



# MEDIA WATCH

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PROMOTING FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA AND ENSURING THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY



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**MCT, WINNER  
OF 2003 IPI  
FREE MEDIA  
PIONEER  
AWARD**



## *Editorial Board*

**Kajubi Mukajanga**  
MCT  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

**Hamis Mzee**  
EDITOR



Country representatives and dignitaries release white doves during the inauguration of the East Africa Press Councils at the headquarters of the East African Community in Arusha on October 19, 2023.

# EDITORIAL

## EAPC is a giant step

**T**he inauguration of the East Africa Press Councils (EAPC) – an umbrella organ for press councils in the region, is a giant step with huge impact on media development.

As its founders sigh with relief after realising a cherished dream, it marks the beginning of reinforcing and strengthening media advancement, cooperation and collaboration in the East African Community member states.

Media in the region operates in different conditions and situations in the various countries. In some fighting is raging, while in others press freedom is limited – and this would require elaborate joint efforts to navigate for improvement.

The fact that the inauguration was held in the East African Legislative Assembly hall in Arusha, is symbolic and a manifestation of a promising start for the new professional body.

We believe the founders' assertion that the EAPC is embracing the spirit and aspirations of the East African Community and is committed to its values and ideals.

It is on this basis that EAPC should serve as an inspiration for a better future for the media in region and should work tirelessly to ensure it realises its objective to promote and protect free, independent, professional and accountable media in East Africa.

It should prove that it is not just another sloganeering entity established to appease those in authority or a hang-on establishment for 'professional dinosaurs'. It should really walk the talk and make media pluralism and self-regulation a reality.

The EAPC leadership should reciprocate the trust bestowed on them by delivering, as the saying goes: "nothing is insurmountable".





The Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) Dr. Peter Mathuki (left) and the Tanzania Government Chief Spokesman, Mabhare Matinyi unveil the logo of the East Africa Press Councils as part of its inauguration at the EAC in Arusha on October 19, 2023. Looking on are country representatives and other dignitaries.

# A cherished dream is realised... As EAPC is launched

MW Reporter,

‘A dream come true’ is what Kajubi Mukajanga, the chairperson of the newly formed umbrella organisation of media regulatory bodies of East African countries –the East Africa Press Councils (EAPC) – called it at its launch on October 19, this year.

About 80 representatives of media councils, media development organisations and journalists gathered at the East African Legislative Assembly hall at the seat of the East African Community in Arusha to witness the

historic event.

The EAPC, Mukajanga said, embraces the spirit and aspirations of the East African Community and is committed to its values and ideals.

He said the leadership of EAPC thought that it was important for the association to connect with the EAC being the organisation that brings together all the states in the region.

The organisation was formerly registered in Kenya on January 20, this year.

The journey to the realisation of the of EAPC began four years ago on October 31, 2019 when leaders of the Media Council of

Kenya, Media Council of Uganda, Rwanda Media Commission and Media Council of Tanzania met in Kisumu, Kenya to decide on the way forward towards forming of the functional regional association to safeguard media freedoms.

A caretaker leadership elected at the meeting developed EAPC’s constitutive document and a decision was made to have it registered in Kenya where its secretariat was anchored at Media Council of Kenya

A zoom meeting held in Arusha on February 2021 went through and finalised the

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# A cherished dream is realised...

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body's draft constitution.

At the behest of the Secretary General of the EAC, Dr. Peter Mathuki, EAPC has brought on board press councils from two more countries – Congo DRC and Somalia. Expectations are high that South Sudan and Burundi will also join.

A delegation of EAPC's leadership – Mukajanga the chairperson and David Omwoyo of the Media Council of Kenya who is new body's Secretary - met in June with the EAC Secretary General who apart from assuring them of EAC's cooperation, advised them to enlist other countries.

EAPC's main objective is to promote and protect free, independent, professional and accountable media in East Africa and it will work to strengthen and create awareness, advance self-regulation as viable way to hold media accountable and promote media pluralism and diversity.

EAC Secretary General Dr. Mathuki and the the Director of Information Services and Chief Government Spokesman, Mobhare Matinyi who represented Minister of Information Nape Nnauye, unveiled the EAPC logo and later joined by top leaders of the Council released white doves as part of launch ceremony.

In his speech read on his behalf by Dr. Irene Isaka, Director of Social Sectors of the E.A. Community, the EAC Secretary General expressed hope that the coming into being of EAPC would lead to a more free, independent and vibrant media that will in turn promote the tenets of democracy, social justice and respect for human rights across the entire EAC region that now stretches from the East to the West Coast of Africa.

Dr. Mathuki said that independent and professional journalism is the cornerstone of any democratic dispensation, without which freedom of expression is jeopardised, and so are the basic rights of members of society.

"A vibrant media is essential for the attainment of social justice, rule of law, accountability, equality and protection of human and peoples' rights. The wider society loses out when media cannot do its work independently and professionally as channels of free expression are strangled and public interest information is stifled, including through deterioration of investigative journalism," said the Secretary General.

"Without robust, independent journalism, society, more so the weak, including women and youth, lose out as they have neither means nor relevant information to hold leaders to account and to demand what they are rightly



**Dr. Irene Isaka, Director of Social Sectors of the East African Community delivers the keynote address on behalf of the EAC Secretary General Dr. Peter Mathuki during the inauguration of the East Africa Press Councils (EAPC).**

entitled to," added Dr. Mathuki.

On his part, Matinyi – the Director of Information services and Chief Spokesman of the Tanzania Government urged the media to

take advantage of new technologies to educate and inform people on key issues that matter to them, be it cultural, political or economic.

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Delegates to the National General Convention (NGC) held in Arusha on September 28, 2023.

# Nation-wide debate on state of media economy planned

MW Reporter,

**T**he Media Council of Tanzania in collaboration with stakeholders intends to launch a nation-wide debate on the state of economy of media.

Presenting the implementation report of the Council's activities before the National General Convention (NGC) held in Arusha on September 28, 2023, the Executive Secretary of MCT, Kajubi Mukajanga said while the legal and administrative climate has shown some improvement, the economy of media is dire.

He said many outlets are in poor state economically, affecting not only

their ability to invest in promoting quality and investigative content but also to properly meet staff remuneration requirements.

The issue of the economy of the media is contained in the Council's 2023 – 2027 programme strategy which was approved by its Governing Board in December 2022.

The programme strategy which the Council started to implement in January this year covers four areas including policy and legislative advocacy, press freedom and safety of journalists, ethics and alternative arbitration and media development and monitoring.

Strengthening and improving operations of the media in the country is a core objective of the strategy.

Commenting on the drop of incidents of press freedom violation, Mukajanga said this does not mean that they are over, pointing out three such incidents have been recorded so far this year.

Turning to the amendments of the Media Services Act made by the National Assembly in June this year, Mukajanga said efforts by stakeholders had paid off.

Though not all proposals by stakeholders were accommodated despite "sweet" promises by the authorities, he said, it was heartening to them that the amendments were made.

He also said there is a positive

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# Race for EJAT glory is on

By MW Reporter

**T**he race for EJAT 2023 honours is on, following its launch in Dodoma on November 15. Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT), the

yearly coveted professional competition aimed at recognising and awarding journalists for outstanding performance is being held for the 15th time without fail.

