenges in realizing their right to education, including while going to school, at school and in home, acknowledging that girls in rural areas and those who have disabilities face greater challenges. She urged parents and other community members to refrain from discouraging and discriminating their female children in accessing education, instating on equal treatment of children.

On the issue of access to education, she noted that while equal enrollment in primary education has been achieved, less than one third of girls access secondary education. Factors contributing to this include child marriage and pregnancy. She further remarked that the group that faces higher risk of HIV infection is youth below the age of 24, with 70% of them being girls.

In concluding her speech, the Msichana Initiative Executive Director urged all stakeholders to ensure that they participate in children's development, including female children. She reminded parents and other men and women in the community that they all have a responsibility to protect a girl child and help her to reach her dreams, education being essential. Lastly, she called upon girls to raise their voices and speak out about the challenges they face and solutions needed. She urged them to study hard and be creative in order to reach their dreams.



PARTNERS' REMARKS

- A REPRESENTATIVE FROM VOICE



Mr. Emmanuel Kweisai from Msichana Initiative's partner, Voice, gave some short remarks on behalf of all partners. He thanked Msichana Initiative and congratulated the Executive Director and her team for ensuring that a girl child has a platform to raise her voice and demand her rights. He remarked that the partners feel privileged to support the Agenda ya Msichana Forum and will continue to provide relevant support to ensure girls are protected and their rights are realized, including right to education. He informed other invited guests that women have a big contribution in the economy, yet girls – who are women of tomorrow – continue to face different forms of discrimination. He called upon all stakeholders to continue working together to step up fight against child marriage and other harmful cultural practices and barriers that hinder a girl child from realizing her fundamental rights. He concluded his remarks by urging girls to believe in themselves and learn to say No to practices that violate their rights and demand such rights, including right to education - as a path towards reaching their dreams.



REMARKS BY THE BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER

WORDS OF HOPE FOR GIRLS

– H.E. Sarah Cooke



Remarks from partners were followed by remarks by the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Ms. Sarah Cooke, who shared words of hope with the girls. The British High Commissioner noted that she came to Tanzania 20 years ago after finishing study to join her friend who was volunteering as a doctor and travelled around the country to see how beautiful it was. She noted that she fell in love with Tanzania and knew she had to work to help people have a better life.

Speaking about her journey to becoming the British High Commissioner, she noted that she would not believe it if someone had told her she would become one years ago, having been an ordinary girl from an ordinary family. However, through hard work and passion, she managed to get to university, setting her path to become an ambassador. She informed the girls that it is difficult to be good at something if one is not passionate about it and that it is really important to find people one can trust to support them, as she was lucky to. But the most important thing, she said, is for one to believe in oneself as having confidence is oneself is really important for one to reach their dreams. She mentioned that when she was only 22 years old she left the comfort of her home to go work as a volunteer in the Solomon Islands, many people thinking she was crazy. Nevertheless, she knew what she wanted and believed in herself, which helped her to become an ambassador.

The British High Commissioner to Tanzania concluded her remarks by stating that in England there are more women running businesses and taking senior jobs than before and the same can be achieved in Tanzania, if girls and women are empowered and given opportunities. She urged the girls to have confidence in themselves and follow their dreams. Lastly, she congratulated Msichana Initiative for creating Ajenda ya Msichana Forum as she believes it is very important for girls to have their voices heard.

REMARKS BY CHAIRPERSON OF SHIVYAWATA

– Ummy Nderiananga



Remarks by the British Chairperson were followed by remarks by the Chairperson of SHIVYAWATA, a network of NGOs advocating for rights of persons with disabilities in Tanzania. Like the British High Commissioner, she shared her story, focusing on the power of vision. She mentioned that she was born with a disability in an ordinary family. Her father passed away when she was just 2 years old and her mother followed suit when she was in her second year of secondary education. She noted that when a girl has a disability she faces double discrimination; and that such a girl has different needs to those of a girl without disability.

