

Annual Report 2020





Media Council of Tanzania (MCT)

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020**



Media Council of Tanzania (MCT)
Tegeta Skanska Area, House Namba KUN/MTN/532
Bagamoyo Road
P.O. Box 10160, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.
Mob:- +255 719 494 640 | +255 767 494 826
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ABBREVIATIONS

ATE	-	Association of Tanzania Employers
ATI	-	Access to Information Act
BoT	-	Board of Trustees
CBLI	-	CBLI Center
CoRI	-	Coalition on Right to Information
CPJ	-	Committee to Protect Journalists
DED	-	District Executive Director
EACJ	-	East African Court of Justice
EJAT	-	Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania
EPOCA	-	Electronic and Postal Communications Act
EPZA	-	Export Processing Zone Authority
ES	-	Executive Secretary
FAC	-	Finance and Administration Committee
HRD	-	Human Rights Defenders
IoDT	-	Institute of Directors Tanzania
IPI	-	International Press Institute
LHRC	-	Legal and Human Rights Center
MCK	-	Media Council of Kenya
MCL	-	Mwananchi Communications Limited
MEL	-	Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning
MHR	-	Member of House of Representatives
MSA	-	Media Service Act, 2016
NACTE	-	National Council for Technical Education
NBAA	-	National Board of Accountants and Auditors
NEC	-	National Electoral Commission
NGC	-	National General Convention
NHIF	-	National Health Insurance Fund
NTA	-	National Technical Awards
PCCB	-	Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau
PFV	-	Press Freedom Violation
PSA	-	Public Service Advert
TAMWA	-	Tanzania Media Women Association
TCRA	-	Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority
THRDC	-	Tanzania Human Right Defenders Coalition
UTPC	-	Union of Tanzania Press Clubs
WAPC	-	World Association of Press Council



CONTEXT

MCT operated in an environment that continued to experience a backslide in basic freedoms of association and expression, undermining both media freedoms and civil society. Challenges came in various contexts by way of legal environment, impunity, press freedom violations, economic, political pronouncements and journalists' safety.

On July 17, 2020, the Minister for Information, Culture, Art and Sport published the (new) Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content), 2020 Regulations, which replaced the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content), 2018 Regulations published on March 16, 2018. The 2020 Regulations came into force immediately upon publication.

In August, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) announced new measures that bar Tanzanian broadcasters from airing national or international content on their platforms without prior permission from the government. The measures apply to Tanzanian stations that rebroadcast content from international outlets such as the BBC, DW, Voice of America and Radio France International.

Earlier, the TCRA reprimanded Radio Free Africa (RFA) for airing a BBC interview with the opposition presidential candidate Tundu Lissu, in which he said the government had prevented him from paying last respects to former president Benjamin Mkapa in July. TCRA said that the interview lacked balance and issued a stern warning against RFA, placing it on probation for three months for breaching broadcasting regulations. Three other stations, Radio One Stereo, Abood FM Radio and CG FM, also received severe warnings and were placed under observation by the TCRA for three months.

Since then the broadcasters have been taking it upon themselves to interrupt broadcasts by their international partners such as when DW was airing interviews with parents of deceased youth in Pemba after the October 27 skirmishes on the archipelago. The local

partners would typically cut off the broadcast and air music instead.

The new regulations come on top of other pieces of legislation which are an impediment to press freedom and freedom of expression that include the Media Services Act of 2016, Statistics Act of 2015 and its Amendments of 2018 and the Cybercrimes Act of 2015, some sections of the Penal Code, the Official Secrets Act and the Regional and District Commissioners Act, among others.

On June 9, 2020 the EACJ struck out the notice of appeal filed by the Attorney General with costs. The Attorney General had filed an intention to appeal after EACJ decision of March 28, 2019 on MSA 2016. The government has ignored the EACJ ruling to amend the law and bring it in conformity with the EA Community Treaty and continues to apply the impugned sections of the law despite the ruling. Similarly, the government has continued to defy orders to reverse the ban on newspapers (Mawio, Mwanahalisi and Tanzania Daima) in line with court rulings.

There has also been an escalation of incidents of press freedom violations in the recent past including threats, suspension of media outlets, assaults on journalists, kidnapping and intimidation.

On August 27, 2020 TCRA slapped a 7-day suspension on Clouds TV and Radio stations for allegedly violating election coverage rules. The communication body made the decision after the two stations announced outcomes of the nomination process in some constituencies.

In a statement issued by TCRA, the two sister stations violated the Political Party Elections Broadcasting Act of 2015 through their *Power Breakfast* and *360* morning shows. As part of the punishment they were to air apology for the rest of the remaining hours of the day before the ban started on August 28, 2020. Earlier the same month TCRA banned a radio programme (*Jahazi*) from the same radio station for allegedly promoting immorality.

TCRA also announced on July 6, 2020 that it was suspending Kwanza Online TV for 11 months for “generating and disseminating biased, misleading and disruptive content” after it shared a US embassy health alert on Instagram about the Tanzanian’s government’s failure to publish any Covid-19 figures since April 29, 2020. The online TV was already subjected to a six-month suspension in September 2019 after it broadcasted an interview with an opposition leader and a documentary about him on the second anniversary of an attempt to assassinate him in September 2017.

On June 23, 2020 the government announced the cancellation of the Tanzania Daima licence for publishing and circulating the newspaper both in Tanzania and outside Tanzania. According to the statement by the Director of the Information Services Department, Tanzania Daima was punished for repeated publication of defamatory, seditious and false information against the government which infringe on the media laws and journalism ethics contrary to the Media Services Act, 2016.

Four other media organizations - Mwananchi (MCL Online platform), Star Media Tanzania Ltd, Multichoice Tanzania Ltd and Azam Digital Broadcast Ltd - were on April 2, 2020 each fined TZS 5 million and ordered to apologize for “transmission of false and misleading information” on the country’s approach to managing COVID-19.

Ranked 118th out of 180 countries and territories in RSF’s 2020 World Press Freedom Index, Tanzania has fallen a total of 53 places since 2016, more than any other country in the same period.

The buildup to 2020 General Election Day was also marred by widespread internet outages and social media going dark. A number of popular social media platforms such as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook were not accessible in many parts of the country. Many people were also unable to use the popular cross-platform messaging service, Twitter for several days even after the President was sworn in.

Although no formal study has been conducted to give formal statistics in Tanzania until now, it is evident that the media industry has taken

a big hit from the effects of the COVID-19 caused by the novel coronavirus, forcing some staff salary reductions and layoffs in some media organisations.

A number of measures were introduced by the Government, but also individuals and other organizations as precautions against the spread of the virus. All public events including sports were suspended from March 2020. This has had an impact on the availability of news and therefore affecting sales. However, the suspension was gradually lifted upon the presidential declaration that Tanzania was free of COVID 19.

Many offices closed due to COVID-19 particularly private companies, hotels, foreign embassies, international organizations and NGOs. People’s movements were restricted due to fear of contracting the virus. This has had a direct impact especially on newspaper sales forcing some companies to cut down on staff or reduce salaries, and reduced production. This made matters worse for the media companies that were already suffering from dearth of advertising revenue because of the tighter control of government advertising that has come with the Media Services Act Regulations.

The media also operated under an increased sense of fear due to political pronouncements. The threats came from state and non-state actors, and the unprecedented wave of punitive actions against the media have left many editors worried and even afraid.

There was no progress in the investigation of Azory Gwanda, a freelance journalist who has now been missing for over three years. The authorities have never conducted an investigation into the disappearance of Gwanda, a Mwananchi newspaper reporter, which adds an element of fear to other journalists over their safety.

Despite all difficulties, the Council and its partners are committed to continue dialogue with the Government through relevant ministries and officials and to engage media stakeholders to devise survival mechanisms. The Council will continue to provide the necessary support to media houses so that they maintain the professional standards and to assist those who are still lagging behind.



SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

The following are the more notable achievements in 2020.

- i. On November 17, 2020 MCT was granted Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. This is a very big achievement for MCT and what that means is that the Council will take advantage of this status to promote MCT agenda and bring various issues to the attention of the highest continental body and beyond.
- ii. On June 9, 2020 the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) struck out the notice of appeal filed by the Attorney General with costs. Following the victory on MSA case at EACJ in 2019, the government was dissatisfied with the ruling thus filed a notice of appeal in April, 2019. Until late 2019, the Government had not submitted its appeal prompting the Council and its partners to request the Court to strike out the application. What this means is that now the government has to comply with the judgment of the court ordering it to delete or amend 16 sections of the Act which render it non-compliant with the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. On the other hand, the impact is also that media houses and practitioners can cite the ruling in their defence in courts when arraigned on alleged relevant media infractions.
- iii. The Council had planned to convene an East Africa Media Councils meeting during the second quarter of 2020. Though this could not be implemented during the year because of COVID-19, the Councils made progress in developing important documents including the draft constitution that will be necessary in formalizing the cooperation of the Councils from Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.
- iv. Compliance to MCT mediation and arbitration stood at 100 per cent. Moreover, Ethics Committee visits to media houses were effective in that editors engaged directly and frankly with Committee members on challenges they were facing which affected professionalism and editorial independence. One of the highlights of Ethics Committee visits during the year was a strategic mediation meeting in Pemba, a political hotspot that involved the media, government and other stakeholders. The result was a mediated agreement on how the two sides would go about their duties without hindering each other and the government side agreed on being more open and accessible to media.
- v. The Gala Night for the 2019 EJAT was held in Tanga city and attended by over 200 people. This is very significant in that it was the first time the EJAT ceremony was being held outside Dar es Salaam. The event was also attended by representatives of MCT members from across the country who had just completed their annual National General Convention (NGC).
- vi. The National Journalism Curricula finally reviewed: MCT and the National Council for Technical



- Education (NACTE) worked together with various stakeholders during the year in the curricula review process that had been put on hold due to absence of resources. The result is updated curricula for NTA levels 4, 5 and 6, taking on board recent changes in media environment and operations including laws and integrating gender and inclusivity in the curricula.
- vii. The Women in Newsroom project registered big success whereby 31 senior women journalists were provided with management training and were sensitized on strategic litigation as an advocacy tool for social change, as well as being taken through the court rulings arising from litigation challenging oppressive media laws. A study of the situation of women journalists was also conducted and published as was the Gender in Media Policy.
 - viii. In December 2020 MCT finally acquired its own premises. This means the Council will no longer have to worry about the exorbitant rent charges, as it is now a homeowner. This was a notable achievement after more than a decade of a struggle that saw the matter as a recurrent fixture in board meetings where Council sustainability was a permanent agenda.
- ii. Lack of an assured funding stream is one of the major challenges when it comes to continuity and /or designing of follow up activities. Absence of core funding meant the Council struggled to fulfill its mandate. It also meant overheads and institutional governance activities suffered.
 - iii. Overblown stakeholder and partner expectations, such as when partners do not fully play their part in EJAT but expect it to happen anyway; or when demand outstrip capacity, like in the matter of journalists' training and support during COVID 19.
 - iv. Resource challenges mean media monitoring is still constrained to monitoring only print and largely leaving out electronic media.
 - v. Staff time was constrained. They had to divide focus from programme implementation only, to programme implementation plus resource mobilization. Increased reporting requirements resulting from having multiple funders some of who are short term funders, with every funder having their own reporting requirements, formats and timeframe meant management spent much time complying with reporting obligations.
 - vi. Many Council members' economy has gone down and some of them are no longer viable or even operational; paying membership fees has been challenging. An economically challenged membership base meant increased demands and expectations upon the Council without necessarily increased resources and capacity.

Challenges

- i. COVID-19: The pandemic badly affected MCT activities and the Council had to reschedule some of the activities while staff were forced to work from home. The pandemic also affected Council members, funders, partners and other stakeholders which in turn reflected on MCT operations, forcing it



PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

The Council's work focused on four programmatic areas. These are Advocacy, Mediation and Arbitration, Press Freedom Violations Register and Media Monitoring.

The implementation of activities in the first half of the year 2020 faced serious challenges posed by the global pandemic, COVID-19, which also affected MCT funders, members, partners and other stakeholders. This led to either postponement of some of the activities or review its implementation modalities. There were also notable achievements during the period.

1.0 ADVOCACY

The objective of this programme area is to enable the media to perform its duties freely and effectively so that the public is able to enjoy freedom of expression and access to information. Under the Advocacy programme the following activities were implemented:

1.1 Advocate for repeal of anti-media laws on Mainland

1.1.1 Produce 1000 copies of a Compendium of Media Laws analyses

A compendium aimed at providing an insight to media professionals and the general public on media related laws and regulations was finalized, printed, launched and disseminated to stakeholders.

This document which had analyses of Media Services Act, 2016 and Media Services Regulations, 2017, Access to Information Act, 2016 and Access to Information Regulations, 2017, Electronic and Postal Communications Act, 2010 and its related Regulations of 2018, Cybercrimes Act, 2015 and Statistics Act, 2015 and their regulations was also used for training of journalists and journalism tutors in June

2020 and during radio and TV programmes that MCT participated in. Participants in the trainings lauded the Council for compiling the analyses while requesting that a similar document on local media related court cases be compiled for use in media colleges as case studies.

Analyses have helped stakeholders to have more understanding of the media related laws and their regulations. Tutors from journalism colleges acknowledged Council efforts. The impact was such that course outline for media law course at some of the colleges had to be amended after the trainings brought the realization that the curricula were outdated. Specifically, lecturers and tutors from the Open University of Tanzania and Tabora Polytechnic College admitted that the gained knowledge would enable them to make crucial changes in their course outlines.

From the newsrooms, editors and reporters gained critical knowledge on the laws and what was required to survive under an unfriendly legal regime. The training specifically targeted senior media practitioners who would then coach their junior colleagues at their media outlets.

1.1.2 CoRI meetings supported and coordinated

MCT continued to lead a 12-member Coalition on Right to Information (CoRI) which brings together media and human rights organizations conducting advocacy work on freedom of expression, press freedom and access to information.

Two of the four planned meetings were organized in 2020 because most of the members closed offices and/or were working from home due to COVID-19, and their programming was affected which in turn affected CoRI plans. One meeting was held online through zoom in June 2020 which took stock of the situation of press freedom and freedom of expression in the country, and



discussed progress on the planned formation of a joint committee on MSA review between government and media stakeholders.

CoRI members also discussed the new EPOCA (Online Content) Regulations 2020 which replaced the EPOCA (Online Content) 2018 Regulations and the EPOCA (Radio and TV Content) amendment 2020.

The second meeting was conducted physically with the express purpose of reflecting on relevant CoRI members' activities in 2020 and deliberating on priorities and plans for 2021. This meeting determined that engaging the government on various issues including laws and regulations that adversely affect operations of the media was the most crucial task for the coalition in 2021. MCT was requested to arrange a meeting with government in the new year. Members would share their contacts in government to make the endeavor effective.

1.2 Participate in the legislative process for new Zanzibar Media Law

1.2.1 One high-level consultative meeting between MCT and Zanzibar government held

The Council continued with efforts to meet Zanzibar President Dr. Ali Mohammed Shein during the year and a request for appointment was sent to the State House. In January 2020, before COVID-19 outbreak, MCT was advised to send another request through the Ministry of Information, Tourism, Culture and Heritage for scheduling the meeting. MCT Zanzibar Office continued to follow up on this but could not get any substantive response until the end of the year. The year 2020 was an election year in Tanzania and this added another challenge. The activity will now focus on engaging the new government in Zanzibar in 2021.

The Stakeholder Committee under MCT however managed to meet with the Minister for information, Tourism and Heritage, Mr. Mahmoud Thabit Kombo and Principal Secretary of the Ministry and Deputy Minister in charge of the Media and discussion centered on the new Zanzibar media law and the officials committed to work closely with MCT in the law making process. The Minister

applauded MCT for the good work of helping the media to perform its duties ethically and professionally.

1.2.2 Zanzibar Media Stakeholders Committee activities supported and coordinated

The Zanzibar Media Stakeholders Law Review Committee, led by MCT participated in Zanzibar media law review process. The proposed bill is at the ministerial level for further action. Though progress has been very slow we still hope that MCT and stakeholder's involvement will influence a better legislation.

