

Get involved:

Exercise :

1. Do you know any Moroccan or international NGOs concerned with sustainable development
2. **What are their objectives? Give examples.**
3. **Read the introductory paragraph and answer these questions.**
 - a. Who is Noureddine Ayouch?
 - b. What are “ Zakoura “ and “ DABA 2007”

Noureddine Ayouch is one of the most active participants in Moroccan civil society. In an interview
With Magarebia, he discussed his two associations, the Zakoura Fondation (founded in 1955) and DABA 2007. These organisations aim to empower the women and youth of Morocco, whom Ayouch considers to be the country’s future. Micro-credit allocated by the association has allowed many Moroccan women to start their own projects. Ayouch launched the DABA 2007 association to involve Moroccan youths in the political life of the country.

Read and discover:

4. survey the interview by reading the words in red bold type and choose the correct answer .

Zakoura and DABBA 2007 are interested in

- a. environment and ecology.
- b. education and mass media.
- c. sustainable development and politics.

5- Read the whole interview and check your choice.

Maghreb: Zakoura began ten years ago. How is it doing today?

Noureddine Ayouch: Zakoura is doing well. Moreover, Morocco has been ranked the top country in the world in issuing **micro-credit** by the World Bank and the UN.

Zakoura is doing extraordinary work in Morocco. We have 1,150 employees at 765 sites through out the country. Zakoura not only provides micro-credit, but raises awareness of the importance of fighting corruption, being dignified, respecting women, and **voting**.

Maghreb: Moroccan women seem to benefit most from zakoura’s micro-credit. Is this merely a coincidence?

Ayouch: as the start, Zakoura wanted to reach both men and women. But since the first year, we have noticed that our female clients are more serious and show more solidarity. We have therefore decided to devote ourselves more to women, who today are receiving 90 per cent of the micro-credit . I cannot emphasise enough that women are the future of this country. Our country will truly change the day they are given economic, cultural, social, and political power.

Maghreb: has women’s status benefited from the latest modifications to the Moroccan family code (moudawana)?

Ayouch: The changes made to the family code constitute a major shift in the Arab world. Unfortunately, the “ Moudawana “ is still poorly applied, because many habits have not changed. **Education** and **communication** are essential to better explain the reasons for this reform.

Maghreb: speaking of change, is it true Moroccan youths are shunning politics?

Ayouch: a recent survey by “ L’Economiste Found that 92.5 per cent of young Moroccans no longer believe in their country political parties and no longer think about voting. The majority

of Moroccans continue to criticise political parties, the government and the parliament. This same majority thinks democracy does not exist in Morocco and subsequently refuse to “ politicise themselves”.

Young people say this, intellectuals repeat it and as a result only 50 per cent of Moroccan people vote. It will take more time to find solutions and say “ I am going to do something for my country; I am going to participate in the political parties instead of denigrating them”. Every Moroccan should play a role in the political process and no longer be content as a mere spectator. That idea is the focus of DABA 2007.

Maghrebia : so what does DABA 2007 do?

Ayouch: we have created three committees. The first prepares young people to engage themselves politically and to vote.

I will address young people in the Moroccan Arabic dialect as well as in Tamazight.

The second committee addresses the economic and intellectual elite who have “ thrown up their hands” and no longer believe in the parliament or political parties.

The third committee will be devoted to understanding the ideologies, political programmes and future visions of political parties. The mission of this committee will be to convince them to create welcome environments for youth and elites and to engage them, instead of allowing parties to withdraw from society.

6- Answer these questions according to the interview

- a. why do Moroccan women benefit from micro-credit more than men do?
- b. How can we improve the status of women and empower them?
- c. Why are some young people unwilling to participate in the political parties in Morocco?
- d. According to DABA 2007, how can we convince youth to engage in political life?

7- Read the interview again and fill in the chart.

Name of Foundation	objectives
- Zakoura
- DABA 2007

8- Pick up words in the interview meaning almost the same as the following.

- a. graded:.....
- b. consciousness:.....
- c. dedicate:.....
- d: turning away from:.....
- e. criticising:.....
- f. retreat from:.....

have your say

how important are NGOs in empowering young people, men and women, to be active members in our society?