



*For a democratic Tanzania
with a free, responsible
and effective media*

The Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) is an independent, voluntary, self-regulatory body established on June 30, 1995 with the objective of promoting freedom of the media and ensuring highest professional media standards and accountability in the country.

Mission

The mission of MCT is to create an environment that enables a strong and ethical media that contributes to a more democratic and just society.

Vision

A democratic Tanzania with a free, responsible and effective media.

Mandate

MCT is a non-statutory self-regulatory body of the media registered under the Societies Ordinance of 1954. Its mandate is to:

- Oversee and promote ethical practice
- Mediate and arbitrate complaints over media practice
- Promote press freedom and Right to Information
- Promote and ensure high standards and media accountability

Further, it has been enforcing self regulation through:

- Complaint handling
- Promotion and support of peer review mechanism in newsrooms
- Supporting Press Clubs Complaints Committee to function in their respective localities

Scope of Interventions

In enforcing self-regulation in Tanzanian media

fraternity, the Council has been advocating for freedom of expression and access to information laws. It also conducts media training, works to standardize journalism training curricula, conducts media monitoring and research.

Mediation is a core activity at the Council. Members of the public aggrieved by any media outlet are free to lodge complaints at the Council for mediation and arbitration.

The Council also produces various knowledge products and supports a Think Tank on Freedom of Expression and Media Issues. It also produces and disseminates books and training manuals to its stakeholders.

MCT hosts modern Information Resource Centers (IRC) at its Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar offices. The MCT-IRC archives media literature in both soft and hard formats. Access is free for all members of the public.

More specifically, the objectives of the Council are as follows:-

More specifically, the objectives of the Council are as follows:-

- (i) To promote, assist, safeguard and defend freedom of the media and allied forms of public communication in the United Republic of Tanzania;
- (ii) To oversee that journalists, editors, broadcasters, producers, directors, proprietors and all those involved in the media industry in Tanzania adhere to the highest professional and ethical standards

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Arbitration Session



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- (iii) To receive and conciliate, mediate and or arbitrate upon complaints from the public, governmental and other bodies and amongst the media inter se against alleged infringements of the Code of Ethics;
- (iv) To encourage development of the media profession in Tanzania by undertaking activities including, but not limited to, training of journalists, promoting press clubs development, conducting various media freedom campaigns, research, seminars, workshops and/or symposia;
- (v) To maintain a register of developments likely to restrict the supply of information of public interest and importance, keep a review of the same, and investigate the conduct and attitude of persons, corporations and governmental bodies at all levels, towards the media, and make public reports on such investigations;
- (vi) To involve members of the public in the work of the Council and constantly and reasonably keep them informed about its operations, views and decisions;
- (vii) To promote and defend the interests of readers, viewers, and listeners;
- (viii) To promote gender sensitivity, equality, and equity in reportage and dissemination of information;
- (ix) To promote quality and sensitivity in reporting issues of people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;

- (x) To raise funds legally for the purposes of the Council on such terms as are compatible with the autonomy of the Council and within the spirit of its mission and vision;
- (xi) To publish papers, journals, newsletters and other materials to achieve these objectives; and;
- (xii) To do such other things as may be in the interest of the Council, the media and the public as may be necessary to achieve these objectives.

The Council is a membership-based organisation. Membership is institutional and comprises media outlets-both print and electronic, journalists' professional organisations including the Editors' Forum, Press Clubs and journalism training institutions. Currently there are around 180 members.

Core values of MCT

- Respect for professionalism
- Promotional of critical thinking and creativity
- Acting with integrity at all times
- Equity and fairness
- Building sustainable and effective partnerships
- Respect for human and individual rights
- Promotion of Gender equality and equity

MCT in media development globally and locally

- 2003 recipient of IPI Free Media Pioneer Award
An international and regional leader in media self regulation – learning visits from South Africa, South Sudan, Rwanda and invitations/support to Malawi,
- Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe
Institutional mentor. It nurtured Tanzania Editors' Forum, Union of Tanzania Press Clubs- UTPC and individual press clubs

Forum, Union of Tanzania Press Clubs- UTPC and individual press clubs

- Leads CORI, EJAT Partnership
- Undertook to standardize and benchmark journalism training and now MCT formulated competence based curricula has been validated by NACTE and adopted as a national curricula.

The day to day activities of the Council are conducted by a Secretariat which is headed by the Executive Secretary (ES). The current ES is Mr Kajubi D. Mukajanga, an experienced media and CSO leader, editor and author.

Members appointed a nine-member Governing Board (GB) to oversee the Council on their behalf, led by a president. The current GB is led by a retired High Court Judge, Justice Thomas Mihayo and Mr Hassan Mitawi as Vice-President. Mr. Mitawi, is a seasoned journalist and the Director General of Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation. Members are Mr. Ali Mufuruki, Mr. Wallace Mbuggo, Ms. Badra Masoud, Justice Juston Mlay, Ms. Rose Haji, Prof. Bernadetha Killian and Ms. Tuma Abdallah.

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