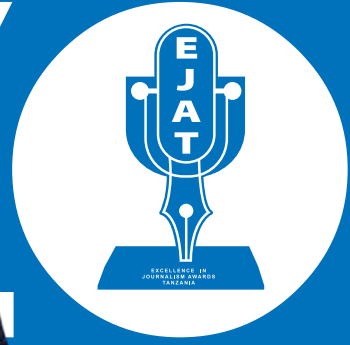




TUJAZ



ISSUE NO 0001 SEPTEMBER 2024

MAGAZINE



Mukrim Top Journo

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Editorial

TUZO Magazine Celebrating Excellence



Excellence is the ability to perform a task with outstanding skill and efficiency. It combines knowledge, skill, and experience to achieve exceptional quality in executing duties or activities. The leadership of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) has decided to establish TUZO Magazine to promote excellence across various sectors in Tanzania and beyond.

In this inaugural issue, the magazine will focus on the media sector, while plans are underway to expand our coverage to other sectors, highlighting outstanding individuals and their achievements in fields such as agriculture, technology, insurance, health, education and engineering.

This magazine is being established to honour the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), that MCT has been presenting to best performing journalists for 15 consecutive years. One of the key features in this magazine is the impactful stories from the award-winning journalists. TUZO Magazine will feature content that narrates the life stories of distinguished journalists, revealing what made them excel, including insights into their personal and professional lives. These stories will showcase the top-tier skills, knowledge and experience these journalists have brought to the media industry.

The stories explore the depth of understanding these journalists had on the topics that earned them awards. They demonstrate technical writing expertise, using precise language in an engaging and educational style. Furthermore, the stories highlight their ability to investigate deeply, interview sources and verify the legitimacy of information before reporting it. You'll witness the efforts of these top journalists in creating innovative and new ways of presenting news or

engaging audiences, considering technological advancements and market demands.

Beyond telling the stories of outstanding individuals and the societal impact of their work, TUZO Magazine will also shine a light on the contributions of various institutions and companies in fostering development and driving change in people's lives.

The magazine will celebrate those who deserve recognition for their significant contributions to their sectors. Additionally, it will spotlight emerging young talents who demonstrate excellence, integrity, creativity, innovation and vision in their respective fields.

TUZO Magazine will be distributed for free and made available to people of all walks of life through digital platforms and printed copies. The magazine will be available through major modes of transport, such as flights, the SGR train, and in key urban shopping centers.

The magazine will also be available at various exhibitions across Tanzania and abroad during national and international events such as the Sabasaba International Trade Fair, Nanenane, Labour Day, Youth Day and World Press Freedom Day.

Stay tuned for the launch of TUZO Magazine and the continued delivery of insightful content in every bi-monthly edition

Best regards,

Ernest Samson Sungura
Chief Editor, TUZO Magazine Team



**Historic Double Win:
First-Ever Overall Winner
from Zanzibar and the Online
Category**

Mukrim Mohamed Khamis

For the first time in the 14-year history of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), a story from an online TV platform has claimed the overall winner’s title. Additionally, this marks the first time a journalist from Zanzibar has emerged as the overall winner. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that Mukrim Mohamed Khamis won for his work on a new government priority—the Blue Economy—an initiative championed by President Hussein Ali Mwinyi of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

‘Everything about this is a first,’ aptly describes Mukrim Mohamed Khamis’s achievement as he was named the overall winner of the EJAT 2023 Awards on Saturday, September 28, 2024.

Mukrim’s winning performance came with his meticulous coverage of Zanzibar’s Blue Economy initiatives and the environmental factors affecting this sector. His series of reports earned him

awards in the Business, Economy & Finance category, as well as the Environment and Water Conservation category.

Who is Mukrim Mohamed Khamis?

“I was born in Zanzibar, and both of my parents are Zanzibari. I’m 29 years old now. I attended Mwanakwerekwe B Primary School and completed my secondary education at Mwanakwerekwe A Secondary School,” says Mukrim, as he begins narrating his journey.

Driven by his passion for journalism, Mukrim started volunteering at a local radio station right after finishing secondary school in 2014. “When you start as a volunteer, you’re usually assigned to host the night shifts—taking over when all the regular journalists and presenters have gone home,” he recalls.



Later, Mukrim pursued a course in procurement at the Zanzibar Institute of Public Administration, where he obtained his certificate in 2016. However, he continued to nurture his passion for media and founded an online TV station named Zanzibar 360, a platform that mirrored his vision for bold, creative content that required courage, skill, and expertise. Unfortunately, when new regulations for registering online TV channels were introduced, Mukrim found it challenging to meet the requirements.

Subsequently, he joined Assalam FM Radio in Unguja as a broadcast supervisor when the station was newly established and lacked any content. This role spurred him to formally study journalism, so he enrolled at Royal College in Dar es Salaam, where he graduated in journalism majoring in broadcasting. He then joined Swahiba FM, working as a full-time journalist from 2017 to 2020.

Today, Mukrim is living his dream as the manager and anchor of KTV TZ Online, a role that came about when the station's new owner, whom Mukrim considers a father figure, entrusted him to lead the platform.

“KTV is my future. With the world at our fingertips, people need to stay informed through their mobile devices. I am happy to fulfill the constitutional mandate of providing citizens with information. I'm also proud that online platforms are now recognized as legitimate media channels. KTV is a big part of my life, and I'm excited to live my dream,” he shares enthusiastically.

Mukrim adds that his success is partly attributable to the advanced training he received from Jamii Media, under the guidance of trainers Mike Mushi and Gervas Mahimbi, through a project sponsored by the Swiss Embassy.

“Beyond the technical expertise of writing for digital platforms, we were encouraged to specialize in specific areas. I chose to focus on climate change, environment, and water conservation reporting,” Mukrim explains.

His commitment to this niche led to his recognition as a finalist in the 2022 EJAT awards, where he was the first runner-up in the Environment and Water Conservation category. Mukrim also completed a one-year digital journalism training course in 2023, culminating in a certificate awarded by the Swiss Ambassador to Tanzania.

At the time of the awards, Mukrim stood among the 72 finalists for EJAT 2023, uncertain whether he would clinch the top prize or finish in second place, as he had the previous year.



Ambassador Didier Chassot from the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania, handing over to Mukrim Mohamed, training certificate of Online Content creation, facilitated by Jamii Media, on 17 November 2023, in Dar es Salaam.

The 15th Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT)

Tuzo za Umahiri wa Uandishi wa Habari Tanzania



A Journey of Dedication and Growth

Mukrim acknowledges that the intensive training he received at Jamii Media profoundly shaped his career. He emphasizes the importance of choosing a specialization for one to stand out in the journalism industry.

His thoughts are echoed by Mike Mushi, one of his trainers, who recalls the young man from Zanzibar during their program. “We conducted a five-day training session, followed by a year-long mentorship. We started with 20 participants—10 men and 10 women—but filtered down to 10 graduates. The training aimed at instilling investigative journalism skills and teaching them the dynamics of doing business online,” Mushi recalls.

“The training also covered various aspects of digital media, from content production of how to effectively use cameras and digital editing tools. We even provided equipment for those who successfully completed the course,” he adds.

Of the 410 applicants, the top 20 were selected, with the final 10 chosen based on ownership of an online media outlet and active involvement in journalism. Mike believes that such training initiatives are crucial for upholding ethical standards in digital journalism.

Speaking shortly after being named the overall winner of EJAT 2023, Mukrim dedicated his victory to his late father, whom he credits as a significant influence in his life. “My father never got to witness the success of my career. This win is also for my mother and my younger siblings,” he expressed emotionally.

A Rewarding Career Path

Currently unmarried and without children, Mukrim earns an average monthly income of between TZS 700,000 and TZS 1,000,000 from his online journalism work. This income allows him to support his mother and siblings while maintaining a decent standard of living.



He extends his gratitude to fellow journalists outside of KTV who have contributed to his growth by sharing ideas and connecting him to key news sources. Mukrim firmly believes that one cannot achieve success alone without the support of others.

“I edit my own stories, but it often takes me five days of introspection and refinement before I share them with a colleague for feedback and then release them. It’s a process that requires patience and dedication,” he explains.

Mukrim’s adherence to professionalism and pursuit of excellence has made him the first-ever overall winner from Zanzibar after 14 years of Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT). His winning story adhered to eight critical criteria, including technical proficiency, creative storytelling, integration of multimedia elements such as sound, text, photos, and video, ethical standards, and the ability to create positive change in society.

The triumph of Mukrim Mohamed Khamis is a testament to the increasing influence of online media and the growing recognition of innovative and impactful journalism in Tanzania.



Mukrim Mohamed (right) interviewing the President of Zanzibar and the Chairman of Revolutionary Council, Hon. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi.

“ I edit my own stories, but it often takes me five days of introspection and refinement before I share them with a colleague for feedback and then release them. It’s a process that requires patience and dedication.





Impactful News

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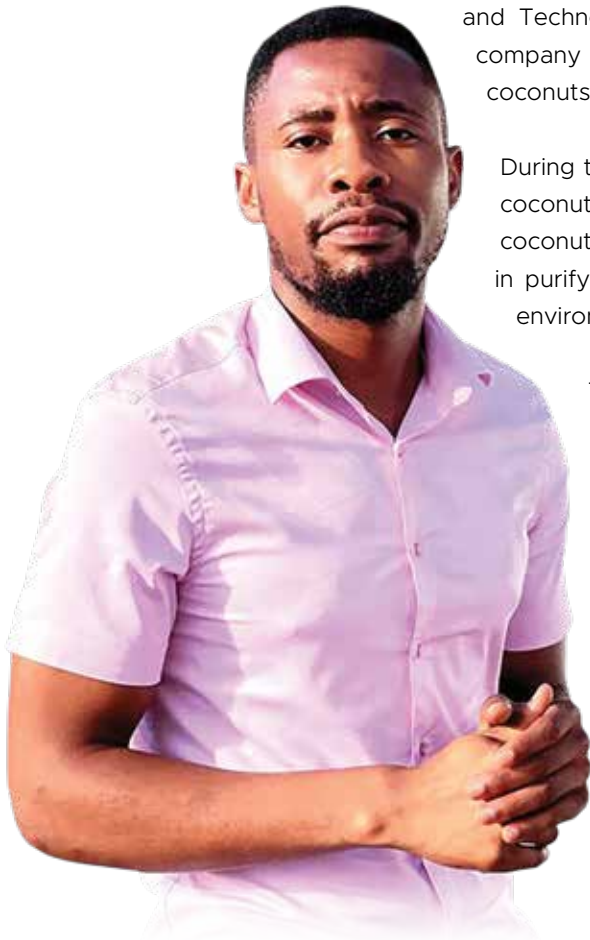
Welcome to the buzz that comes from impactful content. Each piece in these pages is created with the intention to inform, educate, inspire, or encourage the audience to take action. This content builds a meaningful connection with the audience and drives positive change in society. Every article reflects the needs of society, the foundations, and the background upon which it is built. The news in these pages forms emotional relationships with the audience, using storytelling, real-life stories, and images. Content is based on facts, research, and trustworthy sources—featuring statistics, case studies, and testimonials. Each piece is carefully selected from competing entries in the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) to highlight news that truly matters to people’s lives.

”



Coconut shells an alternative to Mercury for small-scale miners

By Florence Majani



and Technology (COSTECH) booth, he encountered Timasu, a company that specialises in producing products derived from coconuts.

During the interview, Esau discovered that in addition to using coconuts for a wide range of products, Timasu also utilizes coconut shells to produce activated carbon, a product used in purifying mercury in mining processes, thereby preventing environmental and health hazards for miners.

This revelation sparked Esau's interest and inspired him to write a feature article titled *"Coconut Shell Technology Set to Save Miners from Mercury Dangers."*

"I realised that if a product could be used in the mining process, there was a story there because I had previously done a feature article on the challenges faced by small-scale miners in 2022," Esau explains.

He was motivated to pursue this story to raise awareness about this mercury alternative, which could ultimately help reduce and eventually eliminate the use of mercury in mining.

"That's what drove me to write this story," he adds.

After conceptualising the story, Esau presented the idea to his editor, Nuzulack Dausen, and together, they delved into research. They

It was at the Saba Saba International Trade Fair, where journalist Esau Ezra from Nukta Africa arrived to carry out his reporting duties. As he walked into the Tanzania Commission for Science



gathered statistics to understand the number of small-scale miners in Tanzania, explored what government officials had said about the environmental impact of mercury and investigated if any action had been taken to address these issues.

“We also conducted further research into activated carbon, and we found that Tanzania spends over Sh32 billion each year importing the product, which is not only used in mining but also in industries that focus on water purification,” Esau says.

Through thorough research, Esau also came to know that actually, Tanzania is one of the largest coconut producers in the world, ranking second in Africa. He skillfully wove these findings into a compelling story, with substantial help from his editor.

However, the process wasn't easy. Although Esau conceived the story during the Sabasaba exhibition in July, his feature was not published until August 22, 2023. Beyond just reporting, Esau reached out to environmental stakeholders and gathered data from the World Health Organization (WHO).



“

Being a winner has encouraged me and given me the drive to continue producing stories and features that can help people

”



In his feature article, Esau writes: “The availability of this mercury alternative for mining activities will be a saviour for miners and the communities that could be exposed to mercury through air, food, or water contamination.”

The story utilized multiple formats, including a video component, and was also published on YouTube. Esau emphasized the importance of using statistics and data to help readers easily grasp the information being conveyed.

“Using statistics and data helps people understand the issue more clearly, getting rid of the perception that online news is mere gossip. We provide people with quality news through these platforms,” Esau asserts.

Positive Outcomes

Following the publication of his story, Esau noted a significant increase in the demand for activated carbon, which he believes has helped reduce mercury-related harm.

“We knew this because we received numerous calls from readers wanting to purchase the product, and we provided them with the manufacturers’ contact details,” Esau explains.

In addition to this success, Timasu was able to acquire a large machine capable of producing 400kg of activated carbon per day. Previously, the company’s production capacity was limited to just 120kg per day.

Under the Imbeju Project, implemented by CRDB Bank, Timasu was able to secure the larger machine. Speaking with MCT, Timasu’s Managing Director, Tiberius Mario, shared how the feature transformed his business.

“Right now, I have 14 tonnes of coconut shells in Morogoro and another 60 tonnes in Mkuranga, Coast Region. So many sellers came forward that I couldn’t keep up. This is a benefit to me because it shows that people are recognising the opportunity, and it also helps reduce environmental pollution,” Tiberius says.

He adds that another positive outcome has been selling the product to small-scale miners who have now shifted away from using mercury.

“When they called me to purchase the product, they couldn’t believe it was made in Tanzania. They thought it was produced abroad,” he says. Furthermore, Tiberius shares, “We acquired a large machine to produce this mercury alternative because we saw that the demand was high while our production was limited. With CRDB’s support, we were able to purchase a machine that produces 400kg per day.”

EJAT Awards

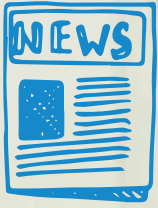
This is the first time that Esau has been nominated as a finalist in the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT).

Previously, he had submitted his work, but it had never reached the final stages.

“EJAT has been a driving force for producing impactful journalism that helps people make informed decisions,” he says.

Esau was inspired by an award displayed in the newsroom at Shamba FM, which motivated him to aspire to win, just like his fellow journalists.

“Being a winner has encouraged me and given me the drive to continue producing stories and features that can help people,” he says.



Impactful
News

Story That Brought a Journalist to Tears



“I wrote this story with tears streaming down my face. I cried during the interviews, and I cried while writing. As a woman, I felt the pain and suffering of those I was interviewing because I, too, have faced a similar challenge,” recounts Zourha Malisa, discussing her story that earned recognition from the judges of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT). Her story was selected as one of the contenders for the prestigious award.

Malisa, a journalist working with Mwananchi Communications Limited (MCL) and a digital media specialist, explains that while writing this story, it felt like she was telling her own experience, as she herself had gone through the struggles of trying to have a child.

The idea for the story emerged from her own journey of seeking solutions to her personal fertility challenges.

“I’ve been trying to have a child for eight years now. Along this journey, I met many women going through the same struggle, which inspired me to write this story, drawing from their experiences,” she explains.

Malisa’s story is about a mother who had to endure 38 injections in her stomach over a period of 13 years while struggling to conceive.

The significance of the story lies in the fact that infertility is a widespread issue in Tanzania but is rarely discussed openly, largely due to the stigma faced by women who are struggling to conceive, either within their homes or in society at large.

Malisa acknowledges that her experience working on this story revealed how secrecy around infertility leads to immense suffering for many women. They are often forced to endure silently, fearing the negative judgment they might face if they openly share their struggles.

Malisa says she decided to write the story to educate the public about reproductive health. In her view, many people in society have a narrow understanding of what reproductive health entails.

“When people hear ‘reproductive health,’ they often think it’s only about a girl becoming pregnant. Many think it’s a matter that only concerns girls or women. But it’s a much broader issue that involves many aspects affecting everyone in society,” she explains.

In addition to her personal experience with infertility, the lack of education and awareness about the issue motivated Malisa to write this story. She wanted to use her own experience and her platform as a journalist to help the community find solutions to the challenges faced by women struggling to conceive.

Malisa also discovered during her research that, while infertility has scientific causes, cultural traditions often play a role in perpetuating misconceptions and preventing open discussions about the issue.

“If this issue were discussed openly and thoroughly within society, the pain and suffering women endure in their search for medical solutions to infertility could be significantly reduced. Being

“ *Being a winner has encouraged me and given me the drive to continue producing stories and features that can help people* ”



more open about the issue would help identify it early, reducing the emotional and financial costs that arise when the problem is detected late,” she says.

The Story Itself

The story follows the journey of a woman who struggled to conceive for 13 years. Despite the physical pain caused by the numerous treatments, including countless injections, the story also highlights the emotional toll and the financial burden she faced while seeking solutions.

At one point, she was forced to take out a loan of Sh20 million to cover the cost of the treatments. Unfortunately, the entire amount was spent without achieving a pregnancy, leaving her not only childless but also in debt.

The story portrays her courage and determination in pursuing her goal of becoming a mother. Even after her first attempt at in-vitro fertilization (IVF) failed, leaving her with a large debt, she refused to give up. The hospital that treated her was so moved by her determination that they offered to cover part of the cost for her second attempt. However, that too was unsuccessful.

Many assumed that she would give up after two failed attempts, but she had other ideas. She went on to try for a third time, then a fourth, both of which failed as well.

Still, she did not lose hope, and her fifth attempt finally resulted in a successful pregnancy, and she gave birth safely.

Now, she is the proud mother of a five-year-old child, a child born out of immense struggle and financial cost. For her, however, the pain and expenses pale in comparison to the joy of having her child.

“There are many women like her. Some give up after one failed attempt and decide not to pursue IVF any further. They are left in anguish because when someone goes to such lengths to have a child, it signifies a deep yearning in their heart. When they fail and choose to stop trying, they are left with an emptiness, still longing for the child they hoped for.” says Malisa.

Challenges

According to Malisa, there are also many women who continue their journey of trying to have a child through IVF, despite repeated failures.

“I met a woman who had undergone over 14 IVF attempts without success, yet she still hasn’t given up. It was heartbreaking when she chose not to speak with me, despite initially agreeing to share her story.” But I understand why she chose not to be open,” Malisa says.

The reluctance of those affected to openly discuss their struggles with infertility was one of the major challenges Malisa faced while working on this story.

Additionally, Malisa herself found it difficult to remain detached from the topic, as she was writing about an issue she had personally experienced.

“There were times during interviews when I felt like I was the one being affected because of the emotional connection I had with the people I was interviewing. “Sometimes, my sources would break down in tears, and I found myself crying with them because I could truly relate to the pain they were experiencing,” she recalls.

The Impact

Regarding the impact of her story on the community, Malisa says it has had a positive effect, as it has raised awareness among many women



struggling with infertility who were unaware that there are scientific solutions available.

“Fortunately, my story focused on the same hospital where I am also receiving treatment. They have kept in touch and shared that after my story aired, there was a noticeable increase in the number of women seeking solutions for infertility,” she says.

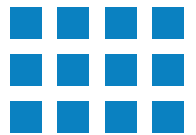
Additionally, Malisa says that people, including men, have reached out to her directly for more information about IVF.

“After reading my story, many people have called me, asking for more detailed information about

IVF. Some have even asked specific questions, assuming I’m an expert on the subject, while others have inquired about the hospital offering these treatments,” she says.

This shows that the story resonated with many people in the community.

Moreover, Malisa notes that the stories she heard while interviewing others have strengthened her own resolve to continue seeking a solution to her fertility challenges. They have given her the courage to keep going without losing hope.



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The Other Side of Infertility

By Peter Nyanje

In many societies across Africa, with Tanzania not being an exception, when a married woman is unable to conceive, the blame is often placed squarely on her. She is seen as the one responsible for the couple's failure to have children.

It is rare to find a man being blamed when his wife fails to conceive. Additionally, the hardships and stigma that arise from childlessness usually fall entirely on hapless woman. She bears the burden of shame, ridicule and societal judgment.

It is uncommon to hear about men facing any form of hardship over infertility within their marriage. However, when examined closely, experts reveal that the issue of infertility can be attributed to either of the partners.

There are many families struggling to have a child due to biological constraints stemming from the male partner. Moreover, statistics show that many men have endured significant suffering as a result of infertility.

This is the issue journalist Adam Hhando tackled in his radio feature story titled, *"The Cruelty Faced by Men Unable to Impregnate Their Wives."* In this broadcast, Hhando sheds light on the often-unseen side of infertility: how men also suffer when they are unable to father children.

"What drove me to write this story was my experience two years ago when I covered a story on women being abused due to infertility. While researching that piece, I discovered that there are men who also suffer from infertility. After

publishing the first story, I decided to conduct more research, this time focusing on men's infertility and how they confront it," Hhando told Tuzo Magazine.

Hhando's report revealed the struggles men face due to childlessness. In addition to the psychological torment, some men endure physical suffering. For example, Hhando met an elderly man over the age of 70 who, due to his advanced age, needed care but had no one to look after him, because he had not been blessed with even a single child. His wife left him years earlier after realizing he was infertile.





“There was this elderly man I met; he was over 70-years-old. Because of his age, he needed help to manage his life, but he had no choice but to care for himself since he had no children, and his wife had left him years ago after discovering he was unable to father a child,” Hhando explained, speaking from his base at CG FM in Tabora.

Hhando further pointed out that the secrecy surrounding male infertility is one of the factors that motivated him to run this story, hoping to educate the public and raise awareness that men dealing with infertility deserve the same support that women in similar situations receive.

