

MEDIA COUNCIL OF TANZANIA (MCT)

RE-ADVERTISED

TERMS OF REFERENCE TO ENGAGE A CONSULTANT TO CONDUCT AN ASSESSMENT AND PRODUCE A POSITION PAPER ON JOURNALISTS' ACCREDITATION BOARD (JAB) ON MEDIA FREEDOM IN TANZANIA

1. Background

Part III of the Media Service Act 2016 with its revision in 2023 establish the Journalists Accreditation Board, describe its functions and the composition.

On September 2024, the Government of Tanzania has established the Journalists' Accreditation Board (JAB), mandated to oversee registration, accreditation, and professional conduct of journalists in the country.

While this development has potential implications for improving journalistic standards, it also raises concerns regarding its potential restriction to media freedoms and independent journalism.

In that regard, the Media Council of Tanzania (MCT), intends to commission a research study to evaluate the effectiveness of JAB in media freedom in Tanzania. This assessment will inform a position paper that will contribute to advocacy for media rights, policy reform, and democratic governance.

2. Objective of the Assessment

The overall objective of this consultancy is to assess the role of JAB in promoting media freedom in Tanzania. The study will generate actionable recommendations to guide MCT's engagement and advocacy efforts.

3. Scope of Work

The Consultant will be expected to:

- 3.1 Assess the legal and institutional framework governing JAB, including its mandate, structure, powers, and operations.
- 3.2 Analyse JAB's activities e.g., accreditation, regulation, enforcement on press freedom and journalistic practice in Tanzania.
- 3.3 Map stakeholders' perceptions, including journalists, media houses, civil society, legal experts, and government actors, on the role and performance of JAB.
- 3.4 To identify good practices, risks, and challenges associated with current accreditation regimes

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3.5 Benchmark JAB's structure and practices against regional and international best practices in journalist accreditation and regulation.

3.6 Provide actionable recommendations for MCT on how to:

- Constructively engage with JAB and other policy makers.
- Advocate for reforms
- Safeguard press freedom

3.7 Based on the research findings to produce a position paper.

4. Duration

The consultancy is expected to be completed within 6 weeks from the date of contract signing.

5. Deadline for Submission

All proposals must be submitted by August 4th, 2025. Late submissions will not be considered.

6. Contact Information

For further information, please contact the Media Council of Tanzania at:

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