The chairperson of the EJAT Organising Committee, Kajubi

Mukajanga, launched the competition which this year introduces two new categories – Social Security Fund Reporting category and Early Childhood Development Reporting Category.

According to the organisers, the categories have been included to promote quality reportage on the issues.

The organisers have dropped two other categories – Reporting Science and Technology and Reporting Census as a result of low response by journalists and uncertain sponsorship.

However, journalists who have articles in those categories who strongly believe their work is good, can submit

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Winners of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2022 pose in a group photo.

# A cherished dream is realised...

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Matinyi who spoke on behalf of Tanzania's Minister of Information, Communication and Information Technology, Nape Moses Nnauye, said that the media industry was undergoing unavoidable transformation due to the impact of technology on professional journalism, even as he cautioned against the use of digital media by individuals keen on promoting their own selfish interests.

He expressed hope that through EAPC, East African media and press councils will find an ideal forum to share experiences and discuss regulatory issues in the region and advise their respective governments and media houses on how to achieve the objectives of having free, independent, professional, ethical, accountable, patriotic and responsible media.

The EAPC Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of the Media Council of Kenya, Mr. David Omwoyo Omwoyo, said that the

universalisation of media standards across the entire EAC region was critical if the media industry was to grow at a uniform pace and play its watchdog role effectively.

The EAPC Treasurer and Executive Secretary of the Rwanda Media Commission, Emmanuel Mugisha, said that Rwanda was using media literacy to ensure that youth and members of the public are adequately prepared to use the media space especially the social media responsibly. Also in attendance during the launch were Chairperson of the Uganda Media Council, Paul Ekocho, the EAPC Member and Vice Chairperson of the Media Council of Uganda, Okello Jabweli, and Ms. Judie Kaberia, Senior Project Manager at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

A discussion was held after the EAPC launch on the impact technology on future of professional journalism relating to huge leaps in technology including the advent of

Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, and automation, which have allowed breakthrough insights and applications that may truly change the world forever; media content gathering, production, and dissemination have changed and altered things.

The discussion also covered global issues of media viability and the future of the news media and entertainment industry continuously brought to the fore, people are concerned about what these technologies will impact on media.

The discussants to the discussion moderated by Joe Ageyo of Nation Media Group of Kenya, were Emmanuel Mugisha from Rwanda Media Commission, Peter Okello from Uganda Media Council, Linus Kaikai of Royal Media Services, Kenya, Nuzulack Dausen of Nukta Africa and correspondent of Thomson Reuters, and Anastazia Rugaba of Twaweza East Africa.



A delegate to the National General Convention, Nicodemus Ikonko of the East Africa News Agency (EANA) contributes during the convention.

# Non-payment of membership dues provoke discussion at NGC

By MW Reporter

**T**he nagging issue of non-payment of membership fees arose prominently during the 25th National General Convention

(NGC) of the Media Council of Tanzania held in Arusha on 28 September, 2023.

Presenting a section of the report by the Executive Secretary of the Council, Finance Manager, CPA Mustapha Tarimo, said that membership contribution so far this year was only TZS 9,300,000.

If all the 243 members of the Council had paid their dues, he said, the figure could have been almost TZS40,000,000. Twelve members joined the Council this year.

This revelation ignited discussion with some members advising the Council's secretariat to engage members with huge outstanding amount of fees to work out means of settling dues they owe the Council.

The Council was also advised to closely check out whether some of the reported indebted members still exist or have closed business.

Responding to the issue, the Executive Secretary, Kajubi Mukajanga, said that most of the heavily indebted members still exist and enjoy the services of the Council but do not reciprocate in terms of meeting their membership obligations.

He said the secretariat has always been reminding all members on paying membership contributions on every January 1, each year.

Citing the adage there is no bonus without onus, Mukajanga said it is up to

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A delegate, Nico Mwaibale from Uyui FM of Tabora who chaired the National General Convention during election of members of the Governing Board of the Council cast a ballot.

# Nation-wide debate on state of media economy planned

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trend in the process of changing the media legislation in Zanzibar.

He said this stems from a promise made by the Zanzibar President Dr. Hussein Mwinyi when he met with a delegation from the MCT in December last year and he repeated the promise when he graced the commemoration of World Press Freedom Day in Zanzibar in May.

The Zanzibar Minister for Information Tabia Maulid Mwitwa told media stakeholders in Zanzibar including MCT in September this year that the bill for a new media legislation in Zanzibar has been finalised and it

is now undergoing translation into English.

He said there is hope because the promise to change the legislation was made by the government itself.

However, he warned that media stakeholders should not be complacent, saying that this should serve to invigorate them to increase efforts to push for further change.

Regionally, Mukajanga reported a notable development that press councils in Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda have formed and registered the East African Press Councils association with him as Chairperson and the Media Council of

Kenya as its secretariat.

The association has attracted two new member countries, DR Congo and Somalia. He also informed the meeting that 12 new institutional members have joined the Council increasing membership to 243.

The new members who were formally introduced by MCT Executive Secretary Mukajanga at the NGC include The Chanzo, Zanzibar University, Radio Uhai, Sunet Zanzibar Community TV, Open University of Tanzania, Mtolera Limited, Media Aid for indigenous Pastoral Communities (MAIPAC), Kilimanjaro Revival FM, Harvest Time and El Olama FM Radio.



# MCT is very relevant... its mandate is clear says Mukajanga

The Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga, is retiring end of December, 2023 after serving the Council at the top post for 15 years. In this interview with MW Editor Hamis Mzee, he reflects on his achievements and challenges, advices on the way forward and steadfast upholding self-regulation.

**Q: Fifteen years ago when you assumed the top position at the Media Council Tanzania, legendary journalist Fili Karashani in an article referred to you as ‘Mr. Fix It’. Now when you look back can you say that you lived up to that description?**

**A:** I honestly do not know. That is for those observing my work to say. I can only say that I have implemented the promises I gave in my so-called acceptance speech, and I have overseen successful implementation of all the programme strategies during my tenure.

**Q: What can you**

**say as major achievements of your leadership at the Council?**

**A:** Fifteen years is a rather long time, and there are many things I

consider achievements. But I can mention a few, such as inculcating a strong culture of team spirit, promoting self-regulation within Tanzania and outside, such as Zimbabwe, Uganda and Rwanda; quality professional publications, the DEFIR, MCT Observer Status at the African Commission, EJAT including LAJA, nurturing other professional media organisations specifically UTPC and TEF, and succeeding to change MCT from a tenant to a homeowner.

**Q: Challenges you faced?**

**A:** Challenges are just part of success. You cannot talk about

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Kajubi Mukajanga, the outgoing Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT).





# WAPC condemns killing of journalists in Gaza

**T**he World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) has expressed serious concern over the death and injury of many journalists while covering the ongoing Israel - Palestine war.

A statement issued by WAPC President Prof. Dr. Sule Aker, said as many as 18 journalists are reported killed and 20 others were wounded in Gaza.

The statement made available to the Media Council of Tanzania, also said there are reports of some journalists

missing too.

WAPC, the largest and only umbrella media organisations of Press/Media Councils and similar organisations of the globe said it condemned such incidents of death, injury and missing of the media persons in the war zone.

It also demanded an independent investigation under the UN into such cases, compensation of the victims and that the culprits should be brought to book at the earliest.

“The journalists are doing their professional duty in the highly violent

region and trying to inform the public under the most difficult conditions. In no case should the media be a victim of the warring parties,” the association insisted.

