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TANZANIA

Tanzania maintains its leadership position in terms of press freedom and freedom of expression in East Africa, and in the past, Tanzania won praise for being the most peaceful country in the region. However, some in the media community fear that the government's reluctance to amend outdated, restrictive laws that contradict and undermine the nation's constitution and international conventions threatens this freedom. Most of these laws were enacted before Tanzania won its independence and remain in place despite calls to abolish them.

The current government, headed by Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, uses these laws to harass and intimidate the media, which has played a major role in exposing the country's endemic corruption. The government has also made several attempts to enact new media laws, which journalists and other media stakeholders say are intended to muzzle press freedom. "We have fought tooth and nail to ensure that these repressive laws are not passed, and we shall continue with our struggle until the government gives up," noted Godfrey Kambenga, journalist and general secretary of the Tanzania Union of Journalists.

The opposition has also gained more strength in Tanzania since the introduction of a multiparty political system in 1999—on the one hand, pushing the government to a more forceful approach, while engaging the opposition on certain points. The situation is in flux, though, as opposition to the current ruling political party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), is growing amid accusations that the government is one of the most corrupt regimes in the region. Analysts say that despite CCM's lead, its popularity is faltering for two major reasons: the country's economy, declining in comparison with other East African countries, and high levels of corruption in the government. This corruption includes accusations that some of Tanzania's past leaders have drained Tanzania's economy and invested the money in foreign countries—information the opposition uses in its campaign against the CCM government.

With Kikwete at the helm, CCM has won all four general elections organized since the introduction of the multiparty political system. Kikwete has been on the forefront of fighting corruption—and has received international recognition for his efforts—but his opponents say his efforts are insincere, taken only to appease donors without taking serious measures or actions against his ministers. Thus, after Kikwete won the 2010 presidential election, the opposition contested the results for the first time. This resulted in nationwide violence that lasted about a week before the army and the police jointly contained the situation.

Despite all this, democracy continues to grow with the emergence of new political parties and organizations. Many of these political parties participated in the recently concluded 2010 general elections.