“As you know, in African culture, men tend to be very private. They don’t like to talk about their problems. So when a man comes forward and speaks openly about his struggles, it’s a sign that a matter is really weighing heavily on him,” Hhando said, adding:

“That’s why I saw the importance of using my platform to address this issue, so the that public is informed, those affected are made aware, and actions are taken to tackle the problem.”

The Importance of This Story

Hhando highlights that in many societies, infertility is often perceived as a woman’s problem alone. However, experts confirm that men are equally affected by childlessness in their partnerships.

Since many communities are unaware of this, or since they refuse to acknowledge it, the journalist decided to pursue this story as a way to educate the public.

“I believe those who listened to this broadcast learned a great deal about infertility because I interviewed several experts who provided in-depth explanations on the issue,” Hhando notes.



The Story Itself

The radio feature story, which is 15 minutes long, explores the stories of several men who live without children. Some of the men interviewed revealed during the broadcast how much they suffer in isolation after being abandoned by their wives.

Without children, these men now lead lonely lives. The programme also features commentary from reproductive health experts who explained the biological factors behind male infertility, challenging the widespread belief that infertility affects women only.

Challenges

According to Hhando, one of the biggest challenges he encountered was convincing many men affected by infertility to open up about their struggles.

“There are many people I came across who are faced with this challenge, but only a few were willing to speak openly and be recorded without conditions. Some allowed me to record their sto-

ries, but only on the condition that I wouldn't reveal their names. Many more admitted they had the problem but didn't want to discuss it publicly,” Hhando recounts.

This challenge limited the amount of information Hhando could gather, which could have further enriched his story. However, he compensated by seeking alternative sources, including health experts to provide sufficient information for his story.

For instance, he consulted reproductive health specialists who explained the causes of male infertility, providing a scientific perspective on the condition and ways to address it.

Given that infertility has psychological effects, perhaps the journalist could have also interviewed mental health professionals to provide insights that might help men struggling with the psychological impact of infertility but are reluctant to be open about it.

“ As you know, in African culture, men tend to be very private. They don't like to talk about their problems. So when a man comes forward and speaks openly about his struggles, it's a sign that a matter is really weighing heavily on him **”**





Poverty Forces Families to Survive on Leftover Bones

By Our Writer

The saying, “Yesterday’s sugarcane peel is today’s food harvest for ants,” aptly captures the dire poverty experienced by some households in Dodoma. There are all families who survive on bones discarded at the Mnadani Market in Msalato. Their lives are a testament to how poverty can strip away dignity, forcing people like them to rely on leftover bones for sustenance.

Ironically, this indignity unfolds in plain sight, amidst hundreds of people who can afford to buy fresh meat at the popular Mnadani Market in Msalato, known for its barbecues and weekend gatherings. Children, estimated to be between the ages of 9 and 18, can be seen scavenging for leftover bones to stave off hunger.

The gravity of this issue was brought to light in an investigative story by ITV journalist Benjamin Mzinga, titled “*Children Surviving on Leftovers Bones at Mnadani Market.*” The story, aired on ITV’s Ripoti Maalumu (Special Report), paints a heartbreaking picture of extreme poverty in Dodoma, where the Msalato Auction has become a lifeline for families desperately searching for food due to lack of income. The narrative speaks volumes about the failure of family, community and possibly national efforts to ensure that those most in need receive at least one meal a day.

These children not only survive on these leftovers but also collect them to sell to those who make a living by selling pet food or chickens. This provides their families with a small income to cover other essential needs.

The children openly admit that they resort to scavenging just to survive. Even more concerning, they consume the leftovers right there at the Mnadani Market, seemingly unafraid of the potential health risks. When asked why, their response is simple and painful: “Poverty brought us here.”

Psychologist Cosmas Maduru explains that children resorting to such extreme behaviors, like scavenging for others’ leftovers, are likely to experience lasting psychological damage, even if their current situation is eventually resolved. “These children have crossed the threshold of normal life and are now merely fighting to survive,” Maduru states.

He adds that this is more than just shame; it’s a thing with lifelong adverse implications. These children will carry these behaviours with them forever. “This situation is beyond humiliation,” he says, warning that their experience will leave lifelong scars on their self-worth.



The story also highlights the shortcomings of the government's Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF), as these children, forced into degrading activities to support their families, are driven by a lack of alternatives.

Among the families visited by the journalist were two households whose children had become the primary breadwinners. A sister with two siblings confirmed that they boil the discarded bones, mix them with oil, onions and tomatoes, then use them as stew to eat with ugali (a staple meal made from maize flour). Poverty is evident in these households and you don't need any formal research to uncover it. Household members' sleeping conditions are poor, and the children manage everything without any adult support because their parents have long abandoned them.

In another visited household, the children live with their grandmother, a frail elderly woman, where poverty greets you the moment you arrive. Their

home environment is a stark testament to extreme poverty. The grandmother, Fatma Rakia, though her age could not be verified, clearly shows her frailty due to both old age and malnutrition.

She admits that her grandchildren go to the auction to scavenge for discarded bones, even though she doesn't send them herself—they do it out of necessity because there is nothing at home.

Grandma Fatma recounts how she previously benefited from the TASAF programme but was later removed without explanation.

Zuhura Mdungu, Head of Communications at TASAF, explains that households are enrolled in the program based on criteria such as poor housing conditions, a large number of children that cannot be supported, single parenthood, disability, and lack of economically valuable assets. Once a household's situation improves, it is removed from the program.





Mnadani Market, Msalato, Dodoma.

Mzee Daudi Magati also raises concerns about the unpredictability of TASAF payments, which sometimes arrive after two, three, or four months, with amounts ranging from Sh20,000 to Sh25,000—insufficient to lift them out of poverty.

The act of scavenging for bones as a source of food for impoverished families seems to be overlooked by both the auction authorities and local government in Msalato. Accountability is missing. Although the head of traders at the Msalato Auction, Abdul Hamis, mentions that they once used local security personnel to stop children from scavenging and eating leftovers, this effort was short-lived.

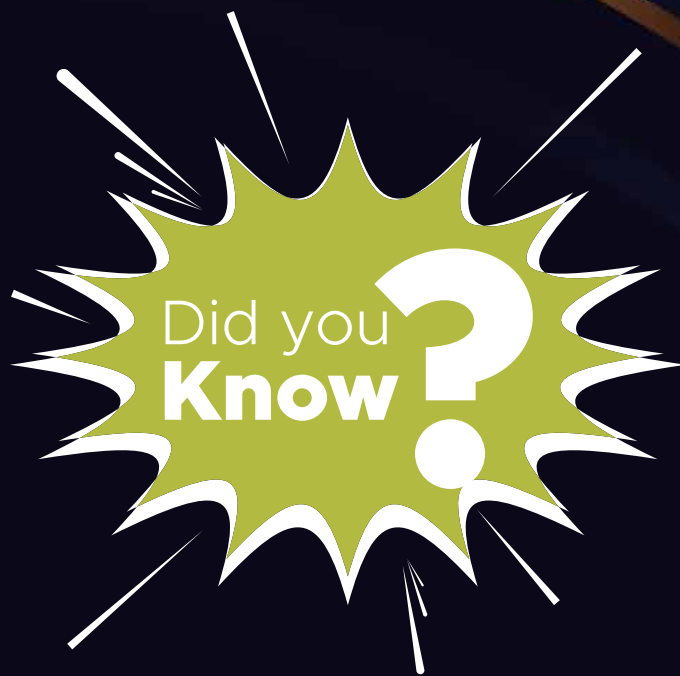
The Msalato Ward Health Officer, Heri Mfungwa, says they have tried to educate the public and warn the children about the dangers of eating leftovers, but the situation remains unchanged. Dr Celestine Mpiri warns that those who consume bone leftovers are at risk of infections, including gastrointestinal and respiratory illnesses, as leftover food can harbour bacteria from the original eater.

While concerns over TASAF's failure to reach some of its intended beneficiaries are being voiced in Dodoma, the Regional Commissioner, Rosemary Senyamule, says she has no reports of households being removed from the programme.

However, she notes that the region's strategy is to encourage Dodoma residents to grow sorghum as a cash crop to help them earn money to buy maize, given the region's struggles with maize production due to drought.

Mzinga recalls being contacted by social welfare officers from Dodoma who set up camp at the Msalato Auction to investigate the children scavenging for leftover bones. They assured him they were following up on the issue.

As for TASAF, there are reports of a review being conducted over those who were removed from the programme. Clearly, further action is needed to address the plight of the affected families.



In the **Did You Know?** section you'll discover unique and engaging topics relevant to your everyday life. This content is deeply researched to ensure accuracy and truth, drawing from various credible sources. You'll encounter information presented in a professional yet simple style, with clear examples and statistics.

The goal is to provide you with the opportunity to learn something new in a fun and enlightening way. Where appropriate, you'll find images or illustrations to enhance understanding. At the end, you'll be met with thought-provoking questions or reflections.

“

Do you know? is a subject that undergoes in-depth research to ensure the accuracy and truth of information derived from various reliable sources.”

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How PSSSF Strategic Investments Enhance Efficiency In Pension Payments

By Our Writers

“NUMBERS don’t lie,” goes the saying. Understanding how numbers reveal the true state of affairs has been a unique advantage, as they demonstrate PSSSF’s remarkable progress in reducing the waiting time for lump sum payments from over 365 days to just 60 days.

“The Fund has significantly reduced the waiting time for pensioners. A pensioner with accurate documentation is now paid within 60 days, as stipulated in the Fund’s Act,” says Abdul-Razaq Badru, Director General of the Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF).

Mr. Abdul-Razaq Badru, whose exemplary work at the Higher Education Students’ Loans Board (HESLB) was widely recognized, has been transforming Tanzania’s giant social security fund, PSSSF, into an increasingly efficient and financially stable institution.

Before the 2018 reforms—further strengthened by Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan in 2022—a retired worker could wait over one to three years to receive their well-deserved benefits after years of dedication and hard work serving the nation. Today, that waiting period has been reduced to just 60 days. What a relief!

Mr. Badru emphasizes, “This improvement is a result of the Fund’s enhanced financial stability and upgraded service delivery systems for its members. Members now have easier access to accurate information. The Fund’s investment portfolio plays a crucial role in protecting the value of members’ contributions against inflation.”

He further notes that PSSSF’s financial resilience has strengthened, rising from an average of 22.30% in 2020/21 to 36.4% for the year ending June 2023.



Abdul-Razaq Badru
Director General (PSSSF)



PSSSF Investment Portfolio

The Fund's diversified investment approach spans across various asset classes including government securities, corporate bonds, collective investment schemes, loans, real estate, fixed deposits, listed equities, unlisted equities, and infrastructure projects.

The investments in government securities totaled TZS 5,301.88 billion, reflecting a 5.50% increase from the previous year. This growth highlights the Fund's commitment to financing central budget deficits and supporting major infrastructure projects, while also aiding the Bank of Tanzania in managing the nation's money supply.

Main Source of Funds

The Fund's primary sources of income are member contributions and investment returns, which have grown from 1,420.87 billion/- in July 2020 to 1,681.65 billion/- by June 2023, equivalent to an 18% increase.

Corporate Bonds

In the corporate bond segment, the Fund's portfolio reached TZS 28.57 billion with significant

investments in green bonds, which contribute to sustainability and environmental conservation. The Fund's involvement in collective investment schemes, particularly in UTT AMIS and WHI Reit, underscores its role in enhancing the Net Asset Value of units, benefiting low-income investors.

Fixed Deposits

Fixed deposits with financial institutions recorded a significant increase, bolstering the liquidity and stability of these institutions, thereby promoting broader economic development. The Fund's equity investments, both listed and unlisted continue to grow, with a total value of TZS 628.38 billion in listed equities and TZS 336.32 billion in unlisted equities, supporting various sectors including finance, manufacturing and agriculture.

Msamvu Bus Terminal in Morogoro

The Fund has made strategic investments in infrastructure, most notably through the construction of the Msamvu Bus Terminal, which not only serves as an economic hub but also creates numerous employment opportunities and supports local businesses.

Msamvu Bus Station, Morogoro.





Government Securities

As of June 30th, 2024, the total value of government securities stood at TZS 5,301.88 billion, marking a 5.50% increase compared to the TZS 5,025.36 billion recorded in the previous financial year (2022/23).

Investment in Government securities plays a crucial role in funding central budget deficits, particularly by raising capital for significant projects such as infrastructure development, including roads, bridges, and power plants, while also supporting the broader financial ecosystem of the country.

CORPORATE BOND

The Fund's portfolio in Corporate Bond stood at **TZS 28.57 billion** as of 30th June 2024. This includes those from Tanzania Mortgage Refinance Company Limited, Imaan Finance Ltd, NBC Bank, CRDB Bank and Tanga Uwasa. During the year, new investments in corporate bonds amounted to TZS 18.50 billion, with interest accrued totaling TZS 1.92 billion, a significant increase from the TZS 1.02 billion recorded in the 2022/23 financial year.

The Fund invested TZS 5.5 billion in the CRDB Green Bond, with the funds designated exclusively for financing eligible green investments and projects. These projects focus on areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, transportation, water management, waste management, sustainable land use, and adaptation infrastructure.

PSSSF has also committed TZS 5.5 billion to the TANGA UWASA Green Bond which is expected to have positive impacts, particularly in the extraction, treatment, and distribution of clean and safe water to residents of Tanga.

COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEME

The Fund has diversified its investments into various Collective Investment Schemes, including the UTT Umoja Fund, UTT Jikimu Fund, WHI Faida Fund and WHI Reit.

As at 30th June 2024, the total amount invested in mutual funds reached TZS 304.98 billion, reflecting a 10.75% increase from the TZS 275.37 billion previous year. As a significant investor in UTT AMIS, PSSSF holds investments in Umoja Fund and Jikimu Fund units, with a net asset value of TZS 250.36 billion as of June 2024. The Fund owns 57% of WHI Reit and 63% of WHI Faida Fund.

LOANS PORTFOLIO

The loan portfolio valued at TZS 327.93 billion, as of 30th June, 2024. This reflects the Fund's focus on socio-economic utility, with loans disbursed to support key infrastructure projects and improve the living standards of SACCOS members. The real estate investments, amounting to TZS 1,163.35 billion, include state-of-the-art properties that contribute to job creation and urban development.

"In the last financial year, the Fund issued loans amounting to TZS 8.71 billion to corporate clients and received TZS 19.85 billion in repayments from loans extended to institutions, members, and SACCOS groups," says Mr. Badru.

In its effort to fulfill one of the Fund's key investment criteria—socio-economic utility—PSSSF extended loans to the government to support critical infrastructure development projects.

The loans played a pivotal role in financing key development projects in East Africa, including the construction of prominent higher learning institutions such as the University of Dodoma (UDOM) and the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), as well as other significant projects like the Parliament of Tanzania.

By funding these significant projects, PSSSF contributed not only to the enhancement of the country's educational and governmental infrastructure but also to broader socio-economic development.



PSSF Commercial Building, along Sam Nujoma road, in Dar Es Salaam

REAL ESTATE

The Fund owns 16 state-of-the-art commercial properties and 21 residential properties located in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Mwanza, Dodoma, Mtwara and Shinyanga. The total investment properties of the Fund amounted to TZS 1,163.35 billion as at 30th June 2024. A recent valuation conducted by an independent professional valuer revealed a significant gain in fair value, amounting to TZS 49.95 billion.

By investing in residential and commercial properties, the Fund provides customized solutions to individuals and corporations with accommodation and office space needs. These

state-of-the-art properties serve as landmarks and symbols of urban development in several Tanzanian cities. A good example is PSSF Commercial Complex, which is the tallest building in Dar es Salaam and one of the most iconic structures in East and Southern Africa region.

FIXED DEPOSITS

As of 30th June 2024, total deposits with financial institutions amounted to TZS 666.23 billion, marking a significant increase from TZS 497.30 billion reported in the previous financial year. Additionally, the interest earned during this period contributed TZS 50.33 billion to the total, further bolstering the Fund's financial position.



Proceeds from these investments significantly strengthen the financial capacity of the Fund.

LISTED EQUITIES

The Fund has invested in various listed equities including CRDB, MCB, NICOL, NMB, SWISSPORT, TANGA CEMENT, TBL, TCC, TPCC, TOL GASES, VODACOM and TCCIA.

As at 30th June 2024, total value of investment in listed equities reached TZS 628.38 billion as compared to TZS 575.10 billion recorded in the preceding financial year. The increase in listed equity is due to additional shares bought in Tanzania Breweries Limited amounting to TZS 6.50 billion and TCCIA amounting to TZS 5.45 as well as increase in share prices at DSE as compared with previous year.

UNLISTED EQUITIES

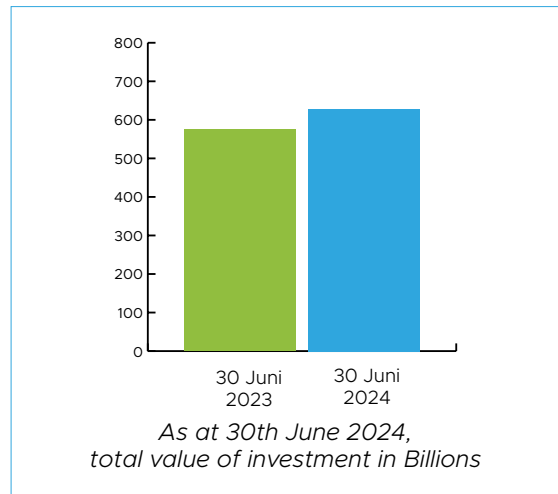
The Fund has made investments in several unlisted equities including Azania Bank, Tan-Re, ZEP-RE, TCB, ACB, Ubungu Plaza, MCCCL, PPF/NHC, KLIICL, Mamba Myamba Ginger Co. Ltd, WHI, Mponde Holding Co. Ltd, Nambogo Sumbawanga JV, TMX, Nguru Hills Ranch Ltd, PPF/DCC and APC Investment Centre.

As at 30th June 2024, the total value of investments in unlisted equities amounted to TZS 336.32 billion. Others investments were Mamba Myamba Ginger Co. Ltd (a ginger processing factory), Mponde Holding Co. Ltd (a tea processing factory), Nguru Hills Ranch Ltd (a meat processing factory) and KLIICL (a leather goods manufacturing factory).

Upon completion of these industrial projects, the factories are expected to create 3,480 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Fund has made strategic investments in infrastructure across the country. As of 30th June 2024, the total value of these infrastructure investments stood at TZS 15.07 billion.



One of the Fund's notable projects, in collaboration with the Morogoro Municipal Council, is the construction of the modern Msamvu Bus Terminal. The Msamvu Project serves as a significant economic platform, generating numerous direct and indirect employment opportunities.

PSSSF's investment portfolio serves as a safeguard for members' contributions, with most investments focused on long-term growth. The future looks bright for both current and future investments as the country's economic activities continue to expand. Thanks to the social security funds, our cities' skylines continue to captivate tourists, enhancing the nation's prestige. The investment portfolio continues to grow in both size and revenue.

Mr. Badru has introduced reforms that position the Fund as a key contributor to the country's economic prosperity. With the support of Dr. Samia's 4R strategy, the future of social security in Tanzania, particularly for PSSSF, appears highly promising.



Marie Stopes: Transforming Lives

By Our Writer

Government efforts to provide public services are often hampered by a lack of resources, including financial, human or equipment shortages. In such situations, private institutions play a crucial role in helping the government achieve its goals.

Marie Stopes Tanzania (MST) is one of the private organizations that has significantly contributed to supporting the government's efforts in delivering healthcare services to its citizens. Since its establishment in 1989, MST has made tremendous strides in providing specialized reproductive health services, greatly impacting the lives of ordinary Tanzanians.

What sets MST apart is its ability to deliver services in remote areas that are difficult for other service providers, including the government, to reach. Often, many Tanzanians living in rural areas, especially women, face immense challenges regarding safe childbirth. However, many of these individuals have been supported through MST's outreach services.

MST has been at the forefront of transforming lives by providing high quality, affordable

reproductive health services in many parts of the country.

Under its motto, '*A world where every birth is wanted!*' MST has been a strong supporter of government initiatives to promote family planning.

Its partnership with the Ministry of Health and TAMISEMI (Regional Administration and Local Government) has ensured that these essential services are available in many parts of the country, strengthening service delivery and addressing maternal health challenges. These efforts have contributed to a reduction in maternal mortality, now standing at 104 deaths per 100,000 live births.

In the past year alone, MST reached 1.7 million people with crucial services. These included family planning, where various birth control methods were taught and distributed to the public.

Through these efforts, MST estimates it has been able to prevent 2.6 million unintended pregnancies, 723,000 unsafe abortions, and 3,248 maternal deaths.



MST prides itself on offering services to all sectors of society, with a focus on low-income groups. Statistics show that 30% of those served by MST live below the poverty line, with 58% receiving services for the first time, 56% having never accessed such services before, and approximately 5% being people with disabilities. Additionally, 19% of the beneficiaries are young people between the ages of 15 and 19, demonstrating the organization's commitment to reaching this group, as outlined in the National Plan for Reproductive Health for Children and Youth.

This has contributed to a reduction in teenage pregnancies from 27% in 2015/16 to 22% in 2022.

MST uses innovative strategies to reach young people, including hosting events that attract youth, running educational programs in higher learning institutions, offering weekend youth clinics, and supporting peer clubs both in and out of schools.

Beyond Services

MST's strategy goes beyond simply providing services; it also ensures that its work aims to uphold the right to quality reproductive health services and their sustainability.

MST strives to deliver services without stigmatising its clients, ensuring that everyone, regardless of age, location, or economic status, receives care in a welcoming environment.

With more than 300 permanent staff members, MST ensures that its services reach every corner of the country. This is achieved through various means, such as mobile clinics, strengthening the health sector, establishing maternity hospitals, and ensuring access to medical supplies for

reproductive health.

In this regard, MST ensures the availability of medical equipment for reproductive health, such as various contraceptive methods, post-miscarriage care, maternal health services, and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, providing these services to everyone as a fundamental human right.

Beacon of Hope

MST's work has resulted in a reduction in maternal deaths during childbirth, fewer infant mortalities, and the prevention of unsafe abortions.

MST stands as a beacon of hope for many Tanzanians, working with professional organizations such as the Medical Council of Tanzania (MCT) and the Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Tanzania (AGOTA) to promote safe childbirth initiatives.

Currently, MST partners with the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) to support the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), aimed at recognizing and rewarding journalists and editors who have excelled in reporting on reproductive health and produced stories that have led to positive changes in society.

Other Services

MST currently operates nine centres in eight regions, along with a specialized maternity hospital located in Mwenge, Dar es Salaam.

In addition to reproductive health services, MST also provides other healthcare services, such as general consultations, ultrasound services, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, cervical cancer screenings, and treatment of urinary tract infections.