1.2.3 Members of the House of Representatives (MHRs) engaged using analysis of the Bill

The Council provided backstopping to members of the House of Representatives who were given literature related to media law review in Zanzibar.

The Women Development, Information and Tourism Committee of the House of Representatives visited the MCT offices and MCT official in Zanzibar briefed all nine members of the committee on the history and the current status of the media law in Zanzibar. The committee made follow up at the ministry and six of them posed question to the then Minister of Information, Tourism and Heritage, Mr. Mahmoud Kombo. The questions were asked in order to get clarifications from the Minister on issues raised by MCT. The committee also requested the ministry to speed up the issue of new media law in Zanzibar and also asked the Ministry to include MCT and stakeholders in the process and to support media work. MCT and Zanzibar media stakeholders were involved in various stages to input on the draft.

1.2.4 Provide backstopping for MHRs

Though the Bill had not reached a stage where it could be officially shared, MCT took initiative to provide relevant literature including analyses of media laws to a number of MHR's and briefed them on the various activities of the Council. Four members of the House of Representatives were provided with literature on what had been done on media law review in Zanzibar.



1.3 Conduct media monitoring on election in Zanzibar

1.3.1 Documenting facts and incidents affecting media participation in Zanzibar

This is activity involved documenting facts and incidences that affected the media participation in 2020 general election- in Zanzibar islands of Pemba and Unguja. A report will be shared with stakeholders in 2021. The report will also be used in evidence based advocacy initiatives and to archive incidents which affected media performance during the elections for future reference and as lessons.

1.4 Undertake and support strategic litigation

The Council in collaboration with its partners continued to support litigation. The litigation efforts included:

1.4.1 Facilitate continuing MSA 2016 Constitutional petition appeal

1.4.1.1 Facilitate MSA Constitutional petition appeal

A constitutional case filed at the High Court in Mwanza challenging the constitutionality of the provisions of the Media Services Act (MSA, 2016), was supported by the Council. The applicants are MCT members UTPC and Hali Halisi Publishers. It seeks a decision on the constitutionality of the MSA, 2016 in relation to Article 18 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania. The case was dismissed in preliminary stages, but the applicants appealed to the Court of Appeal of Tanzania. The case is still pending at the Court of Appeal in Mwanza. Progress has been very slow.

1.4.1.2 Facilitate MSA 2016 Appeal at EACJ

The Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) and its partners requested the Court to strike out the government notice of appeal filed in April 2019 following EACJ decision on MSA 2016 in March 2019 which was in favour of media stakeholders. On June 9, 2020 the EACJ struck out the notice of appeal filed by Attorney General with costs as requested because until late 2019, the government could not submit its appeal prompting the Council and its

partners to request the Court to strike out the application.

The decision to request the court to strike out government's notice of appeal was necessary to ensure that the ruling that declared that MSA 2016 violates the Treaty for the Establishment of East Africa Community firmly stood, leaving the government with no option but to implement the court decision. It would also set record that the law is unjust.

1.4.2 Facilitate Online Content Regulations Appeal case in Mtwara

MCT and its partners appealed against the ruling of January 2019 against the Electronic and Postal Communications (Online Content) Regulations 2018 that struck out the partners' application. While the appeal was still pending, on July 17, 2020 the Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports published new EPOCA (Online Content) 2020 Regulations which replaced the EPOCA (Online Content) 2018 Regulations, rendering the case nugatory. The Council and partners are now challenging the new Regulations in case no. 30/2020 filed at the EACJ by its partners Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).

Despite the eventuality of the Mtwara case, it is worth noting that there were some achievements. MCT and its partners managed to get an injunction in respect of the application of the Regulations. Moreover, the government had to limit the application of the Regulations as the definition was wide to the extent of encroaching on WhatsApp, Facebook and the like. The definition of the term "content" in the Regulations was ruled to be wider than that in the parent Act. In terms of advocacy MCT and partners managed to raise their voices thus increasing awareness on the Regulations.

1.4.3 Facilitate Raia Mwema/individual journalists case

In 2017, Raia Mwema newspaper was banned for 90 days for allegedly publishing incorrect and tarnishing information involving the President of Tanzania. MCT supported the newspaper in a Miscellaneous Civil Application: Raia Mwema Limited Versus the Minister for Information, Culture, Arts and Sports; Registrar of Newspapers, and Attorney General in which the Applicant filed

for Judicial Review seeking orders of certiorari before the High Court of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam Registry.

The High Court delivered a ruling on December 24, 2019 and the presiding Judge entertained and upheld a point of preliminary objection that the “application was overtaken by events”. However, the ruling of the Court was issued in the absence of all parties and it was known by the Council and its Advocate four months later.

MCT supported Raia Mwema not only to ensure that the paper returned to the market, but also for the Court to declare that the decision of banning it was improper. Therefore, with support from MCT, Raia Mwema filed for an extension of time to file an appeal against the December 24, 2019 ruling. The court granted the request to file the appeal, and the appeal was filed on November 13, 2020.

1.4.4 Facilitate Tanzania Daima Appeal

The Appeal case challenging court decision of November 05, 2018 that entertaining the Tanzania Daima appeal case filed in 2017 challenging the decision of the Minister of Information, Sports and Culture would be a mere academic exercise since the newspaper had already served the ban and was in circulation already is still pending at that Court of Appeal waiting for assignment.

1.4.5 Organise one retreat for lawyers for individual journalists’ case

One retreat for lawyers was organised to prepare submissions for filing the case challenging EPOCA (Online Content) Regulations, 2020. Retreats give space for lawyers to brainstorm and prepare submissions to court. Since most of the cases involve more than one lawyer it also helps them to agree on pertinent issues to be argued in court.

1.4.6 Facilitate Online Content Regulations 2020 Case

1.4.6.1 Conduct Analysis of EPOCA (Online Content) Regulations, 2020

In July 2020, the government released new EPOCA (Online Content), Regulations 2020 replacing the 2018 Regulations that the Council and its partners were challenging in

court. The Council conducted an analysis of the new Regulations to determine how the Regulations were a threat to press freedom and freedom of expression and possible impact on journalism practice. The analysis was also meant to determine whether there were grounds for filing a court case against the same. The analysis was shared with various stakeholders and used in media advocacy activities.

1.4.6.2 Facilitate Online Content Regulations 2020 Case at EACJ

As already explained, the Council and its partners are challenging EPOCA (Online Content) Regulations 2020 at the EACJ.

1.4.6.3 Facilitate EPOCA (Online Content) Regulations 2020 case at the High Court in Mbeya

In addition to the case against EPOCA (Online Content) Regulations 2020 at the EACJ in Arusha, the Council also partnered with the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) in another case against EPOCA (Online Content) 2020 at the High Court in Mbeya.

1.5 Engage Regional and International Networks/Partners

1.5.1 Convene EA Media Councils Association meeting in Arusha

The Council had planned to convene an East Africa Media Councils meeting in the second quarter of the 2020. However, this could not be implemented because of travel restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was rescheduled for January 2021. The Councils continued with preparations of important documents including drafting a constitution that is necessary in formalizing the cooperation of the Media Councils from Tanzania, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.

This meeting was a necessary step toward official strengthening of the relations between the regional media councils that have for long had this relationship. The meeting would give members opportunity to discuss the documents and agree on the terms for establishment of the cooperation. Members will also network and discuss issues of interest.



1.5.2 Liaise and engage with International/ Regional Human Rights Organizations and facilitate Staff to attend media meetings

The Council continued to engage regional and international networks and partners. During the period the Council participated in an online forum organized by the All-China Journalists' Association (ACJA) bringing together Chinese and African media professionals. The theme of the conference was "Solidarity against COVID-19 and China-Africa Community with a Shared Future" where the MCT made a presentation on the COVID-19 in Tanzania. Other countries which participated included Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Ivory Coast and China.

The Council also participated in virtual meetings with CPJ, IPI, WAPC and regional webinars, one organized by the Media Council of Kenya and another by the East African Law Society.

The Council participated in a series of monthly meetings with WAPC to discuss press freedom and freedom of expression before and during the COVID 19 pandemic, how the media practitioners have been affected and how they can be protected and supported to continue informing the public. The meetings were attended by media councils and press associations from Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Northern Cyprus, Nepal, India, Turkey, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan, Iraq and Kosovo. The meetings were held via online communication platforms due to travel restrictions as a result of COVID 19.

The Council participated in a virtual panel discussion where the Council participated as a panelist in a conference on combating fake news and fact checking during elections, organized by Africa's premiere fact checking organization, Africa Check.

1.5.3 Commission articles/reports on Regional and International media

The Council commissioned journalists to write feature articles for international media. Six stories were broadcasted on DW Radio and Radio France International. The stories were related to World Press Freedom Day, MCT Media Advisory on Covid-19, MCT

new publications launch and former Prime Minister Joseph Warioba's remarks during the inauguration of MCT's new Governing Board on November 20, 2020. Judge Warioba challenged the media to report more about issues affecting people so that their challenges can be heard and helped and not focus mostly on leaders' publicity as is currently the case.

International media have been commissioned to ensure MCT initiatives are heard across the borders but also to publish information that local media fear to publish.

1.5.4 Follow-up on the application for Observer Status on AU mechanisms

In October 2018 MCT attended a NGOs forum on building an Africa without human rights violations in Banjul, The Gambia. The forum was followed by the 63rd Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) in Banjul, which the Council also attended.

After the forums, MCT resolved to participate more in the continental efforts to promote media freedom, and to make use of the continental forums to drive MCT agenda. The Council therefore applied for Observer Status at the African Commission, and while waiting for the decision to be made, MCT continued to participate in continental deliberations that were accessible to it.

MCT participated in the Forum for the Participation of NGOs/CSOs in the Work of the 67th Ordinary Session of the African Commission (ACHPR), followed by the 67th Ordinary Session of the ACHPR on November 9, 2020.

On November 17, 2020, the 67th Ordinary Session among other agenda, considered applications for Affiliate Status from National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and for Observer Status from NGOs. MCT was one of the applicants for Observer Status for NGOs/CSOs. The motion to consider MCT was proposed by Commissioner Hon. Jamesina Essie L. King and voted in favour by the rest of the commissioners after MCT satisfied the criteria for Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

NGOs/CSOs play a prominent role in the activities of the Commission. Primarily, they draw the attention of the Commission to human and people's rights violations, bring communications on behalf of individuals, and monitor states' compliance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

MCT will now have the privilege to participate in the Commission's public sessions and engage with the reporting procedure by submitting shadow country reports. MCT may also be invited to be present at closed sessions dealing with issues of particular interest to the Council.

The Chairperson of the Commission may give the floor to Observers to respond to questions directed at them by participants during meetings. The Council may also request to have issues of particular interest to MCT to be included in the provisional agenda of the Commission, in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

This a very big achievement for the Council. MCT plans to take advantage of this status to promote MCT agenda and bring various issues to the attention of the highest continental body and beyond.

1.6 Make advocacy work known

1.6.1 Media Watch and Barazani newsletters were published online monthly

The Council continued to publish *Media Watch* and *Barazani* newsletters online. The publications were uploaded on the Council website and also sent to 205 MCT members, 91 editors and 73 media stakeholders by email. Viewership for *Media Watch* increased from 1800 views in 2019 to 2065 in 2020 while that for *Barazani* was 2297 in 2020. The Council will continue to explore more efficient options for disseminating the newsletters during 2021 including the use of mail chimp.

1.6.2 Update MCT Social media platforms

Various news items were posted on MCT social media handles. A total of 477 items were

posted by the end of 2020 compared to 281 the previous year, with the number of followers reaching 2267 for Facebook from 2006 the previous year, 785 on Twitter from 638 in 2019 and 1039 for Instagram, from 708 in 2019. The Council also used social media platforms to share short messages extracted from MCT Access to Information (ATI) efficacy report, ATI popular version and MCT coronavirus reporting advisory. Social media platforms are useful tools to engage MCT stakeholders both locally and internationally.

1.6.3 Update MCT Website

Media platforms were updated regularly with MCT news items, new publications and other relevant developments.

1.6.4 Commission articles/report in local media

The Council continued to use local media to promote its activities. Nine articles were published in *The Guardian* and *The Citizen* newspapers that included the launch of new MCT publications in March 2020, World Radio Day as well as issues of Freedom of Expression.

Other articles were to urge governments to free jailed journalists and repeal obnoxious laws (May 8, 2020), EACJ ruling on government's application to appeal on MSA case on May 22 and June 10, 2020, and EACJ ruling on appeal notice on Mseto newspaper ban (June 3, 2020). Others were on MCT's Silver Jubilee (July 2 and July 3, 2020) and MCT's participation in the Africa - China Solidarity Forum.

The reporters were commissioned to ensure specific messages that MCT intended to publish reached the targeted audience.

1.7 Conduct media advocacy to engage the general public on media laws, impunity and journalists' safety

1.7.1 Conduct 15 talk shows on TV and radio

The Council continued to use various channels to engage with the general public. These included participating in TV and radio programmes and social media engagements.



During the year, the Council participated in 30 TV and radio talk shows on Azam TV and Radio, Radio One, Mlimani TV, Tumaini TV and Radio, Radio Furaha Iringa, Chuchu FM, RFI, EFM, Star TV, Clouds FM, Times FM also on online media outlets such as Daily News Online, Watetezi TV and MCL Digital to discuss issues related to MCT Media Advisory on COVID-19, International Radio Day, new MCT publications and MSA Case appeal at EACJ.

In Zanzibar MCT participated in three programmes that focused on election activities. The programmes were on women voices and marginalized groups in the media, Ethical reporting during elections and the need of unity after elections on ZBC Radio, Hits FM Radio and Mkoani Community Radio.

In Tanga the MCT team visited three radio stations in September 2020, participated in one radio program engaging the public on women empowerment and also used the opportunity to promote gender in media by discussing with the management of the stations on Gender in Media Policy developed by the Council and requested them to adopt it or include it in their Human Resource Manuals.

The stations visited were Radio Pangani FM, Radio Huruma FM and Radio Nuur. The MCT also visited Vision FM and Shnuz FM in Bukoba and Radio Humuliza FM in Muleba District in December 2020 and met the stations' management and staff. MCT also participated in relevant programmes aired by the stations.

These programmes have enabled the Council to directly engage not only with its members, but also with the public and get feedback on its various initiatives.

1.7.2 Prepare brief on the MSA 2016 case ruling

Following the finalization of the MSA case at the EACJ, the Council prepared a brief on the judgment aimed at creating awareness for the media and general public on the implications of the court decision. The brief was used in training and other advocacy activities during the year.

1.8 Popularise and test efficacy of ATI

1.8.1 1000 copies of ATI popular version published

During this period, advocacy work on Access to Information Act (ATI) was stepped up by producing and disseminating the popular version of the ATI. Content focused on educating the public on the importance, advantages and disadvantages of requesting for information or not requesting for information. Likewise, to remind information holders of their obligation to release information on time. One thousand (1000) copies of the popular version were printed and disseminated. The publication was also used during training of journalism tutors and journalists and serialized on MCT social media for public engagement.

1.8.2 1000 copies of ATI efficacy report (fliers) published

The Council believes that the Access to Information Act, 2016 if well implemented will improve access to information by the public. In 2020 the Council tested the efficacy of the Act by identifying challenges and areas that need improvement so the public can get full benefits from the law.

The Council tested the law by sending information seekers to various public offices with guiding questions. The report on the Efficacy of Access to Information Act, 2016 was published, launched and disseminated during the period. The report identified gaps that lead to denial to access to information. The report was also used during trainings and radio and TV programmes that MCT participated.

1.8.3 Conduct ATI efficacy testing

The Council noted that there is also a gap in awareness of the law even by the information officers and so decided to engage them for sensitization on the law. Meetings with government information officers were planned for 2021.

1.9 Undertake Advocacy using court case processes and results

1.9.1 Conduct one ToT

The Council decided to conduct advocacy using the court case processes and results to enable media stakeholders understand the court decisions and their implications in media practice. Using the court decisions, the Council, on June 25 and 26, 2020, conducted training involving 14 journalism trainers drawn from seven journalism training institutions in Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The training was attended by tutors from the Open University of Tanzania, Practical School of Journalism, UDSM School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Kibaha Institute of Journalism, Dar es Salaam School of Journalism, Tumaini University – Dar es Salaam College and State University of Zanzibar. The training participants were 6 females and 8 males.

