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in Society upon Their Release in Zanzibar**

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**Abstract**

**Purpose:** This study explores the efficiency of the prison programs for ex-prison convicts to integrate into society upon their release in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The target population was the ex-offenders, prison officials and community.

**Methodology:** The study employed questionnaires and interview which were conducted to ex-prisoners, prison officials, member of the community, focal group discussions and observations and data were analyzed thematically. A sample size of 104 participants and respondents were involved in the study.

**Findings:** The study Findings showed that that majority of the people agreed that, the authority have capacity to change the behavior of the prisoners in Zanzibar. This has been revealed to the study findings which show that 81 respondents out of 104 which is equal to 77.9% of the total study respondents agreed and twenty three (22.1%) respondents who did react by saying disagreed. This means to say that capacity of the authority had nothing to contribute on the behavior change of the prisoners in Zanzibar. Also, the study findings disclosed that majority of the people agreed that, there are some challenges face the prison authority in dealing with the behaviour of the prisoners to be law abiding citizens and avoid re-offending tendency in Zanzibar. This has been discovered by the study findings which indicates that sixty six respondents out of 104 which is equal to 58.7% from the total study respondents and forty three (41.3%) respondents disagree. The study recommends that the government should solve the challenges facing prison authority to perform its activities effectively. Also the government should continue with its effort by making collaboration with national and international stakeholders to be able to provide more effective rehabilitation programs.

**Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy:** The study recommends that the government should solve the challenges facing prison authority to perform its activities effectively, also the government should continue with its effort by making collaboration with national and international stakeholders to be able to provide more effective rehabilitation programs on other hand the community has to support government in fighting against crime, receiving and educating the ex-prisoners, teaching the children good behavior and maintaining cultural identity, call for the legal reforms to address the issues of rehabilitation and reintegration in generally.

**Keywords:** Prison Programs, Rehabilitation, Reintegration, Community Involvement, Ex-Prison Convicts

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## INTRODUCTION

Rehabilitation is the process of removing or reducing as far as possible the factors that limit the activity and participation of a person with disability, so that he/she can attain and maintain the highest possible level of independence and quality of life: physically, mentally, socially, and vocationally (ICRC, 2009).

The term rehabilitation is too broad and can be defined in different perspectives, such as health disciplines, the justice field, and construction. To the side of the justice area, rehabilitation is defined as a process of re-educating, restoring, and retraining those who commit a crime to a useful and constructive place in society (Webster, 2023). Rehabilitation is restoration of an offender to be law-abiding lifestyle.

In corrections, the purpose of sentencing is to help the offender live a free crime life in the community via mandated participation in programs such as drugs and alcohol treatments and training (Jones and Bartlett, 1995).

Rehabilitation means a help (a person) to readapt to society after illness or imprisonment (Collins, 2025). Rehabilitation has different synonyms such as reintegrate, comeback, healing, mending, retrain etc. In the criminal justice system, rehabilitation refers to the process of restoring offenders to a law-abiding life. It aims to address the root causes of criminal behavior and help offenders acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to reintegrate into society (McKee, 2025).

Rehabilitation has many structures such as vocational skills, life skills, therapy, education, training, and substance abuse treatment such as Methadone program. In some cases, offenders may be required to participate in cognitive-behavioral programs that aim to change their attitudes and beliefs about criminal behavior. These programs can help offenders develop new problem-solving and coping skills and teach them how to manage stress and anger without resorting to violence. Robinson and Crow (2008) said rehabilitation is clearly a behavioural definition considering a change in the way a person behaves which involves the action of the provision of interventions to remove the propensity, desire or necessity to offend. In the context of prison, rehabilitation programs may include vocational training, educational programs, and counseling, drug treatment and mental health services.

The goal of rehabilitation is to re-integrate offenders back into society. Rehabilitation is a central goal of the correctional system which is sometime practiced even in non-custodial institutions. So it was just the central feature in the correctional facilities in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The goal of the rehabilitation based on the assumption that individuals can be treated and can return to a crime free lifestyle.

It is fundamental to the criminal justice system that helps to break the cycle of crime by addressing the underlying issues that lead individuals to offend which focuses on transforming an individual's thinking and behavior, providing them with the necessary skills to reintegrate into society upon release. The benefits of rehabilitation are multifold for offenders, it provides a platform for personal growth, offering a chance to learn new skills, improve self-esteem, and prepare for life outside prison for the criminal justice system, successful rehabilitation reduces overcrowding in prisons and lowers recidivism rates. For society, it means fewer crimes, safer communities, and more productive citizens. Donnelly (2021) insisted that the purpose of reentry programs is to facilitate the transition from prison to community by providing relevant services that work to encourage successful reintegration and prevent return to criminal behavior.

Rehabilitation includes a broad array of programs, including mental health, substance abuse, educational services, and religious services. On the other hand, there are special programs developed for women. Due to the increasing number of prisoners released into society, the issue of prison rehabilitation has become a very critical policy issue. As a result, policy makers and key actors are looking the rehabilitation as a key aspect to deal with it legally and structurally (institutional framework) for making prisoners good on their release.

### **An Overview about the Rehabilitation and How Does It Work to the Released Prisoners (Ex-Prisoners)**

Globally, the issue of prison rehabilitation and reintegration are discussed from various experiences from developed countries, developing countries, and Tanzania-Zanzibar in particular, on how the prison management works. These two concepts become the key issues in criminal justice system in dealing with offenders in prison and their release. Number of scholars using their experiences touch in one way or another prison programs and how do they work in prison setting and benefits accrued by the released prisoners.

Niriella (2010) discussed the experience of the Srilanka problem of overcrowding where in 2008 the number of remands and convicts was 130,819 and in that year the released were 27,449 and the remaining was 102,370 about the existing rehabilitative programs such as release on license, work release scheme, home leave, and counseling programs are practiced in an unsatisfactory manner. He continued on the issue of the improper aftercare service for the ex-prisoners, especially when they are released from prisons, and they find it difficult to find jobs. Even short-term prisoners lose their jobs when they are imprisoned. Also, most employers are not interested in employing ex-prisoners in their workplace or company because of the lack of social understanding and attitude currently in place regarding ex-prisoner. This situation causes difficulties in supporting their families and leads to lead a life in a socially acceptable manner after release from prison. The re-convicted and the recidivism rates rise due to this reason.

So what was depicted by the author is that there might be several programs but population increase in prison is in effective working of the legal system, and poor community support will accelerate the recidivism. The lesson learned from the Srilanka is that prison authority in Zanzibar should have a very comprehensive programs for ex-prisoners self-employment and awareness program to community on the importance of employing the released offenders from the prison because they learned a lot and positively changes and community depends on them.

