

**FEMINIST ACTIVIST COALITION  
(FemAct)**

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**PRESS RELEASE.**

**FEMACT REACTS: PASSING OF THE CONSTITUENCY DEVELOPMENT CATALYST FUND (CDCF).**

We members of feminist Activist Coalition FemAct over fifty civil society organizations(50) who work together to advocate for women and human rights,social transformation and the empowerment of all women and marginalised groups we had sadly received the desicion of national assembly to pass the bill for introducing the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund(CDCF).

Passing of the bill by Tanzania National Assembly had violeting the Constution of United Republic of Tanzania. Where it states in Section 63<sup>1</sup>sub section 2, that the duties and responsibilities of Members of Parliament are;

*“Sehemu ya pili ya bunge itakuwa ndicho chombo kikuu cha Jamhuri ya Muungano ambacho kitakuwa na madaraka kwa niaba ya mwananchi, kuisimamia na kuishauri serikali ya jamhuri ya muungano na vyombo vyake vyote katika utekelezaji wa majukumu yake kwa mujibu wa katiba hii ”.*

The CDCF bill passed by the National Assembly on 31/07/2009,expects Members of Parliament to fund development projects in their constituency. This is against their constitutional responsibility. The Constitutional right of the MPs is not to fund projects but only to act as representatives of the Tanzania citizens.

FemAct is concerned that if the Members of Parliament will be the chairpersons of CDCF Committe, they will not hold local government authorities accountable and therefore will cause an increase of incidence of grand corruption.

The implementation of CDCF bill does not specify the punishment if funding is being misused for political campaigns and other misconduct. It only implies punishments for general misuse as stipulated by country laws such as the criminal laws with five years imprisonment or 15 Tsh million fine.

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<sup>1</sup> Katiba ya Jamuhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania ya mwaka 1977 toleo la Juni 2005

FemAct acts on behalf of Tanzania and the citizens who advocate for improved development in our country, is against the violation of rules and procedures in passing the CDCF bill, and we believe that the parliament had not done justice to their people whom they represent .

Following some evaluation and assessment, we believe that the Parliament is not doing justice to the people who they represent . Voices of the Tanzania citizens is not being heard although many have expressed concerns about the establishment of CDCF by signing of petition and participating in Dodoma meetings with Members of Parliament. Meanwhile activists and others had given their views through many media channels. This gives a general picture that Members of Parliament give preference to their own issues rather than the public who they represent and act on their behalf.

FemAct is against the constituency development catalyst fund is here by declaring its position and demands the following.

1. We request the President of United Republic of Tanzania not to sign the bill to become law due to the fact that it will not help the citizens of Tanzania.
2. We demand Members of Parliament to listen to the voices of the people and put forward national interest rather than individual interest.
3. We request Members of Parliament to withdraw their false statement and evidence that Civil Society Organisations are pressed by donors to react against CDCF.
4. Lastly, we would like to advice the Government in collaboration with CSO's, NGO's, FBO's and CBO's to strengthen the existing development projects in municipalities and councils be alternative macro economic framework for sustainable development that would insure equl social and economic benefits for tanzanians without any type of discriminations by race,ethnicityclass and religion rather than introducing the new system.

Issued by FemAct Members and signed by

*USU MALLYA*

TGNP Executive Director

On behalf of FemAct