



Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America

September 23rd, 2020

DICOTA Survey of TZ USA Diaspora Priorities: Results

Introduction: DICOTA surveyed Tanzanian Diaspora living in the United States of America (TZ USA Diaspora) to help determine their individual top priorities, *beyond* the ongoing Dual Citizenship versus Special Status debate. The survey also queried alternative avenues and means for achieving those individual top priorities and aspirations.

Objectives: The main objectives of the survey were (1) to conduct a preliminary needs assessment, (2) to define the specific top priorities of the TZ USA Diaspora, and (3) to inform DICOTA efforts during and beyond the ongoing Dual Citizenship versus Special Status debate.

Methods: SurveyMonkey online tool was used to capture responses from the TZ USA Diaspora. Questions included ranking and fill-in the blanks formats. The survey included a total of 4 questions, written in both English and Swahili. The survey was disseminated through various platforms including mobile phone applications, email and social media.

Findings: The survey was conducted over 4 weeks, from Monday, July 6th to Sunday, August 2nd, 2020. A total of 433 responses were received, from approximately 52% male and 48% female respondents. Table 1 captured voices from the TZ USA Diaspora which pertain to their individual top priorities, beyond the ongoing Dual Citizenship versus Special Status debate. Survey respondents ranked 10 (ten) provided options in order of importance: from the highest priority (rank #1) to the lowest priority (rank #10). Results are aggregated in Table 1 below in order of importance as ranked by the respondents.

Table 1: TZ USA Diaspora Top Priorities

What is the diaspora's top priorities as it pertains to dual citizenship and special status	
	Level of Importance
Kurithisha mali (pamoja na ardhi) kwa watoto na wajukuu (To pass on property (including land) to our children and grandchildren)	1
Kurithi mali (pamoja na ardhi) To inherit property (including land)	2
Ku-adopt watoto (To adopt children)	3
Kwenda Tanzania bila kuomba Visa (To travel to Tanzania without Visa requirements)	4
Kuwekeza kwenye biashara (To invest in business)	5
Kuweza piga kura ili kuchagua viongozi Tanzania (To be able to vote for elections in Tanzania)	6
Kugombea nafasi za uongozi -kuwa mwanasiasa (To run for election on various leadership posts)	7
Kupata msamaha wa kodi katika uwekezaji (Tax exemptions for investments)	8
Kwa ajili ya uzalendo (To be patriotic)	9
Kupata ajira kwenye taasisi za serikali (To be employed in government parastatals/ companies)	10



Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America

The highest priority of the survey respondents was (rank #1) the ability to pass on property (including land) to their children and grandchildren, followed by (rank #2) the ability to inherit property (including land) in Tanzania. The third top priority (rank #3) was the ability to adopt children in Tanzania, followed by (rank #4) the ability to travel to Tanzania without needing a visa. To invest in businesses in Tanzania was rank #5. The lowest priority (rank #10) was ability to seek employment in Tanzanian government parastatals and institutions.

Table 2 includes information on additional priorities and themes not addressed in question 1.

Table 2: Additional Comments on Top Priorities

Je kuna sababu nyingine sisi wana-diaspora tungependa ambayo haiko hapo juu?			
Is there any other thought/idea not listed above that you as a diaspora member would like to include?			
Categories/Themes	Counts	%	Sample Quotes
Dual Citizenship &/or Special Status	70	42.68	<i>Uraia pacha muhimu wenzetu walio nao wanapata manufaa makubwa kuwekeza kwa urahisi nchini mwao.</i>
Restore our Rights & Respect	27	16.46	<i>To have the same respect that foreigners get when we get to our country. It seems like we are more targeted by our fellow Tanzanian to be scrutinized and being asked to pay taxes. I come home to visit I have relatives and friends who I would like to buy gifts for. It is kind of expected., Yet I was asked to pay taxes for my own wedding dress since I was coming to get married in Tanzania. My husband who is a foreigner was allowed to walk out and had to wait for me getting each and every one of my bags checked. I am ok with them doing this only if everyone gets scrutinized the same way. We are already dealing with racism in foreign counties we live in. We want peace and the sane respect when we touch our homeland.</i>
Other Types of Investments	15	9.15	<i>Kuruhusiwa kununua bonds za serikali kupitia BOT kama watanzania wengine walioko nyumbani</i>
Buying or Inheriting Land	14	8.54	<i>Waziri wa ardhi alisema kumiliki mashamba lakini sheria ya nchi haijabadilishwa. Inapaswa kubadilishwa.</i>
Knowledge Transfer, Education, Innovation	14	8.54	<i>Eradicate poverty through investing in education as one knows that education system in Tanzania needs a boost.</i>
Participate in Political Discussions	12	7.32	<i>Government set a functioning forum to get Diaspora views and work on them</i>
Remove Visa Requirements	6	3.66	



Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America

Je kuna sababu nyingine sisi wana-diaspora tungependa ambayo haiko hapo juu?			
Is there any other thought/idea not listed above that you as a diaspora member would like to include?			
Categories/Themes	Counts	%	Sample Quotes
Patriotism	4	2.44	<i>Idea of belonging home roots and connection to bigger purpose</i>
Taxes	2	1.22	Kupata msamaha wa kodi unapoamua kuhamia na mizigo yako Tanzania. Kuweza kurudi nyumbani kuishi bila kuomba visa, kununua, kumiliki na kufanya kazi, biashara kama Watanzania wazawa, sio lazima government institutions.

Table 3 summarizes alternative avenues and means for achieving the top priorities of the TZ USA Diaspora. Respondents propose continued discussions and engagement with the Tanzanian Government and members of Parliament, including lobbying for their top priorities. Furthermore, respondents emphasize the need for education and advocacy amongst TZ Diaspora towards unity of purpose (united voice / kauli moja).

Table 3: Methods of Accomplishing the Goals

Ni nini wana-diaspora tufanye ili kupata uliyochagua kwenye swali la kwanza na la pili?	Counts	%
What should we as members of the diaspora do to achieve the items you selected above?		
Continue discussion with the government / Parliament	81	22.13
Lobby	69	18.85
Educate / Advocacy (leader and people)	36	9.84
Unity among Diaspora	33	9.02
To contribute more to the development of the country/ Build diaspora hospital	32	8.74
Dual citizenship	28	7.65
Community mobilization within the diaspora	24	6.56
Get in touch with the President of the Republic of Tanzania	13	3.55
Have a voice and representation in the Tanzanian parliament from diaspora)	12	3.28
Have meeting with Ambassador / Campaign with embassies	10	2.73
Collaborate with key players Tanzania	10	2.73
File petition that need to be signed	9	2.46
Kuchangia kampeni ya uraisi (CCM) /wabunge	5	1.37
Special status	4	1.09
Total	366	100.00



Diaspora Council of Tanzanians in America

Limitations: The survey primarily sampled the TZ USA Diaspora, and our results may not represent views of the entire TZ Diaspora worldwide. The survey was also conducted over a period of 4 weeks only. Additional time and wider dissemination of the survey tool may provide further insight into the top priorities of the TZ Diaspora worldwide.

Next Steps and Recommendations:

1. Join and coordinate with other TZ Diaspora organizations to reach a wider TZ Diaspora audience.
2. Further refine analysis of the survey results, with focus on the identified top priorities.
3. Mobilize TZ USA Diaspora to follow through on the proposed actions and efforts towards their top priorities.

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Link to archived survey tool: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CGMBG3Y>

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Sincerely,

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Ms. Asha Nyang'anyi
Chair, Board of Trustees, DICOTA