WAPC said there were reports that in some cases, the houses of journalists were completely destroyed and at least 40 media outlets were said to be the target of airstrikes, which is highly condemnable. “WAPC wants immediate cessation of violence and restoration of peace in the disturbed region”, the statement concluded.

# Race for EJAT glory is on

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such entries in other categories such as Business, Economy and Finance Reporting Category or Education or Open category as they may be advised by their editors.

Following the launch of the competition, print, electronic, and online journalists are invited to start submitting entries of their works which were published or aired this year by either filling online forms or physically presenting the forms which can be accessed on MCT website – [www.mct.or.tz](http://www.mct.or.tz).

The EJAT 2023 categories are as follows: Business, Economy and Finance Reporting Category; Culture and Sports Reporting Category; Agriculture and Agri – Business Reporting Category; Education Reporting Category; Tourism

and Conservation Reporting Category; Investigative Reporting Category; and Data Journalism Category.

Others are: Human Rights and Good Governance Reporting Category; Gender and Children Reporting Category; Disability Reporting Category; Health Reporting Category; Cooperatives Reporting Category; and Social Security Fund Reporting Category.

Others are: Tax and Tariffs Collection Reporting Category; Environmental and Water Sources Protection Reporting Category; Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting Category; Early Childhood Development Reporting Category; and Open Category. -

Winners in the various categories are presented with trophies, certificates cash and other presents.

In addition MCT presents the overall winner three million shillings for

bursary to further his/her professional knowledge.

The winner of the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award (LAJA) will also be sought and this will be the eighth time the award is bestowed. .

This award is for journalists who have contributed greatly for the advancement of journalism and press freedom.

Veteran journalists who have won this award are Fili Karashani (2012), Hamza Kassongo (2013), Mariam Hamdani (2014), Jenerali Ulimwengu (2015), Rose Haji (2016), Ndimara Tegambwage (2022) and Tido Mhando (2023).

The gala for EJAT 2023 will be held in July 27, 2024 at a hall to be identified later while the deadline for submitting entries is January 31, 2024.

In the 2022 edition of EJAT which climaxed on July 22, 2023 a total of 893 entries were submitted compared to 598 of the previous year reflecting a 49 per cent increase.

In organising competition, MCT partners with media stakeholders including the Southern Africa Media Institute (MISA-Tan), Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF), Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA), Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) and HakiElimu.

# MCT is very relevant...its mandate is clear says Mukajanga

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succeeding unless there are challenges you surmounted. These were such as resource as well as legal challenges.

**Q: Were media stakeholders acting in concert in pressing for common aspirations and goals or were there divisions?**

**A:** Mostly in concert. Of course there were varied opinions but that is healthy. It is important to have different perspectives. It becomes a challenge only when people start differing on matters of principle, and that did not happen often.

**Q: Can you cite achievements scored as a result of joint efforts?**

**A:** The Coalition on the Right to Information (CoRI) engaged government and parliament in efforts to have the media legal regime improved. MCT chaired the CoRI and provided the secretariat. Mid this year we had amendments done on the Media Services Act. Although the amendments were less than we had bargained for, but it was still an achievement. In Zanzibar the Zanzibar Media Committee (ZAMECO) is also undertaking joint efforts to have the review of Zanzibar media laws reviewed. But we also organise EJAT together with our partners.

**Q: You are known as an uncompromising stalwart of press freedom and freedom of expression and all these years you have stood your ground. Are you satisfied with the progress attained so far?**

**A:** I am happy that we have made inroads, but we need to keep pushing. Any gains attained can be undone, as was amply demonstrated during the late Magufuli administration. The most important achievement in this matter is, in my opinion, the establishment of a functional self-regulatory system. We need to guard these gains jealously, as there will always be attempts to derail us. The self-regulatory system itself will be under



The architectural impression of the proposed new office building of the Media Council of Tanzania currently under construction.

intense pressure going forward, as the state pushes for more government control of the media.

**Q: What areas do you think require more push?**

**A:** Promotion of self-regulation as a viable option for ensuring a professional and accountable media. We also still have gargantuan work waiting in terms of improving the media legal regime. The Media Services Act has been very visible, but there are many pieces of legislation

that need looking into, including sedition provisions on our statute books. 2024 and 2025 are election years and accusations of sedition are likely to increase.

**Q: You are also a staunch and ardent advocate of self-regulation but with the planned statutory media council to be set up following the passage the Media Services Act, do you think self-regulation has a future?**

and media fraternity at large.

**Q: With the establishment of the “Independent” Media Council by the Government will this media council set up by media practitioners still be relevant?**

**A:** Very relevant; and probably even more so. As I said above, MCT mandate is very clear. You read the law establishing the statutory council and compare to what is provided by the MCT constitution, and you will see that MCT relevance is still there.

**Q: The Council is largely funded by donors, did you ever experience serious difficult situations in running it due to financial hitches, donor preferences or fatigue?**

**A:** Those are part of the equation. You anticipate them, plan accordingly, and act judiciously and strategically.

**Q: Membership to the council is institutional but the 240 plus members lag behind in paying their dues; as you are retiring what advice do you give as regards to this question as their contributions are crucial in the operations of council?**

**A:** Paying membership fees ensures ownership of the Council. It is very important that members pay their dues. This habit of forming an organisation and then thinking that management will just get funds from donors must stop. Such dependency is dangerous for independence and sustainability.

**Q: Can you give stock on state of the Council when you assumed your position as ES and now when you are retiring?**

**A:** We have made massive strides. MCT is now accepted by all stakeholders, including government, development partners, other CSOs, and regional and international

organisations.

**Q: What would you most remember or miss as you wind business at the Council?**

**A:** The Team. It was an awesome team. The camaraderie, the team spirit, the willingness to go that extra mile, sometimes working quite long hours and on rest days, pushed by that remarkable determination to achieve a set goal... I will surely miss that.

**Q: Regionally, the East African countries have set up the East Africa Press Councils, an umbrella body and you are its first chairperson. What does it aim to achieve?**

**A:** EAPC brings together media regulators and media organizations that believe in a robust press with the main objective being to promote and protect free, independent, professional and accountable media in East Africa. EAPC works to promote media pluralism and diversity in East Africa, create awareness and promote the concept of the media independence through Press Councils as a viable option of holding the media accountable in the region. It is a forum through which media regulatory bodies in the region share experiences and exchange information on emerging issues in media regulation, and seek harmony in matters of media regulation.

**Q: You are retiring as Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania and yet you have assumed the chair of the regional body; can you clarify or is at as the adage goes that “you retired but you are not tired”?**

**A:** I informed the EAPC leadership when we met on 18th October 2023 in Arusha that I was retiring as head of MCT secretariat in December 2023. A unanimous decision was that I should continue as chair of the regional organisation. I am honoured.



# Kajubi Mukajanga: A Lifetime Mission to Entrench Self-Regulation in Journalism

It is at times most fulfilling when you write about a person when they are still alive. At least they get an inkling of their impact on the lives of others while their eyes are still open. I met Kajubi some 20 years or so back, I had just started working at the Media Council of Tanzania as a programme officer. My office was a small room tucked at the back of the premises at Kijitonyama right opposite the Village museum.

