



# 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



Delegates to the National General Convention of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) captured during the meeting. Appearing in the insert is the Executive Secretary of the Council, Kajubi Mukajanga.

# EDITORIAL

## End of an era

**A**fter 15 years, the Media Council of Tanzania is poised for a new leadership. During the period, the Council, reputed for its stance on self-regulation for media, scored remarkable achievements.

And most of these achievements that make the Council proud did not come easy, but through long and protracted struggle.

Established after media stakeholders resisted an attempt by the government to set up a government controlled statutory media Council in mid-90s, it gradually developed into a powerful organ pressing for progressive and radical changes to spur development of the media.

With the support of media stakeholders and like-minded civil society organisations, the process of reviewing obnoxious sections of media legislations both on the Mainland and the Isles has started after a lot of sustained pressure from the media partners.

Furthermore the Council has made inroads in training of media practitioners and has published numerous publications and training manuals on different aspects.

A number of journalism training institutes now use the curriculum prepared by Council which has been validated by the government organ overseeing technical training, National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET).

In the past years the Council conducted several investigations on violations against the media.

An outstanding rare case was an investigation at the behest of Mwananchi Communications Limited- the publishers of Mwananchi and The Citizen newspapers after the 2010 general election where the company asked the Council to investigate claims by the government that Mwananchi newspaper did not provide fair coverage.

After a thorough investigation, a three member team set up by the Council president cleared the newspaper of the claims.

Other areas where the Council has bagged victories is through litigation in courts and the major one is the successful challenging of the 2016 Media Services Act at the East African Court of Justice. The court in its ruling of the case, ordered for amendments of several sections of that law as they were deemed contrary to the Treaty for Establishment of East African Community.

As the impressive list of pluses attained during the past years seem endless, the new leadership has an arduous and gigantic task to maintain the success and aim for more but the major goal should be to ensure continuity of self-regulation which faces more challenges.



Delegates to the National General Convention of the Media Council of Tanzania cast ballots to elect the President, Vice President and members of the Council's Governing Board.

# Mission Accomplished

MW Reporter,

**T**he 25th National General Convention of the Media Council of Tanzania held in Arusha on September 28, 2023 was unlike any other.

Though at the onset it appeared to be just like previous conventions, it sparked mixed feelings when the Executive Secretary of the Council, Kajubi Mukajanga, declared he was retiring in December this year and that the NGC was his last as the ES.

Mukajanga did not mince words as he declared in his final speech that he has "ACCOMPLISHED".

His speech was captivating as he narrated the challenges and achievements since he took the reins at the top of the Council in 2008.

He is leaving behind a rare legacy loaded with various pluses.

The following is a translation of the full text of his speech:-

During the 10th National General Convention of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) held on July 30, 2008, the then President of the Media Council, Professor Issa Shivji introduced me as the new Executive Secretary, saying I would take over the position in a month and half's time.

This introduction was made after a meeting between me and three board members held on July 15 at the offices of the Mwalimu Nyerere Professorial Chair in Pan-African Studies at the University of Dar es Salaam where I met Professor Shivji in the company of the late Professor Haroub Othman who was the chairperson of the Finance and Administration Committee and the late Judge Mark

Bomani who was the chairperson of the Ethics Committee of the Council.

During the meeting, the three leaders who believed in independent press and media self-regulation, informed me that I had been appointed by the board to be the new Executive Secretary after a process which lasted six months. They told me that the expectation of the Board was to hear my readiness.

In short we agreed. That is when I started to arrange my ideas on what I wanted to do differently after taking over. So when I was offered the opportunity to greet the delegates I laid out five issues that I thought needed to be worked on. Today, as I bid farewell to delegates to National General Convention, I would like to revisit them, and also briefly speak on other matters which we accomplished during my period as the MCT head of secretariat.

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# Mission Accomplished

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The five issues were, first, strengthening the Secretariat and its systems; Secondly, Positioning MCT strategically in media industry; thirdly MCT and press clubs.

The fourth was the critical question of editorial independence and finally, a home for MCT.

Strengthening the Secretariat and its systems

When I joined the Council, I found it set to embark upon its first four-year programme strategy, aimed at propelling it to implement its programmes in a manner that strategic components were synergistic and as a whole advanced MCT's mission, and reporting would be results-based. But the Council had a skeleton secretariat, which I noted would not be able to run the institution effectively in such standards that would satisfy not only members and stakeholders but also make various donors to trust the Council as a reliable

and credible institution.

So, the first issue was to evaluate the human resources requirement, then to scout and employ people with requisite professional qualifications, who could enable the Council to attain targets at highest levels and thankfully we got them.

Another issue was to build strong systems. Previously with limited activities and rudimentary operations, running the Council was not complex. Following the first strategic programme which involved abundant financial resources requiring closer coordination, we were compelled to set up elaborate systems of human resources, procurement, finance, administration, etc. We engaged consultants from Kazi Services Ltd to help us prepare various policies, then we conducted training for management and workers.

We established a results-oriented

management system and each employee knew what he/she was expected to achieve. Work performance of each employee was evaluated at least twice a year and they were encouraged to improve.

Positioning MCT strategically in the media fraternity

The Council had been doing commendable work which was appreciated by members and stakeholders. What we did was to progress from where it was. We resolved to position the Council as a leader, a servant and a team player.

For the first, we had resolved to set high standards for everything undertaken by MCT, to be the first to discern members' requirements and work on them, to work independently and justly, to cooperate with stakeholders and recruit competent people in various disciplines.

We started producing professional publications of high quality, and started



Delegates to the National General Convention of the Media Council of Tanzania follow progress during the convention.



The President of the Media Council of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Council's Governing Board presides the National General Convention through Zoom.

# MCT President re-elected

MW Reporter,

**T**he President of the Media Council of Tanzania and chairperson of its Governing Board, retired judge Juxon Mlay has been re-elected for another three-year term.

Yussuf Khamis Yussuf - the Vice President of the Council was re-elected as well during the 25th National General Convention (NGC) of the Council held on September 28, 2023.

Three new faces were also elected as Board members.

They are Ali Mwadini, Dr. Rose Reuben and Sofia Komba.

Four other Board members - Tido Mhando, Joyce Bazira, Happiness Nkya and retired Judge Robert Makaramba were re-elected.

The MCT President Mlay who presided over the NGC via Zoom from Mumbai, India, where he went for treatment, informed delegates of the NGC that the Board had

appointed Ernest Samson Sungura the new Executive Secretary of the Council.

The President announced the new Council leader immediately after, the incumbent Executive Secretary Kajubi Mukajanga announced his retirement in December, this year.

Mukajanga announced his retirement in a major and final speech in which he walked the NGC delegates through various achievements attained in the 15 years he served at the top post of the Council.

# Mission Accomplished

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resource centres in our Dar es Salaam and Zanzibar offices for use by media practitioners and journalism scholars.

As a servant, we ensured delivery of quality and timely service. We built a culture of expediting service delivery and avoiding procrastination. We listened to our stakeholders' views and initiated an arrangement of visiting our members and non-members to hear their views and know their requirements. We have been insisting that the Council is a servant.

As a team player, we started an arrangement of coordinating our activities with partners to avoid wastage of financial resources by duplicating activities undertaken by others and ensured we cooperated whenever possible. It is due to this arrangement that members of the Coalition on Right to Information (CoRI), which brings together 16 media, legal and human defenders institutions, have accepted MCT to continue as chair and its secretariat.

### MCT and Press Clubs

When I assumed the position of Executive Secretary, the Press Clubs Project under MCT was entering its second and final phase. This phase was for three years and it was required that after the three years MCT hand over the project to UTPC.

