

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF ZANZIBAR GOVERNMENT
STRATEGIES IN CONFLICT PREVENTION IN CHWAKA AND
MARUMBI VILLAGES IN ZANZIBAR, 1994 -1996**

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ABSTRACT

The context of conflict is normally changed by the way or condition that the intervention occurred. When proper attention is not paid to the conflict, the act of intervention can escalate the conflict instead of de-escalation. In this study, the researcher undertook to investigate how effective the strategies used by the government of Zanzibar in preventing the conflict between people of Chwaka and Marumbi villages were, and to suggest the appropriate solutions. Specifically, the study sought to find out the extent of effectiveness of resolution strategies employed by the government of Zanzibar and to establish the factors that led to the persistence of the conflict despite the intervention by the government, and lastly to suggest strategies of conflict resolution which consider the interests of both sides of conflict. The area of study was Unguja Central District in the villages of Chwaka and Marumbi in Zanzibar (conflictants). The major methods used are: In-depth interviews, focus group discussions, document analysis and participant observation. Seventy-six respondents were interviewed and five focused group discussions held. The major findings indicate that the government of Zanzibar delayed to intervene the conflict when it started, because of the following reasons. First, it gave the conflictants the chance and time to settle their disputes among themselves, so as to find proper and permanent solution, instead of employing third party who could settle the dispute but after his/her departure, minor problems could occur and lead to the reoccurrence of the conflict. Second, in the initial stages of the conflict, it had become clear that, the government was favoring people of Marumbi who were predominant fans of the ruling party, (CCM) and marginalized the people of Chwaka, who seem to be supporters of the opposition party (CU F). Sometimes people of Marumbi took for themselves the responsibility of protecting their sea area and endeavored to arrest and attack anyone who was using small fishing-nets instead of government security service organs. So when the people of Marumbi could attack the people from Chwaka, the government could not arrest them. However, when the people of Chwaka counter-attacked, the police could arrest them. However, both parties of the conflict have been blaming the government due to the way it dealt with the conflict and still the signs of the conflict exist. Based on the findings, recommendations have been made which the researcher feels shall be beneficial to policy makers in government, non-governmental and international organizations in taking measures to handle well such conflict when it occurs and let people live in harmony and tranquility.