The cramped space had two work stations and I was informed the other occupant was the editor of the Council's monthly newsletter, *Media Watch*, and the Media critic. Well, it didn't take long when I got to meet the other occupant of the office. He breezed in like the proverbial whirlwind, introduced himself with a big smile, that he was my office mate for the foreseeable future.

I had seen the publication during my induction and it covered mostly media industry issues and of course a critique of professional ethical transgressions in the media. What struck me in our first meeting, was the high level of energy that Kajubi put in the production of the newsletter. In a matter of hours, stories were typed, pictures chosen and the newsletter sent for layout and design which at the time was done at the printers.

This boundless energy, dedication to detail and efficiency, would continue to define his approach to his undertakings as he took over as Executive Secretary from the illustrious Anthony Ngaiza in 2008. He ushered the Council into a new era shifting it from project-based activities to an expansive program, driven by a four-year strategic plan that was fully funded by a consortium of international partners, including Sweden, Switzerland, Norway, and Denmark.

MCT's membership base is media institutions and under his leadership, the number of media outlets taking up membership increased exponentially ranging from newspapers, radio and television stations, community media and online news platforms.



By Pili Mtambalike

Kajubi's passion for media and journalism is deeply rooted in his history. In the early 1990s, he published a weekly newspaper, *Wakati ni Huu*, which was known for its impact, insight, and courage. By then, he had already authored numerous novels, establishing himself as a multifaceted figure in the world of words.

His diverse background in journalism, publishing, and his experience as a reporter, editor, and media trainer made him uniquely qualified to lead the Media Council of Tanzania. Perhaps what was more telling is that he was one of the co-chair with Mikidadi Mahmoud, who chaired the very first national stakeholders conference that led to the establishment of the Media Council of Tanzania.

Kajubi has taken up leadership roles of various journalists' organizations throughout his career, having been at the helm of the Media Institute of Southern Africa – Tanzania Chapter (MISA-Tan), the Association of Journalists and Media Workers (AJM), and MCT. Kajubi is the immediate past president of the World Association of Press Councils (WAPC). In 2006/7 he authored, together with two international consultants, the project

document for the Tanzania Media Fund (now Foundation), and successfully launched the Fund.

From that moment he took over the stewardship of the Council, he made it his life's mission to entrench self-regulation as the cornerstone of responsible journalism. He recognized that a free and vibrant media was not only vital for a functioning democracy but also a mirror reflecting the society's conscience. Through his dedication and leadership, he strived to ensure that the media acted responsibly and ethically.

Under his guidance, the Media Council of Tanzania evolved into a robust institution, a watchdog with a purpose - fostering a culture of accountability and transparency within the media fraternity. Kajubi's tenure was marked by numerous significant achievements, most notably the development and implementation of a stringent code of ethics for media practitioners, aimed at ensuring the highest standards of professionalism.

Perhaps most important is the fact that Kajubi is a team builder, within the Council and outside he inspired people to work together, forge alliances and work together for the betterment of the media sector. The Coalition on the Right to Information (CoRI) is one alliance of different stakeholders that has played a very crucial role in the review process of media laws and policy.

The Council, had a big programme and thus a lot of work to accomplish. This would have been very difficult to accomplish if there was no sense of commitment and a passion for ensuring that the mission of the Council was being reached. Kajubi energized Council workers to work as a team and to ensure that each and everyone knew what was going on in the Council at any given time even if it was being done by another department.

Throughout his tenure, he has tirelessly advocated for the rights of journalists and media organizations, fostering a harmonious

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## ... Staff reflections on Mukajanga

### Paul Mallimbo



Kajubi has greatly helped to shape my performance at work. He is a pragmatic and serious person who does not mix jokes or friendship at work. If you work with him and fail to grow professionally, then you would be having a problem that require extra ordinary human support.

He is a teacher of both English and Kiswahili languages. He likes people to learn. You know this man is a publisher, he taught me about copyright page, which I did not know , but he also taught me how to number book pages, things which I did not know before joining MCT.

Kajubi is so precise that even if one misspells his/her own name, he will correct it. I remember a colleague had incorrectly wrote the name of former Director of Marketing at TBC as

Eliza instead of Elizabeth, Kajubi came down hard on the colleague insisiting on correctly writing peoples' names.

Kajubi Mukajanga is an editor, if you write a document and submit to him,after he goes through it and returns it, you would love it –the document will have clear understandable language. Kajubi is principled if he stands for an issue , he maintains that it should be of high standard, he does not like low standards. He is a man of standards.

He is a leader with focus for what he does and thinks about. He is the one who initiated and stood for the process of legal reforms up to where we are now. KM is a leader who listens to advices from his assistants before making any decision on the institution or any issue with wider interest for the media. .

In addition, Kajubi is strict , if you want to work with him ensure you follow all set guidelines accordingly. Here I speak of the work-plan. He is result - oriented person who prefers attainment of the intended output or even to surpass it.

If you look at some of the achievements under his leadership, it is because of accuracy and being a person of positive results. MCT is now has its own building and is constructing permanent offices at Tegeta Skanska. It would be wise that once the construction is completed, this building should be named Kajubi Mukajanga Media Tower.

### Elizabeth Munisi



KM has been more than a boss to me. He has been a father/mentor and a friend.

His guidance and support have meant the world to me. It has been an honour to work under his leadership. He taught me much and I will always be grateful for the opportunity. He has been a true inspiration to all MCT staff.

His dedication and commitment to excellence have left a lasting impact on the MCT team.

His guidance and support have helped me grow both professionally and personally. It has been an honour to be part of his team.

He has made a positive impact on so many lives during his leadership at the Council, and his contribution to MCT team will not be forgotten.

I personally would like to thank him for everything he has done to me and the entire MCT staff and their families.

His leadership and guidance has been instrumental in our success.

Farewell and best wishes for his next chapter!!!



# Reflections

## Shiffaa Said Hassan



**Important issues during Kajubi Mukajanga leadership.**

**He strengthened our office in Zanzibar by having a special programme and work-plan**

**which served as a vision highlighting the Council's services in Unguja and Pemba Islands.**

**A book on the Zanzibar Media History and several researches were published and a Resource Centre was set up.**

**Other important issue carried by the Council in Zanzibar was participating and closely monitoring the process of getting a new media law in Zanzibar.**

**Gender in the Media has also been given priority. Promoting and monitoring ethics and media trends was carried out by the Zanzibar office as well.**

## CPA Mustafa Tarimo.



**Kajubi has been a great leader, an amazing mentor, and a good friend. His mentorship has been incredibly helpful in helping me develop my skills both professionally and personally. He is always on board, sharing valuable information and advice with the team. We are grateful and very happy to have a leader like him. I'm very thankful that I got the chance to work for such an outstanding executive secretary.**

## Saumu Mwalimu

**Kajubi of my 7 years at MCT**

**It was glorious to work with you, for me MCT was not a workplace but a university. Your capacity of ensuring that I learn to do different activities apart from those stipulated in the job description of my contract provided me opportunities to acquire varying experiences.**

**You have overriding capacity to bring together people, not only at MCT but in other groups as well. MCT has grown to be a family not only at work but outside as well and this is even in other areas, for example CoRI you have made us akin close relatives and have eased our work.**

**Accuracy. Here I have learnt a big thing. Accuracy in everything, even if it is small, has helped**

**our documents to be of quality. You have left us with a solid foundation.**

**To be listened to and be accorded opportunities. This I will take to my home. To you, there is none who knows much more. Your offered all of us opportunities to be heard and express views while insisting to work as a team and supervising ourselves.**