House of Common (2004) shows the government's commitment to reducing re-offending by addressing social exclusion and sentencing policy, and rehabilitation opportunities for individual as a main purpose of sentence as stipulated in their legal framework in criminal justice system (Criminal Justice Act of 2003). The Government also has a strategy to make sure the prison regimes implement the role of reducing re-offending as he wishes to see few offenders sentenced to short sentences. The government also plans to put a supervision mechanism of six months to released offenders, but the questions is how supervision will be conducted and how the government will support those serving long sentences. Zanzibar Prison Authority should be equipped by establishing an entity for supervising the prisoners after being released. The entity should be under the coordination of the Ministry responsible for Social Welfare.

Maruna and LeBel (2004) expressed the experience of those released prisoners who were reintegrated into the community. Theoretically, it is said that prisoners should have the plan



before being released on employment, obtaining a place of living, and abstaining from drug use, hence will be the most important factors keeping them free from recidivism, but according to their views, all these issues are interrelated in the lives of the ex-offenders and something should not be treated separately. So, according to the concept of reintegration, it cannot be implemented and prisoners find it difficult to live crime-free because of the community mindset against them and even block access to other rights such as employment. Based on what has been said, it is important to understand that, community has big role to play to the ex-prisoners by ensuring that prisoners enjoy all opportunities and access all rights as envisaged in the laws (constitution) like right to work that necessary to reduce likelihood of re-committing offences.

Nomazulu (2017) talks about the consultation of the inmates in the imposition of rehabilitation activities, whereby the prisoners said that no consultation, and the prison management do not hear their opinions and have no choice in the rehabilitation programs. Prisons are participating in the programs as a way to avoid punishment, and hence, their needs are not addressed. One possible implication is that if offenders were allowed to have a say in the programs offered, there is the likelihood that their needs and interests would be addressed, thus changing their lives for the better in the future. Offenders' consultation is very important because the needs are different. Based on the guideline developed in Zanzibar concerning the rehabilitation, the Prison Authority should consult prisoners during their admission in order to know their needs in order to prepare the implementable rehabilitative plans that effectively work to inmates. Therefore, failure to consult the prisoners nothing will work at prison and may result the prisoners to re-offend.

Buchane (2008) talks about the rationale of rehabilitation, values, and beliefs to prisoners who are re-integrated into society as law-abiding citizens, capable of leading honest and industrious lives after imprisonment, having fully developed self-respect and a sense of responsibility. Therefore, the Namibian Prison Services' main aim is to provide services that the public can be proud of. This is regarded as a standard of excellence locally and at the international level, as per the Mission statement. Also, Buchane shared research findings on the effectiveness of the rehabilitation programs for the released prisoners through a public-private partnership, which indicates that for the last four years, 38.2% of the released offenders have successfully started their businesses. They have employed thirty-one employees and several part-time staff. Bank Windhoek further processed loans to two companies owned by released offenders to the amount of N\$219,000.00.

Furthermore, stating that all sentenced inmates are eligible for training with due cognizance of their qualifications, previous experience, aptitude, abilities, psychological and physical condition. Training inmates aims to equip them in such a manner that they can lead an honorable, independent, and decent life after their release. Here is a package of the rehabilitation programs being offered to inmates by the Namibian Prison Services:

- i. Vocational Training: a prisoner can obtain a Diploma or Certificate that enjoys National recognition.
- ii. Specialized Training: This is all training in which at least one month's intensive training precedes production in that training area.
- iii. Constructive Unskilled Labour: (CUL).

For the purpose of meeting the prison goals, partnership is inevitable. Based on Namibia experiences, it is stressed Zanzibar Prison Authority should work closely with the newly established organization for ex-prisoners and open the opportunity of engaging them in their

work that need community participation such as construction works, farming and other valuable works in order to utilize the talents learned in prison.

The Department of Adult education should restructuring their system of education by certifying the inmates through Prison Education Programs implementing under partnership bases with Prison Authority,

Tang (2009) talks about the Singapore experience, whereby it has two sentencing options, i.e. diversionary sentencing option and the institutionalized sentencing option. Diversionary measures include the use of a fine, community service order, weekend detention order, and Probation Order from 6-36 weeks. This order involves the programs of family attachment as overseer of the execution of the order to reduce the risk of further crimes.

On the other hand, there is an institutionalized sentencing option which includes a detention place for 6 months, an approved institution for 2-3 years, and a reformatory training order especially for boys and girls of 14-16 years. He further insists that the role of the Singapore Prison Service is responsible for administer these purposes, within a Spartan environment and strict regime. As professionals in corrections, Singaporean prison officers are constantly reminded that serving time should never be a waste of time. If we can use the time in prison, through suitable programs, to dissuade prisoners from re-offending after release, we can prevent many thousands of new crimes every year. Their re-entry, if managed well, is a potentially powerful leverage point for reducing further social harm.

Also, there is the issue of the assessment to determine the risk of re-offending; the prisoners are given classes from Class A for those at lower risk, Class B for moderate, once attached to the programs, and Class C who are at higher risk if no intensive specialized program is not offered. There is the prisoner route Management (PRM) where by special prison officer is appointed to monitor the criminogenic and non-criminogenic behavior of the prisoner through special programs, taking into consideration the mental capacity, functioning, and other determinants. Though he talks a lot about the programs but specifically he concentrates on the young, which is one category, and forget to mention others who still offending, like adults from 40 and above as experienced in Zanzibar. This means to say that Zanzibar prison authority should establish very effective assessment system of the prisoners and locate them in their respective class based on their criminogenic characters and other useful criteria that essential in the rehabilitative process. The head of the Reception office and Officer incharge of the prison should develop well defined Rehabilitation and reintegration plans of each prisoners based on the developed guidelines.

### **History of the Prison System and Rehabilitative Programs in Zanzibar**

In Zanzibar, the prison system was established in 1931 during the time of colonial era, and Kiinua Miguu was the first prison to be established. The prison is used to detain both the convicted and non-convicted offenders (people waiting for their trial). Formerly, the prison was used to keep the local people, poor people, and those who had shown signs of opposition against the colonial rule. Also, by that time, the prisoners were treated differently depending on their background, like tribe, religion, color, and economic status (Budget Speech, 2020).

Immediately after the revolution on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 1964, the major changes were made in all aspects, including the prison systems, whereby the Revolutionary government had adopted the Prison Decree Cap 51. The Decree had nothing to do with the rehabilitation or any procedure for the offenders to be integrated into their families, but only for punishment (Makungu, 2015).