Speaking about her education journey, Ms. Ummy Nderiananga remarked that despite the different challenges she faced, she used to walk to school and studied hard at government schools, becoming a head girl when she was in Form Three. She passed her form four and form six exams, before joining University of Dar es Salaam, thanks to her dedication and support from people she could trust, especially her brother and some relatives. She also informed the girls that before joining the University of Dar es Salaam she chose to enroll in the JKT national services military training, unlike other students with disabilities – who believe they 'cannot.' During her time at the University of Dar es Salaam, she enjoyed a number of achievements, including elected member of university parliament and Secretary of Economy and Finance. She was also an advocate of rights of persons with disabilities, setting a path to becoming the Chairperson of SHIVYAWATA.

On the power of vision, Ms. Ummy Nderiananga stated that a girl must have a vision of who they want to be in the future, which will help them to better prepare to reach their dreams. She remarked that the first thing to do is for a girl to believe that she can make it, despite any words or actions of discouragement. She also mentioned self-discipline and respect of all people as key in reaching their dreams, as well as hard work.

She urged the girls to study hard and grasp opportunities that come their way in order to sustain themselves and their parents in the future. She told them that they should not be afraid to stand with a few people in order to realize their visions and should also put God first in their endeavours. She also urged parents to be close to their children and encourage and motivate them.

IMPACT OF CHILD MARRIAGE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY

TESTIMONIES BY SURVIVORS FROM SHINYANGA AND TABORA

Two survivors of child marriage and teenage pregnancy from Shinyanga and Tabora Regions gave their testimonies regarding their experiences with child marriage and teenage/child pregnancy.



The first survivor mentioned that she was enrolled for primary education, passed her exams and was selected to join a secondary school in the region. Instead, her father sent her to Nzega District, where she was married to a man. She stayed with the man for four years, who subjected her to different forms of violence, including refusing to get her treatment when she was very sick until her parents went to take her back. Currently, she is engaged in clothing business and no longer married.

The second survivor stated that she was a survivor of both child marriage and teenage pregnancy. She said that she became pregnant in 2017 after she was raped by her brother-in-law.

When she told her sister that she had been raped, her sister did not believe her. She continued to be subjected to violence, including physical violence and harassment, until she decided to seek refuge at a local organization protecting children and advocating for their rights called AGAPE. The organization helped her to get back to school, she is currently in her second year of secondary education.



SPEECH BY A REPRESENTATIVE

FROM MSICHANA CLUBS

– Rose Erasto



Rose Erasto, a pupil from Unubini Primary School and chairperson of the Msichana Club (girls club) at the school delivered a short speech on behalf of all other clubs. She began by thanking all the invited guests for positively responding to the forum, acknowledging the work done by Msichana Initiative to protect girls' rights. She highlighted the importance of the clubs to push girls' agendas and build their capacity on their rights. She noted that through the clubs girls learn how to reach their dreams through education and increase awareness on their human rights, including right to participate in making decisions affecting their welfare. She called upon fellow girls to be bold and demand their rights. She also called upon community members to ensure rights of a girl child are safeguarded, including freedom from any form of violence.



SPEECH BY THE GUEST OF HONOUR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WOMEN FUND TANZANIA

– Mary Rusimbi



Speech by the representative from Msichana Clubs was followed by the speech by the guest of honour, Ms. Mary Rusimbi. She began her speech by thanking Msichana Initiative for hosting another forum on girls' rights and bringing together different stakeholders to discuss the girl child, her challenges and possible solutions. She urged the invited guests to take full advantage of the opportunity to raise their voices against violations of girls' rights.

The guest of honour expressed that she is usually very impressed by the work of Msichana Initiative due to the organization being run and led by youth, who take the pertinent issues affecting girls head on. This is key for succession of children and women rights advocacy from one generation to another. She stated that she is very impressed by youth initiatives to protect rights of children, especially girls, a move she termed 'courageous.' She commended Msichana Initiative for the spirit and encouraged them to keep going. She added that she likes the focus of the organization on rights of children, especially the right to education – which is fundamental for human and personal development.

Speaking about the issue of not allowing a pregnant girl to continue with education, the guest of honour mentioned that she was once involved in a study on the issue. She visited Morogoro Region and met an old man who was of the opinion that a girl child who becomes pregnant needs education to as a key weapon in life.

Regarding the girls agenda, Ms. Mary Rusimbi stated that while it is the responsibility of every person to push the agenda, it is important that they understand what exactly it means. She reiterated that discrimination begins at home, with a girl child denied equal opportunities in the name of customs and cultural practices.