11 Years of Azam TV and the Transformation of Tanzanian Football

By Our Writer

Courage and determination—these are some of the words that best describe the journey of Azam Media Limited (AML) and the revolutionary impact it has had on the sports sector in Tanzania, particularly in football and boxing.

The Bakhresa family took a brave leap, and when you look back 11 years ago and compare it to where we are now, the difference is like night and day. Their decision to invest in Tanzanian football, which was then in disarray and lacked

enthusiasm, was a bold and patriotic move for the nation. Yet, from a business standpoint, it was a highly risky endeavor to invest in something with an uncertain future.

Fast forward to 11 years later, and it is clear that their efforts have become part of history. Everyone—fans, clubs, and players—now enjoys the benefits of a transformed sports landscape that has drastically changed the perception of football in Tanzania and across Africa.





Before 2013, football was largely a male-dominated sport, both in terms of players and spectators. Today, the landscape has shifted. The transformations brought about by Azam TV have attracted more female fans to stadiums, making match day an outing for entire families. This level of inclusivity and engagement was unheard of before Azam TV's interventions.

When people say numbers don't lie, they aren't mistaken. According to the International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS), the Tanzanian Premier League is currently ranked the sixth most competitive league in Africa, a continent with 54 countries. In simple terms, the Tanzanian Premier League is now among Africa's top ten leagues. This achievement was once a distant dream before the revolution driven by Azam TV.

The Bakhresa family's investment has not only strengthened Tanzanian clubs but also transformed players' lives, provided endless entertainment for fans, and significantly boosted Tanzania's national football teams, from youth to women's and men's teams. Today, Tanzania's national teams are competing at a higher level in various African competitions.

We witnessed this transformation in 2023 when Simba SC was named one of the top eight clubs in Africa, participating in the prestigious Africa Super Cup. Simba's participation was not a fluke; it was the result of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) recognizing the quality of Tanzanian football, exemplified by Simba's consistent performances in the CAF Champions League, where they reached the quarter-finals four times in recent years.

A league with top-tier clubs naturally produces exceptional players. It's no wonder that in 2019, Tanzania participated in the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) for the first time in nearly 40 years, following it up with another appearance in 2023

in Ivory Coast.

Tanzanian clubs have also been performing remarkably well in various CAF competitions. In 2023, Yanga SC reached the final of the CAF Confederation Cup and advanced to the CAF Champions League quarter-finals in 2024 before a controversial exit against Mamelodi Sundowns. Over different periods, Azam FC has consistently excelled in international tournaments. Moreover, relatively new teams like Namungo FC and Coastal Union have also represented Tanzania in CAF competitions.

The success is not limited to football alone. Boxing has gained immense popularity, drawing interest from neighboring countries that now invite Tanzanian boxers to help rejuvenate the sport in their own nations. This sport, which was nearly forgotten, has been revitalized, with boxers now enjoying better pay and increased employment opportunities for the youth.

The same story can be told in the film industry, which was once stagnant but now boasts artists enjoying a stable income thanks to competitive compensation from Azam TV for their work.

Eleven years ago, it was common to see people in bars and other public places watching European football matches instead of local Tanzanian league games. Fans would be decked out in European club jerseys rather than supporting local teams.

It was almost impossible for a Tanzanian Premier League match to fill the Benjamin Mkapa Stadium, which has a capacity of 56,000. Now, Simba, Yanga, and Taifa Stars matches consistently draw full crowds.

The Bakhresa companies found themselves facing this landscape when they decided to invest. The league lacked excitement, stadiums were empty, and fans were more passionate about foreign

SIBAI

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clubs than their local teams. Competing foreign companies were keen to dominate the pay-TV market at any cost.

Fortunately, Tanzania is blessed to have local investors like the Bakhresa family, who are deeply committed to their country. This type of investment can only be pursued by someone with true patriotism and a deep love for their nation—not merely someone with financial resources.

Through the collaborative efforts of Azam Media Limited (AML), the Tanzania Football Federation (TFF), clubs, and other key stakeholders, the landscape of Tanzanian football has been completely transformed. It would be unfair to attribute this success solely to Azam Media.

There's no doubt that the Tanzanian Premier League now operates at a level that sets it apart from its East African counterparts. Our league is now seen as a model for many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

AML has demonstrated exceptional resilience and capability in the past and is ready to meet expectations in the upcoming ten-year contract period. Our goal is to ensure that our league remains one of the best—if not the best—in Africa.

That is our dream. That is our promise to you.

It's heartening to see people proudly wearing jerseys of Simba, Yanga, Azam, and other local clubs with joy and enthusiasm as they walk through the streets. Such sights were rare 11 years ago.

UDANI HIZI



INDUZI

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A Strong Parliament Nurtures an Accountable Government

By Our Writer

The authority to govern a country is divided among three main pillars of power, known as the branches of government: *the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary*. Each branch has its own constitutional mandate, ensuring a separation of powers. In performing their respective roles, these branches also serve as checks and balances on one another. The Executive is led by the President, the Legislature by the Speaker of Parliament, and the Judiciary by the Chief Justice.

This principle of separation of powers forms the foundation for ensuring that each branch operates independently, yet remains accountable. For example, a government official may refrain from commenting on a matter that is before the courts, or a Member of Parliament (MP) may state that a particular issue cannot be discussed in Parliament due to ongoing legal proceedings.

The concept of separation of powers allows citizens to elect the government of their choice. Even after electing a government through the ballot box, citizens retain the right and freedom to hold it accountable through their representatives in Parliament.

As the people's representative body, Parliament plays a crucial role in the democratic process. It has the authority to make laws, oversee the government's activities, and provide advice as stipulated in Article 63(2) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania:

"The second part of Parliament shall be the principal organ of the United Republic which shall have the authority on behalf of the people to oversee and advise the Government of the United Republic and all its organs in the discharge of their respective responsibilities in accordance with this Constitution."

According to the Constitution, Parliament has the power to ensure that the government performs its duties as expected, as it holds the authority to hold the government accountable. Simply put, if the government fails to fulfill its responsibilities, it is Parliament that must be questioned.

In the history of Parliament's operations, there have been several instances where its actions led to significant changes, including the removal of ministers from office. One notable example is the 2014 Parliamentary report on the "Tokomeza Ujangili" (Eradicate Poaching) operation, which revealed human rights abuses, including killings,



torture, and humiliation allegedly committed by those executing the operation.

As a result of the report, four ministers resigned due to the involvement of their respective ministries in the operation. These were the then Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Ambassador Khamis Kagasheki; the then Minister of Home Affairs, Dr. Emmanuel Nchimbi; the then Minister of Defense and National Service, Shamsi Vuai Nahodha; and the then Minister of Livestock and Fisheries Development, Dr. David Mathayo.

This is just one of many instances where Parliament has taken action to ensure government accountability. However, this event remains a unique chapter in Tanzania's Parliamentary history as it led to the resignation of multiple ministers simultaneously following an investigation by a Parliamentary Committee.

Parliament also has the constitutional power to remove the President from office, as outlined in Article 46A of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania. Parliament, comprising two parts—the Members of Parliament (MPs) and the President (Parliament), and the MPs alone (National Assembly)—also has the authority to remove the Prime Minister in accordance with Article 53A of the Constitution.

It is clear that Parliament is a powerful institution, serving as the primary body responsible for ensuring national accountability. The government is answerable to Parliament, making it the citizens' eyes, ears, and watchdog to ensure proper governance.

Constitutionally, Parliament has the authority to approve the government's budget, and no tax can be imposed without Parliament's consent. Given this, citizens have the right to

ask their MPs questions about the management of their country's affairs. In a well-functioning parliamentary system, the government is fully accountable to Parliament. Recognizing its power, authority, and responsibility to the public, Parliament has established programs to engage with citizens so they can understand the role of this representative body.

In addition to broadcasting its sessions live on television to allow citizens to follow debates and decisions affecting national welfare, Parliament also conducts annual civic education programs. These sessions are facilitated by Parliamentary officers who meet with various community groups to raise awareness about Parliament's role as outlined in the Constitution.

Civic education is offered three times in each financial year. Currently, Parliament is conducting these programs in the Katavi and Kigoma regions, where government education officers are coordinating schedules for officers to meet with students in primary schools, secondary schools, and higher learning institutions to build their understanding of Parliament's constitutional mandate.

Beyond visiting schools and colleges, Parliament also invites and hosts students at its premises, providing them with firsthand exposure to Parliamentary operations. During every Parliamentary session, groups of students from various schools visit to observe how Parliament conducts its business—making laws, passing budgets, and holding the government accountable through questions and real-time discussions with the Prime Minister, who serves as the Leader of Government Business in the National Assembly.



Tanzania Parliament Assembly Hall

As it is not possible for all citizens to attend Parliament sessions, the concept of representative democracy takes precedence, with a selected few (MPs) representing citizens, whether through constituency seats, special seats, or presidential appointees, who legally cannot exceed 10 members. Every citizen, therefore, has a responsibility to monitor the performance of their elected representatives to determine whether they are effectively fulfilling their role.

Live broadcasts of Parliamentary sessions should be seen as an opportunity for citizens to assess the performance of their MPs—whether they are effectively representing them or not. This approach promotes accountability among MPs to their electorate.

Through these initiatives, Parliament continues to foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and engagement, ensuring that the voices of the people are heard and their interests are protected.

“According to the Constitution, Parliament has the power to ensure that the government performs its duties as expected, as it holds the authority to hold the government accountable.”



Zanzibar Leo: Restoring Hope to Citizens Through Journalism

By Our Writer

The Zanzibar Government Newspaper Corporation, publishers of Zanzibar Leo, Zanzibar Mail, and Zaspoti, is a state-owned media outlet established to disseminate government information and policies.

At first glance, one might assume that these publications exist solely to praise the government. However, their role in society goes far beyond that. They have proven to be powerful tools in holding authorities accountable and addressing the everyday challenges faced by citizens.

The list of achievements by these publications in restoring hope to the people of Zanzibar is extensive. Here, we highlight a few key areas where the media has helped bring solutions to problems affecting the community, as well as individuals.

Healthcare Sector

One of the most significant areas where Zanzibar Leo has made an impact is in the healthcare sector. The newspaper reported on chronic absenteeism among healthcare workers at

Mkanyageni Health Center in Mkoani District. Workers would arrive late and leave early, which resulted in poor service delivery to patients. After the story was published, the relevant health authorities increased supervision, and the staff now adhere to their work schedules, a practice that had been neglected for years.

At Wesha Health Center in Chake Chake District, expectant mothers were forced to bring their own water due to a lack of running water at the facility. After Zanzibar Leo highlighted the issue, the Ministry of Health allocated funds to drill a well at the center, finally providing clean water for the maternity ward.

Empowering the Vulnerable

The impact of Zanzibar Leo extends beyond public institutions. In Shumba Vyomboni Village, Micheweni District, the newspaper shed light on the plight of a disabled woman who ran a madrasa but lived in deplorable conditions. Thanks to the story, good Samaritans came forward to build her a new madrasa, a modern house, and provide her with a wheelchair.



In Wingwi Village, Micheweni District, residents were struggling to cross a flooded road to access services in nearby villages. The flooding, caused by the ocean water flowing on to the road due to environmental degradation, had cut them off from essential services. After the newspaper reported on the issue, the Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF) stepped in and built a wooden bridge, restoring access for the villagers, including students and others needing daily services.

Addressing Social Injustices

One of the most heart-wrenching stories published by Zanzibar Leo was about a woman abandoned with quintuplets (five children born at the same time) and left to care for them on her own, unable to provide for her children or send them to school. The story moved many, and soon, kind-hearted individuals stepped in to build a modern home for her and her children, while also ensuring that the children were re-enrolled in school.

Healthcare Access in Tumbatu

One of the ongoing struggles in the Tumbatu Islands, home to three villages but with only one health center, was the lack of local healthcare services. Residents of Tumbatu Bomani were forced to cross the sea to Kidoti Health Center in North A District, Unguja, or even travel to Mnazi Mmoja Hospital in the capital for medical attention. After Zanzibar Leo gave voice to their concerns, the government responded, announcing plans to build a major hospital on Tumbatu Island to serve all three villages, bringing much-needed healthcare closer to the residents.

Promoting Accountability

The “Kero” section of Zanzibar Leo, dedicated to exposing various societal issues and calling for action, has seen tremendous success in promoting accountability. Reports of leaking water pipes wasting the precious resource led to swift action by the relevant authorities to repair them. Similarly, photos of cars illegally parked on pedestrian walkways prompted the government to enforce stricter regulations on parking.

Improving the Justice System

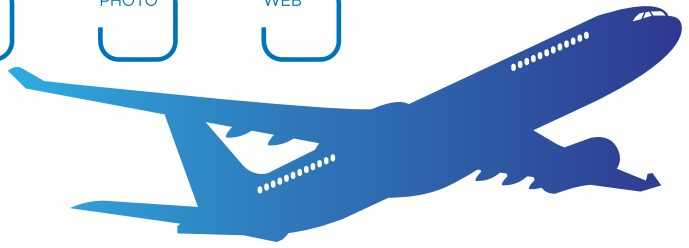
Zanzibar Leo has also played a key role in highlighting issues within the justice system, particularly cases of gender-based violence that were not given the attention they deserved, or where light penalties were handed down to offenders. Following sustained coverage, there has been an increase in harsher sentences for sexual abuse cases, including longer prison terms.

One persistent issue in Zanzibar had been the cultural taboo that prevented people from reporting incidents of rape and abuse. However, thanks to Zanzibar Leo’s ongoing awareness campaigns, more people are now coming forward to report such crimes, leading to a reduction in the number of unreported cases.

Protecting Students from Sexual Harassment

Another critical area the newspaper tackled was the growing trend of businessmen in Darajani and Vikokotoni preying on female students. After a long campaign by the newspaper exposing these dangers, the government took decisive action, relocating schools from these high-risk areas to safer locations.

“*The “Kero” section of Zanzibar Leo, dedicated to exposing various societal issues and calling for action, has seen tremendous success in promoting accountability.*”



Zanzibar
Airports
Authority

ZAA Records Remarkable Successes Year After Year

By Peter Nyanje

Have you ever seen an organization achieve its economic targets by more than 250%? Very few institutions can boast such success, but the Zanzibar Airports Authority (ZAA) is one of those exceptional entities.

From 2020 to 2023, ZAA achieved an impressive increase in passenger numbers, rising from 840,599 to 2,131,406—a remarkable growth of 253%. This accomplishment is attributed to the authority’s strategic leadership, supported by favorable policies and regulations implemented by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar.

The surge in passenger traffic has also propelled ZAA’s revenue growth from TZS 11.6 billion in 2019/20 to TZS 40.2 billion in 2023/24, marking a 95% increase. By any standard, these are outstanding achievements.

ZAA has demonstrated its resilience in managing its business, even in challenging times. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of passengers dropped significantly from 1,609,235 in 2019 to 840,599 in 2020. However, following the

pandemic, the Authority swiftly implemented strategies that enabled it to recover and increase the number of passengers to 2,131,406 in 2024.

ZAA’s improved business environment has also attracted new airlines to start operating at Zanzibar’s airports. New airlines such as Edelweiss and Eurowings from Germany, Etihad from the United Arab Emirates, FlySafair from South Africa, Air France from France, High Fly from Portugal, Jambo Jet, and World2Fly have started operating flights to Zanzibar. This marks a 26% increase in airlines landing at Zanzibar’s airports, from 68 in 2020 to 86 in 2023.

These airlines have been drawn not only by the enhanced business environment but also by ZAA’s efforts to strengthen security and safety at the airports. An inspection by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) at the Abeid Amani Karume International Airport (AAKIA) resulted in ZAA earning an “A” rating for airport safety and security measures.



Infrastructure improvements at AAKIA have also attracted companies like Emirates Leisure to operate within the new Terminal 3 passenger building. Additionally, Dnata, a company specializing in ground handling services, has commenced operations at the airport.

“Through these partnerships, AAKIA has received an international award for outstanding food and beverage services from the Airport Food & Beverage (FAB) + Hospitality Conference & Awards held in Bangkok, Thailand,” stated ZAA in its report. Moreover, AAKIA was also awarded an “RA3” certificate, confirming its compliance with cargo handling regulations for shipments to European countries.

Continuous Improvement

Despite these achievements, ZAA does not consider itself to have reached its full potential. It

is actively pursuing strategies to further enhance services and attract even more stakeholders. For instance, ZAA has entered into an agreement with SEGAP, a French company that provides management support to improve aviation service delivery in Tanzania.

The authority has also embarked on a feasibility study for the construction of a fourth passenger terminal (TB4) at AAKIA. A preliminary report has been completed, and the government is now working on securing funds for the project.

ZAA has also made significant strides in developing Pemba Island’s air transport sector, where plans for the construction of the Pemba International Airport are underway. The relevant ministry has finalized the compensation assessment, and payments are expected to be completed soon to pave the way for construction to begin.





“ From 2020 to 2023, ZAA achieved an impressive increase in passenger numbers, rising from 840,599 to 2,131,406—a remarkable growth of 253%. ”

Improvements at Pemba Airport also include the installation of runway lights, which will enable night operations that were previously impossible due to the lack of lighting. The airport’s perimeter is being secured with a concrete fence to enhance safety by preventing unauthorized access and keeping out animals.

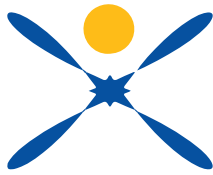
Ongoing Projects

Several projects are currently underway to improve operations at Zanzibar’s airports. One notable project is the construction of a new Terminal 2 passenger building. This project was initiated in response to concerns about the deteriorating infrastructure of the existing

Terminal 2 building. The new terminal, whose construction is currently 35% complete, will have the capacity to serve 1.3 million passengers.

Additionally, there is an ongoing project to build a VIP lounge and renovate the existing lounges at Terminal 1 for distinguished guests and private aircraft operations.

“The VIP lounge project has reached the stage of design approval, and construction will proceed once the designs are finalized,” the ZAA report states.



ewura CCC
Consumer Consultative Council

How EWURA CCC is Transforming Lives

By Lugiko L. Lugiko, Dodoma

In an era where access to energy and water is indispensable to both individual well-being and national economic development, having a body that represents consumers and ensures that they are informed and empowered is paramount.

This is the foundation upon which the Energy and Water Utilities Consumer Consultative Council (EWURA CCC) was formed. Established under Section 30 of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) Act, Cap 414, EWURA CCC serves as a vital watchdog, ensuring that Tanzanian consumers of energy and water services are informed, empowered and fairly treated.

Mandate of EWURA CCC

EWURA CCC serves as the voice of consumers by making submissions, disseminating information as well as consulting with EWURA, the minister responsible for EWURA and other sectoral ministers.

The Council also engages with various stakeholders, including the government and industries to ensure improved services.

Additionally, EWURA CCC is responsible for collecting and disseminating crucial information for consumers, forming regional and sector-specific consumer committees and consulting with them.

Advocacy and Consumer Empowerment

To effectively represent the needs of consumers, EWURA CCC employs a variety of advocacy strategies. Chief among them is offering public education on consumer rights and responsibilities. This includes raising awareness of regulatory rules and regulations governing energy and water services, promoting responsible water use and educating consumers on how to read their electricity and water meters.

These initiatives are delivered via a diverse range of media outlets, including television, radio, social networks, public meetings, seminars and exhibitions.

EWURA CCC also plays a crucial role in representing consumers during the review of energy and water tariffs, ensuring that consumer concerns are heard in these often technical deliberations. Furthermore, the Council assists consumers in resolving consumer complaints, providing a vital avenue for redress.

“Our vision is to have knowledgeable and empowered consumers of regulated energy and water services,” says EWURA CCC’s Executive Secretary, Ms Stella Lupimo, who adds: “This will improve the quality of services and foster greater accountability from both service providers and consumers.”



Four Years of Impact

EWURA CCC's recent performance reports, covering the 2020/21 to 2023/24 period, highlight the tangible impact the Council has made. Over this period, EWURA CCC made more than 30 submissions to EWURA, primarily advocating for affordable service rates. Furthermore, the Council successfully conducted 2,840 public awareness programmes, reaching 708,975 consumers.

Through media initiatives alone, EWURA CCC delivered 791 programmes, effectively educating thousands of consumers about their rights, responsibilities and matters related to energy and water regulated services. Reflecting on the Council's achievements, Ms Lupimo notes: "We are committed to ensuring every consumer's voice is heard. This commitment has helped us resolve 16,795 consumer complaints over this period."

Success Stories: Advocacy in Action

The success of EWURA CCC is perhaps best demonstrated through the real-life stories of Tanzanians whose lives have been transformed by the Council's interventions.

Take the case of Husna Abdallah, a resident of Tanga who faced a crippling water bill debt of Sh2.6 million, which was a staggering jump from her usual monthly bill of Sh120,000. Despite her persistent efforts that took over eight months, the issue remained unresolved. Upon learning about EWURA CCC through a radio programme, Ms Abdallah filed a complaint. Following an investigation, the Council, in collaboration with the Tanga Urban Water and Sanitation Authority (Tanga UWASA), identified a billing error. Her debt was reduced to Sh 140,000, a move that restored her peace of mind.

"I am grateful to EWURA CCC for helping me. Without them, I would not have received justice," Ms Husna says. Similarly, Mr Bakari Athumani from Chonjo in Tanga faced an electricity bill debt of

Sh4.1 million, leading to a service disconnection. Multiple attempts to resolve the issue with TANESCO proved futile, until—on a relative's advice—he approached EWURA CCC. After a thorough investigation and mediation efforts, his debt was revised and his electricity service was restored. "EWURA CCC has been a tremendous help. I got my electricity service back, and justice was served," shares Mr Athuman. Mr Abdulsamadi Sharif, a fishmonger, also benefited from EWURA CCC's advocacy when a power surge destroyed his refrigerator, leading to significant business losses.

Despite his efforts to seek compensation from TANESCO, he encountered roadblocks. After receiving guidance from his local Chairman, Mr Sharif brought his case to EWURA CCC. Following an investigation involving EWURA, TANESCO was ordered by EWURA to compensate him with Sh2 million, covering the cost of his refrigerator and the spoiled fish. "I received compensation thanks to EWURA CCC. Without them, my business would have suffered even more," says Mr Sharif.

Why EWURA CCC Matters

For energy and water consumers across Mainland Tanzania, EWURA CCC offers more than just a voice; it also provides advocacy, representation and most importantly, results.

The Council's work ensures that consumers receive accurate information and representation on matters of tariffs, service quality, and rights. EWURA CCC's unwavering commitment to consumer empowerment has brought about significant improvements in the daily lives of countless Tanzanians, enhancing service delivery and promoting accountability. With its guiding principle, "Quality Service is Your Right," EWURA CCC continues to be a trusted partner for every energy and water service consumer in Tanzania, advocating for a better future where access to these essential services is fair and equitable for all.