During this phase of the project, strong emphasis was placed on training of journalists and provision of equipment to the clubs. It was assumed that after three years the clubs would have been mature to fully operate and stand on their own. But when I read the project write-up I discovered one shortcoming: There was no any strategy to assist the clubs to stand on their own as institutions in terms of leadership skills, systems, and there was no such strategy for UTPC. There was no exit plan which would ensure UTPC was supported to have a full-fledged secretariat with requisite systems, policies, and procedures.

The incumbent Executive Director had done a good job for UTPC, but the truth was that he was bearing a heavy load himself, and to give him more responsibilities without a strong secretariat was wasting time and resources which the Press Club project had put up.



Some of the many publications published by the Media Council Tanzania

Honourable chairperson, today I am highly comforted to declare that we were able to sort out that challenge, and now UTPC is among good and dependable institutions which oversees issues of media practitioners in the country and we continue to work closely with it as well as Press Clubs in all regions.

### Editorial Independence

The critical question of editorial independence was another issue that in my view needed close attention to see how to advance it. I said then, and I am saying now, that oft times when we speak about this independence, we think about editors not being interfered with by governmental authorities. But despite that reality, it is not the government alone which interferes with editorial independence. How about editors being interfered with by advertisers and big business? How is their independence in relation to politicians, civic or religious leaders? How about the independence of not being forced by media owners to act contrary to professional ethics?

Thus we discerned that this matter needed to be considered in its completeness. So we set up a Think Tank led by retired MCT President Professor Issa Shivi, including members from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and the US, to make broad and in-depth analysis of the issue. The work of the panel resulted in the publication

of the The Dar es Salaam Declaration on Editorial Freedom, Independence, and Responsibility (DEFIR).

Now DEFIR has been distributed throughout the country and around 8,500 people have appended their signatures pledging to follow, promote and defend the declaration. It has also been included or is in the process of being included in journalism course outlines in seven Universities in the country.

Another strategy for promotion of editorial independence was to assist editors to have a strong body.

Apart from overseeing the growth of UTPC in its initial days as a project, we also oversaw and facilitated the founding of Tanzania Editors' Forum (TEF) and provided it with a shoulder to lean on for the first five years, including supporting its programmes and operational costs. We believed in TEF's objective of uniting editors throughout the country and fighting for editorial freedom.

### MCT own home

This was my other dream that I had spoken about on that day.

The struggle to realise this dream has been protracted and tough than I had expected that day when I promised the Tenth National General Convention that MCT must have its residence and cease to be a tenant.

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The President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights Lady Justice Imani Aboud, opens the Regional Conference on Safety and Security of Journalists.

# “Ensuring safety of journalists is paramount”

By MW Reporter

The African Court has always been conscious of and consistently recognized the importance of protecting the rights of journalists and preserving the fundamental right to freedom of expression.

The President of the Court, Lady Justice Imani Aboud said Journalists are the torchbearers of truth, the guardians of accountability, and the voice of the voiceless adding that their work is indispensable in holding those in power accountable, uncovering injustices, and providing the public with the information they need to make informed decisions.

She was opening a regional media

conference on safety and security of journalists on September 29, 2023, organized by the Media Council of Tanzania.

In a world where information is power, ensuring the safety and security of journalists is paramount to preserving the principles of democracy and human rights, she told delegates to the conference which was held at Kibo Hall at the seat of the Court in Arusha.

She cited some cases that the Court as the only judicial organ of the African Union dedicated to the protection of human and peoples' rights, had presided and gave ruling.

In *Issa Lohé Konaté v Burkina Faso*, a case which concerned a journalist's arrest, trial, and conviction for the offence of defamation, the African Court held that

criminal defamation laws can have a chilling effect on freedom of expression and can hinder the work of journalists. Accordingly, it declared that laws which criminalize defamation, especially those prescribing imprisonment as a punishment, are incompatible with the essence of freedom of expression.

This decision set an important precedent for the abolition or reform of criminal defamation laws in several African countries. It is crucial to note that the decision is particularly vital to safeguard the right to liberty of journalists who have frequently been subjected to arbitrary detention, criminal charges, and conviction on account of defamation.

In another case of *Norbert Zongo and Others v. Burkina Faso*, the Court

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Construction work for new offices of the Media Council of Tanzania in progress

# Mission Accomplished

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I believed that I could convince donors and members to contribute to this grand idea. Though everyone acknowledged the magnificence of the idea, the response was not by contributing funds.

It is a long story, to be told on another day.

But today I am gratified to say that on February 1, 2021 the Council formally moved in to its own residence at Tegeta, along the Bagamoyo Highway, and is therefore no longer a tenant. And now we have begun office expansion, building a two storey building. Therefore, comrades, I have ACCOMPLISHED the mission.

Today I am bidding you farewell happily, but, surely, whatever was accomplished by the Council during my tenure as Chief Executive Officer was jointly accomplished. MCT workers have been an exemplary team. We undertook every work together. We held one another's hands, we encouraged one another, we helped one another and together we accomplished many things. And our Boards supported us.

In this period, we started the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) which have become among the best awards for journalists in Africa and we have been able

to run the awards annually for 14 years without fail. We have also started the highest award: the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award (LAJA) which has so far been awarded to seven journalism gurus.

MCT has been an effective and active participant in media council platforms and I was elected Vice President of the World Association of Press Councils (WAPC) and then its President and now I am the founding chairperson of the East Africa Press Councils (EAPC) association.

Despite limitation in financial resources, collectively we have raised respect for Tanzania, by making MCT an exemplary Council everywhere, as good illustration of a successful media self-regulatory body.

We have published journals, books and guidelines for journalists which are used in our training institutions. We have been able to develop curricula for journalism training which have been approved by NACTVET and declared national curricula, and 21 media training institutions use them for teaching.

We have pro-actively sent the self-regulation philosophy to newsrooms, by helping many media outlets to prepare peer review mechanisms, including editorial policies, stylebooks and internal codes of

conduct.

We have taken the struggle for press freedom to courts of law and assisted many newspapers win their cases, achieved the release of journalists who were jailed for 30 years, and attained the historic victory at the East Africa Court of Justice.

For all this time, since the Council started its operations, its accounts were audited every year and received clean certificates.

During this period, MCT membership has increased from 89 institutional members when we started to 243 now.

We have expanded the responsibilities and elevated the status of our Zanzibar Office, and my officer in charge there likes to remind me that we met President Mohammed Shein at Ikulu on 12 March 2012 and President Hussein Mwinyi on 22 December 2022.

Collectively, we have assisted female journalists to acquire various skills including management of media, but also we have compiled a manual on gender training for journalists. We have developed a gender in media policy and have mentored dozens of female reporters through our mentoring programme.

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# At last Sanula Athanas is EJAT overall winner

By MW Reporter

**F**inally, Sanula Athanas of Nipashe newspaper emerged overall winner of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2022.

For Athanas who had twice emerged finalist in the competition for awarding journalists for best performance, this time around it was all smiles as he was announced the overall winner of the awards he had taken part in each year since he started his journalism career after graduating from School of Journalism and Mass Communication of the University of Dar es Salaam in 2012.

Athanas had stated in a previous interview with MW that “EJAT is a good barometer that your stories are accepted”.

With him were other finalists Francis Dhamira Kajubi of The Guardian, Juma Mussa Issihaka of Mwananchi and Anna Mbutu of TBCI.

For that victory, Athanas was presented the overall winner trophy, certificate and a dummy cheque for TZS 3 million by the chief guest, retired Chief Secretary, Ambassador Ombeni Sefue.