The participants were taken through recently enacted media related laws and court case decisions in order for them to understand and use the same for teaching. They requested that MCT compile rulings of media related cases and distribute them to journalism colleges as a teaching aid and reference material.

1.9.2 Conduct 6 zonal trainings for 125 senior reporters

Despite COVID-19 challenges, the Council concluded its series of trainings to 164 senior journalists in 2020. The trainings which had earlier targeted 125 journalists were held in Mwanza, Arusha, Mbeya, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam in the first half of 2020 and in Tanga in September 2020 for participants from Kagera, Katavi and Mpanda. Participants were trained on the theory and impact of media related laws on day to day work of journalists and the general public. They looked at court case decisions and strengths as well as weaknesses of the laws and how to practice journalism safely in an environment with media unfriendly laws.

The total number of senior journalists who participated in the training were 164, out of whom 88 were females and 76 males.

2.0 PRESS FREEDOM VIOLATIONS REGISTER

The objective of this programme area is to document, publish and follow up on press freedom violations so that media houses, journalists' associations and human rights defenders can use the evidence as a tool while authorities, stakeholders and the public are provided with compelling narration with objective data. In achieving this objective the following activities were executed:

2.1 Conduct press freedom violations sensitization engagement

2.1.1 Practical Handbook for Media Practitioners and HRDs in Tanzania Mainland disseminated

The Council worked with ICNL in the preparation of the practical handbook entitled: *Tanzania Media Laws: A Handbook for Practitioners*, produced under the project Boresha Habari funded by FHI360 through Internews. The handbook is intended to help media practitioners, human rights defenders (HRDs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) in Tanzania to understand the legal and policy framework that affects their daily work. MCT distributed 18 copies to journalism colleges, 20 copies to press clubs and 20 to journalists, media outlets, development partners and HRDs on Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

2.2 Maintain PFVR database

MCT continued to operate the Press Freedom Violations database and ensure it is interactive. Staff made verification and reorganization of information posted on the database. In 2020 press freedom monitoring was one of the activities which suffered because of resource challenges. The Council could not engage focal points who would normally collect violation incidents from their regions and feed them into the database. However, the Council continued to monitor through traditional and social media acts of violation and followed them through for verification.



During the year 2020 There were 13 recorded arrests, two assaults, nine fines, three incidents of denial of access to information, two of self-censorship, four bans, two suspensions, three threats, one asylum, and twice radio programs were cut short or suspended.

2.2.1 Issue alerts, statements and hold press conferences

MCT issued one statement on press freedom violations during the period. The statement was on Tanzania Daima newspaper suspension. MCT will continue issuing alerts, statements and hold press conferences whenever there is need and share alerts and statements with international partners.

2.2.2 Newspapers acquired for monitoring violations

MCT continued to follow up and record press freedom violations as reported in newspapers and social media. The media outlets which supported the Council during the period are *Nipashe*, *The Guardian*, *Raia Mwema*, *Uhuru*, *Mtanzania*, *Rai*, *Habari Leo* and *Daily News*. The outlets provided newspapers gratis to support Council work.

2.3 Publish Annual PFV report

2.3.1 Publish 2019 Annual PFV report electronically

The Council finalised and published its 2019 Annual PFV Report. The report was disseminated electronically on MCT website and social media. The report was also shared with stakeholders including media, funders, development partners, journalism colleges, press clubs and HRDs.

This report contains incidents reported from October 2018, to November 2019. Violations that include denial to access information, threats, editorial interference, as well as self-censorship, increased remarkably everywhere in Tanzania during the period. The PFV report records unprecedented suspension and fining of online TVs while banned newspapers that had won cases in court were still not in circulation on the huddles of legal and policy frameworks.

2.4 Popularize the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Editorial Freedom, Independence and Responsibility (DEFIR)

The Council continued to popularize DEFIR, through ensuring stakeholders were informed about it in all MCT engagements with journalists, tutors of journalism and media stakeholders. During the period a total of 159 signatures in support of DEFIR were mobilized. Limitations to physical gatherings due to COVID-19 substantially affected this exercise.

Editors referred to DEFIR in their engagements and discussion on media freedoms and responsibility.

2.5 Organise Commemorations and Public debates

2.5.1 Co-organise World Press Freedom Day on Mainland and Zanzibar

In May 2020 MCT participated in World Press Freedom Day activities both on Mainland and Zanzibar that were limited to virtual meetings due to COVID-19. Three MCT staff participated in the virtual meetings that discussed issues related to freedom of expression and press freedom in the wake of COVID-19 and how the pandemic has affected women's freedom in Zanzibar.

2.5.2 Commemorate International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)

On September 28, MCT organized a press conference in Tanga during commemoration of the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI). In his remarks the MCT Executive Secretary Mr. Kajubi Mukajanga urged authorities in the government to strive and aspire to improve provision and accessibility of information to the general public and information seekers. He said officials should make information readily and timely available as per requirements of the law. He reminded the audience that the Council had conducted a study two years after the enactment of Access to Information Act to evaluate its efficacy. The study, he said, established that a number of practical challenges in accessing information still persist.

3.0 MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

The objective of this programme area is to enhance ethical practice and carry out conciliation between media and public thus ensuring media accountability, efficacy and credibility. In achieving this objective the following activities were executed:

3.1 Conduct outreach campaign for MCT mediation and arbitration services

3.1.1 Public Service Advert produced and published in both Zanzibar and Mainland

One of the objectives of establishing the Media Council of Tanzania is to conduct conciliation between media consumers and media outlets.

Although people from all walks of life have used MCT mediation and arbitration services over the years, the services have been used mostly by business people, companies, institutions and politicians. The Council therefore decided to develop a public service advert (PSA) to promote the services to the general public in order to encourage all citizens of Tanzania to benefit from the same when they are aggrieved by the media.

The Council recorded lessons learnt from previous PSA to develop a new PSA that has taken into consideration changes that happened from the last PSA and technological advancement. The Council therefore produced two PSAs for Mainland and Zanzibar for both TV and Radio.

3.1.2 Ethics Committee visits organized

The Ethics Committee visited MCT stakeholders in Zanzibar to familiarize with activities of the stakeholders, share experience and challenges, and offer on-the-spot advice and guidance. The media houses visited are Zanzibar Government Newspapers Corporation, Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC), the Department of Communication and Media Studies at the State University of Zanzibar, Radio Al

Nuur, Chuchu FM Radio, Mwenge School of Journalism, Mwenge Community Radio and Swahiba FM Radio.

Challenges shared by the schools of journalism included entry requirements of NACTE which leave out some of Zanzibari candidates, and the need to upgrade the national curricula and include Zanzibar-specific issues. MCT took the concerns and will liaise with NACTE to see how to resolve them.

The use of decent language especially on FM radios was also discussed as well as the scheduling of different programmes to fit the intended audiences.

3.2 Hold Mediation and Arbitration sessions

3.2.1 Review complaints procedures

MCT reviewed the complaints procedures to make them more convenient for public to submit their complaints to the Council. The procedures were then shared with the public through MCT website and social media platforms. A roll-up banner with information on mediation and arbitration services was printed to be used in MCT activities to publicize Council mediation and arbitration services.

3.2.2 Hold ten mediation sessions in Dar at secretariat level

During reporting time the Council was able to conciliate 8 lodged complaints. The complaints are detailed below:



Table 1: List of Complaints for 2020

S/N	Complainant	Summary of complaint	Remarks
1	Rocktronic Contractors vs Fahari Yetu newspaper	The company complained that a published story was false and defamatory.	The Council was copied, as the complainant took the newspaper to court.
2	Rocktronic Contractors vs Tanzanite newspaper	The company complained that a published story was false and defamatory.	The Council was copied, as the complainant took the newspaper to court.
3	Humphrey Tillya vs Mwananchi	Tillya, a civil servant from Pangani District in Tanga Region, complained that an article published by the newspaper on March 24, 2020 had ruined his reputation before his employer and the public in the district and affected him psychologically. He said the story misquoted him and used sources who spoke about the meeting which they did not attend.	The complaint was brought before the Ethics Committee for Arbitration and ruled that Mwananchi apologize and give space for Tillya to clarify the allegations against him. Mwananchi complied and the case was closed.
4.	Residents of Pwani-Tegeta vs Clouds FM	Residents of Pwani-Tegeta complained that Clouds FM presenters on their Power Breakfast programme aired on March 16 and 17, 2020 content that was biased, used unreliable sources and favoured one side of the conflict.	The complaint was brought before the Ethics Committee for arbitration. But since the matter was already in court, the committee ruled that Clouds FM should continue to follow up on the case and stop undue opinionating in their programmes.
5	Simon Kilian vs Jamhuri newspaper	The complainant claimed that the newspaper ran a story that humiliated him and did not give him space to reply/clarify.	The complaint was brought to the Council after one and half years contrary to the MCT regulations which require that a complaint should be made within three months since it was published.
6	Dar es Salaam School of Journalism (DSJ) vs Jamhuri newspaper	The complainant claimed that the newspaper reported on a story about 'dirty acts' that are conducted by the college that has tarnished the reputation of the institution. The college informed the Council that it was investigating the claims.	The Council was copied.
7.	Anglican Church vs Raia Mwema	The Church is complaining that the newspaper reported false claims against one of their priests that it has embarrassed the religious leader and damaged the reputation of the church	Resolution of the complaint is still in progress.
8.	Godwin Mwalukana Mtwewe vs EFM Radio	Mtwewe complained about a story aired on EFM's Joto la Asubuhi programme that had accusations against him, that he had not been given the right of reply.	The Council was copied.

3.2.3 Two Ethics Committee arbitration sessions held in Dar As explained in Table 1.

3.2.4 One Ethics Committee arbitration session held in Chake Chake, Pemba

Following reports on press freedom violations in Pemba, a political hotspot, MCT planned a strategic arbitration session between news sources and journalists in Chake Chake, Pemba. According to the reports, journalists in Pemba were facing difficulties in getting information specifically from government offices.

On September 9, 2020 the Ethics Committee of the Council, in a delegation that included MCT Vice President, Ethics Committee Chairman and Executive Secretary held the session that brought together 23 participants including government officials, police, representatives of CSOs and journalists for the session.

Journalists mentioned a number of challenges they were facing including getting information, being denied access to meetings or forced to dress in political party colours when covering political rallies. Responses came from government representatives, while MCT team provided guidance on how the two sides could improve working relations.

At the end, participants thanked the Council for the effort to bring media practitioners and news sources on a discussion table, and expressed their views that the exercise was successful and would go a long way towards ameliorating their working relationship.

3.3 Promote and Support In-house Peer Oversight Mechanisms

3.3.1 Support five media outlets

The Council helped media houses/outlets to build their distinctiveness in the market as well as shape their writing style and build culture of their own in a competitive market.

During the period the Council supported Chuchu FM Radio, Mkoani FM Radio in Zanzibar, Sunrise Radio in Arusha, FM Manyara Radio in Babati as well as Passion FM in Dar es Salaam to develop editorial policies. The Council also conducted training

on in-house self-regulatory mechanisms for Radio Maria, Times FM Radio and Femina Hip in Dar es Salaam.

3.4 Review and Re-print Code of Ethics for Media Professionals

3.4.1 Review Code of Ethics for Media Professionals

The Council reviewed the Codes of Ethics for Media Professionals during the year. The Code of Ethics is used as a guide of principles designed to help professionals conduct business honestly and with integrity. It helps media professionals when making decisions on professional and ethical dilemmas they face during day-to-day activities of gathering, processing and disseminating news and information.

The document is reviewed after every three years to accommodate new developments in the media industry and to ensure that it is relevant as circumstances change. The last review was done in 2016. After the review by media experts, the document was deliberated and adopted at the Council's National General Convention on September 28, 2020 in Tanga.

3.4.2 Reprint 2000 copies of Code of Ethics and distribute

The Council printed a total of 2000 copies the Code of Ethics for Media Professionals in English and Kiswahili and these will be distributed to stakeholders, the media fraternity in particular.

4.0 MEDIA MONITORING

The objective of this Programme area is to ensure that media is proactively monitored and given feedback to improve quality and performance over time so that media effectively fulfils its roles. The Council focused only on activities that could be funded internally or could be conducted in synergy with activities in other programme areas because we did not receive funding dedicated for this programme area.



4.1 Register of Ethical Transgressions and Conduct Rapid Response

Registering ethical transgressions is a continuous affair. The Council innovatively used media products to inform on real and perceived transgressions due to the fact that some viewers and readers notify the Council about ethical transgressions they find.

Social media particularly WhatsApp, Facebook and Twitter proved to be very useful tools in monitoring transgressions because many people find it convenient to share ethical and professional lapses through the platforms.

In monitoring and reacting to ethical transgressions during the period, the Council made a total of 32 phone calls to Uhuru (5), Nipashe (5), Mtanzania (10), The Guardian (2), Habari Leo (4), ITV (2), and Azam TV (4). The Council continued to remind editors on ethical lapses on respective media outlets through phone calls and responses were always positive. Reports were shared electronically on MCT website.

During the period under review MCT held one press conference on September 17, 2020 to address issues related to deterioration of ethical standards in the media.

The statement was on unethical trends in FM stations and on unequitable coverage of political parties in the run up to elections. The Council also issued an advisory by way of Frequently Asked Questions on Journalists and Elections which were published in MCT newsletters and serialized on MCT social handles.

The Council continued to issue alerts and statements on various issues related to strengthening professional conduct. Examples of statement issued include the one where an editor with a major newspaper was arrested on corruption allegations; and another was clarifying MCT's position on journalists who vied for parliamentary seats during the 2020 general elections.

The Council continued to analyse trends in media outlets. For instance an analysis of COVID-19 coverage showed that the majority of stories were single-sourced with the

government as the main or only source, even in a situation where expert opinion would have been necessary.

The Council issued an advisory on covering the coronavirus outbreak and shared with Media houses to guide their work during the pandemic.

In monitoring gender, the trend continued to show that male sources dominated the news stories. Female sources featuring in the stories are those holding high positions in the government and its institutions.

4.1.1 Updated tools and database

In 2020 the Council continued to capture incidences of ethical transgressions for intervention. This database was updated to incorporate new themes and variables which had emerged because of the current media operating environment.

4.1.2 Coordinate colleges for transgressions monitoring and reporting

This activity was designed specifically to make journalism students monitor media outlets and identify ethical lapses as part of their course work. However, success was limited due to funding issues and closure of schools and colleges due to COVID-19.

4.1.3 Hold consultative forum with journalism tutors on transgression monitoring and reporting

The Council worked closely with the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE), college tutors and other media stakeholders in journalism curricula review in 2020. During the process, the Council made a case for inclusion of transgression monitoring by journalism students in the reviewed curricula as part of students' practical training. The journalism curricula for NTA levels 4, 5 and 6 were successfully reviewed and colleges have started using them.

After being approached by MCT, in 2020 NACTE accepted to fund the review process of the MCT-developed and NACTE-validated national curricula. NACTE still works with MCT in inspection and accreditation of the colleges.

4.2 Women in the Newsroom

MCT in partnership with MISA-TAN, TAMWA in Tanzania, Center for Investigative Journalism (Nepal) and Vikes (Finnish Foundation for Media and Development) are implementing a project titled *Women in the Newsroom: Supporting Female Journalists in Tanzania and Nepal*. In Tanzania, the project aims at reducing the gender gap in the newsroom through women capacity building and instituting policies to improve reporting and gender management in newsrooms. the following project activities were implemented:

4.2.1 Conduct research on women in the media in Tanzania

4.2.1.1 Disseminate research on Women in the Media in Tanzania findings

In 2019, MCT conducted a research on Women in the Media in Tanzania and printed 250 hard copies of the research. In March 2020, the research report titled *Challenging the Glass ceiling: Study of Women in the Newsroom in Tanzania* was launched in an event attended by media stakeholders, gender activist, members of the diplomatic corps, media training institutions, media organizations and representatives from Vikes. The report was widely discussed among the stakeholders and partners. The research report was distributed to 72 media houses and newsrooms, 23 media colleges and schools of journalism and individual journalists both in Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. Some copies of the research report were given to Tanzania National Library for wider readership and archiving.

