



Press Release

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## MPs from smaller parties are more active in Parliament

**26 June 2013, Dar es Salaam:** An analysis of the performance of Members of Parliament (MPs) has shown that MPs from parties with less seats tend to make the most interventions on average. The assessment considers interventions made by MPs during the first two years of the 2010 – 2015 parliamentary term. MPs can make three different types of interventions: basic questions, supplementary questions and contributions. For all of these, TLP and NCCR-MAGEUZI with only one and five MPs each respectively, showed the highest figures per MP. However, excluding the small parties with less than five percent representation in Bunge, Chadema is the most active, followed by CUF and CCM.

These findings are released in a new brief titled *Did they work for us? Assessing two years of Bunge data 2010-2012*, produced by Twaweza in association with the Centre for Economic Prosperity (CEP). The brief analyses data, available on the Parliament website, on individual MPs' activity during parliamentary sessions. Parliament is the cornerstone of any democracy, representing voters in their relationship with the state. Twaweza and CEP are providing an assessment of MPs' performances in total, by party, per MP and per intervention type.

The assessment finds that CCM MPs made the most interventions in total, although this is largely due to the high number of CCM seats in Parliament. CCM MPs made the least interventions per MP however. This is to be expected for MPs from the ruling party, all of whom are likely to represent similar national interests. However for policy questions at the constituency level, activity levels are expected to be more equitable as each MP represents their own constituency and interests.

The following table summarises the average contributions of MPs by party.

	Number of MPs	Interventions per MP (total)	Basic Questions (per MP)	Supplementary Questions (per MP)	Contributions (per MP)
<b>Large Parties</b>					
<b>Chadema</b>	48	57	6	11	40
<b>CUF</b>	35	41	5	8	28
<b>CCM</b>	254	39	3	6	30
<b>Small Parties</b>					
<b>TLP</b>	1	87	1	14	60
<b>NCCR-MAGEUZI</b>	5	74	7	17	50
<b>UDP</b>	1	37	0	9	28

MPs' performances also varied according to whether they were elected or nominated. MPs from the Zanzibar House of Representatives and those nominated by the President were the least active during parliamentary sessions.



*"MPs are elected to work for us", noted Rakesh Rajani, Head of Twaweza, "these data give us an important tool to know how well they are serving us."*

*"The last Bunge sessions were live and wananchi got an opportunity to follow proceedings and saw how they were being represented in the house" noted Thomas Maqway, Executive Director, Centre for Economic Prosperity, "this transparency safeguards Parliament's integrity and credibility"*

The briefing follows on from a previous Twaweza briefing called 'Do they work for us' released in 2010 that provides a comparable analysis of MPs' activity in Parliament.

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**Notes to Editors**

1. The full dataset on which the briefing is based is available on the Twaweza website [www.twaweza.org/go/bunge2010-2012](http://www.twaweza.org/go/bunge2010-2012)
2. The 2010 briefing is available at [www.twaweza.org/uploads/files/Bunge%20session%2019-final-published.pdf](http://www.twaweza.org/uploads/files/Bunge%20session%2019-final-published.pdf)
3. Twaweza is a ten year citizen-centered initiative, focusing on large-scale change in East Africa. Twaweza believes that lasting change requires bottom-up action, and seeks to foster conditions and expand opportunities through which millions of people can get information and make change happen in their own communities directly and by holding government to account.
4. Centre for Economic Prosperity (CEP) is an independent not-for-profit think tank that enhances thinking and ideas on how economic processes work in Tanzania
5. You can follow Twaweza's work

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