The prize money is offered by EJAT lead partner, the Media Council of Tanzania as bursary to facilitate the overall winner pursue further studies.

Winners in different categories were presented trophies, certificates and prize money by other dignitaries.

The full list of EJAT winners is as follows: Alfred Lasteck Mushi (BBC Swahili) Open Category Online, Juma Mussa Issihaka (Mwananchi) Open Category – Print, Mariam Shaban Mbwana (Mwananchi) Disability Reporting Category – Print, Heneliko Leonard Malo (Bomba FM) Gender and Children Reporting Category – Radio, Kelvin Paul Matandiko (Mwananchi) Gender and Children Reporting Category – Print, Abel Claud Kilumbu (Dar24) Gender and Children Reporting Category – Online, Mwajuma Hassan Rajab (EATV) Gender and Children Reporting Category – TV and Jackline Victor Kuwanda (The



**Sanula Athanas of Nipashe newspaper, receives the overall winner award of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2022 from the former Chief Secretary, Ombeni Sefue who was the Chief Guest at the EJAT gala held at Mlimani City Hall on July 22, 2023**

Chanzo) Oil, Gas and Mining Governance Reporting Category – Online

Others are Ephrahim Edward Bahemu (Mwananchi) Oil, Gas and Mining Governance Reporting Category – Print, Herieth Isaya Makwetta (Mwananchi) Health Reporting Category – Print, Baraka Mnyalei Loshilaa (Mwananchi) Health Reporting Category – Print, D'jaro Deus Arungu (TBC FM) Health Reporting Category – Radio,

Anna Thadei Augustino (EATV) Health Reporting Category – TV, Zuhura Hassan Makuka (Dar24) Health Reporting

Category Online, Francis Dhamira Kajubi (The Guardian) Environmental and Water Sources Protection Category – Print, Stanslaus Bernard Lambert (Dar24) Environmental and Water Sources Protection Category – Online, Anna Peter Mbutu (TBCI) Environmental and Water Sources Protection Category – TV, Daniel Hezron Limbe (Malundeblog) Agriculture and Agri-Business Reporting Category – Online, Anna Peter Mbutu (TBCI) Agriculture and Agri-Business Reporting Category – TV, Ayoub Stanley Nyondo (Shamba FM) Agriculture and Agri-

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# “Ensuring safety of journalists is paramount”

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took a strong stance against impunity for crimes committed against journalists. In this case, which involved the death of a journalist, the Court called for thorough investigations, prosecutions, and appropriate sanctions for perpetrators of crimes against journalists. This decision underlined the need to promote a culture of accountability to deter those committing violence targeting journalists.

Furthermore, in *Ingabire Victoire v. Rwanda*, the Court affirmed that freedom of expression may be restricted in some cases but must be done when it is necessary, proportionate and to achieve a legitimate objective.

The Court also highlighted the high degree of tolerance needed to speeches made by public figures and/or against political figures.

She said the United Nations acknowledges journalism as an essential but dangerous profession.

The world body, she went on, says that although journalism is fundamental for sustainable development, human rights protection, and democratic consolidation, it remains a dangerous and too often

deadly. According to UN's own account, about 1,615 journalists have been killed since 1993, with 34 of those killed in 2023 alone.

Numerous reports and studies also confirm that threats inordinately affect women journalists and those who represent minority groups, she added.

Welcoming Lady Justice Aboud to open the conference, the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania Kajubi Mukajanga said it was symbolic that this Regional Learning and Knowledge Sharing Conference on Journalists Safety and Security should be held at the African Court because freedom of expression is a basic and enabling human right.

He said the African Court is a bastion of human and peoples' rights on our continent, and safety and security of journalists is central to freedom of expression.

“That the Court should accept us here to conduct this important dialogue is itself testimony to the Court's belief in the value of the work journalists do. It is also a recognition that such exchanges in our region are important for the welfare of our scribes, and by extension to the

wellbeing of our democracy, Mukajanga added.

Mukajanga said society at large 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.

“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 entitled to” he said..

Mukajanga said this was the second such conference, after the one held last year in Dodoma.

“Together with our regional partners, MCT intends to continue holding these exchanges and deliberations annually,” he revealed.

Presentations on various aspects relating to safety and protection of journalists and Artificial Intelligence were made locally and virtually by presenters from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda Zimbabwe, South Sudan and Somalia.

## Mission Accomplished

From page 8

Together we have overcome financial challenges and managed to survive all this time. We have attained many achievements; I cannot state them all here. Today I am bidding you farewell, proud that we have built the Council together and made it a respectable institution which makes us proud.

I thank you very much my colleagues at the MCT secretariat. You have been a team which did not know failure, and the term giving up was not in your vocabulary. Thank you so much.

And to MCT members, I implore you to maintain solidarity. Continue to support your Council. I believe today you will elect for us a Board of people committed to press freedom, and most importantly, adherents of media self-regulation. For this system will surely face new challenges going forward.

**Thank you!**



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



**Veteran broadcaster and the Chief Executive Officer of Azam Media, Tido Dunstan Mhando, the winner of the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award (LAJA) speaks from London during the EJAT gala held at Mlimani City Hall in Dar es Salaam.**

# Tido wins top media award

By MW Reporter

**A**fter 50 plus years in broadcast, print and television journalism, at last Tido Dunstan Mhando has been awarded the highest professional accolade in the country.

LAJA – the Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award – was bestowed upon him for his immense contribution in advancing the profession and excellence in journalism.

Tido who has been in the media industry from the tender age of 21 and currently is the CEO of Azam Media running a major TV and radio station, joins the ranks of other media doyens who have been awarded LAJA.

The other LAJA awardees are Fili Karashani (2012), Hamza Kassongo (2013), Mariam Hamdani (2014), Jenerali Ulimwengu

(2015), Rose Haji (2016) and Ndimara Tegambwage in 2022.

How did he react after being nominated for the award? He was full of praise to the organisers for recognising his work and many years contribution in the profession.

In his message relayed during the gala of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) on July 22, 2023, from London where he had gone for treatment, Tido counselled media practitioners to maintain respect and integrity and desist from corruption in any form including the infamous 'brown envelope'.

At Mlimani City Hall, where the gala was held, Tido's father Pastor Daniel S. Mhando (99) received the award on his behalf. The senior Mhando was accompanied to the podium by family members including Tido's young brother Prof. Martin Mhando and two

of the awardees sons.

His journey in the profession began on January 13, 1969 at Radio Tanzania Dar es Salaam (RTD) where he started as presenter of two youth programmes - Dunia ya Jumamosi (Saturday World) and Salaam za Vijana (Greetings for Youths) which were very popular with the young adults.

Later in 1973 he was introduced to broadcasting soccer which was a start of a major turn-around in his broadcasting career.

His first major assignment in sports was to broadcast the then famous competition the Eastern and Central Africa Challenge Cup in Uganda which was under Iddi Amin.

He was picked alongside senior sports broadcaster Mshindo Mkeyenge to accompany Tanzania national team - Taifa Stars, to Kampala. This was his first trip outside the country. Due to the tension that existed between Tanzania and Uganda's Amin, the main condition given to them was not to venture out of the Emperio hotel, where they were residing. They were instructed that after reporting the matches at Nakivuko stadium, they should return to the hotel.

In 1979 when he accompanied Taifa Stars in another Challenge Cup competition in Kenya, he met Simon Ndesandjo – owner of a company producing commercial radio programmes - High Fidelity Production Limited, who asked him to join his company. He quit RTD early 1980 and that was the start of his long journey of 30 years working abroad

He left High Fidelity after four year to become a freelance announcer. That changed his direction - venturing into reporting news and current affairs. Tido says, he has never regretted that decision, for it opened a new page in his life as a broadcaster.