During the launch of the research, participants were able to discuss issues raised in the research document, including:

- Gender gap in the newsroom in Tanzania;
- Case studies of challenges of female journalists;
- Gender stereotypes in reporting gender;
- Gender policies in the newsroom.

Media stakeholders continue with the dialogue in different forums focusing on

women positions in work setting and sexual harassment. The Council continued with capacity building and mainstreaming gender in all its activities.

4.2.2 Print 2000 copies of updated Gender in Media Policy

MCT reviewed its 2012 Gender in Media policy in 2019. 1000 copies of Gender in Media policy were printed in Kiswahili and English under one cover. Printing the policy under one cover aimed at having a portable document in both official languages used in Tanzania for the convenience of the readers.

The Gender Policy was launched in March 2020 and invited participants commended the decision to print the policy and agreed that it would help the media houses to have guidance in their operations with regard to handling gender issues.

900 copies of the Policy were distributed to different stakeholders including 25 Press Clubs, 72 media houses, 23 media colleges, 20 MCT partner organisations, 63 media stakeholders and the Tanzania National Library.

4.2.3 Promote gender policy to be included in media houses policies

The Council continued to advocate for adoption of Gender in the Media Policy in media houses and in 2020 ten (10) media houses were reached, discussions held and resolution to adopt the policy made.

Media houses that agreed to adopt and use Gender in the Media Policy include Zanzibar Leo newspaper, Chuchu FM Radio, Mkoani Community Radio, Micheweni Community Radio and Pemba Press Club on the Isles. From the mainland were Pangani FM Radio, Radio Nuur, Huruma FM Radio, Mwananchi Communications Limited and The Guardian Ltd.

All approached media outlets did not have gender policy and their management teams agreed that the policy would help them in strengthening gender mainstreaming efforts.



4.2.4 Conduct two (2) media management courses for women journalists

In 2020 MCT trained 31 senior female journalist, editors and media managers in two media management trainings. The Council organized three-day media management trainings intended to equip female journalists with necessary skills to manage media outlets. The training was held in Dar es Salaam, with participants from Dar es Salaam and in Tanga where members came from different parts of the country except Dar es Salaam. The training was attended by senior female journalists from various media outlets: electronic, print and online. Participants came from private media, public media (government owned) and community media.

The course outline for training included Introduction to Media Management, Human Resource Management (managing people and policies), Financial Management and Controls, Managing Multi-platform Newsroom (Responding to technological advancement in media and communication), and Leadership and Ethics. Other topics were Media Ownership and Editorial Independence; Online Journalism, and Media Related Laws. The trainees had opportunity to share experiences on challenges faced by women in the newsrooms as well as women managers' need for effectiveness and resilience.

The WIN research report was also discussed and as way forward some of the challenges mentioned in the research report were turned into opportunities. The training main objective was to enable participating female journalists to understand their potential and have the confidence to take a more active role in their workplaces. The training aims to help female journalists in moving to managerial positions in the media.

According to information collected from post-training evaluation forms, the training was successful. For most, it was an eye opener as they obtained new knowledge from the training. The experience sharing session was critical as the trainees were able to open up and ask many questions related to the challenges they have been encountering while performing their duties.

The training increased confidence to some. Participation was high throughout the three training days. The course was based on a participatory approach and every participant made a brief presentation on an issue of management and how media can include more women in management. Some feedback is that others were able to even face their seniors and have dialogue in various implementation issues at their workplace.

4.2.5 Consultative meeting with potential mentors for pilot mentorship

MCT in collaboration with TAMWA organized a one day consultative meeting with potential mentors in Dar es Salaam whereas ten veteran female journalists attended the meeting to discuss and recommend the best ways to run the mentoring programme during the second phase of the Women in the Media project.

The meeting participants came from Zanzibar, Dar es Salaam and Tanga and comprised of experienced senior journalists, media managers and those currently retired but working as media consultants and mentors.

The meeting was guided by the mentoring project agreed proposal where potential mentors discussed and agreed on modalities of mentor and mentee selection, monitoring of mentees and guidance, mentors' inclusiveness and reporting.

4.3 Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT)

Every year, MCT and its partners organise the EJAT with the aim of recognizing and rewarding outstanding work in journalism published in the preceding year. The partners who form the EJAT Organizing Committee are MCT, Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), Media Institute of Southern Africa-Tanzania (MISA-Tan), Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA), Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC), HakiElimu, Sikika and Agriculture Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF).

EJAT 2019 was launched at a press event in September 2019 at MCT offices.

This was the 11th edition of the Awards and featured 21 different categories three of which were new, namely Innovations for



Human Development, Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management and Adverse Effects of Chemicals to Health and Environment.

After launch of the 2019 Awards, Tanzanian journalists from print, electronic and online media were invited to submit entries in respective categories from their work published and aired between January and December 2019. The journalists were given six months to submit their works (September 2019 to February 31, 2020). The organising committee received a total of 450 entries from journalists countrywide.

Like other activities, EJAT was affected by the outbreak of the COVID 19 pandemic. Activities that were affected was judging entries and the gala night. Activities that were planned for March/ April were shifted to June and later on to September because of restrictions in public gatherings.

This situation also affected stakeholders who were to support EJAT 2019 financially thus delaying the fundraising component of the activity.

The Council continued with fundraising efforts and on September 28, 2020, EJAT gala night was held. For the first time since its inception in 2009, the EJAT Gala Night was held outside Dar es Salaam.

In 2020, 450 entries were received, whereas Dar es Salaam based journalists took the lead with 154 entries followed by those from Mwanza Region with 30 entries, Zanzibar and Kagera in the third position with 29 entries each, Tanga was fourth with 28 entries and Arusha fifth with 21 entries. The entries received were from a total of 68 media outlets, whereas electronic media (TV and Radio) submitted 262 (58.2%) works, print media submitted 180 (40%) works, while online media submitted 8 (1.8%) works. Entries from Online media remain very few and efforts should be made to encourage more Online journalists to participate.

Mwananchi Communications Limited submitted the highest number of entries (61), followed by The Guardian Limited (41), Tanzania Standard Newspapers (33), Pangani FM (25) and TBC 24 entries.



Table 2: Categories and entries submitted in 2019

No.	Categories	Frequency	Percent
1.	Oil, Gas, and Mining Governance Reporting Award	6	1.5
2.	Culture and Sports Reporting Award	10	4.5
3.	Agriculture and Agri - business Reporting Award	18	4.5
4.	Education Reporting Award	43	9.9
5.	Tourism and Conservation Reporting Award	24	6.0
6.	Investigative Reporting Award	10	1.5
7.	Data Journalism Award	14	3.5
8.	Good Governance Reporting Award	27	6.7
9.	Best Photo Journalist Award	10	1.7
10.	Best Cameraman Award	10	1.5
11.	Best Editorial Cartoonist Award	10	1.5
12.	Gender Reporting Award	36	8.9
13.	Elderly Reporting Award	7	1.7
14.	Children Reporting Award	37	9.2
15.	Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting Award	43	9.9
16.	Innovations for Human Development Reporting Award	12	3.0
17.	Road Safety Reporting Award	23	5.7
18.	Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management Reporting Award	30	5.0
19.	Open Category	50	11.7
20.	Economics and Finance Reporting Award	13	3.2
21.	Adverse Effects of Chemicals to Health and Environment Reporting Award	7	1.7
	Total	450	100.0

Regarding entries in each category, in EJAT 2019, the Open category took the lead by having 50 entries and was followed by Education and Sexual and Reproductive Health Reporting with 43 entries each and Children reporting (37). Interestingly, these four categories including Gender Reporting (36) also shined in 2018 awards where they also appeared in the list of top five categories with many entries. A new category on Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management Reporting also had a high number of entries at 20.

The judging process was preceded by the swearing-in of the judges before a retired High Court Judge, the then Chairperson of the Ethics Committee Justice Juxon Mlay. They were sworn to carry out the judging exercise with honesty and integrity. A joint report on judging was submitted to MCT and was shared with its partners and other media stakeholders. EJAT 2019 judging process involved six judges as follows:

Table 3: The Panel of Judges

SN	Name	Role in the panel
1	Pudenciana Temba	Chairperson
2	Pili Mtambalike	Secretary
3	Mkumbwa Ally	Member
4	Mohammed Kisengo	Member
5	Khalfan Said	Member
6	Imane Duwe	Member

The Gala Night for the 2019 EJAT was held on September 28, 2020, at the Tanga Beach Resort, in Tanga Region and attended by over 200 people. The event was graced by the Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela. Others dignitaries in attendance included the Regional Administrative Secretary, Tanga District Commissioner, Regional Police Commander and the Regional Medical Officer (RMO). The event was also attended by representatives of MCT members from across the country who had just completed their annual National General Convention (NGC).

The event witnessed 80 nominees being awarded among them 41 winners, 20 first runners up and 19 second runners up.

Two journalists, one from Azam Media Group and another from Mwananchi Communications Ltd, emerged overall winners. The awardees were given crystal trophies engraved with their names, cash prizes and certificates, while overall winners were also awarded TZS 3,000,000 each as bursary.

4.3.1 Launch of 2020 EJAT

The EJAT 2020 competition was launched during the EJAT 2019 gala night held in Tanga on September 28, 2020 by the Tanga Regional Commissioner, Martine Shigela.

This will be the 12th edition of EJAT whose aim and spirit is to recognize media practitioners for outstanding performance.

EJAT 2020 categories are Finance and Economy Award; Sport and Culture; Agribusiness;

Conservation and Tourism; Investigative Reporting; Data Journalism; Human Rights and Good Governance. Other categories are Best Photographer – Print; Best Cameraman; Best Cartoonist; Gender and Children Reporting; Gas, Oil and Mining; Reporting on the Disable; Reporting on Health; Innovation and Development; Menstrual Health: Road Safety and Open category.

4.4 National Journalism Curricula activities

National Journalism Curricula for NTA levels 4, 5 and 6 expired at the end of 2019. MCT approached NACTE for partnership in the review exercise, a request that NACTE accepted. MCT and NACTE worked together with various stakeholders during the year in the curricula review process that included conducting situational analysis, consultative meetings, reviews and validation of the reviewed curricula.

4.5 Communicating Demographic Dividend in Tanzania

In 2020 the Council in collaboration with Pathfinder International developed a guide for journalists on Demographic Dividend entitled “Media Working to Support Tanzania’s Efforts to Harness the Demographic Dividend for Development”. The 25-page guide is meant to orient journalists on how to report on development matters pertaining to Demographic Dividend in Tanzania. It is packed with knowledge, methods and skills and comes in the wake of government and its stakeholders’ desire to see Demographic Dividend reported exhaustively



and successfully for necessary grasp and implementation by all concerned.

The guide is based on a study presented in The Tanzania Demographic Dividend Report, 2017, which examines Tanzania's prospects of harnessing the demographic dividend to support the government of Tanzania to achieve its Vision 2025 and accelerate progress.

4.5.1 Dissemination conference for media

On July 25, 2020 MCT and Pathfinder International organised a half-day peer review meeting on the new journalists guide. The meeting was attended by 25 participants among them editors, senior reporters and health practitioners. They included 16 men and 9 women.

The presentations included background on the media guide project and an overview of the guide itself. Participants gave recommendations in areas which needed improvement and the use of proper terminologies as directed by the Ministry of Health. Other proposals included having a Kiswahili version of the guide.

The publication was launched in a ceremony held in Tanga on September 28, 2020 and attended by MCT members who were in Tanga for National General Convention (NGC) and other stakeholders. A total of 300 copies of the guide were printed and distributed to the media and media stakeholders.

On October 26, 2020 MCT organized a roundtable discussion for senior editors at MCT premises in Dar es Salaam. The editors represented Azam Media Group, EFM & TV, Nipashe, Majira, Mwananchi, The Citizen, Wasafi Media and Mtanzania. The roundtable aimed at disseminating the publication and sharing experiences and challenges of media outlets during the 2020 general election campaigns and what can be done to avert similar challenges in future elections.

During the meeting, the editors were briefed about the guide and why issues of Demographic Dividend were important.

They were also given copies of the book for use in their media houses.

The editors also discussed challenges they faced during 2020 general election and asked the Council to organise a stakeholders' forum to discuss these with key stakeholders that include Department of Information (Maelezo), TCRA, TEF, MCT, MISA Tanzania, observers and others.

4.5.2 Conduct Demographic Dividend (DD) reporting workshops

MCT and Pathfinder International conducted DD reporting and dissemination workshops of the media guide in five zones in December 2020. The zonal training sessions were conducted in Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Kilimanjaro, Iringa, and Mbeya.

A total of 100 journalists participated, among them 51 men and 49 women from Dar es Salaam, Mtwara, Lindi, Morogoro, Coast, Arusha, Tanga, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Njombe Ruvuma, Geita, Simiyu, Shinyanga, Kagera, Kigoma, Mara, Iringa, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Mbeya, Rukwa, Katavi and Mwanza.

The journalists were taken through media ethics, Demographic Dividend concept and findings; what is in the media guide and how best they could report Demographic Dividend issues. Participants were required to develop action plans on when they would start publishing Demographic Dividend related stories and how many stories they would be able to publish.

5.0 GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MONITORING

The Governing Board continued to provide guidance to the Secretariat to enable it execute the Council's mandate.

5.1 Committee and Board meetings

The Governing Board held three meetings in 2020 to deliberate and endorse Audit Committee recommendation to adopt the 2019 audited financial statements and implementation report. The Board approved the Succession Plan and started ES recruitment process. The Board also approved policy review in the Human Resources manual and procedures and approved new policies relating to Environment Management, Human Rights, Gender and Risk Management Strategy. The Board also approved the revised Board Charter. It also convened the 22nd National General Convention and recommended names of the new Governing Board members.

The Board deliberated on the recruitment of the Executive Secretary, made approval of reviewed 2020 Work Plan and Budget and approved 2021 Annual Work Plan, as well as the Procurement Plan and Budget.

ES Recruitment Committee held three meetings and one capacity building training for two MCT management team members at MCT offices in 2020.

The Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) held four meetings in 2020. Major issues disposed of were staff contracts and benefits and review of human resources policies. FAC discussed the proposed agenda for 22nd National General Convention (NGC) to the Board and also adopted the 2020 Revised Annual Work Plan and Budget and recommended to the Board for approval. The FAC also deliberated on the proposed 2021 Work Plan, Budget and Procurement Plan

and recommended to the Board.

The Audit Committee held one meeting to discuss 2019 Council financial statement and audit recommendations. The Committee also discussed the appointment of external auditor for undertaking Audit of 2020 MCT financial affairs.

The Ethics Committee held one meeting to discuss the state of the media for 2020 and Council litigation efforts.

The Board of Trustees held its annual meeting to take stock of the media performance, issues of press freedom and access to information especially in handling COVID 19 information and general election. The BoT also deliberated on MCT sustainability and approved assets due for disposal.

The Trustees also paid a courtesy visit to EPZA Director General to discuss among other things the fate of MCT Zinga farm in Bagamoyo. The Trustees secured commitment from the Director General on the position of the MCT farm. The DG agreed to write to Bagamoyo Land Office, informing them of MCT intentions to develop the area and that the MCT farm is not part of the expropriated land.

The Board Search Committee held four meetings, physical and virtual, to discuss and propose names of candidates for the new Governing Board of the Council for the period of three years, 2020 - 2023. The Committee presented the names to the Board for endorsement and recommendation to the NGC.

The Council organised an induction session for the new Governing Board members elected on September 28, 2020. The induction was followed by bidding farewell to the Governing Board members who had completed their tenure and welcoming new Board members.

The Governing Board members and Trustees were insured with the Group Life Insurance as per Council policy.

The management team held a total of 22 meetings to deliberate on various issues of Council operations. The issues discussed range from fundraising, staff welfare, governance, networking and donor relations,



programme implementation and issues of office accommodation, including efforts for acquisition of own premises.

5.2 National General Convention

The 22nd NGC was held on September 28, 2020 at Tanga Beach Hotel in Tanga and among other things the Convention approved 2019 MCT Financial Statements and appointed external auditors Auditax International to audit 2020 MCT financial statements. The Convention also adopted the 2019 Implementation Report and elected a new Governing Board. The Convention also extended ES employment contract to December 2020.