ISO 9001: 2015 Certified

18 Years of EWURA Regulation: A Positive Impact on the Nation

By Our Writer

The government's ongoing reforms have led to significant investment in the delivery of services and products across the country. This surge in investment has not only boosted businesses but also heightened competition, which, if left unchecked, could harm consumers. To address this, the government established regulatory authorities to ensure that service and product providers operate fairly, protecting ordinary citizens from exploitation.

As part of this effort, the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) was established in 2006 through a special Act of Parliament (The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority Act, Cap 414 of the Laws of Tanzania). Now in its 18th year of operation, EWURA continues to play a vital role in driving economic development by regulating activities within the energy and water sectors to ensure that citizens receive high-quality and reliable services.

What is EWURA?

The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) is one of the regulatory bodies in Tanzania, established by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority Act of 2001. Its primary roles include issuing, renewing, and revoking licenses for energy and water operations, setting and enforcing service quality standards, reviewing and regulating prices, resolving complaints and disputes, and overseeing compliance with health, safety, and environmental standards.

EWURA also has a mandate to promote fair competition, protect consumer interests, and ensure that all users—urban and rural, affluent and low-income—have access to regulated services. Furthermore, the authority regulates the processing, transportation, storage, and distribution of natural gas. This includes overseeing infrastructure such as gas processing plants and pipelines.

In carrying out its mandate, EWURA strives to enhance the well-being of Tanzanians by fostering healthy competition, ensuring efficient economic performance, protecting consumer interests, securing financial investments for service providers, and promoting access to regulated services for all.

Little-Known Facts About EWURA

Did you know that EWURA's efforts have enabled the establishment of fuel stations even in remote village areas? Between June 2022 and June 2023, the number of rural fuel stations increased to 364—a clear indicator of the authority's commitment to expanding access to essential services. Moreover, EWURA was the pioneer in introducing price regulation for the products it oversees.

Before its establishment, prices of energy and water products were determined by various entities, including the Tanzania Electric Supply Company (TANESCO), water utilities, and oil trading companies. Due to the lack of a dedicated



regulator, prices fluctuated frequently, causing hardships for consumers. However, since EWURA started regulating prices, arbitrary hikes in the costs of fuel, gas, water, and electricity have been curbed, providing relief to consumers and creating stability in the market.

Ensuring Quality Service Delivery

EWURA has made significant strides in ensuring that energy and water service providers deliver high-quality services. Through strict regulations and regular inspections, EWURA has eradicated fuel adulteration, a problem that plagued the country years ago. The authority's oversight has also led to improved quality standards in electricity, water, and gas services, while ensuring that the infrastructure supporting these services is strengthened.

Attracting Investment and Sector Growth

EWURA's regulatory framework has attracted both local and foreign investment in the energy and water sectors. By setting clear policies and guidelines, investors are assured of a fair competitive environment, which has led to the expansion of these sectors, including the development of natural gas power generation and other renewable energy sources.

Transparency and Accountability

EWURA is known for its transparency and accountability. The authority regularly holds public meetings with citizens and stakeholders to gather feedback on the services being provided. This approach has fostered accountability among service providers, who are directly answerable to the public regarding the quality of their services. The transparency and accountability mechanisms introduced by EWURA have significantly reduced complaints and conflicts, as most issues are now resolved openly and promptly.

Strengthening Rule of Law

EWURA has reinforced the rule of law in the energy and water sectors, ensuring that companies involved in these industries comply with all laws, regulations, and standards set by the authority. This has reduced cases of consumer

exploitation, such as unjustified price hikes or service interruptions without notice. Today, it is rare to find fuel companies manipulating prices to exploit scarcity, thanks to EWURA's stringent regulatory oversight.

Regulating the Natural Gas Sector

EWURA is the recognized regulator of midstream and downstream activities in the natural gas and petroleum sub-sectors. The authority regulates entities involved in the processing, transportation, distribution, and sale of natural gas, including the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), Pan African Energy Tanzania (PAET), Songas Tanzania, and Maurel et Prom.

According to EWURA's Communications and Public Relations Manager, Mr. Titus Kaguo, these companies apply for various licenses from EWURA, which monitors the development of natural gas infrastructure, evaluates performance, and approves tariff and pricing requests for end consumers. Mr. Kaguo also emphasized that, by law, natural gas is considered a public resource that should benefit all Tanzanians. EWURA is committed to safeguarding public interests and mitigating potential adverse effects from natural gas activities, including processing and distribution.

For compressed natural gas (CNG), EWURA continues to encourage investors to apply for permits to build CNG refueling stations for vehicles. Speaking about the Petroleum Act (2015), Mr. Kaguo noted that the law mandates local participation in all aspects of the natural gas sector and prepares Tanzanians for employment in gas-related activities, as well as investment in ancillary services such as catering, hospitality, insurance, and more.

Under EWURA's regulation, the natural gas sector has significantly contributed to national economic growth, particularly during this period of industrialization, where there is an increasing demand for energy resources like natural gas and electricity as key drivers of the industrial sector.



TIC Wins Prestigious Award, Launches National Investment Year

By Our Writer

It may not be widely known, but the fact is, Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) has been praised for its outstanding efforts in promoting investment across Africa! At the 2024 Annual Investment Meeting (AIM) held in Abu Dhabi on May 8, 2024, TIC was recognised for its achievements.

Dr Tausi Kida, Permanent Secretary (PS) in the President's Office responsible for Planning and Investment, received the award on behalf of TIC. This accolade reflects Tanzania's rising status as a top investment destination in East Africa.

The PS emphasized that the award reflects the government's commitment to enhancing the country's business environment and strengthening investor confidence.

"This award strengthens investor trust, and as a government—particularly within the President's Office for Planning and Investment—we will continue to attract investments to create jobs and grow the economy," she said in a media interview after receiving the award.

In a press statement, TIC's Executive Director, Mr Gilead Teri, highlighted key initiatives such as

those that are special and specific to sectors, and enhanced collaboration with stakeholders, which have contributed to Tanzania's status as a competitive global investment destination.

"This recognition signifies Tanzania's emergence as a leading investment hub in East Africa, in line with broader economic goals aimed at achieving middle-income status and sustainable growth," noted Mr. Teri.

The statement also noted that this recognition comes after TIC demonstrated positive growth in project registration, investment value and job creation. According to released statistics, there has been a significant boost in the number of projects registered by TIC, rising from 293 in January 2022 to 526 in the same period in 2023—an impressive 79.5% increase.

The value of investments facilitated by TIC grew from USD4.547 billion to USD5.720 billion between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, marking a 25.8% increase. The number of jobs created through TIC rose from 40,889 to 137,010 in the same period in 2022, representing a 235.1% rise!



Following these achievements, TIC has declared 2024 as the National Year of Investment. The second phase of this campaign began on July 15, 2024, targeting regions that were not covered in the first phase. These regions include Kagera, Mwanza, Mara, Simiyu, Lindi, Ruvuma, Katavi, Rukwa, Kigoma and parts of Zanzibar, in collaboration with the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA).

The idea for the National Investment Promotion Campaign was born during a historic event held at Mlimani City Hall on September 25, 2023. The Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa, officially launched this campaign which aims to boost both domestic and foreign investment. This initiative underscores President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan’s commitment to opening up investment opportunities in Tanzania.

Through a special programme titled ‘Tanzania—The Royal Tour,’ this campaign aims to attract investors across various economic sectors, fostering sustainable development and economic growth.

One of the key goals of this campaign is to shift the perception that investment is only for foreigners or the wealthy. The campaign seeks to educate the public about the procedures for registering investment projects and highlight

the tax and non-tax incentives offered by the government through TIC.

The campaign encourages Tanzanian entrepreneurs to register their investment projects, providing an opportunity to hear success stories from fellow Tanzanians who have benefited from TIC incentives.

This initiative is expected to increase the number of investment projects owned by Tanzanians, thereby integrating them more into the national economy.

The campaign targets diverse groups within the community, including farmers, business owners, industrialists, fishers, livestock keepers, tour operators and travel agents, miners and gemstone traders, as well as school and college owners, transport and truck owners, and hotel and guesthouse owners. Other target groups include restaurant owners and contractors.

Implementation Strategies

This campaign employs several strategies to achieve its goals, including:

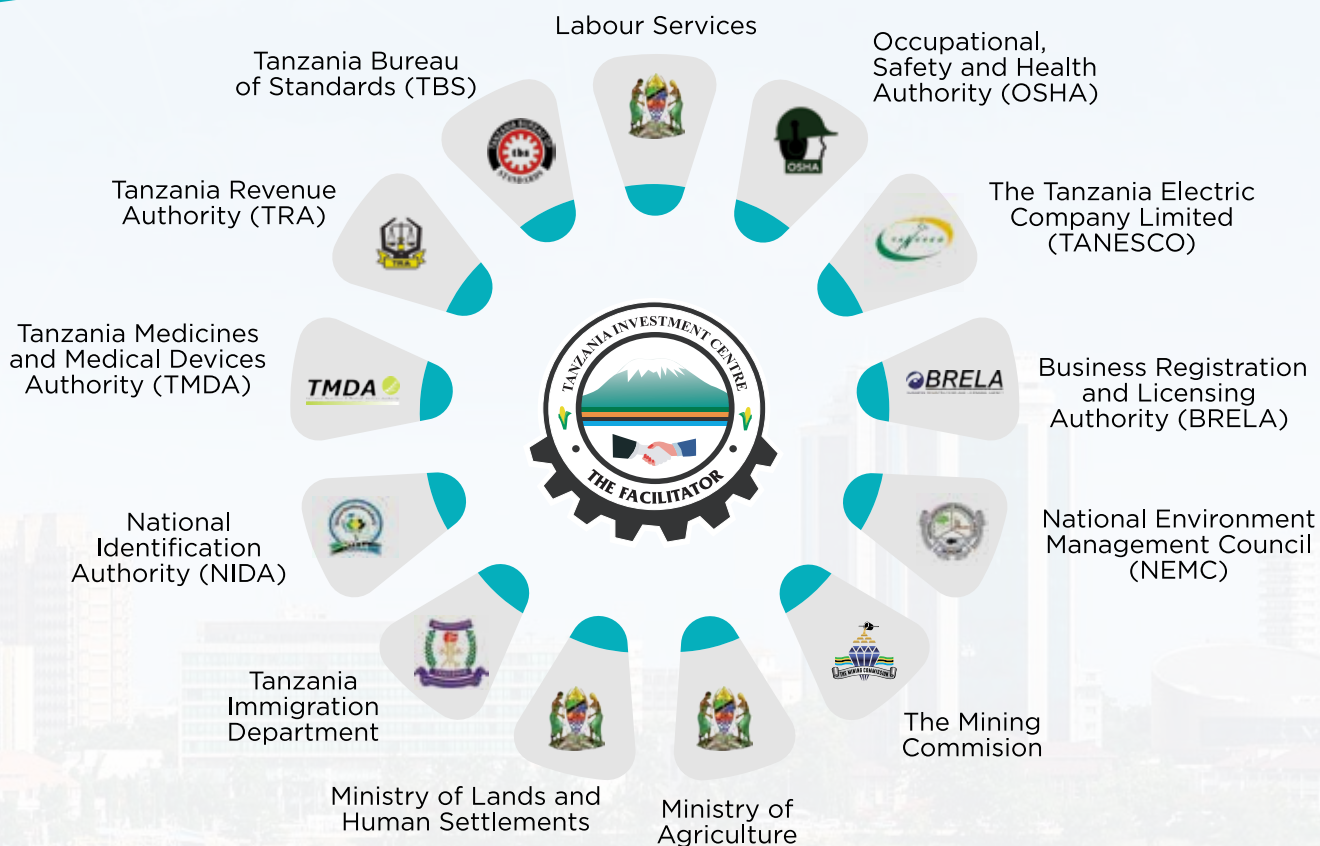
1. Hosting meetings and seminars to educate and engage prospective investors;
2. Showcasing success stories to inspire and motivate local entrepreneurs and
3. Partnering with local government authorities and the media to expand the campaign’s reach.

As Tanzania embarks on this bold journey, the National Investment Promotion Campaign stands as a beacon of hope and progress. By creating a favourable investment environment, the campaign not only aims to boost the economy, but also empowers Tanzanians to take a more active role in the country’s development.



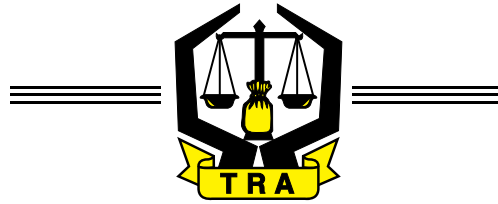
The Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Ernest Sungura (left), hands over an appreciation certificate to the Executive Director of the Tanzania Investment Center (TIC), Gilead J. Teri, for sponsoring the recently concluded Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) on October 4, 2024, at the TIC offices in Dar es Salaam.

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How TRA's Door-to-Door Campaign Revolutionized Tax Collection and Community Engagement

The Kiswahili saying “*Ukiona vyaelea basi ujue vimeundwa*” loosely translated to mean “*if you see something floating, know that it was crafted*”, perfectly captures the progress made by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) in revenue collection. This phrase signifies that the visible success and efficiency in TRA’s tax collection efforts have been a result of meticulous planning, strategic initiatives, and innovative campaigns, rather than sheer luck or coincidence.

The breakthrough that TRA has achieved can be attributed to one of its key strategies—the “*TRA Mlango kwa Mlango*” campaign, which translates to “*TRA Door-to-Door campaign*.” The campaign was designed to bridge the gap between the tax authority and taxpayers by visiting business premises, educating them on tax regulations, and addressing their concerns directly at their workplaces.

According to Richard Kayombo, the Director of Taxpayer Education at TRA, many business owners found it difficult to leave their operations and attend tax seminars, which led the authority to create a more accessible approach. The solution was to bring the information directly to their doorsteps.

“It’s much easier to educate a taxpayer when they are at their place of business rather than when they are far away,” Kayombo explained.

Through this innovative campaign, the tax authority has been able to connect with a larger number of taxpayers, simplifying complex tax laws and requirements, while gaining an in-depth understanding of the challenges faced by different business operators. This personalized approach not only fostered a positive relationship between TRA and the business community but also led to tangible results in tax collection.

Achieving Record-breaking Tax Revenue

In December of last year, TRA set a new benchmark by collecting a record TZS 3.05 trillion in a single month, surpassing its target of TZS 2.9 trillion. This amounted to a 9.2% increase in revenue collection. Such success did not come by chance, but through the implementation of strategies like the Door-to-Door campaign.

“The major success we have seen is the increase in collections and the positive reception from business owners towards paying taxes. We have adopted better and friendlier methods of tax collection, and we have completely moved away from using force to demand tax,” Kayombo noted.



Boosting Voluntary Tax Compliance

Kayombo attributed much of the increase in voluntary tax compliance to the Door-to-Door campaign, which has made it easier for citizens to understand the importance of paying taxes. This has, in turn, led to a surge in the number of voluntary taxpayers.

Paul Walalaze, the Taxpayer Education Manager at TRA, revealed that the authority is expected to collect TZS 30.4 trillion for the 2024/2025 financial year, which is part of a larger national budget of TZS 40.35 trillion. “These funds must be raised, and it is up to the Tanzanian taxpayers to contribute. The collected taxes are not tampered with—they are directed towards improving citizens’ lives by providing essential services,” said Walalaze.

He emphasized that the collected revenue plays a vital role in the country’s socio-economic development by supporting critical sectors such as health, education, and infrastructure. “These taxes drive our development—political, economic, and social development alike,” he reiterated.

Listening to the People

In addition to its Door-to-Door initiative, TRA has set up a dedicated day for listening to taxpayer concerns in Dar es Salaam, held annually on September 12th. On this day, all offices remain open to welcome business owners and address any issues they may have. Moreover, every Thursday has been designated as a day to listen to taxpayers across all regions in the country.

To reach even more people, TRA has partnered with comedians and entertainers to promote their work and attract the youth, especially young entrepreneurs.

A Model for Others

Launched in 2019, the Door-to-Door campaign has not only been a success for TRA but has

also become a model for other institutions. The Ministry of Health, for instance, borrowed from TRA’s strategy to initiate a house-to-house campaign to distribute medicine for neglected tropical diseases such as lymphatic filariasis (elephantiasis) and hydrocele. According to TRA, its officers ensure that the engagement with business owners is conducted in a friendly manner to avoid any negative perceptions that have been traditionally associated with the tax authority.

Moving Forward

The achievements of the Door-to-Door campaign cannot be overstated. It has become a key pillar in TRA’s strategy, contributing significantly to the improved tax compliance and enhanced taxpayer engagement.

Despite this progress, there is still a lot to be done. The campaign has set a standard that demands continuous improvement and expansion to maintain momentum and keep up with the ever-evolving needs of taxpayers and the business community. As Kayombo aptly put it, “The journey of development is a collective effort. Every Tanzanian must play their part by paying their taxes and ensuring receipts are issued and received in every transaction.”

Conclusion

Through the Door-to-Door campaign, TRA has demystified tax compliance and brought taxpayers closer to understanding their role in national development. The success of the initiative serves as a testament to the power of innovative approaches in transforming how governments engage with citizens and achieve their fiscal goals. Indeed, the saying “*Ukiona vyaelea basi ujue vimeundwa*” (if you see something floating, know that it was crafted) couldn’t be more fitting for TRA’s success story—one that continues to inspire and pave the way for further progress in Tanzania’s tax system.



TANZANIA PORTS AUTHORITY

The Rising Giant

The Tanzania Ports Authority (TPA) is shaping a new future for Tanzania. Once considered problematic, the Port of Dar es Salaam has undergone significant improvements and now serves as a critical hub for managing the flow of goods and cargo.

Today, TPA is not just handling business but leading it, positioning itself to dominate the major trade routes in this region of Africa. Currently, 70% of Zambia's copper passes through Dar es Salaam. And it's not just copper—commodities like maize, wheat, and cotton also pass through the port.

The TPA's Director General, Mr Plasduce Mbossa, explains: "Our efforts to expand capacity and improve efficiency have attracted more cargo from neighbouring countries. We are not just a port; we are the transportation hub of this region, with Zambia playing a vital role in this vision."

Reviving TAZARA

It's a quiet, crisp September morning in Beijing, China, with a bright blue sky that locals call a 'golden day.'

In the spirit of a promising morning, a significant milestone is about to be set in motion. Tanzanian President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, Zambian President Hakainde Hichilema, and their host, President Xi Jinping, witness the signing of a \$1 billion agreement.

This pivotal agreement to revive the historic Tanzania-Zambia Railway (TAZARA) marks a transformative moment, not just for the railway sector, but also for TPA—an emerging powerhouse in the East African transportation trade.

This agreement signals a significant shift for Tanzania's ports—Dar es Salaam and Tanga—which are set to become major international gateways, under the strong leadership of President Samia's government.

In the 1970s, TAZARA was built as a symbol of African unity, connecting Zambia's copper belt to Tanzania's Indian Ocean coast. It was a revolutionary project but fell into disrepair, with the railway deteriorating and disrupting the transportation of minerals. Zambia had no choice but to rely on dusty roads to reach the coast.

Now, with \$1 billion from China, the railway is being revived. It will once again link Zambia's copper belt to the world through the Port of Dar es Salaam. This revival is essential to TPA's long-term strategy. With a \$440 million project to upgrade Dar es Salaam's maritime gateway, TPA is positioning itself to handle 30 million tons of cargo annually by 2030.

Zambia plays a significant role in this plan, having increased its trade volume to 2 million tonnes in 2022. In 2023/24, Zambia shipped 2,248,505



tonnes of cargo through Dar es Salaam, a 14% increase from 2022/23.

Controlling Trade

TPA is not just part of the plan—it's the mastermind behind regional trade control. One of the critical strategies includes a 30-year agreement between Tanzania and Dubai's DP World.

Regarding the TAZARA agreement, Mr Mbossa is optimistic: "This agreement aligns perfectly with our long-term strategy to increase capacity and efficiency at our ports. We've been attracting significant cargo volumes from the region, but reviving this railway will make us a crucial commercial hub for our region. Zambia, as an important trading partner, is key to this vision, and we are ready to take further steps."

Transport Minister, Professor Makame Mbarawa, who oversaw the agreement with DP World, has been pushing hard for port improvements, stressing that this new investment will cut transportation costs by nearly half, positioning Tanzania as the key gateway for Southern African trade.

TPA isn't just a player in this regional trade game; it's the chief architect. For instance, the cost of a 20-foot container, which used to be \$240, has now dropped to \$90—a 62.5% reduction. The cost of a 40-foot container has decreased from \$420 to just \$180.

For exports, a 20-foot container that once cost \$160 now costs \$75, while a 40-foot container's price has dropped from \$280 to \$150.

With these significant cost reductions, TPA has outperformed its competitors, particularly the Port of Mombasa in Kenya, attracting Zambian exporters thanks to faster services, lower costs, and better offers.

This isn't just about business numbers—it's about sustainability. For Zambian exporters, these cost reductions offer significant relief in a highly competitive global market. Every dollar saved on fees directly translates to profits.

As profitability and production grow, Zambian products such as copper, maize, and cobalt become more appealing to international buyers. Forget about the ports of Beira, Mozambique and Durban, South Africa—Dar es Salaam is now the golden route to the world.

As Mr Mbossa explains: "This strategic plan demonstrates our capability to bring about significant infrastructure development by partnering with key stakeholders. This is not just growth—it's a transformation that positions Tanzania as the central hub for managing Southern African transport services."

Lifeline of Zambia's Economy

For Zambia, Dar es Salaam is not just a port; it is the artery that drives its economy. The copper belt, producing 720,000 tons of copper annually, relies heavily on TPA's efficiency to reach international markets. Without TPA, Zambia's copper would stagnate in Ndola, slowly making its way on dusty roads or stuck in warehouses.

TAZARA's revival and the enhanced Port of Dar es Salaam are the pillars ensuring that Zambia's products continue to move efficiently. Alternative routes, such as through Beira or Durban, face significant challenges. Beira is notorious for congestion, poor infrastructure and weather disruptions like cyclones, while South African ports struggle with domestic demand and unreliable Transnet rail services.

These issues cause frequent delays that disrupt Zambia's export flow. But Dar es Salaam, with its strong connection to TAZARA, faces none of these hurdles.



For Zambia, Dar es Salaam is not the only port offering access to international markets—there's also the Port of Tanga, which has become especially crucial for oil exports.

In the past five years, Zambia exported a total of 132,883 cubic tons of oil through Tanga, with that figure more than doubling last year. Depending on Tanzania's ports and the increased efficiency at Dar es Salaam is vital for Zambia's export-reliant economy.

