

## TECHNICAL PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS IN TANZANIA

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In order to get a sound solution to any problems be it an engineering or mathematical or political problem or some combination of them, one has to have a stereoscopic view of the problem terrain. This holds true in technological problems encountered in development.

It has been categorically stated that technology is part and parcel of economic development throughout the world and at large to the underdeveloped third world countries. Tanzania is one of these third world countries and hence technological development is as vital as economic development in any underdeveloped country. That is the reason why the government has recently put strong emphasis on technical education in this country so that we may develop our own technical personnel for better economic development. This move has therefore led to the expansion of technical schools in Tanzania, including Dar es - Salaam Technical College and the establishment of the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Dar es Salaam.

Whereas the government has taken all these steps, it is surprising to note that some of the responsible bodies in this country are not aware of the need and importance of this technical education. For instance the management of some of the industries and institutions where students from our technical institutions would obtain opportunities of meagering their theories with practices deny students training vacancies and claim that there are no funds to pay them even though same industries/institutions have sufficient funds for their frequent unnecessary parties, boozes etc. and this is partly due to the remnants of colonial superstructure that being responsible somewhere means getting all sorts of privileges even at the expenses of delaying some of the country's development programmes. Such managements should be asked if they can't cut down some of their luxuries in order to train our own technologists. When shall we stop the existing technological dependence, if instead of training our indigeneous experts, we opt for unnecessary luxuries?

When we talk of importation of technology, we do not mean an importation similar to that for commodities, instead we mean learning from expatriates both abroad and at home and thence adjusting this learned technology to suit our own country. Hence this implies that, whenever there is an expatriate working with some institution in this country, we should attach to him a Tanzanian co-worker/trainee who would work hand in hand with the expatriate so as to learn as much as possible from him.

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