He succeeded to become a correspondent for Kiswahili Service of Voice of America (VOA) and later BBC Kiswahili Service and DW asked him to be their correspondent as well. He became a correspondent for the various networks not only in Kenya but for Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia and Mozambique.

He recalls that this was a hectic period in the region. In Uganda

Yoweri Museveni was struggling to attain power, John Garang in Southern Sudan and Mozambique was grappling with the war between government forces and Renamo rebels.

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*Photo*

*Photo*

# Winners of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2022



The winners of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2022 displaying certificates pose with the Chief Guest, Former Chief Secretary Ombeni Sefue and other dignitaries.

# Tido wins top media award

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Then Tanzania was gripped by the euphoria of leadership change following the decision of Mwalimu Nyerere to retire, while in Kenya there was mounting pressure for plural politics.

Reporting the assassination of Dr. Robert Ouko who was Kenya's Minister for Foreign Affairs, raised Tido's his credibility as correspondent. He was the first to break the story that Dr. Ouko had gone missing only to be discovered later that he was assassinated.

Dr. Ouko was a minister under President Daniel arap Moi. He was popular not only among his Luo compatriots but the entire country. He was a good orator and he was compared to another popular politician in the country, Tom Mboya, who was shot down in a street in Nairobi, July 1969.

Later Tido relocated to London for training and to work for the BBC where during his time he reported on various major political changes in this region including developments in Rwanda, Burundi and Congo DRC.

He served at the BBC for 21 years where in 1999 was appointed head of its Kiswahili Service Department.

In mid-2005, he was approached by Jakaya Kikwete, a Chama cha Mapinduzi (CCM) nominee for the presidency who asked him to return home promising, he would appoint him to head the government Radio (RTD) and Television (TVT) stations if elected. Kikwete was on transit to New York to attend the UN General Assembly when he met with Tido at Heathrow airport. Tido accepted the offer.

Kikwete kept his word and Tido assumed the leadership of TVT and RTD where he made the necessary positive radical changes.

The main task was to amalgamate the two institutions and in August 2008 TBC was officially launched - President Kikwete graced the occasion.

Under his leadership, Tido managed to reduce overdependence on government funding of the operations of the now strengthened and enlarged institution – TBC.

Due to the size of investment needed for the transformation from analogue to digital in airing television programmes, the Government permitted TBC to seek partnership with an external company.

Following the procurement process, the



**Pastor Daniel S. Mhando (99) receives from the former Chief Secretary, Ombeni Sefue the trophy for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism Award (LAJA) on his behalf of his son, Tido Dunstan Mhando.**

TBC Board selected the Chinese company – Startimes as partner under the new arrangement.

Despite these achievements, suddenly on December 14, 2010 the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information summoned Tido to his office and served him with a letter and ordered him to hand over office and leave TBC the following day.

He was devastated and shed tears but had no option as it dawned on him that this was the end, and the under 24 –hour notice was akin to being outright fired.

This happened despite repeated assurances by the PS that his performance was commendable and there would be no problem in renewing his contract.

However, a month after his dismissal from TBC, Tido received a phone call from the then Managing Director of the Nation Media Group of Kenya, the company that

also owns Mwananchi Communications Limited (MCL), publishers of Mwananchi and The Citizen newspapers asking him to run the company albeit briefly.

He hesitated since he had no experience at all in the tough business of producing, distribution and selling newspapers. But after being counselled by the then chairperson of the MCL Board, Zuhura Muro, and other Board members, he consented.

Immediately after the expiry of his contract with Mwananchi in 2014, he joined Azam Media Limited.

Four years later while at Azam Media, Tido was charged for misuse of power causing the government incur colossal loss during his tenure at TBC especially during the digital transformation.

When the charges were read to him,

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The Executive Secretary of the Media Council, Kajubi Mukajanga speaks during the commemoration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) also known as Right to Know Day September 28. Looking on left is Senior Programme Officer and head of MCT Zanzibar office, Shiffaa Said Hassan.

# Listen and work on stakeholders' views, government urged

By Media Watch Reporter

**T**he Government has been urged to listen to stakeholders' views, work and accommodate them in its efforts to amend legislations which impinge on freedom of expression and press freedom.

The appeal was made by the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of

Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga during the commemoration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) also known as Right to Know Day, September 28.

He said MCT would prefer the government to amend various legislations including the Electronic and Postal Communications Act (Online Content) Regulations, Access to Information Act, and Cyber Crimes Act to facilitate easy

and smooth access to information.

He acknowledged that the Council has noted a few amendments of the Media Services Act, 2016.

The Council also appealed to the public and journalists to treat and use carefully social media by disseminating correct and factual information.

The theme of this year's commemorations was Importance of the Online Space for Access to Information.

Mukajanga also said few incidences of press freedom violations have been reported including restricting journalists, refusal to provide them information, threats and even arrests and of late barring debates on subjects of national interest like the issue of DP World.

The MCT Executive Secretary appealed to the government to allow debates which are useful and constructive instead of barring them and taking action against individuals who initiate such debates.

Mukajanga also commended efforts by

# At last Sanula is EJAT overall winner

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Business Reporting Category –Radio and Said Ally Sindo (Storm FM) Human Rights Reporting Category – Radio.

Other winners are Janeth Kimaryo Joseph (Mwananchi) Human Rights Reporting Category – Print, Asifiwe Brown Mbembela (The Chanzo) Human Rights Reporting Category – Online, Omary Hussein Omary (Star TV) Human Rights Reporting Category – TV, Francis Dhamira Kajubi (The Guardian) Cooperatives Reporting Category-Print, Cosmas C. Mwamposa (Pangani FM) Cooperatives Reporting Category-Radio, Khadija Ali Yusuph (Radio Jamii Mkoani) Business, Economic and Finance Reporting Category-Radio, Pamela Nesphory Chilongola (Mwananchi) Business, Economic and Finance Reporting Category-Print, Daniel Mwalubuli (NUKTA) Business, Economic and Finance Reporting Category-Online, and Sanula Athanas (Nipashe) Tourism and Conservation Reporting Category – Print.

Others are Catherine M. Madabuke (Mazingira FM) Tourism and Conservation Reporting Category – Radio, Hamis Makungu Hamisi (Pangani FM) Good Governance and Accountability Reporting Category – Radio, James Daudi Lerombo (TBCI) Good Governance and Accountability Reporting Category- TV, Juma Mussa Issihaka (Mwananchi) Good

Governance and Accountability Reporting Category – Online,

Dauka Abraham Somba (Dar24)

Culture, Arts and Sports Reporting Category-Online,

Clezencia Tryphone (Mwanasport)

Culture, Arts and Sports Reporting

Category -Print

Augusta Mathias Njonji (Nipashe)

Census Reporting Category – Print,

Adam Gabriel Hhando (CG FM) Census

Reporting Category-Radio, Heldina G.

Mwingira (Dar24) Census Reporting

Category-Online, Ahmadi Ally Mramba

(TBCI) Census Reporting Category-TV,

Grace Elibariki Mbise (Star TV) Education

Reporting Category-TV, Suleiman Omary

Mwiru (NUKTA) Science and Technology

Reporting Category-Online, Sanula

Athanas (Nipashe) Education Reporting

Category-Print, Adam Gabriel Hhando

(CG FM) Education Reporting Category

–Radio, Suleiman Omary Mwiru, (NUKTA)

Education Reporting Category – Online,

and Elesia Thomas Haule (Azam TV)

Science and Technology Reporting

Category-TV.