The Future Belongs to TPA

The TPA understands that the stakes are high. TAZARA's revival may be the engine, but the Port

of Dar es Salaam is the driver. By 2030, when the port reaches its goal of handling 30 million tonnes per year, Mombasa will have been left far behind. The TPA will have transformed Dar es Salaam into the undisputed gateway to Southern Africa. This is the future of trade in Africa—a ship skillfully steered by this authority.

Zambia's wealth, ton by ton, is flowing to the world faster, more affordably, and more efficiently than ever before. The ghosts of the past are gone, replaced by cargo trains speeding toward the future. The TPA is not just managing ports; it is shaping the future of trade in East Africa.



Dar Es Salaam Port



Intellectual Property: A Key Component in Business Success

By Stanislaus Kigosi

Do you know the importance of intellectual property (IP) in the success of your business? Intellectual property includes inventions, literary and artistic works, designs, trademarks, names, and images used in business. These assets are protected by law, granting creators exclusive rights over their inventions for a certain period.

In Tanzania, the administration of IP laws is overseen by the Copyright Society of Tanzania (COSOTA) and the Business Registrations and Licensing Agency (BRELA). As is the case in many developing countries, IP has not yet been fully utilised to strengthen business and economic development. This is a significant opportunity that many creators have not fully taken advantage of. Registering intellectual property gives the owner exclusive rights to use, manufacture, and sell the invention or creation and provides legal protection in case of infringement.

This prevents others from using or copying your work without permission and gives you a competitive edge by protecting trade secrets and distinguishing your products or services from others.

COSOTA manages copyrights related to literary and artistic works, while BRELA oversees industrial property, such as patents and trademarks. Without registration, creators lack legal protection and risk losing their exclusive rights, which can lead to significant financial and business losses.

To avoid this, it is important to learn more about how to register intellectual property on the BRELA website, take steps to register your creations, and share this information with other creators so they too can benefit from IP protection.

Don't let your innovation go to waste! Take action now by registering your intellectual property to ensure you gain all the benefits your creativity deserves.

Intellectual property is broadly categorised into two areas: Copyrights, which protect literary and artistic works such as books, music, films, and computer programmes, allowing the creator to control how their work is used; and Industrial Property, which protects IP assets related to inventions, designs, trademarks and other commercially valuable innovations used in industrial and business activities.



Within industrial property, there are specific categories of IP such as Patents, which protect scientific and technological inventions that provide new solutions or methods.

Trademarks are another subset of IP that protect symbols, names, logos, and slogans used to identify products or services and distinguish them from competitors.

Additionally, Trade Secrets safeguard confidential business information that provides a competitive advantage. Industrial Designs are among the most recognized aspects of industrial property, protecting the external appearance or aesthetic design of a product.

It is essential to understand that all industrial property must be registered to receive legal protection. Copyright protection is automatically provided by law for creators, but registration offers creators added security over their works. In Tanzania, copyright law is managed by COSOTA. On the other hand, industrial property laws are regulated by BRELA, Tanzania's National Intellectual Property Office, which coordinates all matters related to IP in the country, including Tanzania's interaction with the global IP landscape.

As mentioned earlier, BRELA manages industrial property laws. Tanzania does not have a single dedicated law for industrial property, but BRELA oversees The Patents (Registration) Act, which protects all inventions. BRELA also manages The Trademarks and Service Marks Act, which protects all trademarks used in commercial activities.

Registration provides legal protection if anyone uses or copies your IP without permission. It allows

you to take legal action and seek compensation, such as monetary damages or injunctions. In some cases, IP infringement can lead to criminal penalties.

Registered IP can also be licensed or sold, generating revenue for the owner. It facilitates contract negotiations or partnerships, as registered IP is recognised as valuable market property.

Unfortunately, many IP creators forget to register their IP before disclosing it, especially when entering potential business partnerships. In such cases, individuals or organisations that were supposed to be partners end up exploiting the IP without compensating or crediting its rightful owners.

Owning registered IP gives the holder a competitive advantage by offering something unique that others cannot legally replicate. This distinction can improve market positioning and profitability. However, many people, particularly in Tanzania, confuse business registration and trademarks with IP registration.

It is common for someone to register a company or business name and use a striking logo, assuming they have protected their trademark for business use.

Thus, IP protection is crucial for safeguarding the interests of both the owner and the business, enhancing market opportunities, and ensuring long-term legal and financial benefits for individuals and businesses. Likewise, intellectual property protection ensures fair commercial competition and builds consumer trust.



Taifa Gas Tanzania Limited's Investment in the Energy Sector: A Community Opportunity

Taifa Gas Tanzania Limited is among the fastest-growing companies in the energy sector in Tanzania, known for its reliable distribution and storage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). Founded with the vision of providing accessible and affordable energy solutions, Taifa Gas has rapidly expanded in recent years, gaining significant recognition both within Tanzania and beyond its borders. The company's journey—from a single storage facility to a nationwide network of LPG storage and filling stations—stands as a testament to its vision and commitment.

Taifa Gas continues to innovate and expand, solidifying its position as a leader in offering affordable and reliable energy solutions for Tanzania and the entire East African region. In the energy industry, Taifa Gas Tanzania Limited has established itself as a crucial pillar of development and innovation. With its dedication to excellence and sustainability, the company has become an unrivaled leader in Tanzania's energy sector.

Taifa Gas began its operations by investing in the construction of an LPG storage and filling station in Kigamboni, Dar es Salaam. Initially, the facility had a storage capacity of 1,650 tons in 2014, which has now expanded to 7,450 tons, making

it the largest LPG storage facility in Tanzania. The company prioritizes bulk LPG sales and exports, serving neighboring countries such as Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The growth trajectory of Taifa Gas reflects its strategic vision and commitment to quality. In 2014, the company decided to invest in the development and expansion of the LPG market within Tanzania. By 2016, this strategy began to take shape, and by 2018, Taifa Gas had established at least twenty new LPG storage and filling facilities across the country. By 2024, Taifa Gas had strategically positioned 24 facilities nationwide, increasing its market presence and ensuring that more Tanzanians have access to clean and reliable energy.

Taifa Gas's position as the leading energy company in Tanzania is reinforced by its modern infrastructure and unwavering commitment to excellence. The company's state-of-the-art facilities and robust distribution network ensure the availability of LPG in both urban and rural areas. This reliability has earned Taifa Gas a strong reputation for quality and trust among customers and industry stakeholders. With



several major projects in the pipeline, Taifa Gas is poised to continue growing and devising new ways to meet the energy demands of Tanzania and beyond.

Over the years, Taifa Gas has received numerous awards for its contribution to the energy sector and its dedication to social responsibility. These awards reflect the company's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and community development. The company's performance and leadership in the sector have been highlighted by a consistent record of recognition, with the most recent award being in 2024 from the Office of the Vice President for "Recognizing Efforts in Environmental Conservation and Contribution to the Use of Clean Cooking Energy."

Taifa Gas is not only focused on business growth but also on giving back to the community. The company engages in various Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects aimed at improving the

quality of life for Tanzanians. These projects include supporting education, healthcare, and environmental conservation, showcasing Taifa Gas's commitment to sustainable development. Additionally, the company has gone a step further to ensure that Tanzania's journey towards clean energy for all is realized by providing free gas and cylinders to underserved and vulnerable communities.





LHRC Brings Smiles Across the Country

By Our Writer

The Swahili saying, “*Samaki mkunje angali mbichi*” (bend the fish while it is still fresh), perfectly aligns with the efforts of the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), as it nurtures young minds by imparting knowledge about human rights while they are still in school, with the aim of shaping a society that upholds justice and human rights.

Schools and universities are home to large groups of young people who spend much of their time acquiring knowledge. LHRC seized this opportunity and, as the old adage says, “strike while the iron is hot,” they plant seeds of awareness that aim to transform attitudes towards human rights.

The Centre introduced human rights clubs in secondary schools and universities. Working in collaboration with school and university administrations, LHRC has successfully established more than 300 human rights clubs in educational institutions across the country. While the management of these clubs is left to the respective institutions, LHRC provides guidance and coordination.

The objective of nurturing young minds with human rights knowledge is to sow seeds of enthusiasm and confidence in defending and

advocating for human rights throughout their lives, whether within their communities or in their future careers.

These clubs not only promote a culture of human rights in educational systems but also contribute to creating a generation that values human rights. This, in turn, leads to a society that upholds justice and fairness in its interactions.

“By establishing over 300 human rights clubs in educational institutions nationwide, we have made significant progress,” LHRC notes, proudly acknowledging this achievement, which aims to build a society that respects and protects human rights while fostering a culture of justice. The impact doesn’t stop with the students alone. LHRC has also provided training to more than 300 teachers who serve as mentors for these clubs in their respective institutions.

As a result of these efforts, LHRC has successfully equipped approximately 15,000 young people with human rights knowledge. Wherever they go—be it in public service or the private sector—these individuals carry with them a strong sense of responsibility to protect and uphold human rights, thereby contributing to a society that values and defends equality and justice.



LHRC, a respected institution both nationally and internationally for its work in advocating for human rights, has also demonstrated its commitment through its program of monitoring human rights issues in the country. In line with this strategy, LHRC has embraced digital technology with a unique tool called 'Haki Kiganjani' (Justice in Your Hand).

The world is now at our fingertips, thanks to digital technology, and mobile phones have become vital tools for reporting human rights violations across the country. With the help of 'Haki Kiganjani,' LHRC has empowered a team of more than 200 human rights experts who are spread across the country, trained to collect data on human rights violations. This data collection capability has enabled LHRC to address various human rights issues swiftly, offering much-needed relief to victims nationwide.

The use of 'Haki Kiganjani' has not only facilitated data collection and the reporting of human rights violations but has also simplified the process of compiling LHRC's various reports on the state of human rights in the country. Through the data collected, LHRC has gained the confidence to analyze and propose policy changes where necessary, to help the nation establish a sustainable system for providing justice to its people.

LHRC's efforts to ensure that the Tanzanian society lives in an environment where human rights are respected, protected, and cherished have not been limited to establishing clubs in educational institutions and using the 'Haki Kiganjani' platform. The Centre has numerous other programs that have shown significant success. Most notably, LHRC broke its own record for Legal Aid Services in 2023 by reaching 29,491 clients, up from 18,294 clients in 2022, representing a more than 60% increase in just one year.

However, as the saying goes, "every rain season has its mosquitoes." The number of female clients served remains lower than that of male clients. In these statistics, women accounted for only 35%, while men comprised 65%. This discrepancy raises questions as to why women continue to lag behind in benefiting from this service. Is it due to lack of awareness, or is it a continuation of the historical trend where women are often left behind?

LHRC has been like a roaming service provider, reaching those in need wherever they are—even in prisons, where 864 inmates received legal aid services from the Centre in 2023 alone. Here too, men accounted for the majority (87%) of those served, while women made up only 13%.

Thanks to its nationwide network of paralegals, LHRC also brought smiles to 254 clients by offering legal assistance, with 35% of beneficiaries being men and 65% women.

The primary beneficiaries of LHRC's legal aid services were residents of Dar es Salaam (38%), Arusha (23%), Kilimanjaro (11%), Morogoro (7%), Dodoma and Manyara (6%), and Pwani (5%). The inmates who received aid in prisons were assisted in defending their cases in court, provided with legal advice, and supported in obtaining court documents and release certificates.

These services, along with many others provided by LHRC, establish it as the leading legal aid provider in Tanzania—making justice accessible in a country where the high cost of legal representation is beyond the reach of most people.

Perhaps this relentless drive by LHRC to assist society against various injustices can be summed up in the words of its Executive Director, Dr. Anna Henga: "The secret of happiness lies in helping others. Never underestimate the relief you can bring to the life of a poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged individual."



Success and Expertise through Water Meter Verification and Calibration

By Pendo Magambo

On a sunny afternoon at the offices of the Weights and Measures Agency (WMA) in Misugusugu, Coast Region, the sounds of modern machinery blend with the bustling energy of dedicated workers. This is where the story of success and expertise begins—the story of water meter verification and calibration.

The WMA, under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, was officially established on May 17, 2002, by government mandate. Previously, its duties were carried out by a department within the ministry. The primary goal of creating the agency was to improve services and reduce operational costs that were previously funded by the central government.

“We are proud to be part of these changes,” says Mr Alfred Shungu, the Manager of the Ports Unit, says with a smile and adds: “Our job is to ensure that every drop of water consumed by the public is accurately measured.”

In accordance with the Weights and Measures Act, Chapter 340, WMA carries out its duties through the verification and calibration of measuring instruments, providing technical advice to instrument manufacturers, and approving designs of various measuring devices before they are imported into the country. This also includes

inspecting pre-packaged products manufactured locally and those imported from abroad.

To ensure that citizens receive water services using accurate measurements, WMA has received significant support from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania. The government provided Sh500 million to purchase a state-of-the-art machine for verifying and calibrating water meters.

“This machine is a game-changer for the public,” says Shungu, and adds: “It allows us to verify and calibrate water meters with a high degree of accuracy.”

Additionally, WMA has acquired portable test kits to verify and calibrate meters that are already in use. According to the Weights and Measures Act, these meters must be verified and calibrated every two years in the case for DN 15–50 meters and every three years for DN 50 and larger meters.

“Verifying and calibrating these meters is crucial,” Shungu explains, adding: “This ensures that water authorities charge customers accurately for the water they use, and customers pay the correct amount based on their actual consumption.”



The verification and calibration of water meters officially began in March 2019, and by June 2024, WMA had successfully verified and calibrated a total of 256,752 water meters from various water authorities across the country. “This is a significant milestone,” Shungu says with pride.

The WMA has ordered another advanced machine worth Sh496 million, which is expected to be installed in October. This machine will have the capacity to verify and calibrate 800 water meters per day, further improving the process and ensuring that citizens receive accurate bills.

“This new machine will bring about significant improvements,” Shungu says and adds: “We’ll be able to verify and calibrate more meters in a shorter time.” At the state-of-the-art verification center in Misugusugu, a large modern machine is dedicated to verifying and calibrating water meters. In addition, regional WMA offices across

Mainland Tanzania are equipped with supporting machines that also perform verification and calibration tasks for water meters.

“We work diligently and with expertise to ensure that citizens receive high-quality water services,” says Shungu, who adds: “This is part of the government’s commitment to ensuring that clean and safe water reaches over 85% of rural residents and more than 95% of urban residents by 2025.”

Overall, WMA’s story is one of success, professionalism, and dedication to serving the public. It is a story of hope and positive change in Tanzania’s water sector. “We will continue verifying and calibrating water meters as mandated by the Weights and Measures Act to protect consumers and ensure fairness between water service providers and their customers,” Shungu concludes optimistically.

The Mandate of WMA

To provide protection to consumers in relation to legal metrological control which includes legal control of measuring instruments, metrological supervision and metrological expertise in trade, health, safety and environment.

1. Protect consumers in trade, safety, health and environment in relation to legal metrology;
2. Protect society from the consequences of false measurements in public and private transactions;
3. Approve (or ensure approval by another designated institutions) measuring instruments to be used for a public or private transaction in trade, safety, health and environment sectors;
4. Control the use of measuring instruments in public and private transactions;
5. Control pre-packaging of products;
6. Liaise with regional and international organizations with similar objectives;
7. Give effect to the decisions and recommendations of the OIML Council and Committee with regard to legal metrology;
8. Provide information on Legal Metrology in general and
9. Ensure that legal metrology measurement standards are traceable to national and International measurement standards.



MAMLAKA YA MAWASILIANO TANZANIA



ISO 9001:2015 CERTIFIED

Tanzania: Dominating in Cybersecurity Management

In an era where information and the digital economy dominate, with everything from banking to entertainment happening online, cybersecurity is more important today than ever before.

As the nation progresses in the digital age, there has been a significant increase in the number of users connected online, making secure communication services essential to ensure a safe online environment for everyone. Protecting our digital resources is crucial in safeguarding individuals, businesses and the nation as a whole. As Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), states: “Building trust in the digital world

is of utmost importance.” By investing in robust cybersecurity measures, Tanzania can protect its digital infrastructure, secure personal information and foster a thriving digital economy.

According to the 2024 Cybersecurity Report, released in September this year, Tanzania leads the East, Central and Southern Africa regions in having the highest standards of cybersecurity management.

The report highlights Tanzania’s exemplary performance in managing the five pillars of cybersecurity established by the ITU in 2015. Recognising the importance of a trustworthy,

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yote ya leseni ni
kupitia Mtandao...**

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Au bofya kitufe cha **Tanzanite Portal**
hapo juu



inclusive and secure online environment for users, infrastructure, personal data and a successful digital economy, ITU introduced these pillars to guide member countries in effective cybersecurity management.

The five pillars evaluated in the ITU GCIv5 - 2024 Report (Global Cybersecurity Index) are: Legal Measures, Capacity Building, Technical Measures, Organisational Structures and Cooperative Efforts in Cybersecurity.

Tanzania achieved 100% in the areas of Legal Framework, Organisational Structure and Cooperation, plus 99% in the areas of Technical Measures and Capacity Building.

Several factors contributed to Tanzania's high ranking in the 2024 CGI, including the presence of a National Cybersecurity Strategy, regulations and laws established by the e-Government Authority (e-GA), the Personal Data Protection Act of 2022 and the Cybercrimes Act of 2015.

Additional contributions include the Electronic and Postal Communications (CERT) Regulations of 2018 and their 2023 amendments, the National Computer Emergency Response Team (TZ-CERT)

within the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) as well as sector-specific teams such as GSoC within e-GA and TZ-FINCERT overseen by the Bank of Tanzania.

Collaboration among stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels has also played a crucial role in Tanzania's success in this process. Speaking during an interview in Dar es Salaam, TCRA Director-General, Dr Jabiri K. Bakari emphasised his institution's commitment, as a member of ITU and on behalf of the nation, to furthering national efforts in cybersecurity and network resilience.



Dr. Jabiri K. Bakari
Director-General
TCRA

He affirmed that TCRA will continue collaborating with local, regional and international organizations. The GCI report has been published annually by ITU since 2015.



TBC Sets the Standard for Broadcasting Excellence

By Peter Nyanje

Delivering news and information to every corner of the country, regardless of distance, is one of the core objectives of the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC). Over a relatively short period, TBC has managed to make significant strides toward achieving this goal.

Speaking to Tuzo Magazine, TBC's Director General, Dr. Ayub Rioba, acknowledges the progress made but emphasizes that the corporation's journey is far from over.

"We are currently implementing various strategies to enhance our operations as a national broadcaster," he says.

One of TBC's main aims is to produce and broadcast content that resonates with all segments of society while upholding national and African cultural values. Dr. Rioba notes that those who regularly follow TBC's programs—whether on television, radio, or online—can attest to this commitment.





He emphasizes the importance of expanding the corporation's reach to ensure that more citizens are able to access its broadcasts. TBC's dual mandate is to inform the public about government activities while also providing a platform for citizens' opinions and concerns to reach those in authority for action.

"This duty isn't a matter of choice—it's a constitutional requirement under Article 18, which ensures every Tanzanian's right to information and freedom of expression," Dr. Rioba explains.

Expanding Coverage

According to Dr. Rioba, TBC is working to ensure that by 2025, all areas currently experiencing poor or no reception of its radio stations will be fully covered. He says this ambition is driving their ongoing efforts, as failure to meet these targets would raise difficult questions.

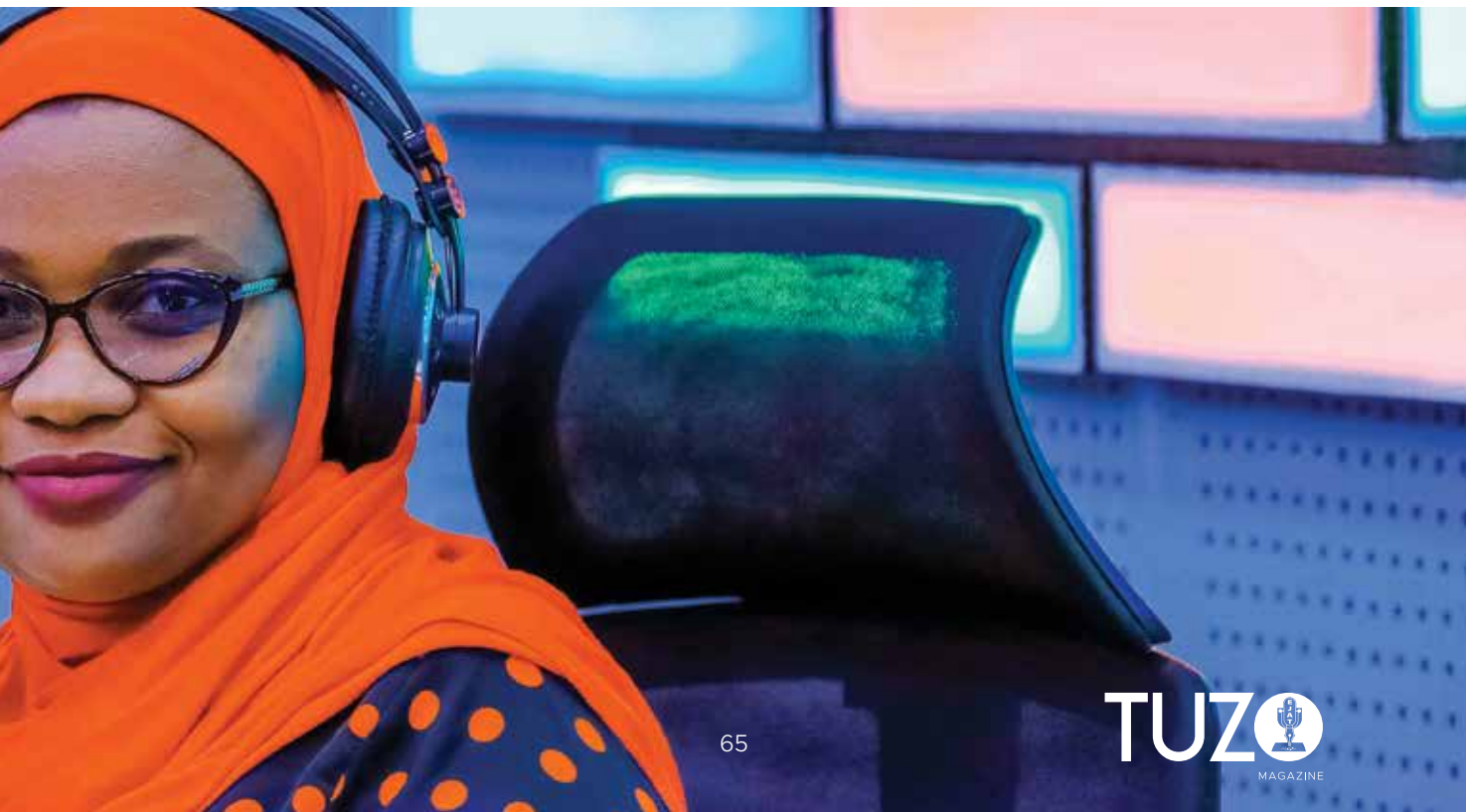
To achieve this, TBC is completing the installation of radio transmission equipment in 29 locations across the country. The corporation is also rolling

out FM transmitters in border regions through a rural broadcasting infrastructure improvement project.