The Council recruited five new members in 2020 namely HUHESO FM Radio, Radio Ushindi FM (Tanzania Assemblies of God - TAG), Azam Media Ltd, Ndalini Media Solution LTD and Medicopress.

5.3 Funding matters

The Council continued with its fundraising efforts for implementation of planned activities. The Council expanded its network in terms of funding and approached non-traditional funders. The Resource Mobilization Team utilized various networks and channels for possible funding. One new funder came in and discussions are on-going. The funding is expected to be realized in 2021 because the funding ecosystem was affected by the COVID 19. The pandemic hampered fundraising efforts because the grant makers were also affected by the pandemic, causing delays in negotiations and/or shifting the funding focus to activities related to COVID 19.

The Council engaged three international fundraising experts, a British, Canadian and Tanzanian to assist in fundraising efforts with Global Affairs Canada (GAC) after MCT was successful in the preliminary proposal. The GAC fundraising efforts were not successful.

The Council continued to engage with its partners and donors. The engagements were through check-in virtual meetings and annual review meetings where two meetings were held with Sida, two meetings were held with OSIEA and one meeting with Ford Foundation. The Council also held three meetings with Vikes and two meetings with

a philanthropist who funds MCT. Besides financial well-being issues discussed in the meetings, the engagements also reviewed programme performances in the face of the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Council participated in a week-long retreat in Arusha along with Vikes, Center for Investigative Journalism (CIJ) of Nepal, MISA-Tan and TAMWA to review 2019 Women in the Newsroom (WIN) activities and agree on the implementation of 2020 WIN activities. The retreat also planned for the submission of a new funding request for the Women in the Media (WIM) project. The partners were able to secure funding for implementation of the project starting 2021 to 2024. Implementation for the four year project will start in 2021.

During the period under review the Council participated in the meeting with Internews in January 2020 a feedback meeting to discuss MCT/Internews partnership on the Boresha Habari project.

The Council attended a Skype meeting with the High Commission of Canada in April 2020.

The Council managed to mobilize partners and sponsors to fund the Excellence in Journalism Awards 2019 held on September 2020 in Tanga. Sponsors and partners who contributed to EJAT 2019 are Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF), Jukwaa la Hedhi Salama (Forum for Menstrual Health and Hygiene Management), Government Chemist Laboratory Agency (GCLA), Tanzania Media Foundation (TMF), Kituo cha Sheria na Haki za Binadamu (LHRC), Natural Resource Governance Institute (NRGI), Azam TV, Coca Cola, Uhuru Media Group, Tanzania Breweries Limited (TBL) and Global Road Safety.

The Council on behalf of the EJAT organizing Committee duly thanked these sponsors and issued them with certificates.

5.4 Networking and Media Relations

During the period under review the Council continued to collaborate with its stakeholders and partners in various areas. The Council reaffirmed that collaborating



with committed partners in matters of mutual interest contributes to achieving institutional objectives. In the spirit of “Umoja ni Nguvu” (Unity is Strength), concerted efforts and joint voices help to put pressure on the relevant authorities and thus advance partners’/MCT agenda. The Council continued to strengthen its relationship with regional and international networks with whom it shares values and principles.

In 2020 many engagements were limited to virtual meetings due to COVID 19 pandemic and travel restrictions thereon. The Council like other organizations closed its offices and staff worked from home between March and June 2020. Thereafter, staff rotated between working in office and working from home, where a few would be in office and the rest at home. MCT would like to thank its well-wishers and Ford Foundation for facilitating MCT staff to work from home.

5.4.1 Internally

The following are some of the many local engagements in which MCT took part.

The Council participated in seminar to discuss combating corruption in the 2020 general election. The meeting was organised by the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in July 2020 in Dar es Salaam. The seminar aimed at ensuring that principles of democracy and good governance were preserved in the country.

The Council attended a seminar organised by TAMWA in the Women in Newsroom project where the seminar brought in Women Journalist from all over the country to share experiences and discuss how to better their work. The seminar was held in Dar es Salaam in July 2020.

MCT attended TEF retreat and AGM held at Morena Hotel in Dodoma in August 2020. The of the retreat was “*The Role of Media in 2020 Tanzania General Election*”.

The Council participated in the validation workshop for Journalism Curricula (NTA Levels 4-6) in July 2020 organised by NACTE in Dar es Salaam.

The Council was invited by the US Ambassador on September 16 to the US Embassy for the breakfast meeting and discussing possible support in monitoring general election issues in Tanzania. Further to that the Council was invited by the Swedish Ambassador on October 05 to discuss general election media monitoring in Zanzibar. The Council participated also in a breakfast meeting organised by Ambassador of the US, Dr. Donald J. Wright, on September 08, 2020 in Dar es Salaam.

The Council was also sought by the African Union Election Observer Team led by former Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan to brief them on the situation in the country as it moved towards elections. The ES met the AU Team at Serena Hotel in Dar es Salaam on October 26, just two days before the elections, and held two hours of briefing and discussions.

The Council participated in the Annual General Meeting of the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs (UTPC) held in Morogoro on November 16 and 17, 2020. Among other things they also elected the new Board members of the Union. The Council was invited and accepted to form a committee to start a dialogue on setting up Tanzania Media Safety and Security Taskforce coordinated by UTPC.

The Council also participated in the 25th Anniversary celebrations of LHRC held in September 2020, and thereafter commemorated the International Human Rights Day 2020 and Maji Maji Human Rights Awards organised by LHRC on December 10, 2020.

MCT further attended Awards of the teachers, partners and students excelled in 2020 in Bagamoyo District on December 10, 2020. MCT was awarded a Certificate of Recognition for its efforts in supporting the building of classes for students in Bagamoyo district. As a property owner and stakeholder in Bagamoyo development, MCT had contributed to the construction of classrooms in the district.

MCT participated in a scheduled Zoom meeting organised by Internews Tanzania, to reflect the Success and challenges on media



coverage of elections in Tanzania. The meeting was held in November 2020.

The Council participated in the Embassy of Sweden Salary and Benefits Survey for CSOs in Tanzania. It also participated in a research project to assess funding practices among global foundations and public donors to better understand the impacts of covering, or not, grantees' financial needs. The participation contributed to a study that will inform global funding approaches to cover the total cost of project grants.

The Council attended a two day workshop organised by the Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC) on Secured Election Reporting to Online Media. The workshop took place in August 2020 at the Flomi Hotel in Morogoro. The Council facilitated the topic titled 'Balanced Election Reporting'.

MCT also participated in the first Directors' Forum for 2020. The theme of the meeting was *The Role of Civil Society Organisations in 2020 General Election*. The meeting was held in February 2020 in Dar es Salaam and key stakeholders took part in a lively panel discussion including a representative from NEC.

The Council hosted The Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) Programme Officer for Democratic Governance & Rule of Law, Cheryl Akinyi Odhiambo at its offices in Dar es Salaam and discussed MCT and OSIEA work.

MCT also participated in a round table organised by EALS on the rule of law and good governance at the which was held in Dar es Salaam.

The Embassy of Sweden organised a one-day workshop organised by on Multidimensional Poverty Analysis (MDPA) in March in Dar es Salaam and MCT was invited and attended a series of meetings between 30th April - 1st May 2020 organised jointly by THRDC and Foundation for Civil Society (FCS) aiming at developing approaches that could used to implement a joint action plan on COVID-19.

In May the Council joined a civic space working group which was formed to lead an advocacy campaign on improving the situation of civic space. The working group engages with representatives of civil society, media and government to advocate for an enabling environment that protests freedom of association, assembly and expression and find ways of addressing challenges of shrinking civic space.

The Council attended MISA-Tan validation meeting of the MSA Position Paper in Dodoma. The Council also attended a meeting organised by the Ministry of Constitution and Legal Affairs, Human Rights department to discuss a national work plan on human rights in Dodoma.

5.4.2 Regionally and Internationally

The Council also networked regionally and beyond. Some of the engagements during the year are outlined below.

MCT participated in the Belt and Road Africa Online Media Forum to discuss solidarity against COVID 19 between China and Africa in July. It also discussed in the rapid assessment of the impact of COVID 19 with the Ford Foundation in July 2020.

The Council was also invited to join the Belt and Road Journalists Network (BRJN), which is the platform for exchanges and cooperation jointly founded by 35 journalist organisations of countries and regions involved in the Belt and Road Initiative. The Spirit of the Silk and Road features "peace and cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutual benefit". The Council was enrolled as a member in August 2020.

MCT participated in an online forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 66th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights" held on July 09 and 10, 2020.

On the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists in November, MCT joined a virtual meeting organised by the Media Council of Kenya (MCK). The Council also participated as one of the panelist

in a breakaway session which discussed *Journalism in the COVID 19 Era: Safety Concerns and Experiences*.

MCT partnered with CPJ on the #FreeThePress campaign and MCT logo and name was also included in CPJ campaign page/letter. The campaign aimed at trying to keep track of COVID - 19 related attacks on the press, and to see how CPJ could be of assistance in advocacy.

As a result of the campaign a letter and petition was sent to U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres and the Secretary-General responded to confirm that he was making the campaign's goals a priority, writing, "No democracy can function without press freedom, which is the cornerstone of trust between people and their institutions, and which is most critical at a time of crisis when citizens demand accountability."

The Council attended a Leadership Strengthening Programme for Ford Foundation Grantees and Partners held on 17th August, 2020. Ford Foundation had engaged the Center for Effective Philanthropy (CEP), an independent non-profit organization, to conduct a confidential survey of its grantees.

In 2020 the Council commemorated 25th anniversary since its establishment. CPJ wrote to MCT to congratulate the Council on the anniversary. The note said:

"I hope you and your colleagues marked it in a meaningful way, despite the pandemic and all other overarching concerns. I was reading your Facebook post and was particularly impressed by your arbitration record. I am sure there are a few things we could all learn from you. All the best and wishing you another very good 25 years."

Muthoki Mumo, Representative, Sub-Saharan Africa, Committee to Protect Journalists.

During the year the Council worked closely Media Council of Kenya and Kenya Editors Guild. The Council also worked closely with WAPC, Uganda Media Council, Independent Media Council of Zimbabwe and Rwanda High Media Council.

The Council paid membership fees to all associations which MCT or its staff belong to such as WAPC, IPI, ATE, IoDT and NBAA

5.5 External Audit

The external audit for 2019 MCT accounts was carried out as scheduled by Auditax International who gave an unqualified opinion. The financial statements form part of this annual report. The 22nd NGC also re-appointed Auditax International to Audit MCT accounts for year ending December 31, 2020.

Auditax International also separately audited the project WIN and gave a clean report.

5.6 Annual reports, review, evaluation and planning

The Council carried out review and planning meetings to effectively ensure that the annual work plan was implemented timely and with quality. These included two periodic review and planning meetings at secretariat level. The annual evaluation and planning meeting was held in Bagamoyo in November 2020.

The Council conducted a semi annual review to match MCT work plan and realities.

The Council published 2019 Annual Report and disseminated it to the members during 22nd NGC.

5.7 Sustainability Matters

5.7.1 Zinga Farm

The Council continued following up the status of MCT Zinga farm with EPZA. In 2020 the Secretariat communicated with EPZA Director General office to seek appointment for Trustees to pay a courtesy call on the DG. The mission was not realized in the first half of the year because of the assembly restrictions imposed after the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic. This request followed the Board of Trustees directive to the Secretariat of December 2019 to seek an appointment with EPZA Director General to discuss the fate of MCT Zinga farm.



The Council managed to secure an appointment thereafter and on December 02, 2020, the Chairman of BoT, Prof Geoffrey Mmari led the Trustees and Secretariat team to visit EPZA. The meeting outcome was that the EPZA DG Col. Joseph Simbakalia, informed MCT that it can keep the property and decide on its development. The Director General of the EPZA also wrote a letter to the District Executive Director of Bagamoyo to grant MCT permission of developing its farm at Zinga, Bagamoyo and requested the DED to give necessary support required to develop the area.

The Council plans to engage the DED of Bagamoyo in 2021 on plans for development of the farm.

The Council continued to manage the farm and ensure that it was not encroached upon by sand miners and also paid land rental fee for the farm.

5.7.2 Kimalangómbe site

The Council continued to maintain its proposed headquarters at Kimalang'ombe area in Bagamoyo. Few maintenance activities were undertaken as required and the site was cleaned from time to time to ensure it does not become bushy. Land rent for all 19 plots was paid on time.

5.7.3 MCT Office at Tegeta Skanska Area

One of the big expenses in the Council's annual budget has always been office rent. A long-standing decision by the Board has been that MCT should work towards having its own office premises where it could also have an investment center for sustainability purposes.

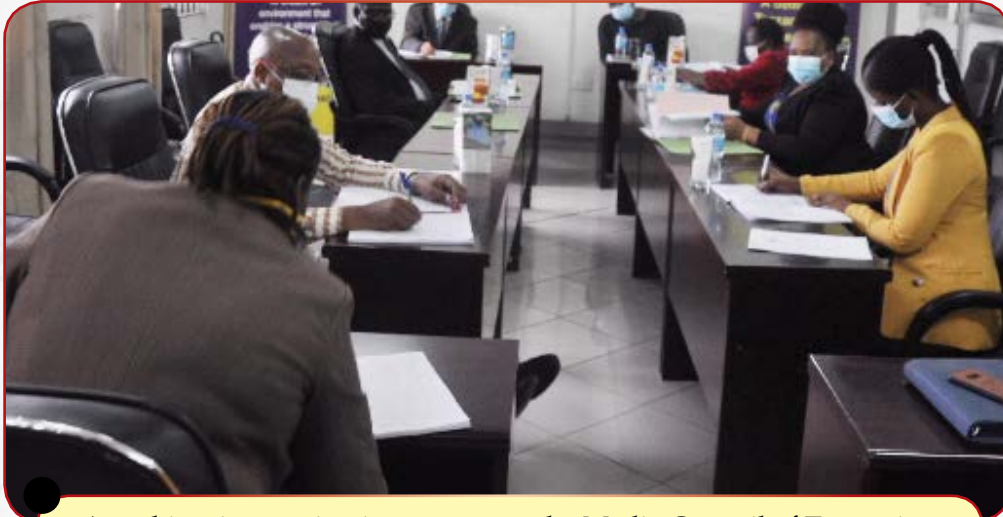
In the year 2010, the Council acquired land in Kimalangómbe, Bagamoyo District, and proceeded to commission a feasibility study which led to commissioning architectural drawings. The Council fenced the property with a brick wall, brought electricity to the site from the town mains, dug a deep well for water, and built a guard house. The Secretariat then embarked on fundraising by inviting members to contribute towards the development of MCT own offices, but the response has not been good.

The Management in its various meetings has deliberated the high cost of rent and time and again continued exploring options for MCT to solve the rent challenge, especially under the current situation where most donors offer project rather than core support, making administrative and governance activities suffer.

On 28 November 2020 during the Management Team (MT) meeting, Management reached the conclusion that staying at Josam House, a rented property in Mwenge, Dar es Salaam, was no longer tenable. Management formed a committee and assigned it to search for alternative premises to rent, and to search for a house to buy. After combing the whole city and inspecting several sites, a house at Mtongani Street, Kunduchi Ward, Tegeta Skanska area, along Bagamoyo Road, which is suitable for MCT offices, was identified. Management, approached that Finance and Administration Committee and after discussions and following necessary procedures the house was purchased. The house needed some repairs, and the plot has ample space for future development and the location is prime on a major city road/highway.

MCT expects to move in a new location at the end of January 2021 when the rent at the current rented premises expires.

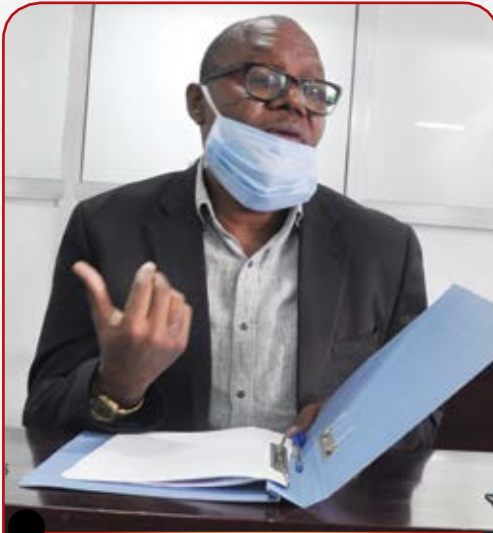
MCT now has got its own home!!



