

Pemba and Montepuez Youth Hubs reflect in the context of preventing and countering violent extremism



As part of their program to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism, the Youth Hubs of Pemba and Montepuez carried out, in December, reflections on entrepreneurship and employment opportunities in Cabo Delgado, in search for solutions to improve the livelihoods of young people, particularly in the situation where the needs of the internally

displaced people in the province make the already critical employment crisis for young people dire, thus increasing their vulnerability to situations of enticement to dubious conduct. The reflections sought to provide young people with information on the self-employment opportunities that the City of Pemba and the district of Montepuez offer.

Reflection in Pemba

In Pemba, 29 young people participated in the reflection. Also participating in the event were the Director of the District Services of Education, Youth and Technology, Mr. José Cumpeu, representing the district government, and Emmerson Ubisse, a young man with extensive experience in youth development and deep knowledge of the economic potential of Pemba City, and coordinator of the Christian Council of Mozambique in Cabo Delgado. Ubisse was the guest speaker at the event.



Ermelinda Paulino, the president of Youth Hub, said that the reflection should produce among young people a broader thinking about employment so that “we can value our skills and knowledge and use them, ourselves, for our benefit. She went on to say that the Youth Hub intends to contribute with innovative ideas to help solve the problems the young people face and “prevent situations where they are enticed by vices and behaviors including terrorism that compromise their lives and future.



In his speech, **Jose Cumpeu** spoke of the importance of the young people’s initiative to reflect on a theme that is very relevant for them and the whole society. He spoke of the responsibility of the education sector to improve the approaches and teaching methodologies of the subject of Notions of Entrepreneurship in schools so that high school graduates will have knowledge and basic skills for self-employment. He encouraged young people to think critically about self-employment by seeking relevant knowledge to take advantage of the opportunities that the government and its partners and other development actors create. For example, he told young people that, in January 2021, there will be a government project aimed at supporting youth self-employment initiatives. In the end, he congratulated the Youth Hub and promised to support and participate in similar Youth Hub initiatives for youth development.



Emerson Ubisse spoke of the importance of entrepreneurship in the development of each individual young person, in the development of the City of Pemba and the province and spoke of the characteristics of an entrepreneur. He stressed the importance of a business plan and urged the participants to develop and strictly follow their business plans. Ubisse's intervention provoked a moment of many questions and answers on the subject and the crisis of unemployment in Pemba City.

Reflection in Montepuez

Twenty-six young people participated in the reflection in Montepuez. The event was also attended by Mário Joaquim of the National Institute of Employment and Professional Training (INEFP) and by the president of the District Youth Council (CDJ), Ussene Basquete, a young model in entrepreneurship in the district. As in Pemba, the tone of reflection in Montepuez was to show young people that entrepreneurship is one of the most viable solutions to their employment crisis. Below are some of the participants' interventions.



I am **Mussa Siaca**. I want to begin my intervention by quoting the words of President Nyusi: "We are tired of young people complaining. Anyone who understands these words understands that there is no more room for formal employment. We young people must do all we can to get trade skills. We young people don't have specific trade training because we don't give ourselves time for trade training. Our industrial school has been here in Montepuez for years and the district should already have a lot of construction technicians. But that doesn't happen. Instead, it's young people from other districts who see opportunities in our district, and they grab them right here. We young people from Montepuez don't want to take advantage of the industrial school because a student there attends both the morning and afternoon shifts. We prefer general high school education, and today a high school diploma has no market. We are many young people with high diplomas but we don't have jobs. That's why we are frustrated.



Mário Joaquim, head of the Montepuez Employment Center. Many young people prefer formal to informal employment because we prefer to work for someone else, not for ourselves. The provincial delegation will give us self-employment kits in the areas of car wash, cooking, and internet cafe. Together with CDJ, we will be looking for young people who are working in these areas so they can benefit from the kits. We must change our perception of employment and not focus more on formal employment. Let's not focus on the state apparatus anymore. For example, next year our partner will train five thousand young people in agriculture and livestock. After the training, young people will have kits for their self-employment. I want to urge the youth of Montepuez to invest more on self-employment. I urge you to get some trade skills. Those of you who have some professional training should register yourselves with the Employment Center. The Employment Center is a door to employment opportunities. For example, if you register yourself there as a builder, and a company comes to us looking for builders, we will employ you. This is an opportunity. The other thing is if you have qualifications, you must show yourself out there as a qualified person in a certain area. If you graduate, then stay at home, nobody will employ you. You must go after the opportunities. You must be creative. The areas of carpentry, mechanics, construction, agribusiness have many opportunities for entrepreneurship here in our district.



President of CDJ. Another area with employment opportunities is Car Wash. It costs 300 meticaís to wash a car. But we young people don't have the courage to grab a piece cloth and soap and wash cars on the street. I started working selling on the street. My business grew and I started selling clothes, and I even owned a store. Then I went into the tourism business. Now I have 12 employees whom I give monthly salaries. I'm in love with the construction industry. I haven't won any work yet but one day I will. I encourage young people to equip themselves with technical knowledge on self-employment.

The problem is not lack of training or skills. Many young people have training. For example, I have skills in two areas. The problem here is lack of employment. Montepuez is full of qualified young people with several skills. The young people who I play with are trained, but there are no job opportunities here in our district. Maputo is



full of job opportunities, but Cabo Delgado seems a closed province. The province is full of mineral resources, but the jobs go to South Africans, to people from Maputo, and Tete. But we young people here do not get any jobs. I have been a master builder for almost five years now. I have another training in Nutrition. I've been knocking on doors for years and years, but nothing comes up. The problem is not lack of training. The problem is lack of job opportunities.



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