

The Role of the Tanzanian People's Defence Force in the Socio-Economic Development of Dar es Salaam

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The Tanzanian People's Defence Force (TPDF), established in 1964, is a multi-disciplined organization consisting of Army, Navy and Air Force components. The TPDF has been extremely active in various United Nations (UN) Peacekeeping operations throughout the African continent over the past few decades, including contributing troops to the UN Force Intervention Brigade in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Although the TPDF has worked across borders in partnership with many of its neighbouring African militaries, the TPDF's relationship with its own civilian-led government is unique to those of its partners. Not once during the 50-year existence of the TPDF has the military ever successfully overthrown the government in a military coup. Despite minor attempts to do so, the strong civilian leadership of the Tanzanian government has always been able to quickly dismantle any attempt. While perhaps an insight into an aspect of European colonialism left behind in Tanzania, this relationship between the government and military command structure of the TPDF may provide a good example for nations who struggle to assert strong, democratic civilian-led political systems.

In order to better understand the nuances of this civilian-military relationship, this research, which will be conducted during Summer 2016, proposes to examine areas of socio-economic development where the TPDF may be aiding or empowering the work of government agencies and civil society organizations in some aspect. Aiding government programmes or development interventions may come in the form of assisting in transporting supplies or goods - such as in humanitarian disaster relief situations, defending off-shore natural resources, intervening during exploratory oil drilling feuds with neighbouring countries, or preventing illegal fishing activities. The research will use an inductive approach to examine this civilian-military relationship. This research intends to use both quantitative and qualitative methods by blending a rigorous literature review - including an examination of government policy materials and academic sources - with interviews from key military and civilian leadership.

Focusing primarily on the city of Dar es Salaam, the research also aims to examine the protocols by which the TPDF abides when interacting with not only Tanzanian civil society and government organizations, but also with international agencies operating in the socio-economic development sector. By comparing these Tanzanian protocols to those of the United Nations, the research will highlight what is working well for the TPDF and recommend areas for improvement by which both the Tanzanian government and its regional neighbours may reference when evaluating their policies around civil-military integration.