As a result of these initiatives, TBC's radio coverage has increased from 54% in the 2015/16 fiscal year to a projected 92% once all ongoing projects are finalized.

New Headquarters

Dr. Rioba also highlights the progress of TBC's new headquarters in Vikonje, Dodoma. "The first phase of construction will include an administrative building, radio and television studios, and facilities for TBC's online platforms. The project commenced on August 9, 2023, and is being executed by CRJE (East Africa) Ltd. Our plan is to complete this phase next year and then engage our partners and stakeholders to equip the facility with state-of-the-art technology," he explains, adding that this initial phase will cost TZS 54.5 billion.





Strategic Channels

To further its mission, TBC has launched several strategic channels designed to reach audiences both domestically and internationally, promoting Tanzania on the global stage. One such channel is the Tanzania Safari Channel (TSC), which serves as a specialized platform aimed at promoting the tourism sector.

“TSC’s goal is to promote tourism and conservation by showcasing Tanzania’s vast biodiversity and fostering the preservation of these resources. It embodies the spirit of the late Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere, who emphasized in 1961 that we all have a responsibility to protect and preserve our natural attractions for current and future generations,” Dr. Rioba says.

TBC has also introduced TBC2, a channel dedicated to educating young people of all ages in society. Dr. Rioba explains that TBC2’s primary mission is to instill values, integrity, and patriotism in Tanzanian youth through content that informs, educates, and entertains.

National Campaigns

TBC has been actively involved in numerous national and international campaigns. One notable campaign is the environmental conservation initiative known as “Mti wa Mama” (Mother’s Tree), which promotes tree planting. Through the Jambo Tanzania program broadcast on TBC Television, the campaign is conducted on the 27th of every month.

“So far, a total of 8,116,230 trees have been planted across the regions of Dar es Salaam, Morogoro, Dodoma, Arusha, Mwanza, Singida, Shinyanga, Simiyu, Manyara, Songwe, Tanga, Tabora, and Unguja in Zanzibar as part of this campaign,” says Dr. Rioba. He adds that the campaign aims to support national and global efforts in combating climate change.

Awards and Recognition

TBC’s excellence in broadcasting has earned the corporation numerous national and international awards. These accolades are not just for the organization itself but also for its journalists, photographers, editors, and other staff, who have received recognition for their outstanding contributions to the field of journalism and broadcasting.

TBC has achieved a clean audit record for 11 consecutive years, including the 2022/2023 fiscal year. It has also consistently won the award for Best Financial Reporting using International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS).

Other notable awards include the recognition for exemplary environmental conservation education through media. In the 2023/2024 fiscal year alone, 10 TBC employees received various journalism and broadcasting excellence awards from both local and international institutions.

Moving Forward

With a strong commitment to expanding its reach, improving its infrastructure, and producing high-quality content, TBC continues to lead by example in Tanzania’s broadcasting industry. Through its ongoing projects and strategic initiatives, the corporation is not only informing and educating the public but also playing a pivotal role in shaping national discourse and promoting development.

“One of TBC’s main aims is to produce and broadcast content that resonates with all segments of society while upholding national and African cultural values.”

Journalism Masters

Read fascinating stories from some of the most exceptional winners of Tanzania's Excellence in Journalism Awards. These stories display the high-level skills, knowledge, and experience of the journalists. Each story delves into the journalist's ability to analyse, interpret and report news accurately and ethically.

The narratives demonstrate the depth of understanding on the topics that won the awards. They also reveal the journalists' creativity and innovation in presenting news in novel ways or engaging their audiences by adapting to technological advances and market needs.

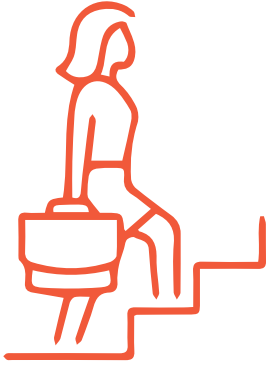
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Everything is for the first time it has never happened.

”



Mercy's Journey



By Josephat Mwanzi

In the world of journalism, every reporter must have done a story that touches them deeply, one that stays close to their heart. For Mercy Yasini Mbaya (29), a journalist at UTV, that story is about a young man named Colman Ndetembea, who invents assistive devices for people with disabilities in Arusha.

Having worked for five years, Mercy takes great pride in this story, which has had a significant impact on the community.

Mercy's journey in journalism was driven by her deep desire to bring about change in society, something she had aspired to from a young age. Over the past five years, she has witnessed firsthand the power of media in educating the public, promoting development and holding those in power accountable. Her work has taken her beyond the newsrooms of Dar es Salaam to remote parts of Tanzania, telling stories that matter to the lives of everyday people.

Mercy's mother, Helena Joseph Kamwela, 57, says that although she had hoped her daughter would become a doctor, she is happy that Mercy

has fulfilled her own dream. "Mercy loved listening to the radio, and when her father came home, she'd always ask him to turn it on. They would listen together until she fell asleep," her mother recounts.

"My mother is a teacher, and while raising us, she didn't want us to become teachers like her. She wanted us to become doctors. But I dreamed of being either a lawyer or a journalist. When I started studying journalism, I thought I'd just be a reporter—I didn't realise how broad the field was," says Mercy.

Her father passed away when she was in grade three.

"He was an electrician, and my mother told me that I used to say I wanted to be on the radio like the people I heard. When my mother told me that, I realised I was on the right path. I studied at the University of Dar es Salaam, at School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC), and completed my bachelor's degree in journalism. I'm also grateful that my younger brother Johari fulfilled my mother's dream by becoming a doctor," she adds.



Speaking about the story that earned her a nomination for the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), Mercy explains: “Our society still doesn’t fully understand the potential of people living with disabilities when they have assistive devices.”

She saw the importance of educating the public about how these devices can transform the lives of people living with disabilities and help them carry out their daily activities.

Another major challenge is the availability of assistive devices in the country. Most of the devices are not suited to the conditions of our roads, which makes mobility difficult for people living with disabilities.

Mercy recognised the need to highlight this issue and raise awareness among the community and the government about the importance of these devices. Mercy’s journey to get this story wasn’t easy. To portray the reality, she and her colleagues had to wake up at 3am to join Colman, who uses a specially designed wheelchair to commute to work. “It was a tough challenge, but I knew it was important to show how Colman struggles every day,” says Mercy.

One of the most moving moments was when they visited a student living with a disability. “He was overjoyed to see us, but his excitement caused his body to tremble uncontrollably. We had to wait several hours for him to calm down, as we were told that too much excitement was also a challenge for him,” Mercy recalls.

This incident showed how emotional states can impact people living with





disabilities, highlighting the importance of patience and understanding.

Mercy and her team wanted a peaceful, reflective setting for the interviews. They found Lake Duruti, but the challenge was the wind, which rocked their boat and pushed Colman out of the camera frame during recording. “It was a big challenge, but we managed to capture beautiful, impactful shots,” says Mercy with a smile.

One of the most inspiring moments for Mercy was seeing a child living with a disability type on a computer using an assistive bicycle.

“It was an incredible sight, showing how technology can transform a person’s life,” says Mercy. Watching students wash clothes, fetch water, and play using assistive bicycles was further proof of how Colman’s inventions improve the lives of people living with disabilities.

Mercy emphasises that the success of this story was due to the teamwork involved. “I worked with many people on this story, including my editor Frank Sanga, two cameramen, a sound



Mercy Yasini Mbaya (right), interviewing Ms. Magdalena Simba, Head of the Sewing Department of Kyaro Assistive Tech factory, in Arusha.

engineer, a director of photography, and a team from the Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete Foundation. I was the producer and presenter, but there was also a male presenter, an electrical engineer, and someone from the Prime Minister’s Office who supports innovation,” says Mercy.

“In the five-plus years I’ve been in journalism, this story has given me a more positive outlook on life,” she says. Mercy believes that the role of youth in solving societal challenges needs more emphasis.

“Practical education is the key tool for youth to create self-employment,” Mercy stresses.

Mercy’s story is proof that we need to elevate journalism that focuses on creating positive change. Through her work, she has successfully educated and inspired the community about the importance of assistive devices for people with disabilities, shedding new light on their lives.

Mercy, who is single, says she plans to continue her journalism career, particularly in the field of technology and innovation among the youth.

She says: “I’m one of those people who find it surprising that China and Tanzania were once on the same level of development, but today we ask for their support. That’s why I have a strong desire to show young people that we have the same potential and intelligence as the Chinese. If I had money, I would invest in young people, but with my profession, I see my role as identifying and showcasing talented youth.”

Mercy thanks her media outlet, UTV, for supporting and encouraging her work, especially in innovation. “This gives me great motivation to continue doing what I love,” she concludes.

“ Practical education is the key tool for youth to create self-employment ”



Public Interest Stories

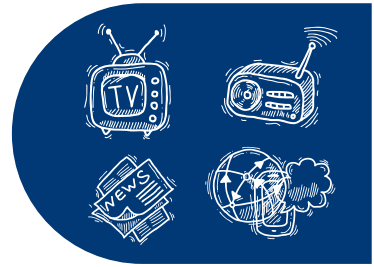
Step into the Public Interest Stories section, where you'll find award-winning reports that have a significant impact on society. The first step in getting these stories involved renowned journalists doing research to find exclusive, public interest works of journalism. The works were then reviewed by an independent panel of

judges who evaluated their relevance to public life, economic implications, and the accountability of government and institutions to the public.

These stories also address issues like human rights violations, discrimination, societal emotions and the impact on culture, morals, and traditions.



A Missed Opportunity



By Our Writer

The year 2023 witnessed several significant events that ignited intense national debates. Among these were the agreement between the Government of Tanzania and the Emirate of Dubai regarding economic and social cooperation for the development and improvement of this country's port operations (IGA), the process of relocating the Maasai community from the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and the landslide disaster in Katesh, Hanang District, Manyara Region, where many lives, homes and properties were lost.

These events triggered extensive discussions on social media, at coffee corners, in public transport and in casual weekend gatherings, prompting the Government to frequently issue clarifications or statements on these matters.

A report by a panel of Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) judges who reviewed the news coverage by television, newspapers, radio and online media throughout 2023 concluded that there was fear, laziness and a lack of enthusiasm in following up on these three major issues. These events were not given the necessary attention in terms of indepth coverage, analysis and dissemination.

As a result, Tanzania's media largely limited itself to reporting only what was said by Government authorities on the one side or on the other hand –and more frequently, publishing news that avoided upsetting those in power.

The reporting on these three significant national events lacked the critical investigative lens necessary to provide objective and independent information.

The review of various reports published and broadcasted during that period revealed, not only a lack of in-depth reporting, curiosity and logical analysis, but also a tendency to present the Government's achievements in addressing these issues. Many journalists and their media outlets as a whole lacked the courage and investigative drive to delve into the details of the Ngorongoro, Katesh-Hanang and IGA stories. This created the perception that directives on how to handle these stories were being issued from “higher authorities.”

Below is the evaluation of how journalists missed the opportunity to help the public understand these events in-depth:

Relocation of the Maasai Community from Ngorongoro

A review of all media outlets—newspapers, television, radio and online platforms—revealed that this story was deliberately avoided and was not pursued with adequate depth.

For example, between January and December 2023, many newspapers sidelined the story, and when it was reported, it was done superficially. Not a single newspaper produced an in-depth investigative piece on Ngorongoro, leaving journalists to practise what's known as self-censorship.



The situation was worse with radio and television. Electronic media limited themselves to merely reading the official Government statements about the Maasai leaving Ngorongoro in groups to begin new lives in Msomera, Handeni District in Tanga Region. No independent, detailed investigative report was aired.

A panel of EJAT judges visiting various media outlets to speak with editors about the coverage of the Ngorongoro issue encountered similar responses. Some editors said that the story wasn't given priority, so they had nothing to submit for the EJAT 2023 awards. "We haven't published any stories that meet the EJAT criteria as you're looking for," said one television editor.

When asked why they hadn't covered Ngorongoro with greater depth, despite the heated debate on social media, one editor responded: "Don't you know? Where would you publish it? Everything is being monitored."

He suggested the judges look into online content, as there were many stories about Ngorongoro. However, the judges' review of online content revealed the same pattern—stories written with fear, leaning heavily on one side, and lacking thorough investigative analysis.

There wasn't a single piece that could be considered an independent, in-depth investigation into the Maasai relocation from Ngorongoro.

IGA (Investment and Government Agreement)

The IGA was another issue surrounded by confusion and controversy, particularly regarding whether the agreement between the Government of Tanzania and the Emirate of Dubai was a contract or an agreement. This confusion even emerged during the Parliamentary debates on IGA, with some MPs saying it was a contract, while others argued it wasn't.

Despite the fact that documents related to IGA had been leaked on social media, with various



groups criticizing certain clauses for potentially harming the nation, most media outlets simply echoed official statements.

No outlet took on the responsibility of conducting thorough research to publish independent reports on IGA that did not lean towards one side or other.

There were two types of reports: one defending the IGA without critical analysis, and the other criticizing it without a deep understanding.

For instance, the Government's defence, in Parliament and public discussions, was that all concerns about the mentioned shortcomings would be addressed when drafting the contracts to implement the Host Government Agreement (HGA) with DP World from Dubai.

However, the panel of EJAT judges found no independent media reports that explained what was included in these agreements beyond what government officials mentioned during the signing of the three contracts on October 22, 2023, at Chamwino State House in Dodoma.

The judges did not come across any media report that sought, analysed and distributed independent, in-depth information on the three HGA contracts signed that day.

To date, no independent investigative story has been produced by any media outlet on IGA or HGA.





A section of mudslide in Katesh, Hanang District, Manyara Region.

The Katesh Mudslide

This catastrophe was widely reported across all media platforms—television, radio, online and newspapers. Some outlets even managed to send reporters and photographers to the disaster site. Grim images were published in newspapers, aired on television and shared online.

Although the Katesh tragedy, which claimed over 80 lives, was covered by a significant number of media outlets, the stories still lacked depth and investigative curiosity.

For example, no media outlet thoroughly investigated the value of the donations collected, how they were distributed, or provided in-depth follow-up on the disaster beyond simply reporting Government officials' statements.

Despite extensive coverage, the stories about the Katesh catastrophe were often limited to Government spokespersons' announcements, and many outlets failed to send their own reporters to conduct detailed on-the-ground reporting. This left the coverage focused more on visuals without meaningful, investigative interviews that could have sparked accountability.





Remembering a Journalism Legend

Explore the life story of a journalism legend, whether still alive or departed. This segment covers their early years, education, and how they began their journalism career. You'll learn about their major professional achievements, such as awards won, important articles they published, significant programmes they broadcast and the lasting impact they left.

Such stories also highlight the influence they had in shaping public opinion, sparking important debates or bringing about social, political and economic changes. You'll gain insights into their work ethics and integrity in reporting, setting an example for others, and their ability to conduct in-depth investigations and deliver unbiased, truthful reports. You'll also learn about their role in mentoring young journalists and the unique personal qualities that made them stand out.

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By reading this section, you will comprehend the progress of the work from the analysis step by step as he/she rose through the ranks in journalism, starting from the initial jobs to becoming a rising star. You will learn about major academic achievements such as awards he/she has won, important articles he/she wrote, important programs he/she broadcast, and the great impact he/she left in the news industry.

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Remembering a **Journalism Legend**



Fili Karashani

Legend who left indelible mark in journalism

At 12:21 PM on Sunday, May 10, 2020, I spoke with Kagina Karashani about his father Fili's medical condition and plans to visit him at the hospital. Due to the severe Covid-19 pandemic, Muhimbili National Hospital had limited visits to just one person per day.

Fili had been admitted due to heart complications, which had troubled him for several years.

Six hours later, at 6:23 PM, I received a call from Kagina: "The news is bad. Dad has passed away," he said solemnly.

"I knew Fili Karugahale Karashani as a cheerful friend, a family companion, a man with a great sense of humour. In moments of joy, he would often assure me that he would write my obituary when I passed away. I used to reply that I would be the one to write his," reminisces Kajubi Mukajanga, a close friend of the journalism icon.

Kajubi further shared that he knew Fili as a skilled journalism professional and an exceptional trainer. Before becoming the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), they travelled the country together, teaching journalism ethics, leadership skills for press clubs, investigative reporting techniques, election coverage, and feature writing.

On March 30, 2012, Fili Karugahale Karashani known by many simply as Fili was the first recipient of EJAT's Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award, presented by former President Jakaya Kikwete at the Diamond Jubilee Hall.

The EJAT (Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania) are organised by MCT and its partners. Fili was one of the Tanzanian journalists who couldn't be left out of discussions on exemplary journalism. Over five decades, he worked as a reporter, feature writer, editor, trainer, researcher and media consultant, both in Tanzania and



abroad. In his own words, he proudly used to proclaim, “I am a child of the media.”

Fili’s career began humbly as an assistant at a bookstore in Dodoma in 1960. It was here that he cultivated a habit of reading, which later evolved into writing. He attended a journalism workshop in Kiomboi, Singida, organised by the Christian African Writing Centre based in Kitwe, Zambia.

Fili excelled in the workshop and earned sponsorship to study for a Journalism Certificate in Kitwe, joining 30 young individuals from across Africa.

After earning his certificate, he was hired as a reporter at the newly founded *Target* and *Lengo* newspapers, established through collaboration between Christian Councils in Kenya and Tanzania. Two years later, his employer sent him to pursue a Journalism Diploma under the International Press Institute. Once again, Fili emerged as the top student in a class of 30 from Southern and Eastern Africa.

“At the graduation ceremony, the editor of Taifa Leo, a publication of the Nation Media Group (NMG) in Kenya, approached Fili and offered him a job.

Fili accepted the offer, and by 1964, he was working at Taifa Leo. Within three months, the editors at Daily Nation, NMG’s flagship newspaper, “poached” him. He became the only Tanzanian in the Daily Nation newsroom,” recalled Kajubi Mukajanga.

From that moment, Fili never looked back.

For Fili, truth and accuracy were the foundations of journalism. His editor at Daily Nation, Mike Chester, was one of the key figures who molded Fili into a journalism giant. Chester was uncompromising, and to him, a story wasn’t

complete unless it answered the “why” and “how” questions.

Among the stories Fili covered during that period were social unrest, drought, and famine in Wajir, near the Kenya-Somalia border. Some of his reports upset Kenya’s Agriculture Minister, Jeremiah Nyagah, but the truth and accuracy of his reporting protected him from any repercussions.

He also wrote about the struggles of the people of Baringo, in then-Vice President Daniel arap Moi’s home district. Moi, displeased with Fili’s stories, summoned him. Upon seeing Fili, Moi was surprised and exclaimed: “Oh, this is Karachani? I thought he was an Indian! Go away!” The initial intention was to have him jailed, but truth and accuracy saved him again.

When Tom Mboya was assassinated on July 5, 1969, Fili was the journalist who reported the story for the Daily Nation.

In 1967, he was transferred to Dar es Salaam for a year, during which he continued to send numerous reports to Nairobi for the Daily Nation. Majority of the stories about Tanzania published on the front page of this newspaper during that time were penned by Fili.

Upon his return to Nairobi, Fili rose through the ranks from reporter to chief parliamentary correspondent, columnist, and later, a sub-editor. He also contributed a column on Tanzanian affairs to Daily Nation, which dominated newspaper sales in East Africa.

He eventually left the job to attend the University of Dar es Salaam, where he earned his first degree in 1978. He then obtained a master’s degree from Queen’s University in Canada in 1981.



After university, Fili joined the Daily News before becoming a trainer at the Tanzania School of Journalism (TSJ). While teaching, he also contributed to external magazines and organisations, including the well-known Africa Now magazine and the Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency. Unfortunately, this was misinterpreted by his superiors as “moonlighting,” although Fili saw it as a way to lead by example and demonstrate excellent journalism to his students. Feeling pressured, he resigned and was immediately hired by IPS, first in Rome and later as Bureau Chief in Harare, Zimbabwe.



The Late Fili Karashani (left) receives the inaugural Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award from President Jakaya Kikwete (right) in 2011. Renowned for his firm commitment to journalism ethics and training, Karashani’s influence extended across Tanzania and beyond.

When Fili returned to Tanzania in 1989, he became the founding editor of weekly Business Times, working with notable names such as Rashid Mbuguni, Narendra Joshi, Ali Chimbyangu, and Richard Nyaulawa.

In 1991, he was appointed editor of Southern Africa Economist in Harare, before returning to Dar es Salaam to become the founding editor of IPP Media’s The Guardian and later, the Sunday Observer.

Between 2004 and 2005, Fili worked at The Citizen as a training editor. In his final years, Fili Karashani—through whose hands many journalists passed as both editor and teacher—continued to provide training in investigative reporting, feature writing, and ethics.

He also worked as a media consultant, contributing to professional journals such as Scribes from MCT and The Global Journalist from the University of Missouri’s School of Journalism in the US.

Books he authored or co-authored include: To Write or Not to Write – Ethical Concerns in Journalism, Poverty Reporting – A Manual for Tanzanian Journalists, Media Ethics: Duties and Responsibilities, Feature Writing Manual, and Investigative Journalism Practice in Tanzania.

Fili Karashani was born on August 23, 1938, in Dodoma. His father, Yakobo Kagina, was an Anglican pastor. His mother was named Blandina. Fili and his wife Geraldina had five children: Magezi, Baraka, Kagina, Koku and Bahati. Baraka, who followed in his father’s footsteps as a journalist, passed away before him. Fili is survived by eight grandchildren.

(This information is courtesy of Kajubi Mukajanga).



Rising Star in Journalism

Discover the inspiring story of a young and talented journalist who stands out among the nominees for The Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) or has been identified by independent researchers.

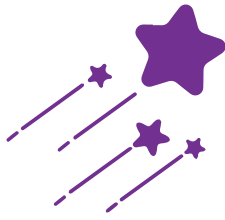
This section is dedicated to uncovering and nurturing young journalism talent, providing them with the opportunity to become future leaders in the industry.

The journey begins with their school life, what motivated them to pursue journalism, their early career achievements, skills, ethical standards, vision, challenges, curiosity and passion. The focus is on their potential to make an impact in the future of journalism.

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The goal is to promote the quality of young people and engage the followers to determine the importance of young people for future success following their current establishment in journalism.