In 1972, steps taken by Late Abeid Amani Karume to reform the system from being an institution for punishment to a rehabilitation institution were made under the Offenders Education Decree No 2/1972.

On other hand, in 1980, the prison system changed due to the enactment of the new Act No. 1/1980 which changed the name of prisons to be centers and the institution mandated to deal with prisoners to be known as Institute of education for offenders which in Swahili Phrase is (CHUO CHA MAFUNZO kw wahalifu) as mentioned the same in the Constitution of Zanzibar of 1984.

According to Offender's Education Act No. 1 of 1980 section 4(2) (a) (b) the main aims for the reforms of the prison systems was to make the offenders committed to the centers to be better citizens after their release and also to make them economically independent by providing them with some practical vocational training as to reform the offenders committed to the centers and to make them better citizens and to provide practical training in the fields of farming and animal husbandry, carpentry, building construction and masonry, motor mechanics, tailoring and shoe making. It is further highlighted that recidivism is a threat to the public safety and well-being of society since the recidivism rate is always accelerating. Inadequate and ineffective reentry programs and policies that remain in effect contribute to the high recidivism rate. In some communities, the prison experience is considered normal and unavoidable; however, it is not too late for change. Therefore, it is important for those who have committed crimes to be punished and imprisoned for a period, but it is even more important that their management while incarcerated is well planned.

Despite the efforts so far embarked on, there is the problem of recidivism which strictly bottlenecks the success of the prison system in rehabilitation of the prisoners and this due to some existing gaps identified during the Legal Sector Study 1994 (FILMUP PROJECT) and also through some recommendation made in the Legal Sector Reform Strategy 2014.

According to UNDP Report (2012) mentioned the challenges facing the Offenders Education Institute include; punishing the offenders instead of correcting their behaviors, the facilities not being properly maintained and furnished; lack or inadequate number of staff with appropriate skills for the provision of physical, psychological and emotional needs of inmates; poor and inhumane cell conditions, absence of user special space and required facilities to address the needs and protect the juveniles, and inadequacy of essential facilities such as clothing, bedding and food for the offenders, as well as transport facilities. It is commented that the prison system is not working and over 29% of the incarcerated people are offending because the system of operation and programs might be ineffective, or the prison system is not accelerating the accessibility of the programs to inmates and do not participating at all (Zanzibar Chief Government Statistician Annual report on Crime, 2024) . The infrastructural requirements of these systems would therefore need to be revived and strengthened.

### **Statement of the Problem**

Though out the world the criminal justice system is essential under the state's legal and institutional frameworks in reforming convicted prisoners. In fulfillment of such mandate the country through its legislative organ enacted laws that regulates and include the provisions that stipulates the programs that are offered in a prison setting and strategic plans which rehabilitation of the convicts and reintegration remain as one among the thematic area (ZIEO strategic Plan, 2024). The programs are farming and animal husbandry, carpentry, building construction and masonry, motor mechanic, tailoring and shoe making, car repairs, educational

programs (reading, writing, and arithmetic), and religious programs such as religious public speech and counseling programs that target the psycho-changes (Makungu, 2019).

Zanzibar Vision (2050) insisted on the institutional reforms in criminal and civil justice system and rehabilitation to inmates.

Zanzibar Prison Authority uses the Act No. 1 of 1980 to make sure that there are special programs that are offered in prisons purposely to rehabilitate the offenders. However, the programs offered face some of the challenges such as lack of the trained prison officials to cascade the training, programs are not fitting with market demand to the trained ex-prisoners once released back to the community, programs offered many based on the targeting income rather than knowledge to the prisoners, there is no rehabilitation guideline regulating the training, programs are only offered in Unguja at Kiinua Miguu out of 10 prisoners, the situation that give not good result in the community especial to those imprison to the rest of the prisons lack of facilities and materials during training.

The special amendments were made in the Principal Act of 1980 to Subsidiary legislation No. 3 of 2007 with the intention of strengthening rehabilitation activities and role of the community but nothing mentioned in that Act and other international instruments which insist on the community involvement in criminal justice system in order to have the better services that have positive result including rehabilitation (Sustainable Development Goals, 2030). The challenge of the staff with lack of rehabilitative knowledge and facilities remain the challenges to meet the goal and rehabilitation remain as myth and mere political statement (Zanzibar Institute of Education Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Offenders Guideline, 2024).

So the important thing to ask is whether existing programs are effective and accessible to inmates and prevent the re-offending problem in Zanzibar. This study intended to assess the effectiveness of the programs in prison and what efforts should be taken into action to improve such institutional framework and prison condition and even changing the mindset of the accused knowing that prison programs are unique and effective to deter, treat and rehab them from engaging in criminality and prison is not safe place to live and also to let them understand that as members of the community they have something to play in their society rather than engaged in criminal activities which result them in prison. This situation is important in order to in line with National Instruments that emphasizes on responsible authority should ensure that the inmates access the quality of services and effective rehabilitative plans that shall be implemented in different ways (Zanzibar Development Plan, 2021-2026)

### **Research Objective**

Evaluation of the efficiency of the prison programs for ex-prison convicts to integrate into society upon their release in Zanzibar.

### **Research Question**

The study had the following questions

- i. What are the success and challenges the Prison Authority facing in rehabilitation of the prisoners?
- ii. What are the successes and challenges of the community in re-integration of the ex-prisoners?



## **METHODOLOGY**

### **Research Design**

This study used a descriptive form and use both of qualitative and quantitative approaches for the collection and analysis of data. The quantitative approach used to study the prisoners recidivism in relation to the existing prison system through the application of random sampling techniques and questionnaires to collect data mainly quantifiable data and analyzed them by using statistical techniques, while qualitative approach used for the collection and analysis of respondents' attitudes toward the subject under study.

### **Sampling Procedures and Sample Size**

The study used a purposive sampling to select the study participants based on their knowledge, participation and experiences. The total of 104 were involved in the study including prison staff, ex-prisoners, family members, community at large and legal actors.

The researcher adopted this approach for getting more and detail information from key respondents to make validation and authenticity of such information. Based on the objectives and scope of the study to be accomplished in this study design together and manipulates both qualitative and quantitative data collected from different sources using different techniques.

The study employed semi structured interview and focal group discussion. The participants diversity did not aim at the generalizability of findings. It provided a comprehensive synthesized and holistic view of the efficiency of the prison programs for ex-prison convicts to integrate in society upon their release in Zanzibar. The data obtained was analyzed thematically.

