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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

REPORT ON MISSION

TO

ZANZIBAR (TANZANIA)

(20 - 27 July 1983)

BY

MR. K.N.C. PILLAI
CHIEF TECHNICAL ADVISER, ECA
ASSISTANCE TO LDCs AND NICs
IN NATIONAL ACCOUNTS
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Objective of the mission

1. A mission to Zanzibar (Tanzania) was arranged in February this year at the request of the Government of Zanzibar under the National Accounts Capability Programme of the ECA. The objective of the mission was to examine the state of national accounts work in Zanzibar and to assist the Director of Statistics, Zanzibar, to develop further the capability of his office in compiling more reliable and useful national accounts of Zanzibar. The present mission was undertaken as a follow-up of the activities initiated during the earlier mission.

Outcome of the mission

2. The work on national accounts and other related economic statistics carried out by the Department of Statistics since February was reviewed with the Director of Statistics. Methodological issues raised were discussed. The work on economic classification of government accounts initiated recently was discussed in detail and a few suggestions for revisions and elaborations were made. The compilation of unit value and quantum indices in respect of exports was examined. The items of work that remain to be taken up were also broadly discussed and priority indicated. At the request of the Director, the data requirements for a simple input-output table for Zanzibar were discussed. The year 1982 has been chosen for the purpose. In this context, the necessity of undertaking detailed tabulation of the data (both output and input) collected through the 1982 industrial survey was emphasized.

Review of work undertaken since the last mission and suggestions for further work.

3. Since the last mission in February, the Department of Statistics was mainly concerned with the compilation of the tables on economic statistics required for the annual Economic Survey of the Ministry of State (Planning).

This included compilation of preliminary GDP estimates at current and at constant prices for the year 1982 on the existing lines. The Department was also busy during April-May with the middle level in-service training workshop in demography and social statistics organised by the ECA (Population Division) in collaboration with the Government of Zanzibar (and funded by UNFPA). Despite these preoccupations, the Department devoted considerable time for the work of the revision and elaboration of its national accounts series.

4. An economic analysis of the Zanzibar Government revenue and expenditure was undertaken for the year 1982-83. A preliminary series of quarterly consumer price indices for Zanzibar town for the years 1981 and 1982 and for the first quarter of 1983 with 1980 as base was compiled. The unit value and quantum indices of exports of Zanzibar have been compiled with 1977 as base. The summary tabulation of the data on household manufacturing, trade, transport and miscellaneous services collected through the household budget survey (MA Schedule) was completed for use in the revision of GDP estimates.

5. The scrutiny of the HBS (MB Schedules) is still continuing in the Department and the machine tabulation of the data with the help of the Bureau of Statistics in the Mainland is yet to be taken up. The Director is hopeful to obtain the tabulated results by early next year. By then, most of the items of work indicated in the earlier mission report in connection with the revision or elaboration of the series will also have been hopefully completed. It should then be possible to incorporate all the required revisions at one stage and to bring out the revised series of national accounts.

6. The economic analysis of government revenue and expenditure for the year 1982-83 undertaken by the Department for the first time requires some revisions. The departmental enterprises comprising (1) Ferries, (2) Ports, (3) Printing Department, (4) PWD, and (5) Water Supply should be separated out from government administration and their accounts presented separately. The item "current transfers" occurring both on expenditure and revenue accounts should be split into transfers to (or from) other government agencies, local authorities, non profit making

public bodies and households. The amount transferred to capital account occurring in the vote for FEDHA (Ministry of Finance) should not be included under the item 'current transfers'. This would be reflected in the surplus on current account available for capital expenditure. The item 'allowances' appearing on the expenditure side should be split into (1) allowances that can be taken as part of employee compensation e.g. leave allowances and (2) allowances which are in the nature of intermediate expenses such as official travel. In the analysis of capital expenditure, the item 'other' should be further analysed and specified as discussed. Items of a capital nature appearing in the current account will ultimately be transferred to the capital account and similarly items of a current (or non capital) nature appearing in the capital account (such as Malaria control scheme, Preparation of Zanzibar Master Plan, Research on cassava crops etc.) should be transferred ultimately to the current account. The accounts of Zanzibar and other town councils still remain to be obtained and analysed. The revenue and expenditure of Tanzania Central Government offices in Zanzibar will also require analysis before a consolidated set of accounts of government administration can be prepared.

7. Once the 1982/83 analysis is completed, similar work for the earlier years will have to be taken up. Where sufficient details relating to the 'actuals' are not available proportionate allocation may have to be made on the lines discussed.

8. The consumer price index numbers just compiled for Zanzibar town depend on the results of the pilot survey undertaken in connection with the HBS for their weighting pattern. This should be revised as and when the full results of the HBS become available and the indices reworked accordingly.

9. Among the items of work indicated in the earlier mission report which remain to be taken up, the following items may be considered to have the highest priority. (1) The tabulation of the HBS (M.B. Schedules) data. (2) The tabulation of imports and exports for building up commodity-flow estimates of capital formation and consumption expenditure. (3) Obtaining

the tabulated results of the distributive trade survey undertaken earlier by the Department. (4) Collection of all available data on quantity indicators of output (for constant price calculations) for each branch of economic activity on the lines discussed.

Concluding remarks

10. Despite its other preoccupations, the Department of Statistics has made considerable headway in its overall work on economic statistics. It has completed some of the items of work indicated in the earlier mission report and has initiated work on some of the others. The items of work that remain to be taken up were also reviewed and priority indicated. All the revisions to the GDP estimates will be carried out together at one stage, possibly early next year, after obtaining and studying the HBS (M.B. Schedule) results.

11. The Director agreed to keep the ECA Adviser informed about the progress and developments in the work. He will require assistance again at the time of finalisation of the estimates.

12. The Director has plans for initiating work on compiling a simple input-output table for Zanzibar, possibly for the year 1982, after completing the present work on the revision of the GDP series. The 1982 industrial survey data will therefore be tabulated in greater detail on the lines discussed.

13. The ECA Adviser is grateful to Mr. Ally Athmani, Director of Statistics for his full co-operation during the mission.