**Influence. For this I decorate you. If you say enough. Your expertise in arranging words - what to write and what to say - even anyone who does not want to listen would be attracted to listen!!**

**Giving incentives. This I will take wherever I go. It has been a catalyst for co-existence at the MCT even during hard times! I remember your excellence in**



**writing and use of language. There are many things to speak about you. It should suffice to congratulate you for your outstanding service. I wish your shoes would fit me while I am still young!**

## Tumbi Kiganja



Personally, MCT is the first place where I started working after graduating from the University. When I joined MCT I found

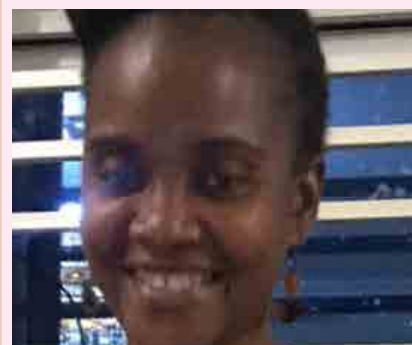
Kajubi Mukajanga as the Executive Secretary and he was one who received me at that time. Kajubi has many pluses which I cannot list all. But Kajubi is a leader of his kind, he is also a mentor with high capability of moulding a budding journalist to be reputable scribe. God has blessed him with a unique talent.

Kajubi is also

1. A good leader who can make an institution and its workers cooperate and work jointly in solidarity
2. A leader who knows, values and strengthen communications within an institution.

Provides opportunity of bringing up and to listen to staff and afford them a chance to grow.

## Bertha Christopher



He is a good leader and also a mentor. I have learnt so many things under his leadership including proper arrangement of work. Honestly, he has shaped me on how to carry out my duties. He has been keen on work plans in such a way each and everybody knows their responsibilities. Generally he is a good leader. I have benefitted from his leadership.

## Said Hassan Mloka



He was patient with workers. We err, he would talk and that is it. He was also fighting for workers benefits. If there is financial problem, he would struggle to solve the

problem. Secondly he was a mentor. He was a person who provided explanations. The most important thing that I remember is his insistence on maintaining a diary which helps as a reminder to each worker of the daily activities that need to be done.

I have learnt from the work plan arrangement which shows what each member of staff is required to do. Work plan and quarterly plan frequent meetings have helped in executing our duties properly. He was committed to fighting and defending the benefits and legal rights of media practitioners which at times we thought he was going to the extreme akin pampering them. For example during the Council's National General Conventions, hotel accommodation for delegates is paid for and in addition to allowances whereas others professionals meet such costs themselves in such events.

## Anna Nyoka



For the ten years that I worked at the Council, I have learnt a lot from him. He is understanding and even if you err, he would explain and enlighten you. In my case I prepare breakfast for him... if it happens I had put more sugar in the tea that I had made for him, he would tell me "mama today sugar has exceeded the normal limit". The day passes and life goes on. I have stayed with him quite well all these years. I pray he lives long. He cares for the wellbeing of staff and everything. He is a really civilized person and cares for humanity.



# Mukajanga: Reflections in photos



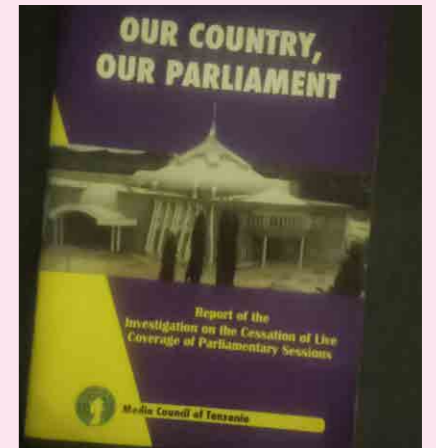
Former Prime Minister, Edward Lowassa takes the oath during an arbitration session at the Media Council of Tanzania offices in Dar es Salaam.

**K**ajubi Diocles Mukajanga is bowing out as Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania after serving the body for 15 years. During his reign at the top position of the self-regulatory media Council, Mukajanga who has practiced as a journalist and publisher in his own right, led the Council to new heights with tremendous achievements. As he winds business at the Council end December 2023, the still energetic champion of self-regulation and staunch supporter of freedom of expression is leaving an indelible mark. During his leadership, the high and

*Continues on page 19*



The President of the Media Council, Judge Juxon Mlay (centre), MCT Executive Secretary, Kajubi Mukajanga (second from left) display copies of a report on the investigation conducted by the Media Council following the invasion of Clouds Media studios by the then Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner, Paul Makonda.



This is one of the Media Council Tanzania's investigative reports



The Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania Kajubi Mukajanga embraces the then Minister for Information Emmanuel Nchimbi, at Parliament grounds in Dodoma.



Copies of the book titled 'Statistics in the Media' authored by Prof. Karim Hirji which was published by the Media Council of Tanzania are displayed during the book's inauguration.

*From page 18*

mighty the likes of former Prime Ministers, other government officials, Members of Parliament and top flight businessmen sought the arbitration services at the Council and in most cases their issues were amicably concluded with handshakes.

In this case the Council presided over a win win situation.

Other landmark activities include the launch and sustaining for 14 years without fail, of the now famous Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT). The awards were started in 2009 a year after Mukajanga took office as

*Continues on page 20*



Prominent Businessman, Ali Mufuruki (deceased) shakes hand with the editor of ITV, Stephen Chuwa following a successful mediation session at the Media Council of Tanzania. Looking on right is Managing Director of ITV Joyce Mhaviile and left is the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga.



The Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga, talks with foreign diplomats who paid a courtesy call on him at the Council offices.



Editors drawn from several media outlets who attended one of the several meetings organised by the Media Council Tanzania pose in a group photo with Council officials.



The Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga, take notes during talks with Chinese diplomats at his office.



# Mukajanga's reflections in photos



The then Vice Chancellor of the University of Dar es Salaam, Prof. Rwekaza Mukandara congratulates Prof. Rwekaza during the launch of his book Statistics in the Media. Centre is Chairperson of Board of Trustees of the Media Council of Tanzania Professor Geoffrey Mmari.

**From page 19**  
the Executive Secretary of MCT. In 2012 the prestigious award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism (LAJA) was initiated. His undertakings were numerous including engagement with the government and through the Coalition on the Right to Information (CoRI), which he chaired, championing the improvement of the media legal regime in Tanzania. The Council attracted journalists and diplomats as well as can be reflected by this collage of photos captured throughout the period of Mukajanga's leadership of the Council. The historic victory at the East African Court of Justice is another plus that will also be remembered in Mukajanga's legacy. He will also be remembered for organising engagement with editors to deliberate on pressing matters of the profession.

*Continues on page 21*



**From page 20**

Under his watch the Council also initiated and carried out investigations on critical issues of the day. The most prominent is the invasion Clouds Media Studio by former Dar es Salaam



Former Chief Justice Barnabas Samatta (left) who was the Chief Guest during the gala of Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) in 2010 and the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga (right) pose with the overall winner, Orton Kiisweko of the Daily News.

Regional which the Council came with a damning report condemning the invasion of the media outlet. The other was the investigation of the killing of journalist Daudi Mwangosi by police while on duty.