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Rising Star in Journalism



Lukelo Francis

A Rising Star Paving the Way for Young Journalists

Florence Majani

In a field filled with ups and downs, challenges, and triumphs, only a few young journalists have managed to shine as quickly as Lukelo Francis.

At just 25 years old, Lukelo stands as one of the youngest nominees in this year's Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), serving as an inspiration to other young journalists who might believe that success in journalism only comes after years of experience.

Lukelo officially began his career in journalism in 2021, shortly after completing his Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication at the University of Dar es Salaam School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC).

"I saw a job advert from The Chanzo, a media company, and applied. Luckily, I was offered a position as a journalist in July 2021," he recalls.

Despite his short time in the field, Lukelo has already made a mark with his impactful reporting.

His dedication paid off in his very first year as a journalist when one of his stories won an EJAT award in 2021.

"The piece I submitted for the EJAT awards during my first year won in 2021," he says.

In 2022, his work was again shortlisted, though it didn't secure a win. However, in 2023, he made a comeback as a nominee, demonstrating his consistency and commitment to producing high-quality journalism.

Lukelo's stories often delve into issues of accountability and social impact, tackling community challenges head-on. Yet, this pursuit hasn't been without obstacles.

"There have been instances when I've been threatened with legal action after publishing certain stories. At times, accessing information is a struggle because sources refuse to share it," he explains.



Lukelo F. Haule, receiving the Human Rights and Good Governance Journalism Award from Ms. Stellah Lupimo, the Executive Secretary of EWURA CCC.

What Drew Him to Journalism?

“I’ve always had a passion for journalism,” Lukelo says. He adds that there are two key figures who inspired him to pursue this path: the veteran journalist Jenerali Ulimwengu, and Salim Kikeke, a renowned broadcaster.

“Watching Kikeke present on TV as I grew up made me want to follow in his footsteps,” he says. He chose journalism of his own accord, without any external influence or persuasion, and enrolled in the course at SJMC.

Reflecting on his youth and rapid success, Lukelo says it only motivates him to work even harder. “I had no idea I was the youngest among this year’s nominees. This recognition encourages me to continue telling stories that matter to people’s lives,” he says, adding, “There’s no correlation

between age and success in winning awards—anyone who works hard can achieve it. I believe in ability and determination, not age.”

When it comes to guidance and mentorship, Lukelo attributes his growth and refinement to Khalifa Said, the founder of The Chanzo.

“Khalifa is my editor and mentor. He has shaped my career. All the stories that have made it to the EJAT nominations were edited and guided by him. I look up to him and appreciate his constructive advice,” he says.

Advice for Aspiring Journalists

“Journalism is a tough job with many challenges. First, you need to have a genuine love for it and know exactly what you want to achieve in the field. Once you have that clarity, it becomes



easier. You'll be able to pursue stories, analyze issues deeply, and even stand a chance of winning awards. Your work will speak for itself if you put in the effort," he advises.

At The Chanzo, Lukelo is more than just a promising journalist—he's recognized as a truth-seeker, a skilled investigator, and a master at analyzing reports.

According to Khalifa, his editor and leader, Lukelo's work ethic is driven by an insatiable curiosity and passion for the profession. "His courage and dedication to the craft have enabled him to experience the successes of this industry much earlier than most."

A Young Leader in the Making

Lukelo, the second of two children in the family of

Mr. Francis Haule, was born and raised in Njombe region. He received his primary education at Mpechi Primary School and attended Hagafilo Secondary School for his O-level studies. He later completed his A-level education at Rungwe Boys' Secondary School in Mbeya.

His background didn't hinder his success. Instead, it equipped him with the resilience to thrive in digital journalism, where he now dissects complex topics with precision and presents them to a broader audience.

Lukelo's story serves as a beacon for other young journalists who aspire to leave a mark in the industry. His journey proves that with passion, determination, and the right mentorship, even the youngest talents can make significant strides in the world of journalism.



Lukelo F. Haule, striding to the podium to receive his Human Rights and Good Governance Journalism Award.



The Editor's Perspective

In The Editor's Perspective, you'll read editorial reflections on the progress of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) Awards, highlighting key areas to ensure that the awards bring honour to the journalism industry and inspire

other journalists to follow in their footsteps.

Their insights will be considered to improve future awards. They evaluate elements like accuracy, fairness, depth of analysis, use of sources, creativity in language, contributions to society, courage, technological integration and the quality of editing.



Editors

Share Their Thoughts

There is no doubt that editors who shared their views on the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), organized by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) in collaboration with various stakeholders in the media industry, agreed that these awards—now marking a decade and a half—have significantly contributed to elevating the quality of journalism in the country and enhancing accountability among those in positions of authority.

In separate interviews, the editors acknowledged that the awards have motivated journalists to work with a higher degree of professionalism. Submitting entries for these awards requires journalists to go the extra mile to meet the set standards, which are grounded in the core principles of journalism.

“The existence of these awards has pushed many journalists to improve the quality of their work. At Mwananchi Communications Limited (MCL), for instance, many of our journalists strive to produce high-quality content to get a chance at participating in the competition,” said Rashid Kejo, the Training Editor at MCL, which publishes *The Citizen*, *Mwananchi*, and *Mwanaspoti*, and also runs Mwananchi Digital.

Kejo explained that at MCL, the EJAT awards are held in high regard and have become a mark of honor, reflecting positively on the organization’s image. For many years, MCL journalists have consistently won numerous awards, including the overall award on several occasions.

“Our motto is ‘*empowering the nation*,’” Kejo emphasized, adding that this is achieved by providing the public with accurate information that enables them to make informed decisions about their future. He stressed that news stories must have a positive impact on society. Kejo noted that this is why MCL collaborates with institutions like the Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF) to identify impactful stories. For them, it’s not just about winning awards but producing stories that drive meaningful change in society.

However, Kejo suggested that improvement could be made by including awards for stories published on various websites by journalists based outside Tanzania if those stories create positive international impact. He proposed introducing a category that recognizes journalists who promote Tanzania internationally.

“It should acknowledge those who have written stories with international impact, not just national significance,” he recommended, considering that websites are accessible globally, not just within Tanzania. Kejo also recommended introducing a new category for emerging journalists. Doing so would encourage young journalists to feel valued and inspire them to improve their work.

Frank Sanga, Executive Editor at UTV, echoed these sentiments, highlighting three main benefits of the EJAT Awards. Firstly, he said, they bring respect to the field of journalism; secondly, they set a benchmark for quality, as journalists aiming for the awards must set high standards for themselves; and thirdly, they foster unity as journalists gather each year to celebrate the



awards together. Sanga, who won the 2003 Best Sports Journalist Award organized by the Tanzania Sports Writers Association (TASWA) before the EJAT awards were centralized under MCT, pointed out that the awards create healthy competition.

“Journalism without competition lacks excellence. If one media house wins many awards this year, others will strive to produce better content next year to compete. This competition itself raises the standard of journalism,” Sanga emphasized.

He suggested that a committee could be formed to identify outstanding stories for the awards rather than relying solely on journalists to submit their work. “There could be a special committee that reviews excellent stories. I believe MCT receives all newspapers daily, and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) monitors all TV programs. So, instead of journalists submitting their work, MCT and TCRA could review content from newspapers, TV and radio,” he said, acknowledging that it would be a challenging task, but one that would capture great stories that may otherwise go unrecognised.

Sanga recalled winning the award without even knowing he was a contender. “I wasn’t aware I had won. I hadn’t submitted any entries. I was in Mwanza reporting on a Simba vs. Enyimba match when I was informed I had won the award. I wasn’t even in Dar es Salaam,” he reminisced, noting that his colleague, Selemani Mbuguni, received the award on his behalf from Jakaya Kikwete, the then Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Channel Ten’s Chief Editor, Esther Amandus Zelamula, stated that the EJAT awards encourage journalists to participate actively. She added that because the competing works are based on thorough research, they benefit the community significantly.

“What I see is that the organisers should ensure that there is regular communication to increase participation. It’s often the same people participating because they are well informed, but others might miss out due to a lack of information,” Zelamula explained. She noted that some journalists are unaware of the competition or remember to submit their entries only when the deadline has already passed.

Zelamula emphasized that regular reminders about the EJAT awards would encourage journalists to step up their game and avoid producing routine stories based on a single source. Instead, they would focus on writing in-depth feature stories and creating well-researched programs, thereby building a deeper understanding of the issues at hand.

She further suggested that the judging panel should provide feedback on submitted works, pointing out areas for improvement to help journalists develop their skills. This feedback could then form the basis for training sessions to ensure journalists learn from their mistakes and improve their work quality.

Habari Leo’s Chief Editor, Mgyaya Kingoba, commended the awards, describing them as beneficial, but suggested a new approach to selecting competing stories. He believes many journalists submit their entries to win, but it would be more effective if MCT identified outstanding works independently.

“I know MCT reviews media content daily and contacts editors when they notice ethical issues in published stories. So why not consider the good stories they identify for the competition as well?” Kingoba proposed.

He noted that while many entries are submitted for the EJAT Awards, only a few meet the criteria due to a lack of adequate research or multiple



sourcing. Therefore, Kingoba recommended that MCT should offer training on quality journalism that meets high standards, ensuring that the submitted entries consistently align with the set criteria. He also proposed adding a category for stories on clean energy, as it is now a global agenda, not just a national one.

Joyce Shebe, Chief Editor at Clouds Media Group, praised the EJAT awards, viewing them as an opportunity to strengthen journalism standards in the country. She explained that the awards boost morale and encourage journalists to strive for excellence.

“To me, these awards have provided a great platform for women to showcase their talents and abilities. Women journalists have participated in large numbers, and we have even seen them win the overall award,” Shebe said, adding that this demonstrates that the awards provide equal opportunities for both men and women journalists.

Bakari Machumu, the recently retired Managing Editor of Mwananchi Communications Ltd., shares light moments with fellow editors during the EJAT 2023 gala night.

“Whether it’s a woman or a man, the criteria remain the same. Whoever meets the set standards wins, and that’s what makes these awards special,” she emphasized. Shebe is also the Chairperson of the Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA).

She affirmed that the awards continue to improve every year and provide a fair platform for all journalists to participate, regardless of their location—whether in urban or rural areas. “They do not favor any particular media outlet, giving all journalists an equal chance to showcase their work,” she elaborated.

With such positive feedback and constructive suggestions from the editors, it is evident that the EJAT awards play a crucial role in promoting professionalism, excellence, and unity among journalists in Tanzania.

The Judges' Perspective

This section offers the judges' perspective on the criteria used to ensure that the very best work is recognised and awarded.

The first criterion is the quality of writing and presentation, where the judges evaluate the depth, clarity, flow and creativity of the storytelling. The second criterion is integrity and content, assessing accuracy, truthfulness, fairness and balance.

The third criterion is the impact on society, looking at how a particular piece of work has triggered debate, influenced policy or raised awareness on important issues. Judges also consider human rights or security matters.

The fifth criterion is journalism ethics, focusing on adherence to professional standards and accountability to the public.

The sixth criterion is the journalist's contribution to the media profession, assessing how their work inspires others and promotes the growth of the field. They also consider the dedication and passion the journalist demonstrates in delivering high-quality work.

The seventh criterion is creativity and the use of technology, where judges examine the innovative ways news is gathered, presented, or distributed. The final criterion is social engagement and influence, evaluating how the story resonates with readers, viewers or listeners and whether it has sparked social conversations or driven change.



Behind the Scenes: A Look at EJAT 2023 Judging Process

By Salome Kitomari

The quality of journalism in print and radio significantly impressed the panel of judges for the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2023. However, the same level of quality was found lacking in most digital content, primarily due to an apparent disconnect between content creators and their target audience.

According to the Lead Judge, Halima Shariff, many of the submissions reflected a trend where content was driven by events or invitations to cover specific happenings, making it difficult to demonstrate genuine journalistic excellence.

“We worked from early morning until around 11 p.m. or midnight, taking on specific categories one by one until completion. We ensured that every judge maintained the highest level of integrity throughout the process, even signing conflict-of-interest forms when necessary,” explains Lead Judge Halima Shariff.

Shariff further elaborated that the work was divided among judges to make it manageable, and they adhered strictly to the set criteria, often listening or reading through entries multiple times before making final decisions. “It was an exhausting yet fulfilling experience. For me, it was my first time, but it was a very rewarding process,” she says.

Digital Media Content Challenges

The judges noted that digital media outlets still face challenges in creating quality content. The Lead Judge pointed out that many entries for digital categories resembled print articles, with

lengthy text and poor-quality images, while storytelling was sometimes inconsistent or repetitive.

“Few entries utilized hyperlinks effectively, while many others simply provided lengthy descriptions, which is not suitable for digital media. This is an area that needs improvement,” Shariff remarked. Her comments were echoed by Dr. Egbert Mkozi, Secretary to the Judging Panel, who emphasized that “You can’t simply copy a newspaper article and expect it to captivate an online audience. These are two different types of readers who require different content approaches. One of the entries had 64 paragraphs, which is not ideal for digital platforms.”

Jennifer Sumi, another judge, added that the digital space lags behind and needs more effort and investment to produce better content. She observed that many print articles were transferred to digital platforms without any adaptation. “We came across a digital article with over 60 paragraphs. People don’t want lengthy content. We expected to see effective use of hyperlinks instead of dumping everything in one place,” Sumi noted.

She also mentioned that some entries linked to content that was behind a paywall, limiting the judges’ access. “This shows a lack of awareness. Entrants need to ensure judges can access their work readily,” she said, adding that it seems that digital content creators are still unsure about their audience and what they want.



Editorial Quality and Collaboration

Judge Absalom Kibanda noted that some entries were written by journalists but improved by editors, demonstrating that the quality of the final work depends on both parties' efforts.

"There were entries where it was evident that a single person wrote, edited, and submitted the piece without an additional review. This led to mistakes appearing from the first line, which was evident in both print and online entries," Kibanda remarked.

Event-Driven Reporting

Lead Judge Sharrif highlighted that many of the submissions lacked depth and originality, with writers often relying on events or sponsored trips to produce stories. "Journalists need to go beyond just reporting an increase in percentage. They need to explain what that increase means for society. Many of the articles were tied to specific events or official days, which made it clear that they were influenced by these events rather than being independently driven," Shariff explains.

She adds that journalists should dig deeper to produce content that stands out. This sentiment was shared by Dr. Mkoko, who noted that many writers appeared to wait for events to occur before writing their stories, instead of actively seeking out impactful stories.

"A lot of journalists wait for days like the '16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence' to report on such issues, even though gender-based violence occurs throughout the year. They are driven by events instead of proactively addressing pressing social issues," Mkoko elaborates.

Jennifer Sumi further commented that the heavy reliance on event-driven reporting led to a lack of investigative journalism, explaining the dearth of outstanding entries in this category.

Sources of Information

Lead Judge Shariff observed that many journalists tried to incorporate multiple sources in their stories, but in some cases, the sources were not relevant to the subject matter, which detracted from the overall quality and coherence of the articles.

Kibanda pointed out that while the number of sources was often satisfactory, the choice of sources was sometimes inappropriate, as journalists seemed more focused on meeting a quota than selecting sources that added value to the story.

"It's important to note that even the winners didn't score 100%. They were differentiated by a few points. Some scored 85, others 95, 75, or 71. There were deficiencies, even in terms of basic journalistic principles," Kibanda says.

Overall Quality

Shariff acknowledged an improvement in the quality of entries, particularly in print, television, and radio, although the competition level was not as high as expected. "We didn't reach a point where 200 or 300 submissions met the set criteria, but there is visible improvement," she noted.

Judge Mkubwa Ally who was the Lead Judge of EJAT 2022 pointed out that while the quality of journalism has improved slightly, there is still a lack of in-depth reporting and balance, which led to nearly half of the entries not meeting the criteria.

"The overall quality of storytelling hasn't significantly improved. The top performers are the same names we've seen in previous years, indicating a lack of dynamism in the industry," Ally noted.

Dr. Mkoko agreed, stating that while newspapers are making progress, there is still a lot of work to be done in TV and digital media.



Ethical Considerations

Lead Judge Shariff commended most journalists for adhering to ethical standards, although some entries failed to meet these criteria, especially in the use of images of children and people with disabilities on television and online platforms.

Kibanda also noted that online media and blogs struggled to maintain ethical standards. In contrast, collaboration within newsrooms played a crucial role in producing quality entries.

Jennifer Sumi emphasized that some articles lacked inclusivity and were biased, particularly those resulting from invitations to events by specific organizations.

Impact on Society

One of the criteria the judges considered was how the stories influenced the society. Shariff mentioned that many entries lacked depth and failed to stir up action or change.

“There’s still a significant gap in the ability to create societal impact. While some stories led to some changes, they were not addressing critical issues affecting the community,” Mkumbwa noted.

Dr. Mkojo added that the impact of stories was more evident in print and television, where actions were taken following the publication or broadcast of certain stories.

“Some stories, like the one on stunting in Njombe, resulted in the Vice President visiting the area, and the President addressing the issue. This is a testament to the power of journalism,” Mkojo said.

Jennifer Sumi echoed this, noting that many stories did not delve deeply enough into issues such as the Loliondo land conflict or the DP World port management agreement, instead focusing solely on leaders’ speeches.

Use of Technology and Innovation

Dr. Mkojo highlighted that innovation and technology usage remained a challenge for many entries, as they failed to demonstrate significant use of these tools. Kibanda cited an example of TBC’s Safari Channel, which utilized drone technology and modern cameras, showing the potential of technology in enhancing journalism.

“We are in a transitional phase of embracing new media. There’s still a lot to learn about engaging diverse audiences. Contrary to popular belief, print media isn’t dead. Through these awards, we have seen remarkable content in newspapers. We believe readers will start to come back,” Kibanda commented.

Judge Deliberations and Disagreements

Kibanda revealed that there were moments of disagreement among the judges, which were sometimes resolved through voting. “There were times when some judges believed a certain entry deserved to win, but others didn’t, and we had to settle the matter with a vote, ending with a close result of three judges to four,” Kibanda recounted.

Jennifer Sumi mentioned that despite occasional differences, the judges remained committed to the agreed criteria and honored their oaths of impartiality.

Lead Judge Shariff praised the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) for actively monitoring important stories that were not formally submitted, such as those concerning the DP World port agreement and the Ngorongoro and Hanang’ land issues.

“Unfortunately, we didn’t find any truly outstanding stories. Moving forward, the idea is that exceptional stories can still be nominated even if the author did not submit them,” she concluded. Other judges in the panel included Eshe Muhiddin and Halima Msellem.



Judging Panel



Ms. Halima Shariff
Chief Judge



Dr. Egbert Mkoko
Judge



Mr. Mkumbwa Ally
Judge



Ms. Msellem Halima Issa
Judge



Ms. Jennifer Sumi
Judge



Ms. Eshe Muhiddin Hussein
Judge



Mr. Absalom Norman Kibanda
Judge



Get ready for captivating stories and inspiring journeys in the next issue of Tuzo Magazine!

- 1. Overall Winner's Evidence:** In our upcoming issue, we'll share a compelling story about our overall winner, whose actions prompted authorities to take significant measures. Learn more about the powerful evidence that led to change and inspired countless individuals.
- 2. Impactful News:** Discover the inspiring journey of a young man who, after being expelled from school for not having shoes, took on various jobs like fishing and working as a bus conductor. His resilience led him to tomato farming, where his story took an unexpected turn. Want to know what happens next? Stay tuned for our next issue!
- 3. Did You Know?:** Have you ever joined a Savings and Credit Cooperative Society (SACCOS) or wondered about their origins? Curious about the safety of your investments and the entities ensuring your money's security? In our next issue, delve into the history of cooperatives through SACCOS and learn about the billions of shillings invested and the projects they fund. Don't

miss this in-depth exploration of how strong management is positively impacting the lives of Tanzanians.

- 4. Journalism Masters:** Meet a fearless investigative journalist celebrated for his dedication to uncovering stories. One of his award-winning reports on classrooms roofed with grass led to their demolition and replacement with modern structures. Where did this happen? Find out in our next issue.
- 5. Media Legend:** Read about a celebrated Tanzanian journalist known for his exceptional contributions to journalism and broadcasting. Who is this influential figure, and why is he featured in Tuzo Magazine? Discover his story in our upcoming edition.
- 6. Rising Star:** Did your parents have specific career aspirations for you? In our next issue, explore the story of an emerging journalist whose parents wanted him to become a specialist doctor. After missing out on medical school, he turned to journalism and became a sensation. Find out what led to his success in our next edition.





EJAT 2023 Sets New Records

Fifteen years is not a short period. It marks a significant milestone where one can look back and see substantial growth and achievement. At this age, a child is seen as approaching maturity and, as per Tanzania's 1971 Marriage Act, is legally permitted to start a family. This analogy highlights the importance and evolution of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), which celebrated its 15th anniversary this year—an impressive decade and a half of recognizing journalistic excellence.

On Saturday, September 28, 2023, the Aga Khan Diamond Jubilee Hall in Upanga, Dar es Salaam, was filled with excitement as it hosted the EJAT 2023 awards ceremony. The event drew journalists from all over Tanzania, both from the Mainland and Zanzibar, coming together to celebrate outstanding journalism.

Upon arrival, attendees were greeted with large banners that adorned the venue, highlighting the significance of this prestigious event. The banners not only signaled the 15th consecutive year of EJAT since its inception in 2009 but also showcased the various stakeholders who contributed to making the event a success. The EJAT awards have become an annual hallmark for the Tanzanian media industry, providing a platform for journalists to witness and celebrate the best in the profession. A red carpet welcomed guests, while a dedicated photography area allowed nominees, winners, and guests to capture memorable moments at this landmark event in their journalistic careers.

This year's awards ceremony came with a series of surprises. First, the number of entries submitted broke previous records, increasing

from 893 in 2022 to an impressive 1,135 in 2023. A significant observation was the high level of participation from regional media outlets, which not only submitted quality entries, as noted by the EJAT 2023 judges, but also went on to win several awards.

Another surprise was the rise in quality submissions from Zanzibar, with the overall winner of this year's awards coming from the Isles, breaking a 14-year streak of winners solely from the Mainland. Mukrim Mohamed Khamis from KTV Tanzania took home the top honors, becoming the first overall winner from Zanzibar.

There were two other firsts from Zanzibar. Firstly, the number of sponsors from the islands surpassed those of previous years, breaking the long-standing perception that securing sponsorship from there is challenging. Secondly, for the first time, the overall winner hailed from an online media outlet, which throws a challenge to traditional media platforms such as newspapers, TV, and radio.

The ceremony, broadcast live by three TV stations—TBC1, Channel 10, and UTV—as well as various online platforms, was attended by journalists who took the occasion seriously, donning formal attire showing the significance of the event.