### **Sample Sites**

The study focused on the assessment of the prison system in reducing the recidivism in Zanzibar. The sample site including prison centre at Kiinua Miguu in Unguja-Zanzibar which will be selected by purposive techniques for the fulfilling the research goals.

### **Data Collection Technique**

The study involved both forms of data collections; namely primary and secondary data. Primary data obtained from field, prison centre-Zanzibar and community. The researcher will conduct the meeting with respondents to answer the questions designed in the form of questionnaires and also conduct structured interview in order to capture mood, attitudes and emotions from the respondents, whereas the secondary data will obtained by researcher after reading various literature related to prison aspects on management, structure, rehabilitation and reintegration programs.

### **Data Collection Methods**

The study was conducted in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The study used interview and questionnaire for data collection. The interview was conducted orally to ex-prisoners, prisoners and staff and all collected information were recorded electronically. During the interview, the interviewees were interrogated using Kiswahili language and their responses were taken into English to meet the required goal. The interviewees were involved in the study in order to get their view based on their experience in prison as prisoners or staff in the rehabilitation programs. Also, the ex-prisoners were involved in order to understand their view concerning community perceptions on their knowledge accrued while in prison and how it fit in the market demand outside prison. The effective rehabilitation is normally measured in the community during the acceptance of the released prisoners in the community. The staffs of ZIEO were interviewed since they

implement the prison policies and execution of the legislative mandates of the rehabilitation and coordinating the reintegration plans with other key stakeholders like Ministry responsible for Social Welfare.

Questionnaires were also developed for justice actors and community in order to get their view concerning the prison management, rehabilitation, community involvement and ask for their suggestion on prison reforms to meet the goal of the establishment of the prison to be law abiding centre. Total of 104 respondents were involved in the study.

### **Ethical Considerations**

The study complied with the ethical issues in conducting research. The issues adhered including obtaining clearance letters from the relevant authorities, Obtaining the consent from the participants, maintaining the confidentiality to all collected information during data collection, analysis and presentation and during the process of data collection, there was transparent to all steps in the manner seem appropriate and all laws and protocols pertain to prison and prisoners are observed.

### **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The research findings and discussion of the study focused on the following thematic areas:-

#### **The Community Role and Response to the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Process of the Offenders**

This section presents the results of the findings on the respondents' general attitudes about community involvement in rehabilitation and re-integration schemes in Zanzibar or not. The respondents gave out their views by responding using YES or NO answers to defend their views. Under this study, the findings indicate that 78 to 75.0% respondents agreed that the community involved in the rehabilitation and re-integration schemes, while 26 direct to 25% disagreed.

During the interview with the ex-prisoners, it was asked whether the community play role in reintegration of the ex-prisoners and how does it effectively works.

**Table 1: Community Involvement in Rehabilitation and Re-Integration Schemes in Zanzibar**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	78	75.0
No	26	25.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Researcher (2025)*

Since prison system in Zanzibar allows the interaction with different stakeholders in rehabilitation programs like religious groups, NGOs and others which provides psycho-social help to the prisoners, thus why large percentage of respondents agree that community involved in rehabilitation program. On the other hand, community receives the prisoner after release and educates them about to be good citizen in order to build a peaceful country.

During the interview with the ex-prisoners, it was asked whether the community play role in reintegration of the ex-prisoners and how it does effectively works. The interviewees generally responded by saying that:

*“In our community, there was no any mechanism established for the ex-offenders in our community and we still treat us as criminals. We experience stigmatization and no room for us to be given any opportunity to participate in any program. This situation result in effective utilization of the skills that we learn in prisons. Also, there is no any direct contact with the community during serving our sentence except the family and next kin visit once a month. The NGO’s are coming only to secure the financial purpose and not for the rehabilitation nor reintegration plans”.*

The above statement means that community is not dealing directly to ex-prisoners expect for the individual family basis. There is no any set-up that deals with ex-prisoners and they are just left and finally re-commit crimes. Also during their time in prison their families visited them once a month and weaken the family ties that important for rehabilitation and reintegration.

Building upon these findings Ayo (2023) added that community involved in rehabilitation programs, established partnership with local industry which open up opportunities for inmates since inmates gain skills that help to reintegrate with society. On other side, collaboration with external stakeholders brings resources for rehabilitation services. Therefore, this manifests that community is involved in rehabilitation programs as a result the released offender can integrate well with the society.

### **The Success and Challenges of the Prison Authority in the Rehabilitation of the Prisoners Need to Capacitate the Authority to Change the Behavior of the Prisoners**

The study findings portray that the majority of the people agreed that the authority has capacity to change the behavior of the prisoners in Zanzibar. This has been revealed due to the study findings which showed that 81 respondents equal to 77.9% of the total study respondents who agreed that the authority has capacity to change the behavior of the prisoners in Zanzibar. Apart from that, there were 23 (22.1%) respondents who reacted that the authority had nothing to contribute to the behavior change of the prisoners in Zanzibar.

**Table 2: Summarizes Capacity of the Authority to Change the Behavior of the Prisoners**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	81	77.9
No	23	22.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Researcher, (2025)

The prison authority in Zanzibar is implementing different rehabilitation programs like education, adult education, entrepreneurship skills, psychological knowledge and other skills which enable the prisoners to get knowledge that shape them to be good citizen after release and avoid re-offending. The research findings underscore the positive impact to the prisoners, as result of the rehabilitation programs offered by the prison authority since change from bad behavior to good like restrain from using drugs or intoxicant substances, avoiding peer groups and engaging in lawful activities are the results of the programs being provided.

During the interview with Ex-prisoners said:

*“During our time in Prison, we are only working on cleaning work such as grass cutting, gardening, only a few are chosen to work in tailoring and carpentry due to spacing and inadequate facilities. There is no clear system of assessing the prisoners for an appropriate rehabilitation scheme. Rehabilitation activities, such as vocational skills, do not focus on the market demands. Education programs only focus on reading, writing, and counting (arithmetic), and certification on completion of the programs is only offered to 3R”.*

The above statement means that ex-prisoners were not benefitted with the programs offered in Prison and only serving the number of the sentence not allocated in the programs that will be useful to them once released. This implies that there is a need to capacitate the prison authority in order to combat such challenge in dealing with criminal behaviours of the prison while serving their sentences.

Rosli et al., (2021) narrated that all the programs implemented in Kajang prison have rehabilitated and treated prisoners very well. These prisoners have become self-reliant, disciplined human beings, have the appropriate religious knowledge and are also skilled in specific fields. This can be seen mainly through the positive effects of the rehabilitation programs held before the release of these prisoners.