MCT also published a report on the cessation of live Bunge coverage during the Fifth Phase administration. Numerous publications on media were sponsored, published and launched by the Council.



The then chairperson of the Ethics Committee of the Media Council of Tanzania, the Late Mark Bomani (left), the then Secretary General of the East African Community, Juma Mwapachu and the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga share a light moment during the inauguration of the Dar es Salaam, Declaration on Editorial Freedom, Independence and Responsibility (DEFIR)



The Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga, presents the Council's publications to the then BBC journalist Zuhura Yunus when she visited the Council's offices in Dar es Salaam. Yunus is now State House Director for Communication.



Slain journalist Daudi Mwangosi whose killing allegedly by Police was also investigated by a probe team set up by the Media Council of Tanzania.



The first awardee of the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award (LAJA), Fili Karashani (deceased) is presented with a trophy and certificate by the then President Jakaya Kikwete.

## Reflections

# ...The Kajubi Mukajanga I have known

## David Mbulumi

I have known Kajubi personally since 1998, when I was a budding journalist at the Guardian Limited. So working with him at MCT was a second time.

The former Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), is a highly intelligent individual. His work ethic is characterized by unwavering dedication and a strong commitment to his role.

Kajubi's leadership style is notably inclusive, valuing the input and involvement of staff members. Here I can give an example on how he used to involve staff in the development of funding proposals, planning and organisation of various forums.

He is passionate about freedom of expression and promoting an independent media council, tirelessly advocating for its significance.

Moreover, Kajubi is a recognized writer and journalist even before he came to MCT.

Under his guidance, the MCT has produced numerous publications and manuals.

However, I found him very impatient, always wanting to see things happening quickly.

His straight talking ways sometime



made staff uncomfortable and sometimes embarrassing, but he does not hold grudges, showing a capacity for forgiveness and moving beyond conflicts.

His organizational skills are commendable, particularly in timely reporting to donors and stakeholders, in MCT's activities and initiatives.

His approach to management embodied efficiency and effectiveness, contributing significantly to the council's achievements and success.

## Allan Lawa



He led by example. He could not stand laziness. He liked to teach. He defends quality benefits. Under his leadership the Media Council was a beacon of knowledge to many countries in setting up self-regulatory media councils. Among them - South Sudan and South Africa sent teams to learn from MCT. He leaves a huge legacy at the Council.

## A Lifetime Mission to Entrench Self-Regulation

From page 14

and conducive environment for journalism to thrive. His calm demeanor, professionalism, and diplomacy in handling media-related issues earned him respect not only from the media community but also from various stakeholders.

Kajubi's work extended beyond the borders of Tanzania. He actively engaged in regional and international forums, sharing his insights and experiences with counterparts from other nations. His dedication to the cause of self-regulation had a ripple effect across the East African region, leaving a lasting impact on media standards and ethics. One of his last jobs as Executive Secretary of MCT was the launch of the East African Association of Media Councils which was launched this October. He played a significant hand in the establishment of

the Association.

Under his leadership, the Media Council of Tanzania launched various initiatives, including capacity-building programs for journalists, promoting investigative journalism, standardizing curriculum for tertiary level journalism training institutions and organizing national debates on pressing issues. These initiatives aimed at nurturing the next generation of journalists who uphold the highest ethical standards in their reporting.

Today, as Mr. Kajubi Mukajanga prepares to take his well-deserved retirement, we reflect on the immense legacy he leaves behind. His relentless pursuit of a media sector that values truth, fairness, and responsibility has left an indelible mark on the media landscape of Tanzania and the entire region.

While we bid farewell to Mr. Mukajanga as the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, we know that his legacy will endure for generations to come. His passion for entrenching self-regulation was not just a job but a calling.

We thank him for his unwavering dedication, his integrity, and his profound impact on journalism and media ethics.

As he embarks on this new chapter of his life, I feel confident that his expertise and wisdom will continue to inspire those who follow in his footsteps, carrying forward the torch of responsible journalism that he has ignited.

Kajubi's mission to entrench self-regulation in the media will forever be remembered as his lifetime achievement.



# NGC adopts MCT financial statements

MW Reporter

**T**he Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) has received a clean audit report for the year 2022.

The financial accounts of the Council were audited by Innovex Auditors.

The audited accounts of the Council were adopted by the 25th National General Convention of the Council held in Arusha on September 28, 2023.

A report the NGC presented by the Council's Finance Manager, CPA Mustapha Tarimo stated that in 2022, MCT carried out programme activities in accordance with the Strategic Plan 2023-2027 but it was not fully funded.

Most of the funders, CPA Tarimo said, had changed their funding model, opting to finance one or more aspects of the strategic plan known as project finance in the financial circles parlance.

Under project financing funders do not provide core funding and other funders have shifted their priority areas.

The Council has continued to fundraise for different aspects of its programme strategy to ensure that all aspects of the strategic plan were funded.

In another development the NGC has acceded to the Governing Board's recommendation to appoint Innovex Auditors to undertake audit of MCT accounts for the year ending 31st December, 2023.



Finance Manager, CPA, Mustapha Tarimo presents the Council's finance report before the National General Convention (NGC).





The Director of Information and Chief Spokesperson of the Government, Mobhare Matinyi.

# MAELEZO dismisses directive barring freelance scribes

MW Reporter

**T**he Information Services Department (MAELEZO) and the Office of the Chief Government Spokesman has strongly reacted to a letter barring private and freelance journalists from reporting government issues.

The letter dated October 9, 2023 was posted on social media by the Ifakara Town Council.

A statement signed by the Director of Information and Chief Government Spokesman, Mobhare Holmes Matinyi issued the following day, dismissed the purported restrictions

quoting articles of the Media Services Act as incorrect.

The statement clarified that the Media Services Act as amended in 2023 does not restrict private media and freelance journalists from reporting on government issues with the exception of restricted information as provided by the law.

According to section 7 (1), the Media Services Act clearly sets the basis of private media outlets to publish issues of national interests, adding that section 7(2),(b),(1V) stipulates the responsibility of private media to publicize all issues of national interests and does not restrict them.

The Information Department and the

Office of the Chief Government Spokesman urged media and journalists to discharge their duties independently and to cooperate with government by reporting on development projects carried out by the sixth phase administration while observing the law, regulations and professionalism.

A day after this reaction that is on October 11, the Executive Director of Ifakara Town Council, Lena M. Nkaya apologised for the letter written by a member of the Council staff and circulated on social media.

The Director said that the letter was not the position of the Council as it contravened the right to information and freedom of expression.



The Human Resources and Administrative Manager of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Ziada Kilobo emphasizing something during in-house training on gender policy held on October 16, 2023 at Savvy FM in Arusha

# 127 journalists trained on gender and DEFIR in Arusha

By Tumbi Kiganja

A total of 127 journalists and students studying media courses from Savvy Media, Mega FM and Fanikiwa Journalism School have been trained on gender policy in the media and the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Editorial Freedom, Independence, and Responsibility (DEFIR)

The two day training organized by the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) was held in Arusha on October 16 and October 18, 2023.

Issues which were discussed during

the training include the importance of the media houses to adopt the gender policy in their newsrooms and DEFIR for upcoming journalists.

The journalists were enlightened on gender sensitivity within workplaces, sexual harassment guidelines at workplace, disciplinary consequences, gender reporting seek: the truth and report it as fully as possible.