She also mentioned power relations (power of parent/elder over child) as key factor in continued discrimination of girls at home; a problem which also exists within institutions, whereby the voice of a girl or woman is suppressed owing to being used as an excuse for oppressing women. She called for youth leaders to be given opportunity to take lead in different issues affecting children and urged all stakeholders to join hands and work in partnerships to protect girls.

Lastly, the guest of honour advised Msichana Initiative to invest more in documentation as it is doing such a good job. As for the girls, she advised them to raise their voices and demand their rights; and when they need support or assistance then they should seek it from organizations like Msichana Initiative and AGAPE – based in Shinyanga.

FEMALE ROLE MODELS

SUCCESS STORIES OF SUSAN MASHIBE AND STUMAI SIMBA

Susan Mashibe and Stumai Simba shared with the girls and other invited guests their inspiring journeys to success. The two successful women were interviewed by Ms. Rebecca Gyumi, the Executive Director of Msichana Initiative.



SUSAN MASHIBE

– FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF VIA AVIATION



Susan Mashibe was asked how she managed to become founder and Executive Director of VIA Aviation – an international fixed-base aircraft services operation and first company of its kind in Tanzania. She stated that she was born in an ordinary family in Kigoma Region, went to government schools until she completed ordinary level education. She said that her dream to be a pilot was born when she was just 4 years old at an airport where had escorted her parents, thinking that if she can learn to fly planes her parents would not leave her again. She had her college education in the United States of America (USA), where she also worked hard to become an engineer, doing jobs like working as a nurse in elderly care to obtain college fees. She also took pilot training courses and become the first woman from Africa to become both an engineer and a pilot. However, her dreams to become a pilot in USA were crushed after the events of September 11, 2001 (terrorist bombings), as jobs became scarce. She was forced to come back to Tanzania and applied for a job at Air Tanzania but was not successful and tried at Precision Air, but was told she was overqualified. This is when she decided to start her own company.

Asked about what advice she has for the girls, she stated that in order to reach their dreams, girls must have a clear vision like she had, focus, be disciplined and be confident that they can achieve them, regardless of how long it takes. She noted that they have to take baby steps to achieve their goals and seek support of people they can trust. She advised them to start small and have a 10-year plan. Currently, she has one more company and her companies contribute about Tshs. 2 billion per year as corporate tax. Among the clients for her aviation services are rich individuals from around the world owning private jets and the plane of the USA presidents (Air Force One). The company provides support such as weather report, flight plan, where to land, security and maintenance.

STUMAI SIMBA

– OWNER OF PORRIDGE POINT



Ms. Stumai Simba's success story was based on the power to dare. She told the audience that she holds a degree in Accounts and after finishing her degree she dared to start a porridge business and persisted despite the various challenges she faced, including not selling much and discouragement from people surrounding her. She said that many graduates fear or fail in self-employment because they want instant success. She mentioned creativity, discipline and support from people she could trust as key to her success. She now owns her own porridge business called Porridge Point in Dar es Salaam's city centre. She also mentioned that some businesses fail because of misuse of loans, indicating lack of discipline. She had to work really hard to get where she is, her father having died when she was just 5 years old and her mother passing away when she was in the second year of her secondary education. She was raised by her sister, who also passed away when she was in her second year of university education.



PANEL DISCUSSIONS

There were two panel discussions during the forum, the first being the role of family in protecting girls and their rights. The second panel discussion was on role of men.



ROLE OF FAMILY

This session was moderated by Ms. ... from Plan International and the panelists were Mr. Filbert Bayi, a father and former athlete; Ms. Chirstine Mwanukuzi, a mother and UNFPA Deputy Representative; and a girls' representative from Tabora. Main points raised during this panel discussion were:

- A good family plays a big role in shaping girls and enable them to reach their dreams;
- Raising a child requires both a mother and a father, working together;
- Parents spending time with their children is very important in order to know their challenges and help them to overcome them and understand their rights and duties;
- Early parental death or divorce may have a severe impact o upbringing of a child;
- Many parents do not understand their role in raising their children and leave their children to be raised by housemaids most of the time;
- Discrimination of girls begins at family level, including in setting roles for male and female children;
- Customs and cultural practices play a big role in discrimination of girls at family level, with male children enjoying preferential treatment;
- Parents must treat all children equally and be close to them;