Others were Warioba Igombe

Warioba (Uhuru) Science and Technology

Reporting Category –Print, Francis

Dhamira Kajubi (The Guardian) Data

Journalism Reporting Category-Print, Juma

Mussa Issihaka (Mwananchi) Investigative

Reporting Category – Print, Baraka

Mnyalei Loshilaa (Mwananchi) Tax and Tariffs Collection Reporting Category-Print, Najjat Haji Omar (The Chanzo) Investigative Reporting Category – Online, Zuhura Juma Said (Zanzibar Leo) Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting Category-Print, Dafrosa Prosper Ngailo (Azam TV) Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting Category-TV, Festo Charles Lumwe (Dar24) Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting Category-Online, Peter Lugendo John (TBC Taifa) Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting Category-Radio, Daniel Samson Mwalubuli (NUKTA) Tax and Tariffs Collection Reporting Category-Online, Festo Charles Lumwe (Dar24) Disability Reporting Category – Online, Naishooki Alais Makeseni (Star TV) Disability Reporting Category – TV, Hazla Omary Quire (TSN Digital) Tourism and Conservation Reporting Category-Online, and George Henry Helahela (The Citizen Digital) Data Journalism Reporting Category – Online

This time around, a total of 92 journalists were nominated out of 728 journalists who submitted entries. Among them, 36 report for newspapers, 27 for social media and 15 from radio while 14 report for television.

45 of the selected are women, 17 of them are from newspapers, 12 from social media and six from radio, while for



The finalists for the overall Excellence in Journalism Award Tanzania (EJAT) 2022 pose with the Chief Guest former Chief Secretary, Ombeni Sefue, before he announced the overall winner.



The Chairperson of the Organising Committee of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania, Kajubi Mukanjanga, speaks during the EJAT gala.

# EJAT attracts record entries

By Paul Mallimbo

A huge rise has been registered in entries submitted to vie for the coveted Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT).

The competition for awarding media practitioners for outstanding performance for 2022 which climaxed on July 22, 2023 attracted 893 entries compared to 598 of the previous year, reflecting a 49 per cent increase.

Speaking during the event's gala night held at Mlimani City Hall in Dar es Salaam, the Chairperson of EJAT Organising Committee, Kajubi Mukanjanga said 728 media practitioners from various media outlets in the country had submitted entries for the competition's 20 categories.

The panel of judges for the competition led by veteran editor, Mkumbwa Assad Ally picked the entries from 92 journalists, a significant rise from 61 the previous year.

Other members of the judging panel were Mwanzo Lawrence Millinga who was its secretary, Rose Haji Mwalimu, Nasima Haji Chum, Mbaraka Abdi Islam, Peter Wallace Nyanje and Dr. Egbert

Emmanuel Mkoko.

The entries were of news and programmes published in newspapers or aired on electronic

media – TV and radio and also on line media between January 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022.

Mukanjanga also said there has been noted improvement in terms of quality in the performance of women contestants in EJAT. "When we look 10 years back, that is EJAT 2012, where out of 81 nominees there were only 11 women nominees, representing 13.6 per cent. It is heartening that this time around, out of 92 nominees there are 44 women reflecting 48 percent."

Mukanjanga who is also the Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), the lead partner of EJAT organising committee, said EJAT has become a major event in the media calendar in the country, attracting and generating huge competitive spirit among media practitioners each year.

He emphasized that the awards whose main objective is to enhance excellence and recognise media practitioners for outstanding performance during the preceding year, have continued to exist because journalists and media stakeholders believe that they are important and productive.

The other objective is to recognise media practitioners who have made great contribution in the advancement of media industry who are awarded the Life Time Achievement in Journalism Award

(LAJA).

The process of getting LAJA winners does not entail submission of entries but media organisations in the EJAT organising Committee consider personalities who have made immense contribution professionally in the media and for press freedom.

Mukanjanga in his speech commended and recognised the 2022 EJAT partners: UTPC, TMF, TAMWA, Media Institute of Southern Africa – MISA-Tan, TEF, HakiElimu, SIKIKA and Twaweza East Africa.

He also praised all who contributed and facilitated EJAT 2022, enabling the awards to take place again, adding "we could not have done it without the generous support of our sponsors and donors".

He named the sponsors and donors as Azam Media Group, UTPC, Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (DAWASA), Marie Stopes Tanzania, UMATI, Tanzania Cooperative Development Commission (TCDC), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Busota Inn, Bagamoyo, Public Service Social Security Fund (PSSSF), Coca Cola Kwanza, WWF, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), International Media Support (IMS), and Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).

Mukanjanga also thanked UTV of Azam Media for live coverage of the EJAT gala.





The Chief Guest of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2022, former Chief Secretary Ombeni Sefue, delivers his keynote address.

# Media, Govt are pillars for good governance – Ambassador Sefue

By Paul Mallimbo

**A** competent and credible media and the government are ‘two legs’ of good governance and democracy.

Speaking during the gala night of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) for 2022 held at Mlimani City in Dar es Salaam in July 2023, Ambassador Ombeni Sefue emphasised the importance for the two sides to reconcile and learn how to cooperate and accommodate each other.

“Good governance participatory, not only through members of parliament and councillors but also by providing opportunity to hear views and opinions from ordinary wananchi, and the media is one of the means of facilitating that,” he said.

Journalists who are keen, Ambassador Sefue, a retired Chief Secretary said, stand a good chance of educating the public on various issues and providing them with requisite basis to fully take part in critical national debates on the way forward.

Good governance, he said, aims at reaching a consensus in society and nation on the way forward, policy, administration and evaluation.

In addition he said, “It reconciles various views, ideas and conflicting interests in society”.

Highlighting the need for good relations between media and the government, Ambassador Sefue said it is pertinent, requiring mutual trust that depends on two fundamentals.

Firstly, he said the media and journalists must acquire professional excellence and should be ethical.

Secondly, he said, politicians and administrators must change their mind-sets from always viewing the media as troublesome except when they are glorified.

Politicians – both in power and opposition – like to use media to promote themselves but do not like it to challenge, probe or criticise them.

As for journalists, Ambassador Sefue cautioned that they should not rush to criticise without researching and analysing the issues at stake as well as the context.

Despite underscoring investigative and

credible reporting, he decried the tendency of reflecting news as always negative basing it mainly on scandals, insults, decadence and crime.

He discouraged journalists from the negative notion on news that “If it is awful, it must be interesting, and if it is not awful, it must be boring.”

Ambassador Sefue commended the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) for its wise decision to set up EJAT and for maintaining it for all these years despite daunting challenges.

By doing that the Council has succeeded in promoting the culture for evaluating and awarding journalists for best performance, he pointed out adding that it has prompted journalists to improve and better their talents and this is what the people as well as the government need.

He implored more journalists to participate in EJAT in order to be evaluated and motivated to improve their performance.

He urged the government to recognise that, for motivating the promotion of the media profession, EJAT is a crucial undertaking in strengthening democracy and good governance.



Nigeria's President Bola Ahmed Adenkule Tinubu

# CPJ calls on Nigerian president to improve press freedom

## Nigerian

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent nongovernmental organization that defends press freedom globally, has urged Nigerian President Bola Ahmed Adenkule Tinubu to take swift and deliberate actions to improve conditions for the press in Nigeria.

The CPJ made the appeal in a letter to the President as he marked three months in office.

"We request that you ensure justice is delivered for attacks on the press and that you reform legislation and regulations to prevent the jailing and surveillance of journalists. We also urge you to ensure uninterrupted access to the internet, online platforms, and news websites",

CPJ said in the letter.

The August 30, 2023 letter says that the Committee has documented several consistent accounts of threats, harassment, and physical attacks by security officers, politicians, and their supporters against journalists on the job, including as they covered protests and elections.