They also discussed the importance of journalists to act independently, adhere to objectivity, accountability, balance and impartiality as well as avoid stigma and trauma in discharging their duties.

During her presentation, the Human

Resource and Administrative Manager of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), Ziada Kilobo .who is also the lead coordinator for Women in the Media (WIM) project, said the Council has seen the importance of engaging with the media to ensure that gender is given priority in newsrooms as well as to support the media to develop gender policies and establish gender desks so as to provide a wider scope for journalists to report any form of gender violence.

Participants in the training Violet Lema from Mega FM and Baraka Sunga from Savvy FM said that the gender training has

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# 127 journalists trained on gender and DEFIR in Arusha

From page 25

helped them as journalists to understand the importance of doing their daily work based on gender consciousness.

Violet Lema said she personally did not know that MCT has the programs of supporting media houses to prepare gender policies and guidelines. "I hope our management will effectively exploit the opportunity provided by MCT," said Lema.

"Personally, as a station leader, I have seen the high need of supporting and empowering female journalists so that they too can reach high positions like male journalists", said Baraka Sunga, Managing Editor of Savvy FM.

At Fanikiwa Journalism School located at Kwamorombo, the students and their

tutors were taught on the concept, source, purpose, and importance of DEFIR. Moreover, the discussion also focused on the roles and responsibilities of different groups as defined by DEFIR (state, owners, shareholders, directors, advertisers, business and political allies of owners, donors /diplomatic community and the public).

MCT program officer Paul Mallimbo said that now MCT has decided to engage students at college levels to make them familiar with DEFIR and start to practice it as they are still in colleges to build them a solid academic foundation.

He elaborated that DEFIR is the foundation of journalism as it carries important concepts related to this

professionalism.

On the part of the director of Fanikiwa, Joseph Mayagila said that MCT has supported them for a long time by providing various trainings that have helped them to professionally equip their students .

"Currently, our school has produced enough products that are in the market, when I personally attend various events related to the media industry, I have been proud to meet students who passed through our school and are now journalists and media managers. But all these achievement came with the great support of MCT who have been providing us with training, guidelines and publication for students' reference," Mayagila said



MCT delegation in a group photo with staff and some students of Fanikiwa Journalism Schools shortly after a DEFIR conference at the college premises located at Kwamorombo, Arusha.





People queue to practice their constitutional right to participate in elections

# MCT appeals for sobriety in local govt elections coverage

MW Reporter

**T**he Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) has appealed for sobriety in the coverage of the forthcoming local government elections.

The Executive Secretary of the Council, Kajubi Mukajanga said in a statement issued on November 2, 2023 to commemorate the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI) that during the elections to be held next year, there will be lot of information including that generated by artificial intelligence, there will be fake news and hate speech as well.

He urged media outlets to train their journalists on how to discern the new types of disinformation, warning that journalists must not be source of spreading inaccurate

and false information which has not been corroborated by sources to avoid causing undue panic.

The theme for this year's IDEI marked worldwide on November 2 is Violence against journalists, the integrity of elections, and the role of public leadership.

MCT has also revealed that incidents of denial of information have increased as compared to the past three years.

In the period between January and November, this year MCT through its database ([www.pressviolations.or.tz](http://www.pressviolations.or.tz)) has recorded 21 violations committed against journalists impeding them to access information or threatening them not to carry out their duties as journalists.

The incidents of violations so far in 2023 included denial to access information – eight

incidents, threats (5) arrests (3) attacks (2) and harassment (3).

In 2020 there were three incidents of denial of information, 2021 four incidents and 2022 two incidents, the statement said.

The Council has established that there are still challenges to access information, despite the directive given by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa on March 27, 2023 during the meeting of public information and communications officers held in Dar es Salaam.

The Prime Minister had ordered ministries, public institutions and government departments to earmark budgets for disseminating information to the public, accurately and expeditiously.

“On top of ignoring the directive, we have noticed some officials issuing decision contrary to the Access to Information Act of 2016, compelling information seekers to get a letter from the local government authorities (TAMISEMI) asking for information from the Councils.”

Five such incidents involved Mpwapwa, Muleba, Kilosa, Njombe and Ifakara district councils. The Director of Information and Chief Government Spokesperson, reacted by dismissing such orders as inappropriate and incorrect.

The Council has appealed to the government to create favourable environment for journalists to discharge their duties including access to information and freedom of expression to the public, institutions and media.

MCT also asked the government take action against all who restrict or frustrate journalists from doing their work by denying them access to information in public offices contrary to the law.

MCT further reminded government to ensure that information is disseminated accurately and expeditiously and to ensure District Council Directors implement the directive issued by the Prime Minister and to provide secure environment for journalists and to book those who commit crimes against journalists.

To journalists, the Council has urged them to conduct themselves professionally, adhere to ethics and high journalistic standards in performing their daily duties and to take precautions especially following technological changes and developments to avoid false information.

As for society the Council has urged it to continue to seek different information in their areas because this was their right and that when wrongfully denied information, they should not hesitate to report the matter to responsible authorities.

## HOW TO SUBMIT COMPLAINTS

- i. An institution or member of the public who feels aggrieved by the media such as newspaper, radio, television or online is free to lodge a complaint to the Secretariat of the Media Council of Tanzania.
  - ii. The complainant can submit their complaints through:
    1. Telephone
    2. Letter
    3. Email
    4. Special form available on Council website which is [www.mct.or.tz](http://www.mct.or.tz)
  - iii. The complainant should state the reason for the complaint, state what remedy the complainant wants from the Council and evidence to prove the allegations.
  - iv. The complainant must submit the complaint as soon as possible and in no way more than six months from the date of publication or broadcast.
  - v. Complaints will be dealt with and completed within three months after receipt.
- Decisions that the Council could make
- i. To uphold or not to uphold the complaint.
  - ii. To require the media outlet to apologize to the complainant.
  - v. To require the media outlet to correct the information complained about.
  - vi. To require the media outlet to give the complainant the right to respond.
  - vii. To require the media to pay the actual costs incurred by the complainant in the process of filing and following up the complaint.
- If the complainant is dissatisfied with the decision of the Ethics Committee of the Media Council of Tanzania he/she or the institution is entitled to take the complaint to court. However, reports of arbitration proceedings will not be presented to court as part of evidence. The Council will also not receive and listen to a matter which is already in court.

Click the link below for more information

Mediation and Arbitration

Media Council of Tanzania (MCT)

P.O. Box 10160, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania | Tel: +255 22-2775728/2771947

Mob: +255 719 494640/686 494640/767498426

E-mail: [media@mct.or.tz](mailto:media@mct.or.tz) | Website: [www.mct.or.tz](http://www.mct.or.tz)





Catherine Njuguna a Human Right Specialist from The High Commissioner for Human Rights, East Africa Regional Office (OHCHR-EARO), facilitates during the EJAT Master Class training held in Dodoma from November 13-15, 2023.

# 28 scribes honed in a UN supported EJAT Master Class

By Paul Mallimbo, Dodoma

**T**wenty eight journalists from 11 regions have been honed on improved skills on writing impactful stories on society in a post Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) training held in Dodoma.

The three-day EJAT Master Class also served as a feedback platform for journalists to understand what were the issues that made some of the entries in the 2022 competition fail to win.