# TANZANIA AT A GLANCE

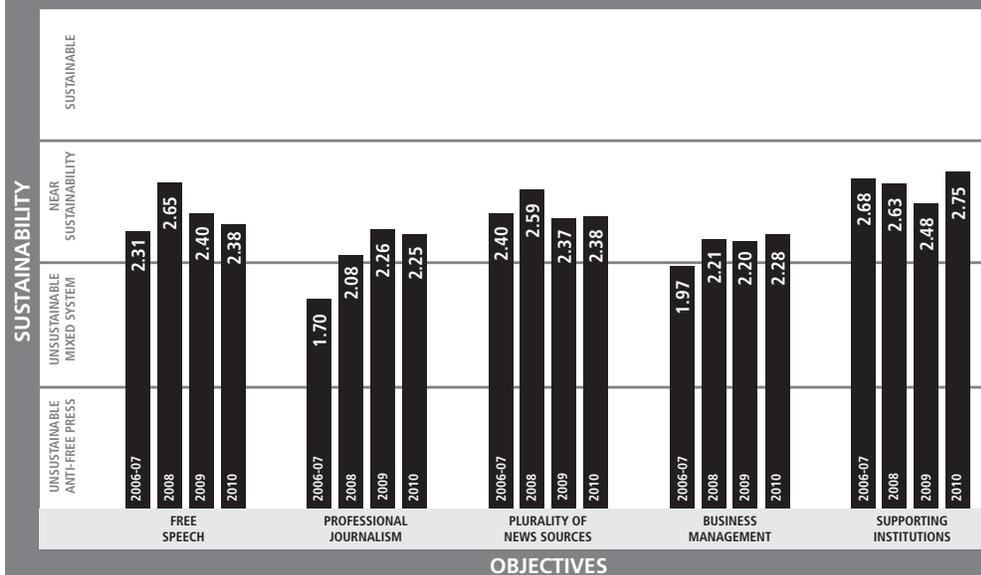
## GENERAL

- > **Population:** 42,746,620 (July 2011 est., *CIA World Factbook*)
- > **Capital city:** Dar-es-Salaam
- > **Ethnic groups (% of population):** Mainland: African 99% (of which 95% are Bantu consisting of more than 130 tribes), other 1% (consisting of Asian, European, and Arab); Zanzibar: Arab, African, mixed Arab and African (*CIA World Factbook*)
- > **Religions (% of population):** Mainland: Christian 30%, Muslim 35%, indigenous beliefs 35%; Zanzibar: more than 99% Muslim (*CIA World Factbook*)
- > **Languages:** Kiswahili or Swahili (official), Kiunguja (name for Swahili in Zanzibar), English (official, primary language of commerce, administration, and higher education), Arabic (widely spoken in Zanzibar), many local languages (*CIA World Factbook*)
- > **GNI (2010-Atlas):** \$21.34 billion (World Bank Development Indicators, 2011)
- > **GNI per capita (2010-PPP):** \$1,420 (World Bank Development Indicators, 2011)
- > **Literacy rate:** 69.4% (male 77.5%, female 62.2%) (2002 est., *CIA World Factbook*)
- > **President or top authority:** President Jakaya Kikwete (since 21 December 2005)

## MEDIA-SPECIFIC

- > **Number of active print outlets, radio stations, television stations:** Print: 150+ (18 daily newspapers); Radio Stations: 50+; Television Stations: 10
- > **Newspaper circulation statistics:** Top three by circulation: *Mwananchi* (private, circulation 45,000); *Tanzania Daima* (private, circulation 31,000); *Nipashe* (private, circulation 29,000)
- > **Broadcast ratings:** Top three radio stations: Radio Free Africa, Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation Radio, Radio One
- > **News agencies:** Tanzania News Agency (state-owned), Press Services of Tanzania (private)
- > **Annual advertising revenue in media sector:** N/A
- > **Internet usage:** 678,000 (2009 est., *CIA World Factbook*)

## MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY INDEX: TANZANIA



### Unsustainable, Anti-Free Press (0-1):

Country does not meet or only minimally meets objectives. Government and laws actively hinder free media development, professionalism is low, and media-industry activity is minimal.

### Unsustainable Mixed System (1-2):

Country minimally meets objectives, with segments of the legal system and government opposed to a free media system. Evident progress in free-press advocacy, increased professionalism, and new media businesses may be too recent to judge sustainability.

### Near Sustainability (2-3):

Country has progressed in meeting multiple objectives, with legal norms, professionalism, and the business environment supportive of independent media. Advances have survived changes in government and have been codified in law and practice. However, more time may be needed to ensure that change is enduring and that increased professionalism and the media business environment are sustainable.

### Sustainable (3-4):

Country has media that are considered generally professional, free, and sustainable, or to be approaching these objectives. Systems supporting independent media have survived multiple governments, economic fluctuations, and changes in public opinion or social conventions.

## OBJECTIVE 1: FREEDOM OF SPEECH

### Tanzania Objective Score: 2.38

Tanzania's constitution provides for freedom of speech and the press, but the MSI panelists said that the Defense Act, the Official Secrets Act, and many other regulatory laws contradict the sound constitutional provisions intended to guarantee the freedom of speech and that of the media.

Even laws cited in the 2009 MSI and recommended for abolition, such as one dealing with libel and defamation, the Newspapers Act of 1976, the Prison Act of 1963, the Security Act of 1970, the Broadcasting Act of 1993, and the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2003, have remained in place as roadblocks to freedom. The panel did note, however, that the judiciary has maintained its independence.

The licensing process for broadcast media, under the control of the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority, is free and transparent, according to the panelists. Although the regulators are appointed by the government—by the minister for information specifically—the panelists agreed that it conducts its work independently. Many new television and FM radio stations have launched in this climate, which panelists consider very healthy for the profession and Tanzanian media consumers.

Entry into the media market is relatively free as well, although high taxes pose some obstacles. Private media

*“State media have to report in boundaries friendly to the government, and editors have to ensure that they avoid being critical of their employer, the state, to save their jobs,” said a panelist.*

owners are not happy with the tax structure, which pushes them to pay high taxes; meanwhile, their public media competitors are subsidized by the state. “Print media taxes have been increased every year, making it difficult for owners of private media to survive,” noted one panelist.

The panelists believe that crimes against journalists decreased in the past year; however, some journalists have been taken to court on charges of soliciting bribes from potential sources. A few cases have come up that provoked a public outcry, but the perpetrators were never punished.

