



ABDULRAHMAN AL-SUMAIT UNIVERSITY

GENDER DESK INAUGURATION REPORT

29TH DECEMBER, 2022.



Some participants with the honorable guest (at the middle of the front line).

PREAMBLE INFORMATION.

This report presents the information about the special event for inaugurating the gender desk in Abdulrahman Al-sumait University on 29th December 2022. The event was as a result of the order from the Tanzania government that each university has to initiate gender desk in higher and middle educational institutions for the purpose of eradicating sexual violence, abuse and sexual harassment. The report starts with an introductory part, followed by main body which explains the activities took place during the event and eventually, the report has explained some few parts like the activity output, achievements of the activity, some few major challenges took place during the event, ways forward and some few pictures reflecting the event.

1.0 Introduction/Background of the Event.

Abdulrahman Al-sumait University prepared the event for the purpose of opening gender desk for university as stipulated by Tanzanian Prime Minister. Thus, after the university select 8 people to be involved as members of gender desk, on 29th December 2022 during 1:30 pm up to 4:00 pm was the first day for the university to introduce all the roles and responsibilities of the committee and having common understanding about the gender desk. The venue were hall number 8 and 153 participants built in including all members of the desk, SUMAIT University Students Organization (SUSO) members, member form Zanzibar Female Lawyer Association(ZAFELA), people from different mass media, SUMAIT staff members and some university students from the same university. The main guest was the Director of Department of Community, Gender and Children's Development.

1.1 Objectives of the Event.

The general/major aim of the event was to officially open the gender desk for SUMAIT University. Though, specifically the event was ought to:-

- Introduce members of the desk to the participants.
- Make clear understanding about gender desk to the participants.
- To make an amendment on the ways forward towards the event to gender desk members.

2.0 Event Execution

This part will give the clear explanation about how the event took place. It consists three parts which are opening the event, important speeches during the event as well as the entertainment done by different SUMAIT University students during the event.

2.1 Opening the event

The event was opened by reading Qur'an by SUMAIT student alumn followed by introduction of the members of the desk to the audience. One among the students' representative in the gender desk introduced other members of the desk and she explained that it is very crucial to have gender desk at the university especially for students. She then added that their expectations for the desk is to be more useful for students and she gave a call for more education concerning gender desk issues. Further, she mentioned the members of the gender desk with their positions within the desk as follows:-

- Abdulrahman Mohammed Ali (Coordinator)
- Hawa said Abdallah (Chairperson)
- Muslim Hija Abdulmalik (Secretary)
- Mr. Shekhe Suleiman Nassor (Member/Teachers' representative)
- Madam Abla Shaffy Mrisho (Member/Teachers' representative)
- Nuru Salim Fasih (Member/Students' representative)
- Ahmad Iddi Duchi (Member/Students' representative)
- Suleiman Mzee Khamis (Member/Students' representative)

2.2 Important Speeches during the Event

The representative from ZAFELA gave the chance to talk about the gender desk whereby after short greetings she explained about the essentialities of the presence of gender desks in higher educational institutions that it will help to reduce gender violence practices. At the same time, it will give the students an opportunity to be good ambassadors in their surrounding community on combatting sexual abuse and violence against women, children and other people in the society.

The student representative from SUMAIT University who also is a member of the gender desk, provided a treatise to the honorable guest. The main theme of that treatise were to ask for gender desk education and calling upon the cooperation with the Ministry of Social Welfare in Zanzibar on running all the activities concerning gender desk.

Later on, the dean of department of arts and social studies from SUMAIT University gave some few words which showed an emphasis to the participants of the event on making gender desk to be more useful to the university students hence the ideas to be used to the entire society. After that, she welcomed the honorable guest to say some few words.

Expounding further, after she has been welcomed, during her speech, the honorable guest emphasized that the gender desk supervisors should maintain a high level of confidentiality when they receive complaint on sexual violence and enabling students to report once they encounter such violence. Further, she suggested on the provision of sexual violence education to the gender desk members, and in collaboration with ZAFELA, she promised to find the better way of providing education. Eventually, she officially opened the gender desk of SUMAIT University.

2.3 Entertainments during the event.

- Drama

During the event, there were role play drama which conducted by first year students from Al sumait University. The major theme of the drama was the issues of sexual violence IN our societies. Instead of being an entertainment, the drama also led to the rise of awareness and strengthen the knowledge about sexual abuse and violence taking place in our societies and at the university and how to fight against it, while entails the major aim of initiating gender desk.

- Poem

It was within the event where one first year student provided the poem about the importance of having gender desk in SUMAIT and any other university. The poem also resulted to the increased awareness and showing the necessities of having a gender desk in any organization. Further, the event ended up by supplication (Dua) which was done by one among the university graduates and the time for refreshments then followed.

3.0 The Output/Result/Immediate feedback of the event.

- By the end of the event, each participant became aware with people who are dealing with gender desk.
- By the end of the event, each participant had clear understanding about gender desk and how it works.
- By the end of the event, the action points from the event were clearly known. It has been stated that the desk members will be needed to attend the training concerning their roles and responsibilities, though the dates for those trainings was not announced. At the same time, each member should provide education to university students about dealing with sexual violence, abuse and exploitation.

4.0 Achievements of the event.

- 153 people within and outside the university participated the event.
- Increased awareness to the participants about the gender desk and the issues of sexual exploitation, harassment, abuse and violence was felt.
- The event put people together and provided the chance for some people to meet new ones.

5.0 Challenges took place during the event

- There were no many challenges as most of the things were successful. Instead, the observed challenge was, poor attendance of the participants as all university staffs and students were invited which could give a total of more than 1,200 people and only 153 people attended. On the other hand, poor time management was another observed challenge as the activity delayed to start at a time as the honorable guest came late.
- Lack of special room for conducting gender desk activities.

6.0 Suggestions/ Ways forward/Action points.

- Each member of the gender desk to prepare him/herself for the trainings.
- Gender desk leaders to prepare the meeting to discuss more about the launching of gender desk at SUMAIT University and distributing the roles and responsibilities of every member.
- Each member to start educating university students and staffs about how to deal with sexual abuse, violence and harassment.

7.0 Pictures taken during the event.



Honorable guest giving the speech to the audience during the event.



Dean of Department of Arts and Social Studies from SUMAIT University giving the speech.



Second year student reading the treatise during the event.



First year student reading the poem during the entertainment.

REPORTED BY: Muslim Hija, The Gender Desk Secretary-SUMAIT University.

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