An arbitration session in progress at the Media Council of Tanzania.



Following the breakout of COVID 19 pandemic, the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) took precautionary measures in accordance to the restrictions of the disease as displayed by Elizabeth Munisi, a staff at the Council captured as she applies sanitizer

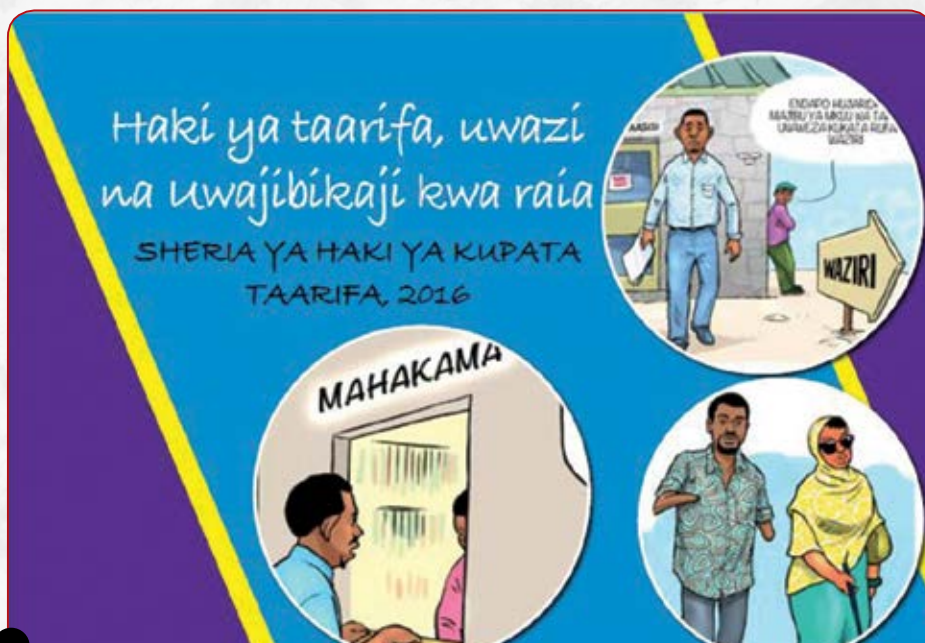
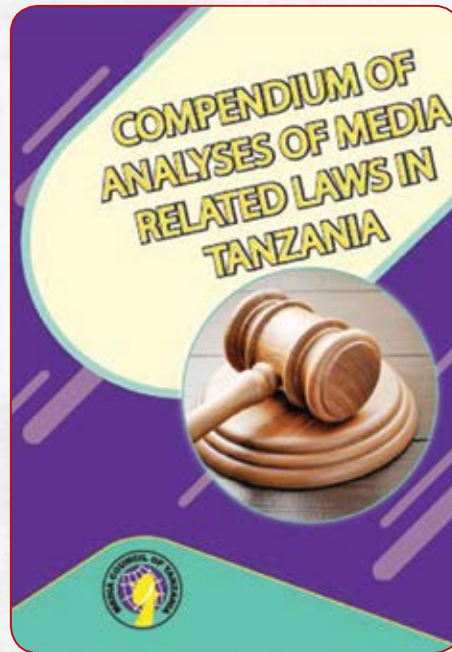
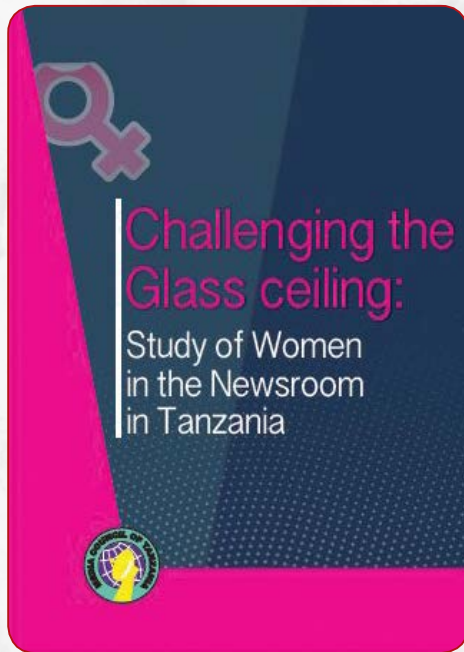


The Editor Mwananchi newspaper, Angetille Osiah, testifies during an arbitration session at the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT).



A delegation of the Media Council of Tanzania pose for a group photo with stakeholders and government officials during a working visit in Pemba.





Some of the publications produced by the Media Council of Tanzania.



The President of the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) retired Judge, Juxon Mlay speaks during the 22nd National General Convention held in Tanga.



The winners of the Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) 2019



The judges panel of the Excellence in Journalism Award Tanzania (EJAT) 2019 scrutinize entries.



The Coalition on the Right to Information (CoRI) captured during one of its meetings





Azory Gwanda reporter for Mwananchi newspaper who disappeared November 2017 and authorities have remained mum on his whereabouts or fate.



MCT Premises main Office



Editors and senior journalists attend specialised management training.



Women editors pose with Executive Secretary of the Media Council of Tanzania, Kajubi Mukajanga (seated centre) in a group photo after completing management training.

5.8 Programmes Monitoring and Evaluation

Programme Monitoring and evaluation was mainly carried out at activity level by the implementing officers. The Council also organized visits to some members to discuss various media operating concerns, issues of press freedom and access to information. The Council also discussed ethical reporting and adhering to professionalism. New members were recruited in the process.

The Council members and stakeholders visited included: Kagera Press Club, Humuliza FM, Radio Vision, Shnuz Radio, Radio Huruma, Pangani FM, Radio Nuur, Lindi Press Club, Mwenge Community College, Zanzibar Journalism College, Nachingwea FM and Ruanwa FM.

The Council officials visited the media houses to discuss media operations and challenges faced by the media in daily operations, where it was noted that media houses faced financial challenges because they do not get adverts which is the major source of income.

Another observable challenge was high self-censorship due to developed fear from frequent bans and punitive fining of the media outlets by government and regulators .

The Council also engaged a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Consultant to support Council MEL activities and analyse produced reports.

6.0 HUMAN RESOURCES AND ADMINISTRATION

The objective of this area is to effectively manage the utilization of human and material resources and provide effective logistical support to programme activities in order to insure the overall MCT objectives are realized efficiently and with quality.

6.1 Overview

The Council continued to take care of the physical and social well-being of its staff. The Council capitalised on consultants and volunteers to help in different activities of the Council. The Council mobilized the resources at its disposal to ensure that it supported staff, consultants and volunteers to discharge the project activities which were funded by specific donors, MCT partners, well-wishers and stakeholders.

6.2 Staffing

Since the Council started operating in disparate projects, it has been challenging to maintain staff compliments as required by the organogram and work plan. Staff welfare has suffered a lot making the Council fail to fully service its payroll. In January 2020 the Council had to review its policy on compensation and leave to align it with the new realities. Most of the staff contracts ended in March 2020 and the Council could no longer engage them. Instead, some staff were requested to volunteer until the Council funding situation normalizes. Other staff were engaged as consultants. Staff salaries were reduced by 7.5% to 15%. The Senior Programme Officer dealing with Press Freedom Violations decided to move on. The Council positioned itself in a manner that the available staff, volunteers and consultants were capable of discharging the programme work as planned.

6.3 Staff welfare

The Council ensured that all staff, their spouses and dependents were provided with a medical insurance cover provided by the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF), where the Council contributed on monthly basis. The Council contributed 100% of the medical insurance cover.

The Council also provided premium Group Life Insurance for employees as stipulated by the insurance cover to take care of staff life insurance against death, injuries and permanent disability.

The Council secured a support on working tools from Ford Foundation and a U.S Philanthropic Foundation to support staff



work from home due to COVID 19 pandemic. Between April and July 2020 staff worked from home to protect staff and their families from the disease. MCT had to redesign its operating modality to manage the situation. During that time many like-minded organisations were working remotely, no gatherings were allowed, thus physical meetings could not held.

When it was necessary for staff to come to work, only few staff were allowed to come to allow social distancing, all necessary precautions were taken by providing staff with protective gear such as masks and gloves. Sanitizers were provided to all staff.

Staff were informed on the effect and danger of the disease through learning sessions. Staff were trained on protection and how to protect their families. Fliers and posters were designed and shared with staff and placed in different parts of the office to enable staff familiarize themselves with the disease.

Staff were given access to all materials and information provided by the Ministry of Health, and World Health Organization (WHO) through emails, WhatsApp and text messages.

The Council received an Employer's Guide on Working from Home (WFH) during COVID-19 from the Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE) to assist members in managing workplace challenges of the COVID-19 crisis.

Also during the second half of the year the Council organised a learning session on the new EPOCA Online Content Regulations 2020. The session was meant to enlighten staff on the Regulations, their impact to the media and individual staff. The training also helped staff respond to various stakeholder's queries on the Regulations. The session was facilitated by Advocate Fulgence Massawe from LHRC.

The Council continued to strengthen its communication and correspondence channels by ensuring all staff were connected via internet and internal WhatsApp group. Available resources were put to good use

to ensure smooth implementation of the programmes work. During the period when staff were working remotely, the main communication channel was internet where staff were facilitated to buy internet bundles.

Staff meetings were used as the avenue for staff to discuss and share their Units' progress, implementation challenges and lessons learnt as well as discuss all matters related to their welfare and that of the Council. The sessions were also used as learning forums and inputting to the colleagues' plans.

The Council also designed its programming in such a way it created synergy between staff, thus ensuring team work.

6.4 Staff Training and Development

In-house training sessions were conducted to build staff capacity and equip them with necessary skills to undertake their assignment and broadening their general knowledge.

The Council staff participated in the advocacy training as part of Organisation Development coordinated by CBLI which was held in in two parts, first to develop the strategy and then advocacy skills training.

Two Council staff attended a two-day workshop on tax regulations and financial reporting organized by Deloitte and the Swedish Embassy in February, 2020. The workshop aimed at improving organization compliance to the new changes and requirements in the tax law.

The Council supported one staff to attend professional training on Auditing, IPSAS and IFRS in September 2020.

The Council staff attended a two day Digital Security Training organised by United Nations Human Rights East Africa Regional Office. The training was held in May virtually.

Furthermore, three staff members were supported to attend leadership training held in June, 2020. The Training was organised and facilitated by CBLI. This is a continuing course

aiming at developing staff to be good leaders. The course also saw staff assigned mentors to help staff grow professionally. Follow-up mentoring programme was for six months.

Four Council staff participated in 7 weeks free online course on media freedom and freedom of expression in Africa from June, 2020. The course was developed to honour the life and work of the late South African media freedom activist Jeanette Minnie.

MCT participated in the needs assessment of Mzumbe University Dar es Salam Campus College (MU-DCC) in suggesting study programmes that would meet the needs of an organization like MCT. The input was to help MUDCC in developing new study programmes at certificate, diploma, bachelor, masters and PhD levels which reflect market needs in the short, medium and long term.

6.5 Off-Site backup, Website Maintenance

During this period the Council continued to maintain its website and internet to ensure online communication service is accessible

at both Mainland and Zanzibar offices. The Council continued to run its Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) platforms to sustain information flow within and to the public.

Cats-Net (T) Ltd continued to man the offsite back-up and disaster recovery facility on MCT's behalf.

Marlink was engaged to provide internet services to the Dar office to allow smooth running and access to information. The Council website was updated regularly and the Council continued to run its social media platforms particularly Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to increase MCT visibility and as advocacy platforms, as well as to enable members and stakeholders to interact over relevant issues and directly provide feedback to MCT.

Reports on various MCT activities were uploaded on the website and Council social network platforms.

Signed by:



Kajubi D. Mukajanga,
Executive Secretary

Date:- 05 May 2021



MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

**ANNUALREPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**



MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

**ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS

Media Council of Tanzania
House No. KUN/MTN/532,
New Bagamoyo Road,
Tegeta Skanska Area,
P.O. Box 10160,
Dar es Salaam.
Tanzania.

BANKERS

Banc ABC,
Uhuru Height,
5& 6th Floor, Bibi Titi Mohamed Road,
P.O. Box 31,
Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania.

NBC Limited,
Corporate Branch,
P.O. Box 9082,
Dar es Salaam.
Tanzania.

CRDB Bank Limited,
P.O. Box 71960,
Dar es Salaam.
Tanzania.

NMB Bank,
P.O. Box 9213,
Dar es Salaam.
Tanzania.

AUDITORS

Auditax International,
Certified Public Accountants (Tanzania),
7th Floor, PPF Tower,
P.O. Box 77949,
Dar es Salaam.
Tanzania.



MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Governing Board members submit their report together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020, which disclose the state of affairs of Media Council of Tanzania (The Trust) as at that date.

INCORPORATION

Media Council of Tanzania registered Trustees (The Trust) is a body incorporated under the provisions of the Trustees' Incorporation Act, Cap, 318, R.E 2002.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The Media Council of Tanzania was established on June 30, 1995 as an Independent, voluntary, non-statutory body with the objective of promoting and maintaining freedom of the media in the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Trust has four main areas of programmatic focus:

- Media and Civic Space: Campaign for laws, regulations and standards that promote freedom of the media and quality of journalism;
- Mediation and Arbitration: Enhancement of media ethics and adjudicate cases filed at MCT against media products;
- Press Freedom Violations Register: Document press freedom violations, investigate them, assist victims to challenge violations including through courts of law; and
- Media Monitoring: Monitor media performance and state of the media for pro-active feedback and interventions with media houses, schools of journalism and government.

In 2020, the Trust registered the following core outputs:

- 1) Media Services Act (MSA) 2016 case challenged at East African Court of Justice (EACJ) was finalised at Appellate Division and ruled in favour of MCT and its Stakeholders;
- 2) Compendium on Media related laws and Regulations analyses disseminated;
- 3) EPOCA (Online Content) Regulations 2020 challenged at EACJ;
- 4) Case for Judicial Review against EPOCA (Online Content) Regulations 2020 supported at High Court in Iringa;
- 5) Reviewed Code of Ethics for Media Professionals published;
- 6) 43 Press Violation incidences reported and Annual Press Freedom Violations (PFV) report published;
- 7) Women in the Newsroom research findings published and disseminated;
- 8) Gender in the Media Policy document printed and disseminated;
- 9) Media campaign on adoption of MCT generated Gender in the Media policy for media houses was conducted to 10 media houses and the Media houses agreed to use the policy;
- 10) 31 senior women journalists were equipped with necessary skills to manage media houses in a Media Management Courses;
- 11) Excellence in Journalism Awards Tanzania (EJAT) organized;
- 12) Major Strategic Mediation session held in Chake Chake, Pemba between journalists, sources and government officials;



MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

- 13) World Press Freedom Day (WPDF), WRTK and IDEI commemorated;
- 14) National Journalism Curricula for levels 4, 5 and 6 reviewed;
- 15) Observer Status with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights granted to MCT;
- 16) Draft Constitution of the East African Media Councils Association written;
- 17) Two Coalition on the Right to Information (CoRI) meetings held;
- 18) Sensitization, advocacy and outreach activities via electronic media conducted in both Zanzibar and Mainland.
- 19) Own house for MCT Office headquarters acquired.

RESULTS FOR THE YEAR

The Council recorded a deficit of TZS 101,141,406 during the year ended 31st December, 2020 against TZS 408,783,840 recorded in the year ended 31st December 2019. The deficit was due to decrease in revenue/ grants particularly on direct costs and staff matters. The Council will make exerted effort to increase revenue/grants and control expenditure.