Media laws are essentially the same for both private and public media, yet although these laws guarantee editorial independence for state media, in practice it does not always apply. “State media have to report in boundaries friendly to the government, and editors have to ensure that they avoid being critical of their employer, the state, to save their jobs,” said a panelist. Some editors have been summoned by the authorities to explain some of the media reports they published.

The panelists also agreed that both political and business influence cannot be ruled out in all media, not just public media. Furthermore, public media officials are appointed by the government. The president appoints the editor-in-chief of the public media, and the minister of information appoints the board.

When it comes to access to public information, both state and private media are treated fairly equally, the panelists believe. However, they noted some improvement in the relationship between public officials and the private media: many public officials understand the popularity of the private media and thus prefer using private outlets to reach the people.

Libel remains a civil rather than criminal offense, but the Media Council of Tanzania handles most libel cases through arbitration. In cases handled by the Media Council, the panelists agreed that journalists proven guilty of an offense are generally asked to pay a small fine to the aggrieved party, accompanied by an apology.

The burden of proof rests with the accuser. However, the panelists noted that in some cases that have gone to courts of law, the burden of proof ended up on journalists' shoulders.

## LEGAL AND SOCIAL NORMS PROTECT AND PROMOTE FREE SPEECH AND ACCESS TO PUBLIC INFORMATION.

### FREE-SPEECH INDICATORS:

- > Legal and social protections of free speech exist and are enforced.
- > Licensing of broadcast media is fair, competitive, and apolitical.
- > Market entry and tax structure for media are fair and comparable to other industries.
- > Crimes against journalists or media outlets are prosecuted vigorously, but occurrences of such crimes are rare.
- > State or public media do not receive preferential legal treatment, and law guarantees editorial independence.
- > Libel is a civil law issue; public officials are held to higher standards, and offended parties must prove falsity and malice.
- > Public information is easily accessible; right of access to information is equally enforced for all media and journalists.
- > Media outlets have unrestricted access to information; this is equally enforced for all media and journalists.
- > Entry into the journalism profession is free, and government imposes no licensing, restrictions, or special rights for journalists.

Still, many of these cases ended up in out-of-court settlement, while others are not even heard because of lack of follow-up by either party.

Although some government officials are willing to give out information that flatters the state, access to less filtered public information is not as easy. The access-to-information bill is still in draft form, with no clear signals that it might be enacted in the near future. Furthermore, according to the panelists, the professional associations that might help push for this bill are not actively engaged in the process.

The panelists also complained that a presidential directive to government officials to share more information with the media has been ignored. Ministry information officers designated to disseminate information have been of little help, as they generally do not have access to useful information themselves.

There are no restrictions on journalists' access to international news and news sources. Access to the Internet remains free, without any restrictions or registration requirements, and it is becoming more affordable; however, the cost is still prohibitive to some. Freelance journalists—who constitute a majority in the profession—have limited access to Internet facilities, as many of them cannot afford the expense. Also, it is mainly available only in major cities.

In terms of the ease of entry into the profession, the legal requirement that all practicing journalists must be licensed on an annual basis by the Ministry of Information has failed, leaving entry into the profession free. However, the panelists noted that if this requirement is implemented, many journalists may be forced out of the profession, as the law ties education standards to the license that not all journalists would meet.

The free entry that exists now has affected professional standards, the panelists feel, and this has been mainly encouraged by media owners looking for cheap labor. Journalists are working hard to reverse this situation by demanding a law setting standards to define journalists. The panel complained that a bill that would have ensured this, drafted many years ago, has still not been enacted.

As one panelist noted, "There is a need to set standards for the profession, but without chasing away others, especially the newcomers." They also noted that journalists are free to organize as they wish, and that is why there are many media associations—although they are not active enough. Entry into the media training institutions is also free, and the government has no control over entry into these colleges.

## OBJECTIVE 2: PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM

### Tanzania Objective Score: 2.25

Journalists continue to file biased reports, which the panelists attribute to poor training. Other journalists are well-meaning but lack proper facilities and adequate resources to cross-check all sources for their stories. However, the panelists reported seeing some improvements in the observance of professional standards, with a good number of journalists following all the required procedures, attempting to report objectively, and consulting technical experts as needed to inform their reports.

