

OpenSpace Report on

The Case of Tanzania

2) Person suggesting Topic & Group Participants

(Name of the convener in breaks), list of the names of participants

(Mikkel & Love), Theo Larsen, Mikael Soderback, Martin Clemensson, Frits, Anouk, Sam Mshiu, Ben Mbai, Gaston Kikuwi, Sontos Joas, Jane Magigita, Owais Parray.

3) Summary of Discussion

A presentation was given of the business environment reforms in Tanzania 1) the BEST programme, 2) the efforts to reform the BEST programme, 3) The government initiated ROADMAP exercise that will form the basis for the BEST phase II. Specific issues were brought forward by the participants:

An important supplementary activity in Tanzania is the BEST-Advocacy Component which is a fund set up to support and fund private sector organisations in preparing evidence based advocacy initiatives.

Representation/ the voice of the informal sector. It was explained that government is consulting with the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation TPSF (the APEX organisation for Tanzanian private sector organisations). It is expected that TPSF coordinates and consults its members = private sector is able to speak with one voice. The discussion showed that informal sector organisations had not been consulted in the road map process (although members of TPSF). In another case of working with the Business Registrations act TPSF had consulted with informal sector representatives.

When discussing if BEST is addressing issues concerning informality, the answer seem to be two fold: on the one hand the informal sector perspective and opinions are said to be taken into account through the TPSF internal consultation process with its members organisations (such as Vibindo), on the other hand BEST only mentions the IS in terms of formalization (and not improved BE) and it is said that there is another program (Mkurabita) that will deal or solve the BE problems of the informal sector.

-Look for possibilities to introduce interesting mechanisms to speed-up implementation: such as regional competition mechanisms, regional CDB (or similar indicators on performance of improved BE), out-put based financing incentives (performance in BER determines size of budget). Examples from Vietnam, Mozambique, and Tanzania were discussed.

-Link BEST to other reform processes as Local Government Reform and public sector reforms and others.

-Digitalized formalization process in rural India could be learned from, reducing face to face interactions (anti-corruption)

-Can CSOs be used more strategically in design or consultation for informality dimensions of BER? Eg legal aid targeted and small businesses (enforcement).

-ILO Vibindo project trying to create incentive for formalization through capacity building efforts and linkages to government contracts.