Mbawala et-al (2023) further echoes these concerns emphasizing that the prison authority has capability to change behaviour of the prisoners through rehabilitation programs offered such as psycho-social programs, educational programs, vocational training and life skills program. These help the inmates to acquire skill and knowledge that enable them to conduct economic activities and social affairs. Hence they become good citizens.

Further study by Iguna (2010) mentioned one among the barrier in the Prison Department is the resistance of people especial the staff who see no need to embrace the prison reforms and comfortable to see things are going as usual. This barrier always hinders the rehabilitation process and prison remains as punitive institution rather than conducting reformation. So there is a need to capacitate the prisons by reforming the organizational structure to meet organizational goals (behavior reformations).

### **Challenges Face the Prison Authority in Dealing with the Behavior of the Prisoner to Be Law Abiding Citizen and Avoid Re-Offending Tendencies**

The study findings disclosed that majority of the people agreed that, there are some challenges face the prison authority in dealing with the behavior of the prisoners to be law abiding citizens and avoid re-offending tendency in Zanzibar. This has been discovered by the study findings which indicate that sixty six respondents equal to 58.7% had the view that prison authority faced diverse challenges in Zanzibar. Contrary with the 43 respondents equal to 41.3% who disagreed that the prison authority faces no challenges in Zanzibar.

**Table 3: Summary of the challenge of the prison authority**

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	61	58.7
No	43	41.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Researcher, (2025)

The study findings shed light on challenge facing prison authority as majority of the people agreed that, there are some challenges face the prison authority in dealing with the behavior of



the prisoners to be law abiding citizens and avoid re-offending tendency in Zanzibar. The programs that are offered are not well structured, there are only programs that are stipulated in the Offenders Education Act only and provided in adhoc way. There is no guideline that gives the instructions to prison staff on how to offer the programs, unskilled staff (number of the recruited staff with low education which hinder them to use modern way of correction and budget constraints, lack of trust and prisoners are not listened and there is no individual plan for the rehabilitation.

During the interview with the Prison Officials, they said:

*“In our institution, there are numbers of the challenges that hinder the prison to meet its goals because of the capacity it has in term of financial resources, lack of proper training, ineffective rehabilitation programs, lack of cooperation with other key stakeholders such adult education and department, alternative learning institution, poor psycho-social programs and lack of community involvements and staff are lacking with technical capacity needed for rehabilitation of the staff and are working as usual. This situation result to ineffective rehabilitation plans and reintegration and result to recidivism. This made a call for the reformation of the prison authority by capacitating it in term of resources, training and strengthening of the cooperation with other key stakeholders”*

The above statement means that reformation is inevitable in combating the challenges that face the Prison Authority in term of staffing, resources, induction training since prison official is a noble profession which needs highly qualified staff with sufficient knowledge to meet the individual needs of the prisoners and not collective approach since the prisoners are from different background with different need and problems that caused their imprisonment.

Radvoska and Thijseen (2020) advocate that an individual approach is the key in implementing individual interventions. She insisted that it is important to understand the personal history, motivations, strengths and deficits, perceptions, concerns, and frustrations. They insisted that detainees are helped when there is someone who takes them seriously and listens to them sincerely, and trust is a crucial point for further intervention.

Ayo (2023) reported that limited budget, inadequate staffing and lack of trained personnel hinder the effective delivery of rehabilitation also outdated infrastructure, shortage of equipment and materials for comprehensive rehabilitation programs hinder the implementation of rehabilitation program.

Moreover, Mbawala et-al (2023) added that budget constraints prevented the authority from conducting practical rehabilitation activities. They also revealed shortcomings, such as incomplete syllabuses and fewer practical sessions, also noted that there was a shortage of human resources with rehabilitation skills. This implies that the prisoner authority is faced with many challenges for conducting rehabilitation programs.

According to UNODC (2022) stated that the Department of Correctional Service in South Africa mentioned about the correctional programs placed correctional program in rehabilitation in multi-disciplinary approach, need based programs that aims to address offending behavior. They are also non therapeutic in nature focusing on awareness raising, providing information and skills development. In South Africa, there is Correction Sentence Plan of the offender who serving more than 24 hours as a tool that is used to assess the needs and risks of offenders based on the crime committed. There are about 13 programs endorsed in South Africa including therapy, counseling, educational programs and vocational training.

Kirway and Massawe (2024) in their study found out that prisoners are not given training that increases their skills for self-employment and mainly do farming and gardening activities and sometimes with poor tools. Lack of funds was singled out by the officials and correctional officers as the main reason for not providing them with training geared towards increasing their skills.

They recommended that ex-prisoners be made part of the society by encouraging them to participate in development activities that are carried out in the community. Local Government Authorities should utilize them in various activities that require labor for payment.

Prison overcrowding is also one among the factor the make difficult to build and sustain progress in assessing and placing prisoners in appropriate programs, completion of their courses or acquiring skilled based qualifications. This situation affecting the rehabilitation processes and may result to re-offending. According to Magnuson (2024) explained that the aim of incarceration, traditionally, extends beyond mere punishment. It includes the rehabilitation of the offender. However, the overcrowded conditions of prisons pose severe threats to these rehabilitative efforts, creating environments that are counterproductive to the positive change that rehabilitation aims to engender. Taking example In countries like Brazil and the Philippines, prisons operate at more than twice their capacity. This global issue shows no signs of relenting, exacerbating the challenges of prison management and undermining rehabilitation efforts. The issue of overcrowding places immense pressure on already limited resources and making it challenging to deliver effective rehabilitation programs. In such environments, the inmate to staff ratio becomes skewed, making it almost impossible for staff to attend to the individual needs of each inmate. This lack of personalized attention can undermine the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts and further fuel tensions within the prison.

### **The Need to Amend the Prison Act or Any Other Legislation to Address the Need for Community Involvement in Rehabilitation Process**

The study findings show that majority of the people agreed to have understanding on prison rehabilitation programs in Zanzibar as proved by 69 respondents equal to 69.3%. Meanwhile, 35 respondents equal to 33.7% do not understand anything about prison rehabilitation in Zanzibar. This imply that, Prison Authority uses old Act enacted in 1980 and does not include any provision concerning community role in the prison, which is very essentially in the rehabilitation and criminal justice system in generally. Therefore, this implies that there is a need for the amendment of Law to address this area of the community involvement at prison setting and also creating the awareness of the community that can highly contribute to minimize re-offending problems.

Hence the purpose of the correction in the criminal justice system is multifaceted and seeks to rehabilitate offenders, protection of public against crime and deterrence. The Table 4 provides a clear summary of the findings.