During this year's presidential and state election period, CPJ documented intimidation attempts, physical attacks, or detention of over 40 journalists.

In another alert, on September 6, 2023 CPJ has reported Three more journalists arrested under Ethiopia's state of emergency.

It expressed deep concern about the arrest of three journalists only weeks after Ethiopia declared a state of emergency and called on authorities to promptly release all members of the press detained for their work.

Abay Zewdu, chief editor of the YouTube-based broadcaster Amhara Media Center (AMC), was arrested in the capital Addis Ababa on August 10 and transferred to Awash Arba military facility on August 21, according to a report by the online outlet Roha Media, a statement [by the statutory watchdog Ethiopia Human Rights Commission (ERHC), and his sister Zoma Zewdu.

Yidnekachew Kebede, founder and editor of YouTube-based outlet Negari TV, was arrested on August 17 and appeared in court in Addis Ababa's Ketema Sub-City on August 21, where the police accused him of aiding "anti-peace elements" and producing video content "with the intent of provoking violence," his lawyer Henok Akililu told CPJ.

On September 1, he was released on bail of 6,000 birr (US\$108) without charge.

Fekadu Mahtemework, editor-in-chief of the weekly Ghion magazine, was detained by police in Addis Ababa on August 25 under the state of emergency decree and told that he would not be taken to court, according to media reports and his wife, Hiwot Hailegebriel. Hiwot told CPJ that Fekadu was released without charge on Monday, September 4.

The state of emergency law, reviewed by CPJ, grants security personnel wide powers of arrest and provides for the suspension of the due process of law, including the right to appear before a court and receive legal counsel.

In another alert on September 7, CPJ reported that a Nigerian journalist Damilola Ayeni arrested in Benin while reporting on environment

He was reporting on the environment for the Foundation for Investigative Journalism when he was arrested by Benin police on August 31, 2023.

CPJ appealed to the authorities in Benin to immediately and unconditionally release Ayeni,

**Continues on page 22**

# EJAT winner shines internationally

By MW Reporter

**H**ardly two months after winning the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2022 in the Health Reporting category, TBC FM presenter D'jaro Arungu scooped two other awards at the Shining Stars Africa Awards 2023.

The event's gala was held on September 2, 2023 at Cotton Lounge Hall in Johannesburg South Africa.

D'jaro won the Best Radio Personality of the Year and Best Star Inspirational Man of the Year awards.

He says the victory has greatly revitalized and motivated him as a radio presenter since the awards are given based on high professional efficacy.

"EJAT award is presented based on professionalism as entries are critically scrutinized by a panel of judges who are experienced journalists", D'jaro said.

The Shining Stars Africa Awards, he said, depend on proposals by listeners or fans, thus there are times "we can say even those who propose or vote for you are not necessarily of the same profession".

Speaking earlier, D'jaro noted that people dismissed him for only winning awards after being voted for by listeners, he said this time around he has affirmed to Tanzanians and professional colleagues as well that he is a good presenter after winning both EJAT and Shining Stars Africa Awards



TBC Presenter D'jaro Arungu displays two trophies he won at the Shining Stars Africa Awards in Johannesburg, South Africa.

# Tido wins top media award

From page 14

Tido told himself that either these charges were not meant for him or those who drafted them did not know him well.

He acknowledges that one investor had offered him one million dollars to favour him in the procurement of a partner; he refused and told the investor point blank that his integrity and that of Tanzania is more valuable than the money. The investor

was very angry.

Eventually, the court determined that he was not guilty and he was set free.

Apart from the LAJA trophy, like other winners before him, Tido received a certificate and TZS 10 million prize money.

The process of getting LAJA winners does not entail submission of entries but media organisations in the EJAT organising Committee consider personalities who have

made immense contribution professionally in the media and for press freedom.

The final decision for the LAJA nominee is made by the heads of media organisations - Tanzania Editors Forum (TEF), Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC), Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA), Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), Media Institute of Southern Africa – Tanzania chapter (MISA-Tan) and MCT.

# Court acquits Nobel laureate Maria Ressa

## Manila, Philippines

**T**he Hold the Line Coalition (HTL) has welcomed the September 12, 2023 Regional Trial Court verdict acquitting Nobel laureate Maria Ressa and her news outlet Rappler on the final criminal tax charge levelled against them by the regime of former President Rodrigo Duterte.

The judgment comes after a legal battle lasting nearly five years. If they had lost the case, Ressa could have been jailed for up to 10 years, while Rappler would have faced a fine.

"This verdict underlines that it is possible for President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to chart a different course to his predecessor Rodrigo Duterte, who waged a relentless campaign of media repression," said the Hold The Line Coalition Steering Committee.

"We hope this judgment signals a revival of judicial independence in the Philippines after the previous administration's instrumentalization of the courts as a means to erode press freedom and discredit independent reporting," the Hold the Line Coalition said.

Ressa and Rappler were charged in connection with an alleged failure to accurately report financial details on their tax return pertaining to an amount of approximately US\$ 11,000. But they have already paid twice that amount in bail and travel bonds associated with the charge.

"As an immediate next step, we call on the government to abandon all remaining cases against Rappler and Ressa, and in doing so, put a long-overdue end to their persecution."

In January, Ressa and Rappler were acquitted of four tax evasion cases before the Court of Tax Appeals in Manila in an emphatic victory.

While the September 12



Philippine's journalist Nobel Peace award winner, Ressa Maria.

judgment represents another reprieve, there is no doubt that being forced to maintain continuous legal defenses has been designed to debilitate Rappler and Ressa, who have faced a sustained campaign of legal persecution and online violence, with 23 individual cases against them opened by the government since 2018.

Rappler and Ressa have maintained their innocence and continue to fight three other cases, including Ressa's 2020 conviction on a trumped-up charge of criminal cyber libel, currently in the final phase of appeal before the Supreme Court. In that case alone, Ressa faces a seven-year jail sentence.

In an historic precedent, Rappler

was officially issued a shutdown order in June 2022, reinforcing an earlier decision to revoke the outlet's license to operate. The order was the first of its kind for the issuing agency and for Philippine media. The threat of shutdown lingers.

The HTL Coalition calls on states committed to freedom of the press and democracy, on intergovernmental organizations, on international development agencies and media investors, and on international civil society groups to continue their defense of press freedom in the Philippines and urge President Marcos to revitalize the country's commitment to a free press.

# Should the media maintain a distance?

By Hamis Mzee

**A** new trend – call it anything – closeness, cooperation or rapport between the media and the authorities is gaining currency.

Generally, this looks like a positive development, and why not. Day in day out, we witness the captains of the fourth estate rubbing shoulders with those who matter in society including ministers, speaker of the national assembly and heads of public organisations.

It has come to light that apart from the

meetings where the media is briefed and enlightened on the activities of the various bodies, it has also been sponsored even to visit what seems to be “sensitive undertakings” by the authorities.

For advocates of lobbying and advocacy this approach by the media may be okay in order to get things right for the industry.

It was vital when the media was pressing for the enactment of the new media law – Media Services Act 2016 and its amendment thereafter in 2023. Still there is more work to be done on the amended law as not all demands by media were granted.

But should it be stretched further and to what point?

Though it is important to maintain a healthy and good working relationship with the authorities, the media should be keen that this trend is not stretched to levels that might compromise its noble watchdog role.

Those in authority definitely appreciate the crucial and at times powerful role of the media and for them or some of them, it is also vital to check and contain its muscle.

It is reported that envelopes change hands in most of these engagements with the authorities. Such perks should not serve as inducements to influence or infringe editorial independence.