- Home is the first place for children to learn, thus parents must ensure all children have equal opportunities to learn, including house chores;
- Parents must be good role models, as children tend to copy what they do;
- Parents must check their children's assignment/exercise books and homework regularly;
- Parents should complement and encourage their children even where they have not done very well;
- Children should listen to their parents and parents should do the same to their children;
- Parents must protect their children from harmful cultural practices like FGM and child marriage; and
- Girls must understand that being born a girl is not a bad luck and should be proud of themselves.



ROLE OF MEN

This session was moderated by Ms. Lydia Charles from FEMINA; and the panelists were Mr. Barnabas Kaniki from the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA); Mr. Rizikieli Adam from the Dar es Salaam Bodaboda Association; and Ms. Sofia Evarist, a girls' representative from Shinyanga. The main points raised during this panel discussion were:

- A man has a big role to play in protection of girls and their rights;
- A man has a legal responsibility to take care of his family and protect children, including from harmful cultural practices;
- A man has a legal responsibility to treat all his children equally and ensure they realise their right to education;
- Most acts of violence against girls are perpetrated by men, hence they should refrain from such acts;
- A man is the head of the family, thus in a very good position to protect rights of girls;
- Bobaboda drivers are among the major perpetrators of violence against children, especially sexual violence. As such, programs on protection of girls from violence should involve them;
- Most influential people in the society, such as traditional and religious leaders are men and should use their influence to speak against discrimination of girls and address misconceptions surrounding them;
- Boys must be raised, taught and encouraged to respect girls and protect their rights;
- Men and boys respecting a woman does not make them weak or look weak; and
- Girls' rights awareness programs should also focus on men and boys so that they understand rights of girls and recognize the significance of protecting them.



PLENARY SESSION



The panel discussions were followed by a plenary session, whereby invited guests, especially girls, were provided with an opportunity to ask questions and give their comments on the agenda. The following questions and comments were asked and given respectively:

- Why do parents treat girls differently?
- Why do male and female children not enjoy equal rights?
- Why do bodaboda drivers take advantage of girls?
- What are the effects of teenage pregnancy?
- Why are children with disabilities denied their rights, including right to education?
- When a girl becomes pregnant she is forced out of school. Why does this not happen to a boy who impregnates a girl?
- What is teenage pregnancy?
- What is being done to combat child marriage?
- How can a girl reach her dreams?
- How can we address the problem of parents renting only one room in which they sleep with their children, which is not ethical?
- Why are girls denied their right to education?

ANSWERS

MSICHANA INITIATIVE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

– Ms. Rebecca Gyumi



- Regarding the parents who do not send their children to school, they can now face legal action. The Government has introduced a fee-free education policy, which requires every parent to send their children to school. In Bahi-Dodoma we have a project. We collaborated with the police gender desk to ensure legal action is taken against parents who had refused to take their children to school and ensured the children went back to school.
- Boys and girls do not enjoy equal rights, mainly because of patriarchy and cultural practices that discriminate against girls. A male child is seen as more important than a girl child, which is not true. If given equal opportunities, both can shine and thrive.
- Bodaboda drivers are part of the community and unfortunately are usually in contact and interact with girls when they go to school, thus develop habits of taking advantage of them and commit acts of violence, usually sexual violence.
- Effects of teenage pregnancy include maternal deaths, as statistics show, and poor health of both mother and child. This is because they are not physically and emotionally ready for pregnancy and child upbringing.
- Why boys who impregnate girls are not expelled from school is a question we need to keep asking. However, in my opinion neither boys nor girls should be denied their right to education because of pregnancy.

STUMAI SIMBA

– Owner of Porridge Point

- Effects of teenage pregnancy include denial of right to education, cycle of poverty and denying a girl an opportunity to reach her dreams as a result.
- In order to reach her dreams, a girl has to love what she is doing or wants to do, be disciplined and develop perseverance.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- **Anonymous:**

School children need more seminars on their rights and role models to share their stories to inspire them. They also need more education on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

- **Agness Nicholaus:**

The agenda forum is very important and should be a sustainable programme as it provides a platform to address issues affecting girls, especially in accessing educational, economic, social and political opportunities. We should also discuss the problem of HIV infection for girls and how to properly address it.