**Table 4: The need to amend the Prison Act or any other legislation**

<b>Need to amend the Prison Act or any other legislation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yes	69	66.3
No	35	33.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Researcher, (2025)*

The law which is used in directing and concern the involvement of the community in Zanzibar but these laws do not provide wider room for community to participate in rehabilitation program effectively. The study found that majority of the respondent agreed and suggest on the need to amends prison Act so as to strengthen the effectiveness of the rehabilitation activities.

During the interview, the prison officials suggested:

*“There is a need to amend Prison Act to address the need to amend the Act to involve the community in the rehabilitation as part of the criminal justice system concerns. The Prison Act is silent and does not include any provision, so amendment should be the priority of the Prison since the prisoner is from the community and once released will be back to community. The prisoner should have the rehabilitation plans that developed by the prison authority with the cooperation with social welfare. So having the provision in the new Act will justify the process and meet the criminal justice objective”.*

The above statement justifies that without having Act, community will not see the importance of participating in the rehabilitation programs. It is experienced that number of the NGO's developed programs that not benefitting the prisoners. So, Act will compel the NGO's to work with Prison Authority in developing and implementation of the programs and plans developed for prisoners.

### **The Reasons for Need to Amend the Prison Act or Any Other Legislation to Address the Need for Community Involvement in Rehabilitation Process**

The researcher discovered that, 62(59.6%) the respondents of the total 104 agreed for the amendment because can lead to better outcomes for individuals and society example reduced crime rates and lower incarceration costs and Community in the rehabilitation and have a significant impact on their ability to successfully reintegrate in the society. while 42 to 40.4% provided other reasons. Therefore, this means that there is need to amend the Prison Act and other legislation so as to address the need for community involvement in rehabilitation process.

Also the study unveiled the reasons for amendment of prison Act or any other legislation for community involvement in the rehabilitation process the reasons includes lead to better outcomes for individuals and society example reduced crime rates and lower incarceration costs and Community in the rehabilitation and have a significant impact on their ability to successfully reintegrate in the society.

During the interview with the ex-prisoners. They said:

*“In our community, people fear prisoners and we don't want to go back to prison because it is university of making hard-core prisoners. We want to see use our skills works and being rehabilitated and not otherwise. Prison is ineffective in Zanzibar, we experience relapse and nothing working in our community stealing is continuing and other malpractices. The Prison Authority should have plans of reducing recidivism by amending the law that insist community involvement under the scoreboard that leave No One Behind and strictly insists on the application of the mandates vested legally. Also, the law may pave the way for recognition of the awards certified by the authority”.*

The above statement insists that laws should be amended to address all the needs that required for reducing recidivism including prisoner's certifications and interpretation of the programs incorporated in the Act.

Taking reference from Ghana experiences in Ghana Prison Act of 1972 under section 1(i) the Prisons or correctional Centre shall performs its mandatory functions of protecting the public

by ensuring the safe custody and welfare of prisoners and also undertaking their reform and rehabilitation. Under this section it is important to think about the amendment of the Offenders Education Act to address the issue of reformation and rehabilitation which could not be achieved without thinking the community involvement.

Also, it is reported by some researches that right to visitation of the prisoners by the family members is very crucial in strengthening family ties and reintegration. They referred the French Prison experiences whereby the Prisoners are given up to 72 hours to stay with their spouses or children this is contrary to finding detected in Tanzania, whereby 62.5 % did not visited by their family member in the prison and being challenge to reintegration as the research done by Benarld et. al, (2023) justifies the said situation. This made a call for the amendment in Offenders Education Act in Zanzibar since right to visit is only allowed at once within a month to prisoners for 5 minutes and made difficult to maintain the family ties and rehabilitation process which finally failure to reintegration plans.

### **The Government Required to in Order to Encounter Challenges of the Rehabilitation and Re-Integration Processes**

The study examined the strategies of the government that can help to encounter challenges of the rehabilitation and re-integration in Zanzibar. Under the study findings, it is disclosed that 57 to 54.8% respondents identified that in order the government to encounter the challenges of rehabilitation and re-integration it should expand educational and vocational training programs, enhance mental health services, addressing the issue of overcrowding, public awareness and advocacy for collaboration with NGO's and allocate funds with other resources. But on other hand 25 to 24% said that, the government should support the released prisoners by supporting their talents and skilled they learned on rehabilitation from prison. Moreover, only 22 to 21.2% respondents agreed that the government should provide strong policy toward rehabilitation and re integration so that any citizen should obey rules and laws in Zanzibar. Therefore this implies that, it is crucial for the government to set strategies which can reduce challenges of rehabilitation and re-integration process in Zanzibar.

Also, the study depicted that, that in order the government to encounter the challenges of rehabilitation and re-integration it should expand educational and vocational training programs, enhance mental health services, addressing overcrowding, public awareness and advocacy for collaboration with NGO's and allocate funds with other resources.

Based on the experience they have during the interview, the Prison Officials and Ex-prisoners said:

*“Our government should concentrate on the prison budget by increasing it to solve the financial constraints on operationalizing the prison rehabilitation programs, there is a need to develop the prison policy that will interpret the objective of the prison, the government should facilitate bilateral agreement with other countries on bench mark visits in order for the officials to learn more about crime reduction techniques that necessary to combat recidivism. The government should also establish special schemes that will create the environment on utilizing the skill of the ex-convicts once released. The government should establish Special programs on TV, Radio and other Social Media to create awareness to community on realization and recognising the work done by the Prison in the rehabilitation and execution of the re-integration plans set for the released prisoners”.*

The statement above means that government should have the specific strategies to encounter the challenges on the rehabilitation and reintegration process. The issue of the budget and



benchmark visits to Prison Authority and awareness programs to community in order to reduce recidivism.

Ayo (2023), emphasis on the pivotal role of increasing the number of qualified staff members and allocating additional resources and funding will improve the scope and availability of programs. Correspondingly, Nuwagaba et al (2019) emphasis on the pivotal role of qualified staff members and adequate funding in improving rehabilitation services.

Also, The study unveiled that, enhancing resources for rehabilitation programs and fostering collaboration and community involvement, counseling and skills building for self-employment are the areas which need to be given priority in the rehabilitation process. By investing in these areas, they can bolster the effectiveness and reach of its rehabilitation initiatives, ensuring that they are better equipped to address the diverse needs of sentenced offenders and contribute to successful reintegration into society.