TRUSTEES

The Trustee were registered on September 14, 2011 and their office tenure is in effect for the 10 years up to September 13, 2021. The Trustee who held the office during the year and to the date of report were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Nationality</u>
Prof. Geoffrey Mmari	Tanzanian
Rt. Hon. Joseph Warioba	Tanzanian
Hon. Lady Justice Augusta Bubeshi	Tanzanian

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

In 2020, MCT elected new Board to a three years tenure. The Governing Board Members who held office during the year up to September 28, 2020;

Sno.	Name	Nationality	Position	End of tenure
1.	Hon. Justice Thomas Bashite Mihayo	Tanzanian	Chairperson	Sept 28, 2020
2.	Mr. Hassan Abdallah Mitawi	Tanzanian	Vice Chairperson	Sept 28, 2020
3.	Mr. Edmund Bernard Mndolwa	Tanzanian	Audit Committee Chairperson	Sept 28, 2020
4.	Ms. Bernadina Bernard Chahali	Tanzanian	Board Member	Sept 28, 2020
5.	Adv. Anna Aloys Henga	Tanzanian	Board Member	Sept 28, 2020
6.	Hon. Justice Juxon Isaac Mlay	Tanzanian	Ethics Committee Chairperson	Sept 28, 2020
7.	Mrs. Edda Williams Sanga	Tanzanian	Board Member	Sept 28, 2020
8.	Mr. Wallace Makengo Mauggo	Tanzanian	Board Member	Sept 28, 2020
9.	Mr. Bakari Stephen Machumu	Tanzanian	Board Member	Sept 28, 2020

The above Governing Board Members were elected on September 29, 2017 and their tenure ended September 28, 2020.

MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Governing Board Members who held office during the year from September 28, 2020 to date:

Sno.	Name	Nationality	Position	Held office from
1.	Hon. Justice Juxon Isaac Mlay	Tanzanian	Chairperson	Sept 28, 2020
2.	Mr. Yussuf Khamis Yussuf	Tanzanian	Vice Chairperson	Sept 28, 2020
3.	Ms. Teddy Mapunda	Tanzanian	Member	Sept 28, 2020
4.	Adv. Anna Aloys Henga	Tanzanian	Member	Sept 28, 2020
5.	Ms. Joyce Ntobi Bazira	Tanzanian	Member	Sept 28, 2020
6.	Mrs. Edda Williams Sanga	Tanzanian	Member	Sept 28, 2020
7.	Mr. Tido Dunstan Mhando	Tanzanian	Member	Sept 28, 2020
8.	Mr. Bakari Stephen Machumu	Tanzanian	Member	Sept 28, 2020
9.	Mr. Happiness Nkya	Tanzanian	Member	Sept 28, 2020

Four Governing Board members were eligible for re-election and were re-elected to serve another three years as required by the constitution. Apart from the Executive Secretary, no other member holds executive position in the Trust. The governing Board takes overall responsibility of the Trust including: Identification of the key risks areas, considering investment decisions, significant financial matters and reviewing the performance of management plans and budgets.

The Governing Board met three times in the year 2020. Below are Board directives and deliberations;

1. The Board appointed external auditors to audit 2020 Financial Statements.
2. The Board received and approved 2019 Implementation and Financial reports.
3. The Board approved the Succession Plan.
4. The Board approved 2020 Work Plan and Budget.
5. The Board Approved 2021 Work Plan and Budget.
6. The Board approved reviewed HR and Administration policies.
7. The Board approved the acquisition of MCT own premises for its headquarters.
8. The Board convened the National General Convention

COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD

The Media Council of Tanzania has three committees namely Ethics committee, Finance and Administration Committee and Audit Committee. The members who held office during the year and to the date of this report were:

1) Ethics Committee Members:

Name	Nationality	Position
Mr. Tido Mhando	Tanzanian	Chairperson
Mrs. Edda Williams Sanga	Tanzanian	Vice chairperson
Adv. Anna Aloys Henga	Tanzanian	Member
Ms. Joyce Ntobi Bazira	Tanzanian	Member
Mr. Happiness Nkya	Tanzanian	Member

The Ethics Committee (EC) met once in year 2020 to deliberate on the state of the media for 2020 and the Council litigation efforts



MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

2. Finance and Administration Committee Members:

S/N	Name	Nationality	Position
1.	Mr. Hassan Abdallah Mitawi	Tanzanian	Chairperson (former)
2.	Mr. Yussuf Khamis Yussuf	Tanzanian	Chairperson
3.	Mr. Wallace Makengo Mauggo	Tanzanian	Member (Former)
4.	Ms. Teddy Mapunda	Tanzanian	Vice Chairperson
5.	Adv. Anna Aloys Henga	Tanzanian	Member
6.	Mr. Bakari Stephen Machumu	Tanzanian	Member

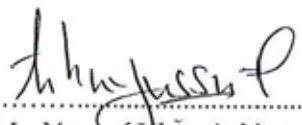
The Finance and Administration Committee met four times in year 2020. Below are the Committee deliberations;

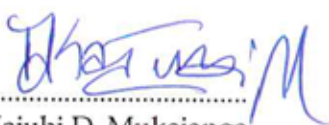
1. Disposed of staff contracts and benefits issues;
2. Review of Human Resources, Administration and General operating policies;
3. Proposed agenda for 22nd National General Convention (NGC);
4. Adopted the 2020 Revised Annual Work Plan and Budget;
5. Recommended adoption of 2021 Work Plan and Budget and procurement plan;

3. Audit Committee (AC) Members:

S/N	Name	Nationality	Position
1.	Mr. Edmund Bernard Mndolwa	Tanzanian	Chairperson (Former)
2.	Hon. Justice Juxon Isaac Mlay	Tanzanian	Member
3.	Bakari Stephen Machumu	Tanzanian	Member
4.	Mrs. Edda Williams Sanga	Tanzanian	Member

The Audit Committee met once in year 2020 to discuss the 2019 Council financial statement and audit recommendations, also the committee discussed the appointment of external auditor for undertaking audit of 2020 MCT financial affairs.


.....
Mr. Yussuf Khamis Yussuf
Vice President
05 / 05 / 2021


.....
Kajubi D. Mukajanga
Executive Secretary
05 May 2021

MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES


GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Section 22 (6) of the constitution of Media Council of Tanzania, Registered Trustees (the Trust) requires the Governing Board members to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust as at the end of financial year and of its surplus or deficit for that year. It also requires the Governing Board members to ensure that the Trust keeps proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Trust. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Trust and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud, error and other irregularities.


The Governing Board members are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that give true and fair view in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Act, and for such internal controls as Governing Board members determine are necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Governing Board members accept responsibility for the financial statements, which have been prepared using appropriate accounting policies supported by reasonable and prudent judgements and estimates, in conformity with International Financial Reporting Standards and in the manner required by the Trustees' Incorporation Act Cap 318, R.E. 2002. The Governing Board members are of the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of its operating results. The Governing Board members further accept responsibility for the maintenance of accounting records which may be relied upon in the preparation of financial statements, as well as adequate systems of internal control.

Nothing has come to the attention of the Governing Board members to indicate that the Trust will not remain a going concern for at least the next twelve months from the date of this statement.


Yussuf Khamis Yussuf
Vice-President

05 / 05 / 2021


Kajubi D. Mukajanga
Secretary to the Board

05 May 2021



**DECLARATION OF THE HEAD OF FINANCE/ACCOUNTING OF MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA
REGISTERED TRUSTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

I Mustapha Peter Tarimo Finance Manager of Media Council of Tanzania registered Trustee hereby acknowledges my responsibility of ensuring that financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2020 have been prepared in compliance with applicable accounting standards and statutory requirements.

I thus confirm that the financial statements give a true and fair view position of Media Council of Tanzania registered Trustee as on that date and that they have been prepared based on properly maintained financial records.

Signed by: 

Mr: Mustapha T. Peter

Position: Finance Manager

NBAA Membership No.: ACPA 2977

Date: 05/05/2021



PPF Tower, 7th Floor, Garden Avenue / Ohio Street
P.O.Box 77949, Dar es Salaam
M: +255 719 878 490 • T: +255 22 212 0692
E: info@auditaxinternational.co.tz
www.auditaxinternational.co.tz

**Independent Auditor's Report
To the Members of Media Council of Tanzania Registered Trustees**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements
For the financial year ended 31 December 2020**

Unqualified Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Media Council of Tanzania Registered Trustees, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Trust's as at 31 December 2020, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Tanzania and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. There were no key audit matters to report for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities of Management and those charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with IFRSs, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.





PPF Tower, 7th Floor, Garden Avenue / Ohio Street
P.O.Box 77949, Dar es Salaam
M: +255 719 878 490 • T: +255 22 212 0692
E: info@auditaxinternational.co.tz
www.auditaxinternational.co.tz

**Independent Auditor's Report
To the Members of Media Council of Tanzania Registered Trustees**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements
For the financial year ended 31 December 2020**

Responsibilities of Management and those charged with Governance for the Financial Statements (continued)

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Report on other Legal and Regulatory requirements

In our opinion, the accounting and other records required by the Trustees' Incorporation Act, Cap 318, and R.E.2002 to be kept by the Trust have been properly kept in accordance with the provisions of the Act, 2002.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is Straton Makundi

Auditax International
Certified Public Accountants
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Signed by: Straton Makundi (CPA-PP)
Registration No. ACPA 1747

Date... 06 May2021



STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

DESCRIPTION	NOTE	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
INCOME:			
Revenue	4	1,056,413,624	1,498,272,649
Other income	5	117,719,693	54,081,300
TOTAL REVENUE		1,174,133,317	1,552,353,949
Operating costs	6	(1,275,274,723)	(1,961,137,789)
Surplus before income tax		(101,141,406)	(408,783,840)
Income tax		-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year		(101,141,406)	(408,783,840)

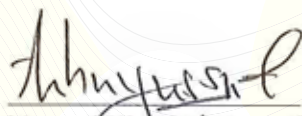



**MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

DESCRIPTION	NOTE	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
ASSETS:			
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	1,386,278,613	1,320,743,652
Net Non Current Assets		1,386,278,613	1,320,743,652
Finance Lease		51,917,929	123,448,807
Intangible Assets	8	18,305,826	6,352,500
Total Non Current Assets		1,456,502,368	1,450,544,959
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Accounts receivables	9	85,578,350	76,824,547
Fixed Deposit		-	100,000,000
Bank and cash balances	10	138,952,015	172,016,838
Total Current Assets		224,530,365	348,841,385
TOTAL ASSETS		1,681,032,733	1,799,386,344
EQUITY:			
Capital & Recerves			
Capital Grant	11	125,346,926	139,274,362
Retained surplus		322,542,932	430,036,836
Revaluation reserve		597,900,240	597,900,240
Total Equity & Recerves		1,045,790,098	1,167,211,438
Liabilities			
LIABILITIES:			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease Payable		51,917,929	104,205,202
Accounts payables	14	583,324,706	527,969,704
TOTAL LIABILITIES		635,242,635	632,174,906
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		1,681,032,733	1,799,386,344

The financial statements on pages 10 to 28 were approved and authorised for issue by the Governing Board members on 05 May 2021 and signed on its behalf by:


Yussuf Khamis Yussuf
Vice-President


Kajubi D. Mukajanga
Executive Secretary

**MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020**

	NOTE	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Cash flow from operating activities			
Surplus for the year		(101,141,406)	(408,783,840)
<i>Adjustments:</i>		-	-
Revenue grants		(1,056,413,624)	(1,552,353,949)
Amortisation of capital grants		(13,927,436)	(98,792,173)
Depreciation		154,862,066	254,748,931
Amortisation of leasehold land		78,424,146	-
Foreign exchange gain		(745,315)	(12,141,694)
		(938,941,569)	(1,817,322,725)
Movement in working capital:			
(Increase)/Decrease in accounts receivable		(8,753,803)	(5,904,951)
Increase/(Decrease) in accounts payable		55,355,002	147,004,576
Net cash generated/(used) in operations		(892,340,369)	(1,676,223,100)
Cash flow from investing activities			
Purchase of property and equipment		(156,948,327)	(12,010,000)
Proceeds from disposal of plant and equipment		-	4,000,000
Net cash generated/(used) in investing activities		(156,948,327)	(8,010,000)
Cash flow from financing activities			
Grants received		1,016,223,874	1,194,326,211
Net cash generated/(used) from financing activities		1,016,223,874	1,194,326,211
Movement in cash and cash equivalents			
At start of year		172,016,838	661,923,727
Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalent		(33,064,823)	(489,906,889)
Cash & Cash equivalent at the end of year		138,952,015	172,016,838



MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

DESCRIPTION	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
	TZS	TZS
At start of year	430,036,836	838,720,728
Prior year adjustment	(6,252,550)	-
Restated opening balance	423,784,286	838,720,728
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(101,141,406)	(408,783,840)
At end of the year	322,642,880	429,936,888

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all periods presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) Interpretation issued and effective at the time of preparation, and applicable legislation. The financial statements are prepared on the going concern basis.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenses during the reporting period. Although these estimates are based on managements' best knowledge of current events and actions, actual results may ultimately differ from those estimates. The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Trust's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are disclosed on note 3 to the financial statements.

(b) Changes in Accounting policies and disclosures

i) The following new and amended IFRS were effective from 31 December 2019:

- *IFRS 16 -Leases*

IFRS 16 sets out the principles for the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of leases and replaces the previous Standards IAS 17 Leases and related IFRIC and SIC Interpretations. The IASB published IFRS 16 because it was aware that the previous lease accounting model was criticized for failing to provide a faithful representation of leasing transactions. In particular, the previous accounting model made a distinction between finance and operating leases and did not require lessees to recognize assets and liabilities arising from operating leases.

IFRS 16 requires a lessee to recognize assets and liabilities for leases with a term of more than 12 months, unless the underlying asset is of low value. A lessee is required to recognize a right-of-use asset representing its right to use the underlying leased asset and a lease liability representing its obligation to make lease payments. As a consequence, a lessee also recognizes depreciation of the right-of-use asset and interest on the lease liability, and classifies cash repayments of the lease liability into a principal portion and an interest portion and presents them in the statement of cash flows applying IAS 7 Statement of Cash Flows.

IFRS 16 also contains disclosure requirements for lessees. Lessees will need to apply judgement in deciding upon the information to disclose in order to meet the objective of providing a basis for users of financial statements to assess the effect that leases have on the financial position, financial performance and cash flows of the lessee.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

IFRS 16 substantially carries forward the lessor accounting requirements that are in IAS 17. Accordingly, a lessor continues to classify its leases as operating leases or finance leases, and to account for those two types of leases differently.

The Organization has assessed impact of IFRS 16 and the new standard has no material impact on Council financial statements as the current rent agreement is of less than one year.

Other standards, amendments and interpretations which are effective for the financial year beginning on 1 January 2020 are not material on the Organization's financial position.

- *New and amendments standards and interpretations in issue but not yet effective for the year ended 31 December 2020*

At the date of authorization of these financial statements, several new and revised standards and interpretations were in issue but not yet effective. Directors anticipate that the standards and interpretations when effective will have no material impact on the financial statements of Media Council Tanzania.

- *Early adoption of standards*

The Organization did not early-adopt any new or amended standards in the year ended December 31, 2020.

(c) Income

The Trust derives its income from the following sources

- i) Grants from development partners and other organization;
- ii) Members' annual subscriptions; and
- iii) Consultancy services

Revenue is recognised as follows

Grant Income

Grants from donors are recognised where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attached conditions will be complied with. When the grant relates to an expense item. It is recognised as income over period necessary to match the grant on a systematic basis to the approved costs that it is intended to compensate. Where the grant relates to an asset, it is recognised as capital grant in the statement of financial position and released to income in equal amounts over the expected useful life of a depreciable asset by way of the reduced depreciation charge.

Where the Trust receives non-monetary grants, the asset and the grants are recorded gross at nominal amounts and released to the income statement over the expected useful life and pattern of consumption of the benefit of the underlying asset.

Consultancy services

Revenue is recognised upon performance of services, when the amount can reliably measure and it is probable that the future economic benefits will flow to the organisation.

Membership fees

Membership fees are recognised in the book of account when earned.

MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

(d) Foreign Currency transactions

i. Functional and presentation currency

Foreign currencies denominated items included in these financial statements are translated to the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ('the functional currency'). The financial statements are presented in Tanzanian shillings (TZS) which is the Organization's functional and presentation currency.

ii. Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into Tanzania Shillings using the exchange rates prevailing at the date of the transaction. Monetary asset and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are translated to Tanzania Shillings using the rate of exchange prevailing at that date. The resultant exchange gains and losses are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

(e) Property and equipment

Property and equipment are initially recognised at cost and subsequently stated at historical costs less depreciation.