During the opening, the Media Council

of Tanzania of Tanzania (MCT) Executive Secretary, Kajubi Mukajanga, said the aim of EJAT master classes was to give knowledge to journalists on what best stories look like.

He also said that EJAT judges are brought together with journalists to share the real experience they encountered during judging process.

“Master class looks at better ways of writing impactful stories, it also looks at things that kill winning stories. It highlights observed weaknesses and seeks to find remedy,” he explained.

Mukajanga added that, master class

prepares journalists to write award winning stories, remove myth about EJAT such as that EJAT is for Dar es Salaam journalists and big media outlets only.

He also emphasized that EJAT master class aims at preparing journalists who can train their colleagues in their newsrooms. “Share this knowledge with your colleagues in your newsrooms, be the ambassadors of EJAT,” he said.

The master class which took place from November 13 to 15, 2023 covered the following topics; key human rights principles, the nature of human rights obligations of the State, EJAT entry rules and criteria for the awards and Online EJAT Application Form, Producing quality stories for electronic and print media (radio, TV & online).

Others were Writing and broadcasting skills for capturing audience attention, Why The Dar es Salaam Declaration on Editorial Freedom, Independence, and Responsibility (DEFIR)?, Reporting stories with human rights implications (Human Rights Monitoring, Reporting and Advocacy, and Interviewing skills For print and electronic media.

Other topics included Packaging a human rights story for impact for print and electronic media, Understanding of refugees’ protection as part of human rights, What constitutes a winning Investigative story in Electronic & Print Media, Media role/engagement in combating hate speech in Tanzania; and UN efforts to address root causes, drivers, and impact of

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# 28 scribes honed in a UN supported EJAT Master Class

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hate speech on societies.

The training was conducted by experienced journalists, EJAT judges and former Lifetime Achievement in Journalism awardee, Human Rights specialist and a specialist in stateless people and refugees.

Speaking about the master class, Ally Ngamba a journalist from Uyui FM radio from Tabora, said the training has been an eye opener. He now knows how impactful stories are constructed with all the necessary sources. He said after the training he now knew why EJAT was the pinnacle of excellence.

Ngamba said, he used to believe that EJAT is for big media outlets but after the master class he has realized that EJAT is for all journalists in the country.

Another journalist who participated in the master class, Dickson Kanyika said that to be a good investigative journalist you need strong interpersonal skills, as it needs to build relationship with different sources.

He said that, he has come to realize that one's life is more important than any stories

we write, so it was important to know how to navigate dangerous situations, especially when doing investigative journalism or covering volatile situations.

Saida Issa of Zanzibar Leo reporting from Dodoma said that, "I am so happy to have met Media Council of Tanzania, it is my first time to meet MCT officials." She said she has never thought of submitting her stories in the EJAT, but after the master class, she will prepare her stories and submit to MCT for competition. "I used to see it as a very difficult task."

She said she had learnt how to conduct interviews effectively and incorporate issues of human rights in the story.

Getruda Mwakatobe from Shamba FM in Iringa, said that the master class was very useful to her because she now knows what constitute a human rights story and an investigative story.

"I have learnt that investigative story needs to be owned by the media outlet and not by an individual journalist. There are journalists who have good stories but they have not been submitting them to EJAT competition because of the poor systems that we have in our

newsrooms; it is very discouraging," she said.

This master class was conducted by the Media Council of Tanzania with the support of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, East Africa Regional Office (OHCHR-EARO).

In 2022 the Council conducted three master classes in which two of them were supported by the OHCHR-EARO and the other by Natural Resources Governance Institute (NRGI). The three master classes were conducted in Mtwara, Mbeya and Arusha.

A total of 66 journalists were reached during the training and out of them males were 34 and females 32. These training covered 19 regions of Mtwara, Lindi, Coast, Ruvuma, Iringa, Njombe, Rukwa, Katavi, Geita, Shinyanga, Singida, Zanzibar, Simiyu, Tanga, Morogoro, Arusha, Dodoma, Manyara and Dar es Salaam.

This year a total 28 journalists benefitted from the master class, among them 17 were female and 11 males. The journalists were brought from TV, newspapers, radio and online. The training also covered Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Kagera, Iringa, Kilimanjaro, Dodoma, Lindi, Pemba, Shinyanga and Njombe.



Participants of EJAT Master Class discuss in groups on how to have better TV stories. As part of their training, they played the roles of judges and went through five TV stories which were submitted during EJAT 2022.



Programme Office with the Media Council of Tanzania, Saumu Mwalimu speaks during a one-day meeting held on November 3, 2023 in Dar es Salaam on the MSA 2016 amendments where media stakeholders were cautioned that the law still has unfriendly sections.

# Media law still has unfriendly sections despite amendments, stakeholders warned

MW Reporter

**M**edia stakeholders and institutions have been urged to continue to raise awareness on the bottlenecks contained in the Media Services Act of 2016, as many still exist.

In June 2023 the National Assembly passed the Miscellaneous Amendments Act, 2023 in which only eight sections out of the 21 proposed for change by stakeholders, were amended.

Speaking during a one-day meeting held on November 3, 2023 in Dar es Salaam

on the MSA 2016 amendments, media stakeholders cautioned that the law still has sharp teeth in media sector context.

They warned that as the country is heading for the 2024 and 2025 elections, there are sections of the law which restrict journalists and media to work and operate freely.

For example, section 7(2) b (iv) gives directives to private media to publish information relevant to the nation on orders by the government, "... as the Government may direct."

And section 52(1) d relating to 'seditious intention' without defining what

is sedition or what amounts to sedition, thus providing a loophole for a collective misuse by authorities as the meaning of sedition has been left to individual perceptions. This section is critical in restricting freedom of expressions.

Speaking during the opening of the meeting, the Director of MISA-Tan, Elizabeth Riziki said the objective of the meeting was to discuss various issues after the amendments of the MSA 2016, to ensure journalists, media and the public enjoy press freedom and freedom of expression.

*Continues on page 32*



# Media law still has unfriendly sections despite amendments, stakeholders warned

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“Misa-Tan in collaboration with our partners Protection International Africa are implementing a project to protect press freedom by ensuring good legal environment,” she said.

Lilian Timbuka, Editor from Mwananchi newspaper, said as the nation heads to elections, it is important that journalists and media are informed on how much the legal amendments have eased their working conditions and how much challenges still remain.

“Let me ask, what relaxations have been brought by the amendments and to what

extent; because next year (2024) and 2025 we are having elections.

What should we expect so that we do not find ourselves in conflict with the law?”, Timbuka asked.

Explaining, the Executive Director of Tanzania Citizen Information Bureau (TCIB), Deus Kibamba said it was pertinent for media to adhere to the guidelines on how to report elections issued by the Electoral Commissions and TAMISEMI.

Speaking during the meeting, Saumu Mwalimu, Programme Officer from the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT)

reminded participants that the Council has ‘Media Codes of Conduct for Election Reporting’, it also has ethical regulations which are basis for all types of news coverage.

“It is not only during election... adhering to ethics is for all times, but when it comes to elections it is crucial to read and adhere to guidelines on election coverage. The guidelines issued by MCT can be accessed on its website [www.mct.or.tz](http://www.mct.or.tz),” said Saumu adding that it was equally important for journalists to understand the MSA 2016 amendments.



Media stakeholders deliberate on amendments on Media Services Act.