- **Nyasato Mwenda:**

Child marriage is a crucial issue in mother and child health.

We need to include these issues/topics in our education system.

We have done a good work to ensure an improved legal framework to address sexual violence against children, but we have forgotten really engaging and assisting survivors of such violence when they are sent to hospitals for purposes of obtaining medical evidence (in case of rape). This is where most cases are stuck and end, owing to bribery by perpetrators.

- **Shani Mamila:**

I was born with a disability, studied at Jangwani Secondary School in Dar es Salaam. Unfortunately, I could not pass my Form Six examinations, but did not give up. I am currently writing a book. It is all about hard work, commitment and discipline.

- **Fatma Mohamed:**

This idea of forum for girls is very good. However, I feel like we need to involve the parents more. Parents need to hear what the children are saying and be reminded of their roles as parents in protecting girls. I would also like to advise Msichana Initiative to have ambassadors in each district or street, if possible, in order to receive more information relating to challenges faced by girls.

CLOSING REMARKS

PROJECT MANAGER, MSICHANA INITIATIVE
Ms. Lineth Msala



The closing remarks were delivered by Ms. Lineth Msala, the Project Manager at Msichana Initiative. She thanked all the invited guests, including girls from different schools and places, for attending the event and raising their voices to demand protection of girls and their rights, especially right to education. She also thanked all the panelists and moderators as well as the role models for participating in discussions and sharing their stories respectively. Additionally, she expressed gratitude to all Msichana Initiative partners for supporting the Ajenda ya Msichana Forum. Lastly, she reminded the participants that the agenda for girls is not just for Msichana Initiative, but for every community member. She also reminded the girls that they must be disciplined and have a clear vision if they want to reach their dreams or achieve their goals.



KEY MESSAGES AND EMERGING ISSUES

KEY MESSAGES

- Girls need to believe in themselves first, regardless of the obstacles faced (I can and I will)
- Girls must seek support of the people in their circles they can trust, whether at home or at school (teachers)
- Parents must treat all their children equally
- Parents needing to listen to their children
- Need to engage men and boys more in
- All stakeholders need to work together to protect girls and their rights.

EMERGING ISSUES

- Need to have parents present during the forum to hear some of the issues raised and participate in the discussion.
- More seminar/education on girls rights to increase awareness.



ANNEXES

FORUM PROGRAMME

Time	Activity	Responsible
07:00-08:00	Registration	All
08:00-08:10	Opening remarks	Angela Denedicto – Board Member, Msichana Initiative
08:10-08:20	Welcoming note & Introduction	Rebecca Gyumi – ED Msichana Initiative
08:20-08:30	Partner remarks	Representative from Voice
08:30-08:40	Words of hope	British High Commissioner
08:40-08:50	Power of vision	Ummy Nderiananga – Chairperson, SHIVYAWATA
08:50-09:05	Story of change	Girl representative – Shinyanga, Tabora and Dar es Salaam
09:05-09:20	Words from Msichana Initiative	Rebecca Gyumi – ED Msichana Initiative
09:20-09:40	Key note	GOH – Mary Rusimbi, ED Women Fund Tanzania
09:40-10:40	Breakfast	All
10:40-10:50	Female role model - Education	Susan Mashibe – Pioneer of female led-aviation services

Time	Activity	Responsible
10:50-11:35	Pane discussion – Role of men	Barnabas Kaniki – TAWLA Girl Representative – Tabora Moderator – Lydia Charles, FEMINA
10:50-11:35	Female role model – Power to dare	Stumai Simba – Porridge Point
11:45-12:30	Panel discussion – Role of Family	Filbert Bayi – Father, Former Athlete Chistine Mwanukuzi – Mother, Deputy Representative UNFPA Girl representative – Tabora Moderator – Youth for Change, Plan International
12:30-13:30	Lunch break	All
13:30-14:10	Open discussion	
14:10-14:40	Girl's action plan	All
14:40-15:00	Closing remarks	All