The venue, meticulously decorated with banners, artwork, and the red carpet, mirrored the importance of the ceremony. Guests honored the formal dress code, with the hall graced by suits of all styles, elegant gowns, and well-coordinated headpieces. The event truly exemplified respect for the prestigious occasion.



The Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), the lead organizer of these awards, also set a record by maintaining a well-structured timeline and schedule. Defying the typical African stereotype of disregarding time, MCT ensured the event started only minutes past the scheduled 4:00 PM time, and wrapped up the entire ceremony by 8:00 PM. This is in stark contrast to previous years, where ceremonies would often run late into the night.

The adherence to time caught some attendees, especially sponsors and award presenters, off guard, leading to a few missing the opportunity to receive their certificates of appreciation from the Guest of Honor, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Mussa Azzan Zungu, who represented the Speaker, Dr. Tulia Ackson.

Interestingly, Zungu's appearance also created a buzz. He arrived in a cap and kanzu, breaking the convention of pairing a traditional kanzu with the more formal baragashia headwear. His attire stood out distinctly in a room filled with formally dressed attendees, making him a unique sight among the audience.

During his speech, Zungu encouraged journalists to submit their recommendations on amending restrictive laws that hinder press freedom so that Parliament could address them. He emphasized the desire of the legislature to create a supportive environment that enables journalists to carry out their work with professionalism and integrity.

Halima Sharif, the Lead Judge of the EJAT 2023 panel, reiterated concerns that have been raised over the years regarding the overall quality of journalistic work submitted. She noted that

while there were outstanding entries, many submissions still fell below expected standards, a point that editors, as mentors and gatekeepers, should address to uplift the profession.

The EJAT 2023 awards were also marked by the use of digital technology to announce nominees for each category, adding a modern touch to the ceremony and enhancing the presentation.

Another highlight was the introduction of the TUZO magazine and Jarida la TUZO, which will serve as a reference for winning entries, provide behind-the-scenes insights, showcase sponsor achievements in supporting journalism, and preserve the awards' history.

As the event progressed, the provision of food and beverages stood out for its quality and organization. Guests were able to serve themselves in a relaxed atmosphere, reflecting the high standards of hospitality for the evening.

Entertainment was also thoughtfully curated, featuring a mix of traditional dance groups and contemporary music performances, adding vibrancy to the occasion and ensuring a lively ambiance for all attendees.

The EJAT 2023 awards left an indelible mark, raising the bar for future competitions and opening the door to wider participation from various stakeholders.

Congratulations to the organizers for an outstanding EJAT 2023 event.



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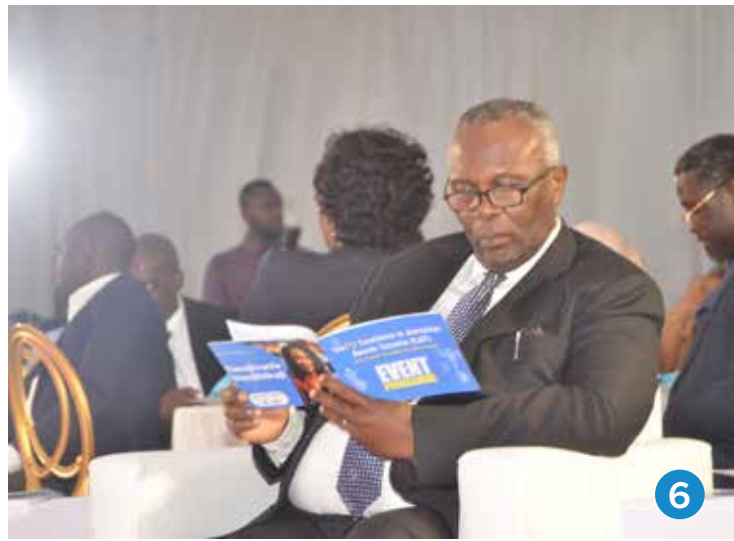
The EJAT 2023 night gala in pictures

All photos by: Mwanzo Millinga

Diamond Jubilee Hall, Dar Es Salaam, was decorated with banners and a red carpet, and the guests reciprocated the glorious event by appearing in formal and dignified attires. In general, the ambiance of the 15th celebrations of EJAT 2023 was, in many ways, different for the first time.



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1. All EJAT 2023 winners in a group photo
2. The official guest, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Mussa Azzan Zungu, delivers a speech and conveys greetings from the Speaker of the Parliament, Dr. Tulia Ackson, whom he was representing.
3. Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and Chairman of the EJAT Organizing Committee 2023, Ernest Sungura, delivers opening remarks and extends a warm welcome to all guests.
4. Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and Chairman of the EJAT 2023 Organizing Committee, Ernest Sungura (left), congratulating the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Mussa Azzan Zungu, after addressing the guests.
5. Imma Rashid Mbuguni of Majira Online, showing his Award in the Open category.
6. President of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Judge Bernard Luanda, follows the EJAT 2023 event programme.
7. Former presenter of Radio Tanzania, Ms. Edda Sanga, announcing one of the EJAT winners 2023.





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8. The Overall Winner of EJAT 2023, Mukrim Mohamed, giving a word of thanks after being announced and awarded his prize. Left, is the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and the Chairman of the EJAT 2023 organizing committee, Ernest Sungura.
9. Zourha John Malisa, journalist from Mwananchi newspaper, winner of the sexual and reproductive health reporting category.
10. Veronica Natalis Mataba, a DW Swahili radio presenter, receiving the Environmental and Water Sources Protection Reporting award, from the Executive Editor of Nipashe Newspaper, Ms. Beatrice Bandawe.
11. Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and Chairman of the EJAT 2023 Organizing Committee, Ernest Sungura (right), in discussion with Master of Ceremonies Taji Liundi (left) and Production Editor of Jarida La TUZO, the Swahili version of TUZO Magazine, Josephati Mwanzi.
12. Benjamin Stephen Mzinga and Rodgers Peter Simon, both from ITV, receiving a joint award for Human Rights and Good Governance News, from the Assistant Director of the Information Services, MAELEZO, Ms. Zamaradi Kawawa.
13. Hamis Makungu Hamis of Pangani FM reacts emotionally after being announced as the winner of the Tourism and Conservation News Award at EJAT 2023.
14. Writer and presenter for TBC1, Irene Tumpe Mwakalinga, receiving her award on Gender and Children News from the Director of the Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania (JET), Mr. John Chikomo.
15. "For the first time," EJAT 2023 had a screen to indicate the names and show the works of the winners.



CRITERIA FOR JUDGING AN OVERALL WINNER

The judges for the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) convened to establish a comprehensive set of criteria to accurately assess and identify the overall winner, ensuring recognition of excellence in journalism. This deliberation on criteria was informed by an analysis of past criteria and a consideration of the evolving landscape of journalism, marked by significant technological advancements and shifting societal expectations.

The judges believe that the agreed criteria will provide a comprehensive framework to recognize and reward the overall winner of EJAT 2023 (Journalist of the Year), who must have made an exceptional contribution to creating a more informed and engaged society. The journalistic work of the overall winner should demonstrate the highest standards of the profession across multiple dimensions, including quality, impact, ethics, and innovation.

Procedures:

- Step 1:** List all winners with their average scores from each award category
- Step 2:** Pick top scorers in multiple categories
- Step 3:** Pick the top three winners whose average scores are the highest
- Step 4:** Use the agreed criteria below to make final judgement of the overall winner or journalist of the year EJAT 2023

No.	Criteria	Max Score	Actual Score
1.	Highest Average Scores: Calculated average scores from the nominated winners of each award category	10	
2.	Depth of Research and Investigation: Stories reflect originality, in-depth research, with clear evidence of original investigation or reporting. Exclusive findings demonstrate vividly the ability to uncover new facts or bring to light important information as a stronger marker of excellence.	15	
3.	Relevance and Public Interest: Stories address issues that are significant and of concern to the public. They have tangible impact, influencing public opinion, driving policy changes or highlighting critical social issues. The stories should place the current event within a broader context to help audiences understand its significant.	15	



4.	Clarity, Engagement and Creativity: Stories must be clear, compelling and able to engage the audience from start to finish. They must use creativity by using innovative narrative techniques, multimedia elements, or unique perspectives.	10	
5.	Ethical Standards: Stories must comply with ethical standards, including accuracy, fairness, timeliness, respecting privacy, avoiding conflicts of interest and transparent sourcing, demonstrate responsibility and care in reporting. The story must be impartial and objective.	15	
6.	Technical Excellence: Stories whether its writing, video, audio or multimedia, the technical quality should be of a high professional standard, enhancing rather than distracting from content. They must consider effective integration of different formats (text, video, audio, infographics) to tell a cohesive story.	10	
7.	Courage and Integrity: Recognizing the overall winner who report on difficult or dangerous topics, often at personal or professional risk, yet committed to truth, upholding journalistic integrity even in the face of challenges or opposition.	10	
8.	Accountability: Recognizing the overall winner who take responsibility for their reporting, builds credibility and fosters trust between the media and the audience. Reporting must lead to holding powerful individuals and authorities accountable.	15	
	Total score	100	

These criteria have been agreed by all Judges and will be used to evaluate the overall winner of EJAT 2023

Chief Judge (Name): Halima Shaiff

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 07/9/2024

MCT Executive Secretary: ERNEST SINGARA

Signature: [Handwritten Signature]

Date: 07/9/2024



CRITERIA FOR JUDGING ENTRIES

The judges for the Excellence in Journalism Award Tanzania (EJAT) convened to establish a comprehensive set of criteria that would accurately evaluate entries across various media platforms: radio, television, newspapers, and online media. This deliberation was informed by an analysis of past criteria and a consideration of the evolving landscape of journalism, marked by significant technological advancements and shifting societal expectations

The judges believe that the agreed-revised criteria will provide a comprehensive framework for evaluating entries across different media platforms. By emphasizing accuracy, fairness, innovation, social impact, and ethical considerations, the EJAT aims to recognize and reward exceptional journalists that contribute to a more informed and engaged society. The agreed criteria will be as follows;

Criteria for Television entries

	Criteria	Score	Remarks
1.	Clarity and Style. Writing and/or storytelling techniques (includes writing quality, engagement and emotional impact, vivid presentation, compelling/captured attention.	10	
2.	Reporting rigour (includes references to information gathering, depth of research or number of sources, thoroughness of reporting, imaginative research, new information, and factual detail).	10	
3.	Provides new knowledge and understanding of the issues to the listener.	10	
4.	Adheres to journalistic standards and ethics – truth, accuracy, balance, and fairness. Clear distinction between fact and comment.	10	
5.	The story is about an issue of public importance/human interest/advancing agenda of national importance	10	
6.	Originality, innovation and creativity. A truly exceptional story is one that breaks new ground. It might explore a unique premise, introduce an original idea; innovative piece and demonstrates a sense or creativity.	10	
7.	Exceptional production values and quality. Award-winning television stories or programme often boast high production quality. This includes factors like visual quality (HD), audio quality, graphics and special effects.	10	
8.	Strong narrative and presentation structure. A well-crafted narrative. It should have a clear beginning, middle, and end, with a satisfying resolution with a good narration or presentation style.	10	
9.	Insight, analysis, or examination of the context of the story. (The questions “why” and “how” behind a story.)	10	
10.	Exposes a hidden issue or not so obvious. Investigative or Research skills applied	10	
	TOTAL	100	



Criteria for print entries

	Criteria	Score	Remarks
1.	Readability, Clarity and Style. Writing and/or storytelling techniques (includes writing quality, engagement and emotional impact, vivid presentation, compelling/captured attention).	10	
2.	Reporting rigour (includes references to information gathering, depth of research or number of sources, thoroughness of reporting, imaginative research, new information, and factual detail).	10	
3.	Provides new knowledge and understanding of the issue to the reader	10	
4.	Adheres to journalistic standards and ethics – truth, accuracy, balance, and fairness. Clear distinction between fact and comment.	10	
5.	Relevance and public impact or benefit of the story. Topicality/newsworthiness/importance/relevance. The story is about an issue of public importance/human interest. Advances an agenda of community or national importance.	10	
6.	Originality (includes originality of idea and/or its importance, originality of subject, originality of execution, initiative, surprising angle, and interesting subject).	10	
7.	The story or article has diversity of voices including both prominent and minorities e.g. women, children, the elderly and people with disability	10	
8.	Quality of interviewing techniques, presentation and proper use of language.	10	
9.	Insight, analysis, or examination of the context of the story. (The questions “why” and “how” behind a story.)	10	
10.	Exposes a hidden issue or not so obvious. A research-oriented piece with creativity/innovation	10	
	TOTAL	100	

Criteria for Radio entries.

	Criteria	Score	
1.	Clarity and Style. Writing and/or storytelling techniques (includes audience-centered piece, engagement and emotional impact, vivid presentation, compelling/captured attention).	10	
2.	Reporting rigour (includes references to information gathering, depth of research or number of sources, thoroughness of reporting, new information, and factual detail).	10	
3.	Provides new knowledge and understanding of the issues to the listener. Not an event-oriented show	10	
4.	Adheres to journalistic standards and ethics – truth, accuracy, balance, and fairness. Clear distinction between fact and comment.	10	
5.	The story is about an issue of public importance/human interest/advancing agenda of national importance	10	
6.	Originality (includes originality of idea and/or its importance, originality of subject, originality of execution, initiative, surprising angle, interesting subject).	10	
7.	A news or programme has diversity of voices including both prominent and voiceless e.g. women, children, the aged, people with disability, etc.	10	
8.	Quality of programme presentation. Good quality of sound, well-narrated, creativity, style or flair, and presenter’s pitch	10	
9.	Insightful analysis, or examination of the context of the story. (The questions “why” and “how” behind a story.)	10	
10.	Exposes a hidden issue or not so obvious. A well-researched news or radio programme	10	
	TOTAL	100	



Criteria for Online entries

	Criteria	Score	Awarded score
1.	Online piece that reveals technical, visual and journalistic competence and skills in arresting important and interesting moment that draw strong emotional impact to a reader.	15	
2.	The online news must demonstrate innovative design, the use of multimedia elements (such as audio, video, infographics, photography, etc) to better tell the story, hyperlinks, etc).	20	
3.	It has to demonstrate combined excellence in content and user experience (UX), as well as value to readers.	10	
4.	The online content must provide new knowledge, creativity and understanding of a topical issue/subject to the reader.	10	
5.	It has to provide interactive reading to visitors of the platform. Adhere to journalistic standards and ethics – un-faked reality, not taken from places prohibited by law, not of nudity, not digitally manipulated.	20	
6.	The online content should be relevant, with public impact or benefit to the community, topical, newsworthy.	10	
7.	There should be consideration of the appropriate text/audio or video format for specific platforms (e.g. X (Twitter), Instagram, Facebook vs YouTube).	10	
8.	There should be consideration of the uses of appropriate language both in English and Swahili.	5	
	TOTAL	100	

Criteria for Investigative stories

	Benchmarks	Score	
1.	Investigative story should be readable and clear based on reliable sources. Clarity and Style. Writing and/or storytelling techniques (includes writing quality, engagement and emotional impact, vivid presentation, compelling/captured attention).	10	
2.	Stories should tell what has been happening; should tell so what, and why should audience care? Reporting rigour (includes references to information gathering, depth of research or number of sources, thoroughness of reporting, imaginative research, new information, and factual details).	10	
3.	The investigative story should find out the source of the problem and suggest or establishes/discover the link. Provides new knowledge and understanding of the issues to the audience.	10	
4.	Stories should tell if there are risk factors, or are likely to be created – anywhere else. Adheres to journalistic standards and ethics – truth, accuracy, balance, and fairness. Clear distinction between facts and comments.	10	
5.	The story should say who did it, how did they do it, what are the consequences and how can it be put right. The story is about an issue of public importance/human interest/advancing agenda of national importance	5	
6.	In other words, investigative story should tell if the results found are of deliberate neglect. Originality (includes originality of idea and/or its importance, originality of subject, originality of execution, initiative, surprising angle, interesting subject).	10	
7.	Investigative story should also address: what went wrong, how did it go wrong, why did it go wrong, what are the consequences and how can it be put right. Has diversity of voices including both prominent and voiceless e.g. women, children, men, the elderly and people with disabilities.	5	



8.	The story should put into consideration that by writing an investigative story who will benefit/ who may suffer. Quality of story/programme presentation. Structure/architecture, creativity, style or flair, voice, and narrative technique	10	
9.	The story should clearly explain whom does the story challenge or call to account? Insight, analysis, or examination of the context of the story. (The questions “why” and “how” behind a story.)	10	
10.	The investigative story should address important issues, highlight faulty systems or processes could reveal that wasn't previously known, and create debate around values or behavior. Exposes a hidden issue or not so obvious. Investigative and research skills applied	10	
11	Sources should not just be impeccable but they should be named, unless there is good reason not to name them- and this should be for their own safety rather than that, they do not want to be named	10	

Summary of general criteria

Na.	Criteria	Value	Score
1.	<i>Originality</i> : Idea and topic reveal original thinking.	10	
2.	<i>Adherence to journalistic standards</i> : Professional guidelines, ethics; national norms, traditions and legal framework.	10	
3.	<i>In-depth reporting and research</i> : Responding to the 5Ws and H .	10	
4.	<i>Multiple, diverse and relevant sources</i> : Both primary and secondary sources, where applicable.	10	
5.	<i>Topical and relevant issue</i> : To public and advances a national agenda.	10	
6.	<i>Quality of work</i> : Clarity, creativity and interesting presentation.	10	
7.	<i>Interviewing skills</i> : Probs to surface important information that add value to the issue and context.	10	
8.	<i>Provides new knowledge</i> : Questions, educate and entertain.	10	
9.	<i>Mastery of the medium</i> : Language, design and audio-visual formats.	10	
10.	<i>Public impact or benefit</i> : Draws reaction, change and solution.	10	
		100	

These criteria have been agreed by all Judges and will be used to evaluate all entries so as to nominate winners of EJAT 2023

Chief Judge (Name): Halima Shariff

Signature:

Date: 07/9/2024

MCT Executive Secretary: ERNEST SINGARA

Signature:

Date: 07/9/2024



LIST OF WINNERS

SN	WINNERS	GENDER	MEDIA OUTLET	CATEGORY
1	Haika E. Kimaro	Female	The Citizen	Agriculture and Agri – Business Reporting Category -Online
2	Anna Peter Mbuthu	Female	TBC	Agriculture and Agri – Business Reporting Category -Television
3	Waryoba Musa Waryoba	Male	Montessorry Tanzania	Agriculture and Agri – Business Reporting Category - Print
4	Esau Ezra Ng'umbi	Male	Nukta Habari	Oil, Gas, and Mining Governance Reporting Category-online
5	Halfan Ramadhani Chusi	Male	Nipashe	Human Rights and Good Governance Reporting Category – Print
6	Hamisi Makungu Hamisi	Male	Pangani FM	Human Rights and Good Governance Reporting Category – Radio
7	Benjamin Stephen Mzinga	Male	ITV	Human Rights and Good Governance Reporting Category-TV
8	Rodgers Peter Simon	Male	ITV	Human Rights and Good Governance Reporting Category-TV
9	Lukelo Francis Haule	Male	The Chanzo	Human Rights and Good Governance Reporting Category-Online
10	Eliya Solomon	Male	Mwanaspoti	Data Journalism Category-Print
11	Pamela Naspory Chilongola	Female	Mwananchi	Business, Economy and Finance Reporting Category-Print
12	Mukrim Mohamed Khamis	Male	KTV TZ Online	Business, Economy and Finance Reporting Category-Online
13	Sanula Renatus Athanas	Male	Nipashe	Education Reporting Category-Print
14	Huwaida Nassor Moh'd	Female	As Salaam FM	Education Reporting Category-Radio
15	Benson Eustace Jacob	Male	UTV	Education Reporting Category-TV
16	George Henry Helahela	Male	Mwananchi Digital	Education Reporting Category-Online
17	Zourha John Malisa	Female	Mwananchi	Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting Category-Print
18	Said Ally Sindo	Male	Storm FM	Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting Category-Radio
19	Khamis Mohamed Salum	Male	Zanzibar Leo	Gender and Children Reporting Category- Print
20	Shekha Seif Suleiman	Female	ZBC	Gender and Children Reporting Category-Radio
21	Irene Tumpe Mwakalinga	Female	TBC1	Gender and Children Reporting Category-TV



22	Zacharia Ignas Nyamoga	Male	IPC Mkombozi TV	Gender and Children Reporting Category-Online
23	Jacob Mogesi Mosenda	Male	The Citizen	Investigative Reporting Category-Print
24	Thomas Masalu Lunyalo	Male	Mazingira FM	Investigative Reporting Category-Radio
25	Hamisi Makungu Hamisi	Male	Pangani FM	Tourism and Conservation Reporting Category-Radio
26	Margareth Msafiri. Geddy	Female	TBC Safari	Tourism and Conservation Reporting Category-TV
27	Julius Maricha Maricha	Male	The Citizen	Culture and Sports Reporting Category-Print
28	Brown Benny Mbwawa	Male	Wasafi FM	Culture and Sports Reporting Category-Radio
29	Fatma Abdallah Chikawe	Female	UTV	Culture and Sports Reporting Category-TV
30	Warioba Igombe Warioba	Male	Uhuru	Health Reporting Category-Print
31	Saa Mbwana Zumo	Female	Pangani FM	Health Reporting Category-Radio
32	Anna Potinus	Female	Mwananchi Digital	Health Reporting Category-Online
33	Mgongo Kaitira Mafuru	Male	Mwananchi Digital	Health Reporting Category-Online
34	Mohamed Hammie Rajabu	Male	Habari Leo	Disability Reporting Category - Print
35	Mercy Yasin Mbaya	Female	UTV	Disability Reporting Category - TV
36	Julius Maricha Maricha	Male	The Citizen	Early Childhood Development Reporting Category-Print
37	Amina Deogratias Semagogwa	Female	Radio Kwizera	Early Childhood Development Reporting Category-Radio
38	Irene Tumpe Mwakalinga	Female	TBC1	Early Childhood Development Reporting Category-TV
39	Hellen Nachilongo Mkisi	Female	The Citizen	Environmental and Water Sources Protection Reporting Category-Print
40	Veronica Natalis Mataba	Female	DW Swahili	Environmental and Water Sources Protection Reporting Category-Radio
41	Anna Peter Mbuthu	Female	TBC	Environmental and Water Sources Protection Reporting Category-TV
42	Mukrim Mohamed Khamis	Male	KTV TZ Online	Environmental and Water Sources Protection Reporting Category-Online
43	Sanula Renatus Athanas	Male	Nipashe	Open Category - Print
44	Adam Gabriel Hhando	Male	CG FM	Open Category -Radio
45	Dickson Shukran Kanyika	Male	RFA	Open Category -TV
46	Imma Rashidi Mbuguni	Male	Majira Online	Open Category -Online



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