

## Not Too Young To Run

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According to the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), 51% of the world population is under 30, but only 2% are members of the parliament. The IPU further describe that people between the ages of 20 to 44 make up 57% of the world voting age population but only 26% of the world's members of parliament (MPs). Moreover, what is alarming is the fact that in spite of youth being the main voters in elections but 73% of countries in the world has age restrictions on running for elected offices.

In the context of Tanzania, things are not satisfying at all in terms of the number of youth in elected positions. As per the statistics issued by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Tanzania is ranked 81 out of 128 countries for having only 0.6% of parliamentarians aged under 30 though due to National Election Commission (2015)-NEC the number of voters between the age of 18 to 35 are 6,155,613 (27% for young men) and 6,738,964 (30% for young women). Furthermore, only 10.8% of members of parliament aged under 40 which also make Tanzania being ranked 91 out of 128 countries in the global ranking. This is definitely a problem which requires immediate solution considering the fact that youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also today and for many years to come. Thus, excluding them in decision making bodies will not only diminish their participation in politics but also create a society with outdated solutions and ideas which will not work for the majority of youth in the country.

By becoming fully aware of the plight of precluding youth in running for elected positions, Not Too Young To Run project comes as a medicine to promote and raise awareness among youth by not only inspiring them to run for public offices but also to get fully involved in decision-making bodies such as the parliament and local councils. In this regard, the number of youth leaders will increase starting from the local authorities to the central government and be able to influence policies, laws, and regulations.