REPORT ON;

ARUSHA NETWORKING AND TRAINING MEETINGS HELD ON 18TH -20TH MAY, 2016

1. **Introduction**

The Meeting was held at Seromi Conference Hall. The training and Networking meeting was attended by 36 participants, mentees (24) and Mentors (12) from CCM and CHADEMA.

The Coordinator, after the opening remarks, asked how many couples were able to meet since the launch in March, 2016. Almost all couples met more than one; except for one the mentor was travelled. But other mentors in the party are helping the mentee. CCM group reported that, mentors organized an internal training for their mentees, where they were told of the party Rules and regulations. In the by elections, some mentors gave mentees a chance to stand on jukwaa and ask votes for their candidate. According to them, they did very well and their candidate won.

They all started their meeting by putting forward mentees expectations out of this programme. The coordinator requested the mentees and mentors to write down the mentees expectations and send to the coordinator. It was also requested that the Whatsap group created be used to share professional knowledge.

2. **Training**

The Coordinator introduced the themes for training to the participants, and informed them that it will be three days training, where by there will be interactive training, mentors and mentees will share their experiences on the particular theme.

 Themes for training were:

1. **Becoming a member of political party**
    i)   Getting to know the criteria for recruitment
    ii)   Making contributions to the community matter
    iii)   Contacting or volunteering for the local branch of a party
    iv)   Volunteering for an electoral campaign
2. **Getting to know the party and its leadership**
    i)   Learning about the party and how it operates
    ii)   Identifying how the party leadership and the paths to promotion operate
    iii)   Getting to know more the about the women (and men) in the party

       iv)   Identifying the position women (and men) tend to occupy within parties

3. **Planning a Political Career**
   i)   Getting to know the political positions available, and when they will become available
   ii)   Planning advancement to decision making positions within the party
   iii)   Defining a woman candidate's "added values" to the party
   iv)   Mobilizing and expanding support networks
   v)   Balancing professional and personal life

4. **Mastering Political Resources Management**
   i)   Engaging in financial Planning (1- 5 points)
   ii)   Identifying the party financial resources and how to access them
   iii)   Identifying party's media and property resources, and how to access them

5. **Planning victory : Getting elected or promoted**
   i)   Identifying the right moment to start political campaigning
   ii)   Determining the right constituency for launching a political campaign
   iii)   Getting to know the formal and informal rules of fundraising
   iv)   Identifying external and internal funding sources
   v)   Getting a Campaign Team
   vi)   Using the latest techniques and stay abreast of current development
   vii)   Being mentored and mentoring other women within a party
   viii) Recruiting other women into politics
   ix)   Building alliances and solidarity within the party
   x)   Cooperating with women across party lines
   xi)   Creating "Women-only" parties
   xii)   Building solidarity among gender –equality advocates (both women & men)
   xiii) Determining party accountability for implementation
   xiv) Mobilizing supporters outside the party
   xv)   Engaging men as political partners and gender advocates

The programme for the training is annexed.

During training, mentors were also requested to share their experiences, and in some cases they had to demonstrate by action, like public speaking. Mentees in day three were requested to demonstrate how public speaking by turning the classroom as a political gathering and they have to campaign and ask for votes. It was interesting; each mentee was given comments on the area for improvement.

3. **Issues rose during discussions;**
1. **Financial Challenges**: This was main issue to both mentees and mentors. Politics in Tanzania is very expensive, some in their homework given stated that, they would require up to 100 mill for constituency and up to 20mill for council. It was very expensive for young women to afford. It was proposed that, they should start now fundraising the campaign funds; they should not wait until the campaign year 2020.
2. **Male dominance system within political parties** :(*Mfumo dume*): Most young women politicians (Mentees) were worried whether male dominance system will allow them to contest for different posts. It was also proposed that, both political parties, CCM and CHADEMA, will hold their internal party election in 2017. Therefore most women should come forward to contest positions within their party, so that most women will be in the nomination / selection committees in 2020. Mentees promised to start preparing themselves to contest for different posts with their parties in 2017.
3. **TCD to continue advocates women**: In the internal meeting, leaders of political parties should be encouraged to support women when they show that they are willing to contest for any posts. This also should be accompanied by leadership education to women.
4. **Traditional culture and norms**. In Arusha, the Maasai does not allow women to become leaders. It is their culture that women can't lead men, and therefore they are not willing to let women to become leaders in their communities. Therefore TCD was requested also to educate males in Arusha that even women can lead and can become good leaders. Religious leaders, Political leaders also have responsibility of educating and sensitizing Maasai both male and female.

Conclusions.

Generally the programme were very successful, the mentees have improved compared to the first meeting during launch. Mentees and mentors are very committed, looking forward to contest in elective seats. They need more training and networking meetings.