As agenda setters, influencers and shapers of public opinion, the media should maintain a balanced and cautious approach in its relationship with the authorities.

This is pertinent to ensure the media which is respected for playing the crucial role as analysts and critics, is not relegated to the assembly line role of purveying.

It is equally important that the media while promoting close ties with the authorities, should sober-up and maintain a safe distance of an effective watchdog.

## CPJ calls on Nigerian president

From page 19

drop all charges against him, and allow him to work safely. He has now been released.

Reports from Durban, South Africa, on September 8, 2023— quotes the Committee to Protect Journalists to have welcomed Friday's decision by Beninese authorities to release without charge Nigerian environmental journalist Ayeni after Benin police detained him incommunicado for nine days on "suspicion of participation in terrorist activities."

"We are relieved that Beninese authorities have finally freed investigative journalist Damilola Ayeni, who was falsely accused of being a jihadist by police apparently intent on soliciting a bribe for his freedom," said Angela Quintal, CPJ's Africa program coordinator. "We hope that Ayeni will be allowed to continue his important reporting without further harassment and that authorities will take firm action against any police officer who has brought Benin into disrepute and wasted resources that should be used to counter real extremism, not journalism."

From Lusaka, Zambia CPJ on September 5, 2023— urged the Football Association of Malawi to investigate the August 25 assault on Kasupe Radio reporter Smart Chalika by supporters of the Silver Strikers Football

Club and penalize the club sending a clear message that attacks against journalists are not condoned.

Chalika, a reporter with privately owned Kasupe Radio, was photographing a scuffle between rival fans at Bingu National Stadium in the capital Lilongwe on August 5, 2023 when he was approached by at least 15 people wearing merchandise of the Silver Strikers Football Club, one of the country's top super league soccer clubs, according to Chalika, news reports and a statement by the Malawichapter of the regional press freedom group Media Institute of Southern Africa.

The supporters demanded he delete the photographs, and when he refused and gave his camera to a colleague who immediately left, they began punching and kicking Chalika all over his body, the journalist told CPJ.

Nearby police officers rescued Chalika from the crowd, Chalika said, adding that he had not filed a case with police on advice from his lawyer, who is drafting papers to sue the club for damages. Chalika was treated at a local hospital for bruises and a sprained ankle.

"The Football Association of Malawi, as the national governing body of football, must ensure that it is not seen as condoning any violence on or outside the football pitch, especially when

fans assault members of the press," said Angela Quintal, CPJ's Africa program coordinator in Durban, South Africa.

From Kinshasa, DR Congo on September 6, 2023 CPJ appealed to authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to hold accountable the immigration officers who attacked journalist Soleil Ntumba Mufike and broke his camera, the Committee to Protect Journalists said Wednesday.

On Friday, September 1, Ntumba was filming police carrying out the court-ordered eviction of the family of the deputy director of the national agency Direction General of Migration, in the provincial capital, Kananga, when Luhizon Zigabe, the director of that agency, ordered around 10 immigration officers to stop the journalist from recording, according to news reports and Ntumba.

Ntumba, information director of the privately owned Kananga-based broadcaster Malandji and correspondent for privately owned Kinshasa-based TV broadcaster B One, was the only journalist at the scene, he said, adding that following Luhizon's orders, the immigration officers grabbed his clothes, dragged him, and threw him to the ground.

Police officers supervising the eviction intervened to end the attack, the journalist said, adding that his camera was broken and he lost his microphone in the struggle. Ntumba was uninjured.

# Why education on gender is crucial for media

By Tumbi Kiganja

**G**ender imbalance exacerbated by inherent patriarchal beliefs emanating from various traditions and customs, has been a challenging issue in our communities for a long time.

This state of affairs has had adverse effects in various areas including politics, economy, technology and society in general.

Of late there have been deliberate initiatives to ensure the issue of gender balance is given priority. The initiatives have involved the media to provide requisite education to the public.

These efforts have been carried out by the government and various stakeholders including the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT).

In the last decade MCT has been monitoring how the media covered various issues in gender.

Reports show that there has been considerable change on how the media approach gender issues, including sourcing.

Reports have also been considering the pattern of daily assignments for coverage to both female and male reporters. For example, which assignments for stories were given to female and male reporters, and which were published on the main pages. How many of those were done by female reporters and how many by male reporters.

In 2013 MCT published a training manual for gender for journalism training institutions which was reviewed in 2021. The manual's new edition was launched on July 12,

2022 by MCT President Juxon Mlay in Dar es Salaam.

During the launch, Justice Mlay said the manual on gender should serve as a catalyst to journalism tutors and journalists in promoting journalism with "gender eye".

Since the launch of the manual in 2022 to-date a total of 25 tutors from various journalism training institutes have received training organized by MCT on gender in media.

During the training that was conducted on-line on two different occasions, December 2, 2022 and September 6, 2023, the Executive Secretary of MCT, Kajubi Mukajanga, emphasized to the tutors to promote their understanding of gender.

Mukajanga said there is a need to positively project women in the media and to succeed in this, it is imperative for tutors to provide adequate education on gender issues to their students who are future scribes.

In addition Mukajanga said there is no nation that can make progress if it would leave out one gender. Females and males are interdependent thus leaving behind either leads to stifling progress, he added.

The facilitator of the training, Pili Mtambalike, a media consultant, said the manual on gender prepared by the Council if used properly, will help to produce competent journalists who can fully implement gender rights and equality in the media.

"Tutors should give themselves ample time to go through and read the manual on gender which contain viable and useful content for preparing and producing competent journalists on gender matters," Mtambalike said.

Contributing during the recent

training, the tutors said the manual is crucial for the media industry and the nation as a whole and should be fully utilized by media training institutions.

Suleiman Seif Omar from the Zanzibar University said there are still serious challenges in most media houses on their coverage considering gender.

"It is common that some in society do not trust women. For them, for anything to be accepted, there must be a male voice. This also makes some media to have similar perception. This is dangerous especially in the media industry in the country," said Suleiman.

Zuhura Selemani from the University of Dar es Salaam said tutors have the responsibility "to guide students to comprehend rights and gender equality and that we should also be exemplary in strengthening issues."

Dr. Rehema Kilagwa from the Moslem University of Mororogo said journalists should be strong to fully implement gender equality and rights in the execution of their duties.

"Personally I feel tutors have the responsibility of leading students to understand gender rights and equality", he said.

Athumani Gamba, a tutor from Dar es Salaam School of Journalism (DSJ) said that gender issues are still taken theoretically thus more should be done.

The one-day training was attended by 25 lecturers and tutors from Kibaha Institute of Journalism, Fanikiwa Journalism School (FJS), OUT, Arusha East African Training Institute (AEATI), Dar es salaam School of Journalism (DSJ), Teofilo Kisanji University (TEKU), Muslim University of Morogoro (MUM), Dodoma Media College (DMC), and Rida Institute of Creative Knowledge and Innovative Skills.

Others are Tumaini University Dar es Salaam (TUDARCO), Ujiji Broadcasting Academy, Zanzibar University (SUZA), Mwenge Community College, Tabora East Polytechnic College, Huheso Institute of journalism and Community Development, Practical School of journalism, Habari Maalum College, University of Iringa and School of Journalism of the University of Dar es Salaam (SJMJC).

# MCT attributes advocacy for successes in policy, legal reforms

By MW Reporter

In the last two decades, the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and partners have registered successes in policy and law transformation through advocacy.

“One of the early achievements was the accommodation of stakeholders’ views in the Information and Broadcasting Policy of 2003, but also, albeit dimly, stakeholders’ views were taken on board in the amendment of the Media Services Act of 2016 which were made this year through the Miscellaneous Amendments Act”, said Kajubi Mukajanga, the Executive Secretary of the Council.