The successful reintegration needs to address the social challenges facing ex-prisoners during their integration into society using comprehensive measures that prioritize rebuilding their connections with family, friends, and the community, as well as equipping them with the necessary skills for employment and self-sufficiency and avoiding stigmatization and strengthening issue such as visitation while they were in custody to maintain family ties that is important for rehabilitation. (Benald 2023).

### **The Success and Challenges Facing the Community in the Reintegration of the Ex-Prisoners**

#### **The Way Community Involved in Rehabilitation and Re-Integration Programs**

The study investigated the way community involved in rehabilitation and re-integration programs in Zanzibar. The study findings discovered that 57 respondents equal to 54.8% respondents provided that community involved in rehabilitation and integration programs by providing support and opportunity for former inmates to be reintegrated successfully in to society, Zanzibar, but on other side 47 to 45.2% respondents said that by giving proper support to the rehabilitation centers as the way in which community involved in rehabilitation and re-integration programs. Zondi (2012) emphasize that, community understand the concept of prison since they participate in rehabilitation programs by assisting offenders in becoming reintegrated into their society.

Also the findings added that, community continues with positive contact of offender's family and close friend. Therefore this discloses that the community is aware about the concept of prison.

The interview done to Ex-prisoners depicted:

*"We are only left at the gate of the Prison during our release. We did not have plan for our future, we don't know where we are going, no money given to us in spite of serving the sentence for 15 years imprisonment under income generation activities "rehabilitation scheme". Nothing left to us, the community are not ready to welcome us even employed in casual works. People understand about prison but not ready to accept what prisons produce including the released law abiding ex-prisoners believing that we are still criminals".*

The statement above shows how the prison authority and community deal with ex-prisoners. Ex-prisoners are not benefiting with what they learn in prison and community are not utilizing them.

Mansuri and Rao (2004) conducted a thorough literature analysis to establish the effectiveness of community-based treatments in supporting successful reintegration of prisoners into society. The authors highlight a range of initiatives aimed at reducing recidivism rates, addressing substance addiction, enhancing economic opportunities, and improving mental health outcomes.

From the above comments. According to Zondi (2012), it is evident that many ex-offenders face rejection from their families and community. In many ways this precludes rehabilitation, given that when ex-offenders are rejected, their most likely sources of contact will likely be fellow criminals.

Peer pressure and influence from such friends will no doubt lead to recidivism. This perpetuates rather than prevents crime.

According to Mnyani (1994) mention some important characteristics of the community involvement in prisons as:-

- a) Supportive relationship between prisons and community.
- b) Emphasis is placed on the needs of the community and prisoners.
- c) Mutual exchange of information between prison authorities and the community.
- d) The unification of the prisons and the community in close partnership.

All these characteristics show how important community involvement in the rehabilitation and reintegration by stressing that prison authority prison and community should work together to meet the prison goals and this will be reached through partnership between the two institutions.

It should be taken in to account that family and community supports are key to ex-offender reintegration and rehabilitation. Thus, when communities and families refuse to accommodate them, many offenders find it difficult to find their feet again and hence they may choose the criminal path again. It is most probable that without the necessary support and assistance from family and community to ensure that the offender adapts to life outside prison, the inmate may find the challenge of pursuing a crime-free life overwhelming and may re-offend. Within the South African context professionals such as social workers can play a vital role in helping to educate families and communities about the need to support ex-offenders when they are released from prison.

Zondi (2012) notes that the South African criminal justice system sees the rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders as a collective responsibility of society. Kılıç and Taysuz (2024) define the process of reintegration that involves various dimensions including re-establishing social relationships, and addressing psychological needs and employment which is often cited as one of the most critical factors for successful reintegration.

According to Mnyani (1994) insisted that there is a need for community education about prisons and prisoners and also informed about the events and programs happening in prisons. The community needs to be about the purpose of imprisonment, prison programs, rehabilitation of offenders and re-integration into community. This situation will wider the interactions. The rehabilitation programs must be made available and confirm with the community prescriptions. ,

According kihc and Tuysuz (2024) define social integration as a crucial aspect of reintegration. They highlighted that ex-offenders often face social exclusion and stigmatization, which can impede their ability to form supportive relationships and participate in community life.

According to Taxman, et al (2010) said that the community involvement in justice process in informal social control using family members, employers, religious leaders is more powerful than formal agents of control such as judges, parole boards, community services staffs in achieving and maintaining the behavior of the prisoners because of the sense of ownership and accountability between the two group. The family is the one that most of the time supervises the behavior of the offenders which the officers are only there for 8 working hours a day. In this sense, community of the offender should only be defined geographically or people who lie closely with offenders. To this end, it is critical that the family and community as stakeholders in dealing with crime should be educated on the importance of accepting ex-offenders by helping them with reintegration..

### **Challenges hindering Community to Meet Their Roles in Criminal Justice System on Reducing Recidivism**

The researcher found the followings below as the main challenges as exposed by the respondents who had views that, the community hindered by the following challenges in order to meet their roles in criminal justice system on reducing recidivism in Zanzibar.

#### **a) Difficulties in providing psychological and social support**

The community is complaining about the difficulties in supporting the ex -convicts in psycho-social services due to absence of the networking of linking the services for the released prisoners from the prison authority to the community level.

#### **b) Stigma towards ex-offenders**

The ex-offenders are stigmatized due to the situation they experienced. There is negative imaging for the prisoners those they are just cruel and animals and finally stigmatized, they are not treated as human being and member of the community. This situation affects the role of the community to support the ex-prisoners community.

#### **c) Lack of education and understanding of the rehabilitation process**

Community is not aware about its role in the rehabilitation process due to the lack of understanding of the concept of the rehabilitation and its importance in the criminal justice system. The community is where the criminal is born and final end his life. This means to say that community has great role to play in crime reduction by ensuring that the community members who are imprisoned, visiting them in prison in order to console them. This moment is very crucial in the rehabilitation process.

#### **d) Lack of collaboration between the prison authority and the communities**

The role of rehabilitation and reintegration are collaborative in nature between the key actors that form the criminal justice chain. The community is as a primary institution of both two concepts which its efficiency depends on the nature of the community in term of understanding its role in criminal justice system, rehabilitation frame works, existence of after-releasing programs and all other frameworks which help rehabilitation and reintegration processes.

The rate of re-offending is increasing due to the unclear and undefined collaboration between community and other criminal justices actors by believing that the community has the only role to report the crime and not otherwise. Taking experience of Filipinos who are known for their character as being family-oriented people. Family relationships are often the primary source of emotional, practical, and financial support for people in the criminal justice system, from the arrest to after release.