Subsequent costs are included in the assets carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with item will flow to the Trust and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. The carrying amount of the replaced party is derecognised. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to statement of profit or loss during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Assets are depreciated starting in the month they are put into use. Depreciation in asset is calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost or revalued amounts to their residual value over its estimated useful lives as follows;

Asset Class		Rate (%)
Leasehold land	Amortised over the period of the lease on straight line basis.	
Motor vehicles (used)		25
Equipment		20
Motor vehicle New		12.5
Furniture and fittings		10
Computers		33.33
Books		10
Building		2

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed and adjusted if appropriate at the end of each reporting period. The asset carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the assets carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposal are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are included in the statement of profit or loss within other income.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

(f) Financial assets

i) Classification

All financial asset of the Trust is in the category of loans and receivables

Loan and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These are classified as current assets except for maturity greater than 12 months; otherwise they are classified as non-current. The Trust's loans and receivables comprise, trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position.

ii) Recognition and measurement

Regular purchases and sales of financial assets are recognized on the trade date-the trade date on which the Trust commits to purchase or sell the asset. Receivables are subsequently carried at amortized cost.

iii) Offsetting financial Instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position when there is legally enforceable right to offset the recognized amounts and there is an intention to settle on the net basis or realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

iv) Impairment

The Trust assesses at the end of each reporting period whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. A financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired and impairment losses are incurred after the initial recognition of the asset (a 'loss event') and that loss event (or events) has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset or group of financial assets that can be reliably estimated.

Evidence of impairment may include indications that the debtors or a group of debtors is experiencing significant financial difficulty, the probability that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial re-organization and where observable data indicate that there is measurable decrease in the estimated future cash flows.

For loans and receivables category, the amount of the loss is measured as a difference between the assets carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows (excluding future credit losses that have not been incurred) discounted at the financial assets original effective interest rate. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced and the amount of the loss is recognized in the statement of profit or loss.

If in a subsequent period, the amount of the impairment loss decreases and the decrease can be related objectively to an event occurring after the impairment was recognized, the reversal of the previously recognized impairment loss is recognized in the statement of profit or loss.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

(g) Taxation

i. Current Income tax

The Governing Board members considers the organization to be exempt from income taxes based on the criteria on the Income Tax Regulations which accord this status to Organizations that perform charitable activities and does not have surplus, the deferred income is for future charitable activities to be utilized in future. The Income Tax Regulations require further an approval from Commissioner of Income Tax for the entity to be granted a charitable organization status.

ii. Value Added Tax

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount of Value added tax except where the value added tax incurred on purchase of assets or services is not recoverable from the taxation authority, in which case the value added tax is recognized as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of expenses item as applicable.

(h) Impairment of non-financial assets

Assets that are subject to amortization are reviewed for impairment wherever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. For purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which these are separately identifiable cash flows (cash generating units).

(i) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and call deposits, net of bank overdrafts, all of which are available for use by the Trust unless otherwise stated. Cash on hand is initially recognised at fair value and subsequently stated at its fair value.

(j) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Trust has the present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable that the Trust will be required to settle that obligation and a reliable estimate of the amount of the obligation can be made.

Provision are measured at managements best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the reporting date and are discounted to present value where the effect of the time value of money is material.

(k) Grants Income

MCT operates on a programme funding arrangement where donors put funds to finance specific programme of the organization, based on programme strategy and budget. Grant income is recognised and presented in the Statement of Comprehensive Income to match expenses incurred during the period while all other types of income are recognised on accrual basis.



NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Grants received during the year under review are allocated to both deferred grants, capital grants and revenue grants;

(l) Deferred Income Grants

MCT recognises deferred income grants as part of the equity for funds which overlap the accounting period to finance subsequent year planned activities as per bilateral agreements. Funds received for a specified period of time will be used in that period. Funds received and remained unspent at the year end, are allocated to a deferred grants account. Then such deferred grants are released to the statement of Comprehensive Income in the following year.

2. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND JUDGMENTS

The Trust prepares its financial statements in accordance with IFRS as issued by IASB, the application of which often requires management to make judgements when formulating the Trust's financial position and results. Judgements including those involving estimations, made in the process of applying the Trust's accounting policies are discussed below. Management considers these judgements to have material effect on the financial statements.

The determination of estimates requires the exercise of judgements based on various assumptions and other factors such as historical experience, current and expected economic conditions. Although estimates are based on management's best knowledge of current events and actions they may undertake in the future, actual results ultimately may differ from these estimates. Accounting estimates and the underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

The discussion below should also be read in conjunction with the Trust's disclosure of significant accounting policies which is provided in note 1. Management has discussed its critical accounting estimates and associated disclosures with the Audit Committee.

Impairment reviews

The trust reviews its debtor balances to assess impairment on the annual basis. In determining whether an Impairment loss should be recorded in profit or loss, the Trust makes judgements using estimates based on historical loss experience for its debtors. It is on this basis that management have determined the risk of recoverability based on days outstanding.

Fair Values

The determination of the fair value of the assets and liabilities often requires complex estimations and is based to considerable extent on management's judgement.

Property and equipment

Property and equipment also represent a significant portion of the Trust's total asset base. Therefore, the estimate and assumption made to determine their carrying amounts and related depreciation are critical to the Trust's financial position and performance.

Estimation of Useful life and residual value

The change in respect of periodic depreciation is derived after estimating an asset's expected useful life and the expected residual value. Increasing an asset's expected life or its residual value would result in a reduced depreciation charge in the profit or loss.

The Trust assesses the residual value of every item of property and equipment annually in determining residual values, the Trust uses management's best estimate for residual values. The estimation of useful lives is based on certain indicators such as historical experience with

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

similar assets as well as anticipation of future events, which may impact the lives such as changes in technology. The useful lives will also depend on the future performance of the assets as well as management's judgement of the period over which the economic benefits will be derived from the assets.

Contingencies

The Trust exercises judgements in measuring the exposure to contingent liabilities relating to pending litigations or other outstanding claims subject to negotiated settlement, mediation, arbitration or government regulations as well as other contingent liabilities. Judgements, including those involving estimations are necessary in assessing the likelihood that a pending claim will succeed or liability will arise and to quantify the possible range of financial settlement.

3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES

The Trust's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks, namely market risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. The Trust's overall risk management programme focuses on the unpredictability of the financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on its financial performance. The Trust's does not hedge any of its risk exposures.

Financial risk management is carried out by the finance department under policies approved by the Governing Board. Foreign currency risks are managed by maintaining certain bank deposits in United States Dollar (USD) so to protect the trust from the volatility associated with local currency depreciation. Efforts are also made to ensure almost all liabilities are negotiated in local currency with prompt payment of outstanding amounts.

Market risk

Foreign exchange risk

The Trust enters into grants agreements denominated in foreign currencies especially in United States Dollar (USD). In addition, the Trust has liabilities and assets denominated in foreign currencies. As a result, the Trust is subject to transaction and translation exposure from fluctuations in foreign exchange rates. Exposure to foreign currency risk is mitigated by the fact that the foreign currency liabilities are normally settled within a short period of time.

Management's policy to manage foreign exchange risk is to hold foreign currency bank accounts which act as a natural hedge for payment. As at 31 December 2020, if the Tanzania shilling weakened/strengthened by 5% against the US dollar with all other variables held constant, change in surplus for the year would have been TZS 745,314.59 higher/lower mainly as a result of foreign exchange gain/losses on translation of US dollar denominated payables, receivables and cash.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises from cash and cash equivalents and deposits with banks and financial institutions as well as credit exposures to customers, including outstanding receivables and committed transactions. International development Partners who support the Trust are assessed for credit quality by taking into account their financial position and past experience.

The amount that best represents the Trust's maximum exposure to credit risk at 31 December 2020 is made up as follows;



MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

CASH AND BANKS

DESCRIPTION	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Cash at bank	137,071,015	172,000,187
Cash in hand	1,881,000	16,652
	138,952,015	172,016,839

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Trust will not be able to meet its financial obligation as they fall due. Prudent liquidity risk management includes maintaining sufficient cash balances and the availability of funding from various development partners. The table below analyses the Trust's financial liabilities that will be settled on the net basis into relevant maturity grouping based on the remaining period at the statement of financial position date to the contractual maturity date.

The amounts disclosed in the Table below are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

ACCOUNT PAYABLE

DESCRIPTION	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Trade payables	48,421,709	48,421,709
Accruals	35,217,733	34,143,198
Statutory liabilities	499,685,264	445,404,797
	583,324,706	527,969,704

4. INCOME

DESCRIPTION	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Revenue Grants (Note 12)	1,016,223,874	1,433,217,899
Membership fees	40,189,750	65,054,750
	1,056,413,624	1,498,272,649

5. OTHER INCOME

DESCRIPTION	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Other Income		
Amortisation of capital grant(Note 10)	13,927,436	-
Other Income	103,792,257	54,081,300
	117,719,693	54,081,300

MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

6. OPERATING EXPENSE

	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
OPERATING COSTS		
Advocacy	198,166,567	146,878,140
Ethics/ Mediation & arbitration	72,653,440	20,394,590
Press freedom Vilolation register	2,593,299	92,117,599
Institutional monitoring & Governance	146,472,038	153,140,678
Media Monitoring	96,116,790	233,764,212
Employees benefits costs	508,079,841	912,947,358
Stakeholders activities	16,285,693	38,783,962
Depreciation expenses	154,862,066	254,748,931
Cost of consumables	5,914,096	8,541,836
Rent, premises and utility costs	11,968,022	9,308,080
Repairs and maintenance	29,735,872	18,939,399
General and Administration expenses	7,473,400	36,210,536
Transport and motor vehicles expenses	17,340,000	19,498,000
Interest expense lease	7,613,599	15,864,466
	1,275,274,723	1,961,137,789

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COSTS

	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COSTS		
Salaries	222,460,313	437,867,883
PAYE	75,819,247	164,270,806
Defined contributions costs	62,679,038	207,626,317
Skills and Development Levy & WCF	16,573,334	35,412,635
Other staff benefits	130,547,908	67,769,717
	508,079,841	912,947,358



**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020
8. PLANT, PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

	Leasehold land(*)		Buildings		Motor vehicles		Equipment		Computers		Furniture & fittings		Books		Plant & Machinery		Intangible Assets		Total			
	TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS			
Year ended 31 December 2020																						
Opening Net book value 1 Jan 2020	715,490,000		385,942,402		81,178,273		28,912,517		12,929,429		45,001,625		19,999,406		24,937,500		6,352,500				1,320,743,652	
Additions during the year	-		130,000,000		-		1,770,000		12,275,000		-		-		-		12,903,327				156,946,327	
Disposal	-		-		-		-		-		-		-		-		-				-	
Depreciation charges Jan-Dec 2020)	-		(8,125,097)		(25,328,125)		(10,229,588)		(16,572,081)		(5,911,150)		(2,666,499)		(3,325,000)		(950,001)					(73,107,541)
Net Book value as at 31 December 2020	715,490,000		507,817,305		55,850,148		20,452,929		8,632,348		39,090,475		17,332,908		21,612,500		18,305,826					1,404,584,438

	Leasehold land(*)		Buildings		Motor vehicles		Equipment		Computers		Furniture & fittings		Books		Plant & Machinery		Intangible Assets		Total			
	TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS		TZS			
Year ended 31 December 2019																						
Opening Net book value 1 Jan 2019	715,490,000		394,067,505		118,550,761		33,542,017		22,255,933		48,319,525		22,665,994		28,262,500		7,199,500					1,390,353,755
Additions during the year	-		-		-		4,800,000		4,680,000		2,530,000		-		-		-					12,010,000
Disposal	-		-		(12,044,383)		-		-		-		-		-		-					(12,044,383)
Depreciation charges Jan-Dec 2019)	-		(8,125,103)		(25,328,125)		(9,429,500)		(14,006,504)		(5,847,900)		(2,666,588)		(3,325,000)		(847,000)					(69,575,720)
Net Book value as at 31 December 2018	715,490,000		385,942,402		81,178,273		28,912,517		12,929,429		45,001,625		19,999,406		24,937,500		6,352,500					1,320,743,652

MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

9. ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLES	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
DESCRIPTION	TZS	TZS
ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE		
Prepayments	5,256,150	21,206,097
Advances and imprest balances	553,200	539,200
Debtors	79,769,000	55,079,250
	85,578,350	76,824,547
10. CASH AND BANK		
	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
	TZS	TZS
Cash at bank	137,071,015	172,000,187
Cash in hand	1,881,000	16,652
	138,952,015	172,016,839
11. CAPITAL GRANTS		
	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
	TZS	TZS
At start of year	139,274,362	139,274,362
Prior year adjustment	-	-
Transfers in(Note 15)	-	-
Amortization charge	(13,927,436)	-
At end of year	125,346,926	139,274,362
12. DEFERRED INCOME GRANT		
	31.12.2020	31.12.2019
	TZS	TZS
As start of year	-	238,891,688
Received during the year(*)	1,016,223,874	1,194,326,211
Recognised as income (Note 13)	(1,016,223,874)	(1,433,217,899)
At end of year	-	-



MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

13. GRANTS RECEIVED

	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Grant received		
Swedish Embassy	398,745,431	343,424,620
SDC	-	26,133,749
VIKES	51,026,715	40,195,800
Well wishers	361,253,910	342,127,190
Zansasp	-	1,258,562
EPOCA Contributions	-	7,125,000
FORD FOUNDATION	14,927,000	227,877,210
PATHFINDER INTERNATIONAL	6,354,313	6,354,313
OSIEA	183,916,505	113,874,600
Internews	-	63,587,189
Reporters without Boarder	-	22,367,979
	1,016,223,874	1,194,326,211

14. ACCOUNT PAYABLES

	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Trade payables	48,421,709	48,421,709
Accruals	35,217,733	34,143,198
Statutory liabilities	499,685,264	445,404,797
	583,324,706	527,969,704

15. WEAR AND TEAR

WEAR AND TEAR SCHEDULE	CLASS I	CLASS III	CLASS VI	TOTAL
	37.5%	12.5%	5.0%	
W.D.V AS AT 1.1.2020	45,563,978	53,393,270	383,751,293	482,708,540
Additions	24,635,527	2,312,800	130,000,000	156,948,327
TOTAL	70,199,505	55,706,070	513,751,293	639,656,868
Wear & Tears Allowance	26,324,814	6,963,259	25,687,565	58,975,638
W.D.V AS AT 31.12.2020	43,874,691	48,742,811	488,063,728	580,681,230

MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA REGISTERED TRUSTEES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (CONTINUED)

16. INCOME TAX COMPUTATION

	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Surplus/Deficit per Accounts	(101,141,406)	(355,472,376)
Add Back		
10% Telephone and Postage	-	-
50% Entertainment	-	-
100% Donation	-	-
100% Depreciation	73,107,541	69,575,720
	(28,033,865)	(285,896,656)
Less: Wear & Tear Allowance	(58,975,638)	(55,163,433)
	(87,009,503)	(341,060,089)
Add: Taxable Deficity brought forward	(643,829,232)	(302,769,143)
Adjusted Taxable Surplus	(730,838,735)	(643,829,232)
Tax thereon 30%	NIL	NIL

17. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION AND BALANCES

Related party relationships exist between the Trust, Trustees, Governing Board Members and Key management. Transactions with related parties are as follows: -.

Key management:

Key management personnel are described as those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the organisation, directly or indirectly, including any director of the organisation. The detail of their remuneration is as follows:

DESCRIPTION	31.12.2020 TZS	31.12.2019 TZS
Short term employee benefits		
Salaries	232,057,154	357,319,774
Other benefits	19,196,477	28,303,186
Gratuity	-	50,126,553
Defined contributions plans (NSSF, PPF)	51,568,257	46,705,794
Total short term benefits	302,821,888	482,455,308

18. ULTIMATE HOLDING ENTITY

Media Council of Tanzania Registered Trustees (the "Trust") is a body incorporated under the provisions of the Trustees' Incorporation Act, Cap 318, and R.E. 2002). Hence, the Trust is under the stewardship of Trustees.





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Media Council of Tanzania (MCT)

Tegeta Skanska Area, House Namba KUN/MTN/532
Bagamoyo Road

P.O. Box 10160, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Mob:- +255 719 494 640 | +255 767 494 826