He was speaking during the opening of a three day training on advocacy for representatives of the various organizations in the Coalition on Right to Information (CoRI) held in Weruweru, Moshi from August 22, 2023.

It is pertinent, he said, to involve stakeholders or society in the process of formulating policies or legislations because it helps to keep them on the same page.

MCT and its CoRI partners were engaged in these processes in different ways such through radio programmes, newspaper op-eds and articles, various publications, training and other means.

It was established during the training that the success of various policies depends much on inclusion of members of the

society from formulation to implementation. The facilitators of the training organized by MCT told the participants that one of the crucial things in formulating practical policies is to ensure that all stakeholders affected by the policies are fairly involved.

Dr. Geoffrey Chambua, one of the facilitators said that even during preparations of projects it is important to fairly consider all those who will be adversely affected and the beneficiaries as well.

“Contrary to that a project or policy would not be successful because there is a group which will feel not part”, said Dr. Chambua.

Speaking during the training, the participants emphasized the need for the government to ensure the public is fully involved in the processes of formulating policies or enacting legislations because there are experts in the society who can advise on the policy or legislations.

“The training has helped us to know how the public is left out in the process of policy formulation and enactment of legislations making them oblivious to many, and even undermining the objectives or implementation,” said Edwin Soko, the chairperson of Organisation of Journalists Against Drug Abuse and Crimes in Tanzania (OJADACT).

The three – day capacity building is expected to boost CoRI members’ advocacy skills so as to enable them to more effectively engage with the government and

other relevant stakeholders to advocate for a friendly media legal environment.

## More specifically, the training focused on:

- Increasing knowledge of CoRI members on better engagements through coalition,
- Improving participants’ advocacy skills,
- Increasing participants confidence and skills in high level engagement,
- Empowering participants to develop (coalition’s) communication strategy, and
- Enabling the members to develop a plan of action for robust advocacy.

The Coalition, established in 2006, was pioneered by the MCT, Media Institute of Southern Arica - Tanzania Chapter (MISA-TAN) and Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA) who campaigned for the enactment of a freedom of information law and a friendly media services law in the country.

CoRI’s membership has now grown to 16 organisations with additional members - Tanzania Editor’s Forum (TEF), Twaweza East Africa, JamiiForums, Policy Forum, Tanzania Citizen Information Bureau (TCIB), Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC), and Sikika, Organisation of Journalists Against Drug Abuse and Crimes in Tanzania (OJADACT), Tadio, Tanzania Online Media Network, Legal and Human Rights Centre, Tanzania Human Right Defenders Coalition (THRDC),



Lawyers who received training organised by the Media Council of Tanzania display their certificates. Seated centre is the Executive Secretary of the Media Council, Kajubi Mukajanga and extreme left and right are training facilitators Advocate Fulgence Massawe and Mpaale Mpoki respectively.

# There is no looking back as MCT train more lawyers

By Hamis Mzee

Inspired by landmark victories in local and regional courts in challenging repressive laws, regulations and administrative actions, for the Media Council of Tanzania there is no looking back.

In March 2019 MCT and its partners – Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) registered an emphatic victory in their suit challenging the Media Services Act (MSA) 2016 at the East African Court of Justice.

The court ruled that provisions under 16 sections of the Act violated the basic tenets of democracy and human rights enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (EAC). It directed Tanzania government to take steps to bring the law to conformity with the Treaty.

In another successful legal challenge three journalists who were convicted on trumped

up robbery charges and jailed for 30 years on April 30, 2019 were acquitted following the support by the Council.

The journalists - Christopher Gamaina, Zephania Mandia and Manga Masalaba were freed on July 24, 2019.

The Council has resorted to undertake litigations to protect and defend press freedom, freedom of expression, security and safety of journalists.

In this aspect it has decided to create a pool of human rights lawyers who would be utilised whenever the need arises.

To achieve this goal it organised special tailored training for lawyers. The first such training was held in Tanga in November, 2021.

The second was held in Zanzibar in March 2022 and the third was held in Songea, Ruvuma Region in September, 2023.

In all 55 lawyers received this training which MCT was supported by Swiss Agency for International Development and Cooperation (SDC) through the International

Media Support (IMS).

Speaking during the opening of the latest training in Songea, the Executive Secretary of MCT, Kajubi Mukajanga said despite the seemingly increased and strengthened freedom of the press in the country, the media still faces numerous discreet challenges which continue to undermine the legitimate and core right to information and freedom of expression.

He said the media as crucial agents for promoting and defending the right to information, continue to encounter obstacles that limit their work.

“Despite the various reforms, there are still legal and other challenges which hold back press freedom. The media still receive administrative fiats, face business and economic challenges and many others”, Mukajanga added.

“In fighting these challenges, MCT is reaching out to many lawyers to equip

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Flashback: Christopher Gamaina (left) and Zephania Mandia (right) pose for a photo with the chairperson of the Mwanza Press Club (MPC) Edwin Soko (centre).

# MCT train more lawyers

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them first with the requisite environmental knowledge on the media sector but also to impart the capacity to counsel journalists and media outlets when faced with challenges requiring legal assistance," Mukajanga said.

Presenting a paper on "Specific laws regulating freedom of expression and how they impact on civic freedom", Advocate Fulgence Massawe said despite the continued reforms, there are still various challenges to the right to freedom of expression and the press.

He listed some of the challenges as including the arrest of individuals who exercise their right of freedom of expression, indiscriminate searches, confiscation of properties, imposition of fines, destruction of equipment, surveillance and hacking private communications.

Others include framing individuals with cases or criminal charges, shutting off internet communications, instilling fear for prosecution, content censorship for media and online. "Are you aware that some people fled to exile after receiving threats as result of information or statement they had made?" Advocate Massawe said in his presentation.

The training which started on September

12, 2023 was attended by 20 lawyers from Dar es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, Morogoro, Iringa, Arusha, Dodoma and Ruvuma regions.

One other notable aspect during the Songea training is that there are few women lawyers who are active in strategic and human rights cases.

Mukajanga appealed for more women to get interested in the area and veteran advocate Mpale Mpoki who was among the facilitators of training said they were ready to help and provide them with the requisite knowledge.

The training in Zanzibar was opened on March 28, 2022 the Zanzibar First Vice President Mr. Othman Masoud Othman who appealed for thoroughly review on the law seditation which he cautioned was prone to abuse.

He said it is high time Tanzania conducted in-depth review of sections of laws concerning seditation in order to strengthen freedom of expression and media freedom in the country.

Mr. Othman, himself a jurist of high standing having served as a Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) and Zanzibar Attorney General (AG) said the law as it now stood had may loopholes which can be exploited to

curtail not only press freedom and freedom of expression but "the very essence of freedom itself".

He told the lawyers and journalists present that many countries had reviewed or were in the process of reviewing their seditation laws, and that that were numerous researches conducted on the issue which could help Tanzania in examining its laws.

Mr. Othman said his experience as a prosecutor left him convinced that seditation laws were a hindrance to press freedom. He said: "I know that one of the important sources of information for journalists are politicians and political leaders. Reporting their work can land journalists in trouble when legitimate pronouncements by these sources are interpreted as seditation by law enforcement organs."

He challenged MCT as defenders of press freedom to initiate a wide debate on seditation provisions in the law so that useful and effective proposals can be made.

He also advised MCT to maintain the trainings and to develop a manual on filing freedom of expression cases at local and regional courts and mechanisms, so as to help the participants as well as those who did not get the opportunity to attend the training.