Evidence shows that strong family relationships are crucial in reducing the possibility of re-offending. Family members play an essential role in the re-entry of those ex-convicts (Vivares and Cuevas, 2023)

#### **e) Limited resources**

Rehabilitation and reintegration are concept and processes that their operation need the huge resources as an investment that need the staff with technical-know how , programs designed for an individuals need, time and financial resources to meet the needs. The respondents mentioned that lack of resources affecting the rehabilitation and reintegration processes in Zanzibar and there are no individual plans for rehabilitation nor reintegration.

The study unveiled that, community involved in rehabilitation and integration programs by providing support and opportunity for former inmates to be reintegrated successfully in to society. This is the success of the community in rehabilitation and re-integration programs as they are the one who is responsible to receive the inmates after release their involvement helps to ensure that, the released prisoner do not repeat mistakes.

The study findings shed light on critical issues that impede community to meet their role in criminal justice system on reducing recidivism. These challenges are difficulties in providing psychological and social support, Stigma towards ex-offenders, Lack of education and understanding of the rehabilitation process, Lack of collaboration between the prison authority and the communities and Limited resources. These bottlenecks hinder the effort of the community in reducing recidivism. Rosli et al. (2021) supported as his study found the challenge of community in rehabilitation like the stigma that still exists in society is still challenging to eradicate. Society still finds it difficult to accept the presence of ex-prisoners in daily life. Negative perceptions of ex-prisoners cause their chances of getting a suitable job to be blocked. As a result, some of these ex-prisoners moved to places far from their place of origin to escape the stigma of the local community in starting a new life.

Additionally, some criminals might not be interested in rehabilitation or might have underlying problems that need more intense therapy. This means to say that in the prison there are prisoners who are not willingly to participate in the programs offered and when they are released they might commit the crime. On the other hand, some people need more therapy because there are not ready to join with the programs.

## **CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Conclusion**

Generally, the study was designed to examine the efficiency of the prison programs for ex-prison convicts to integrate in society upon their release in Zanzibar.

The study has examined the community role and responses on the rehabilitation and reintegration process of the offenders. Along this, findings indicate, the community is aware about prison. Television, radio, and social media are the sources of information about prison and programs which are being provided to offenders are effective in Zanzibar. Moreover, the study examined the success and challenges of the prison authority in rehabilitation of the prisoners. In this regard, the study found that the authority have capacity to change the behavior of the prisoners Zanzibar.



Also the finding conveys that the authority faces challenges in dealing with the behavior of the prisoners in order to be law abiding citizens and avoid re-offending tendency in Zanzibar. Furthermore, the study examined the success and challenges facing the community in the reintegration of the ex-prisoners.

Here the findings show that community involved in the rehabilitation and re-integration schemes. On other hand the study findings provided the challenges facing the community in the reintegration of the ex-prisoners, these includes, Difficulties in providing psychological and social support, Stigma towards ex-offenders, Lack of education and understanding of the rehabilitation process, Lack of collaboration between the prison authority and the communities and Limited resources.

Apart from that, this study investigated the impact of the rehabilitation and reintegration to prisoners. In this concern, the study found that change from bad behavior to good like abandoned from criminal behavior, self-employment, moral and spiritual changes and refrain from using alcohol and other criminal activities are the result of the programs being provided to prisoners in Zanzibar.

### **Recommendations**

The following recommendations are made with respect to the findings in this study:-

#### **Recommendations to the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar**

The government should solve the challenges facing prison authority in order to perform its activities effectively, also the government should continue with its effort by making collaboration with national and international stakeholders in order to be able to provide more effective rehabilitation programs. NGOs and CBOs should join hand with Zanzibar Institute of Education for Offenders (Zanzibar Prison Authority) resources mobilization and programs for rehabilitation and reintegration. Specific technical supports are needed for capacity building and trainings that is essential in the fulfillment of its mandates. (Prison Authority Strategic Plan, 2025)

The government should think on the legal reforms to accommodate the provision that allow the community participation in rehabilitation programs and rehabilitation in generally. The government should amend the budget by increasing it to cater all expenses that are required to improve the rehabilitation programs (Budget Speech, 2025). ZIEO should also think on how to establish special unit that will make follow up to the release prisoners in order to ensure adherence to the programs such psycho-social support available to the community (Mafunzo Rehabilitation and Reintegration for Released Offenders Guideline, 2024).

The rehabilitation curriculum to inmates should be reviewed in order to incorporate all contents that will meet the market demands and needs of the prisoners once released back to the community (Mafunzo Training School Curriculum, 2025). The Special Department Commission that deals with recruitment processes of the staffs who will work at prison custody to consider the Mandela Rules as a guideline that regulating welfare of the inmates in custodies as suggested by Mandela Rule (2015) that Prison is a profession meaning there that the work need people who technical will deals with the people need while incarcerated and not punishing them (Mafunzo Standing Orders, 2015)

#### **Recommendations to Local Community**

The community has to support government in fighting against crime, receiving and educating the ex-prisoners, teaching the children good behavior and maintaining cultural identity. This is

due to the fact that many the prisoners come from the community and after breaking the law their fate remains in the prisons. According to Peterson (2000) said the social characteristics of neighborhoods particularly poverty and residential instability influence the level of crime. This point is stressing disorganization of the community as catalyst for the increasing of the crime rate. The criminal justice system touches nearly as many people in poor communities as the education system or the labor market. Many former prisoners return to communities to live alongside other former prisoners, which carries implications for competition for scarce resources, criminal opportunities, and the effectiveness of formal and informal social control (Morenoff and Harding,

2014).

Also the community should not segregate the people who has been jailed, they should help them once re-integrate within their community so as to avoid being back to the bad behavior and hence to re-offending. The community should recognize the skill acquired by the ex-prisoners in the job market. Sakib (2022) said that stigmatization has been a major hindrance to successful reintegration of released offenders into the community primarily due to increased ostracism and anxiety of the wider community relative to recidivism and public security. In addition, the fear of reoffending has been extended to offender employability, housing, and resumption to learning institutions, as well as reconnecting with the community for personal and social growth.

NGOs and CBOs should join the ZIEO on creating awareness to the community on the rehabilitation programs and rehabilitation. This would equip the community with knowledge on their role in rehabilitation and reintegration system and embrace it. In turn this would help in reducing recidivism.

The NGOs and FBOs as well as members of the public also should put in their programs plans and resources, which would support the rehabilitation programs and rehabilitation plans provided by the ZIEO. Hamadi (2023) said collaboration with NGOs and CBOs is essential in creating awareness to the community on the rehabilitation programs and parole system and would equip the community with knowledge on reintegration and parole system and embrace help in reducing recidivism.

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