To improve adherence to professional standards, the panelists recommended proper training for journalists, sound media-house policies to ensure editorial independence, and strict adherence to professional ethics.

A code of ethics exists to guide journalists, but it is neither followed nor respected by many members of the profession. The Media Council of Tanzania, tasked with enforcing the code, has not succeeded—primarily because not all media practitioners or media owners honor or feel bound by the code. Ethics violations occur regularly, as journalists constantly demand bribes, pay, and gifts from their sources for favorable coverage, or to kill negative stories in the pipeline.

While these problems cut across all media, both print and electronic, they are most evident among poorly paid media professionals—and a few high-level, highly paid editors. "Some of our colleagues are on the payrolls of politicians, and they write flattering stories about them, while sitting on any negative stories about their pay masters they come across," remarked one panelist.

#### JOURNALISM MEETS PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF QUALITY.

##### PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM INDICATORS:

- > Reporting is fair, objective, and well sourced.
- > Journalists follow recognized and accepted ethical standards.
- > Journalists and editors do not practice self-censorship.
- > Journalists cover key events and issues.
- > Pay levels for journalists and other media professionals are sufficiently high to discourage corruption.
- > Entertainment programming does not eclipse news and information programming.
- > Technical facilities and equipment for gathering, producing, and distributing news are modern and efficient.
- > Quality niche reporting and programming exists (investigative, economics/business, local, political).

Again this year, the panelists reported that self-censorship is common at all levels—from journalists to senior editors. It is attributed to a number of factors, ranging from the fear of losing jobs to holding onto advertising business. Influential and powerful people with close ties to media owners pressure editors to give false information that casts them in a more positive light to the public, leading to corruption within the profession.

Journalists continue to cover most key events and issues, although they concentrate most intently on cities and urban areas where they have easy access. The panelists also commented that some issues—such as national security—are becoming more sensitive, requiring the press to obtain clearance or permission to discuss or cover. For example, journalists who went to cover an eviction, carried out by prison staff on land occupied by citizens, were beaten on the grounds that they were not invited to cover the scene. In a separate incident, *Kulikoni* was banned for 90 days for writing about the army. Additionally, the panelists noted that there are some issues that require a lot of time and resources to investigate; thus, they are left uncovered because of the cost and lack of skilled journalists to handle such stories.

Pay levels remain low, despite the fact that the government set up a minimum-wage system three years ago. The government's failure to implement this system has affected many media professionals. The set minimum wage is TZS 150,000 (about \$100)—but TZS 250,000 (\$165) for public media. Still, journalists fare better than teachers in terms of pay. Tanzanian teachers are abandoning their profession and running to other sectors where they think can earn a better living.

While some panelists feel that poor compensation encourages corruption within the media, some panelists disagreed, noting the involvement of some of the best-paid journalists in corruption scandals.

The panel agreed that there has been some improvement in balancing news and entertainment in many of the media houses—especially in electronic media. However, a few media houses still devote more time to entertainment than news, citing audience preferences. The panelists also reported that the print media, to the contrary, offer more space to news and advertisements than entertainment.

The panelists reported improvements in terms of facilities and equipment, with most news houses using modern technology to gather news. This improvement is reflected in the quality of programs produced, and in the photography used in the print media. Still, much more is needed, especially in the area of digitalization. The panelists noted that the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority has set the year 2015

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as a deadline for all media houses to make the switch to digital broadcasting.

The panelists also underlined the need to help supply freelance journalists with modern digital cameras (both still and video), recorders, laptops, and digital printing facilities. Rural journalists are also at a disadvantage; most of the improvements have focused on urban areas. The panelists suggested that any aid to support these journalists should be channeled through the Media Council of Tanzania, which is best organized to distribute such support at the moment.

The panel noted that not many specialized journalists exist, given the lack of training. Investigative journalism in particular is deemed too expensive and time-consuming. However, the panelists said that for electronic media, some media houses have instituted specialized desks or sections that try to ensure that journalists get training. In such media houses, though, the quality of reporting is still lacking.

The panelists recommended that editors initiate special programs to identify and train journalists in specialized reporting, but added that there is also a need to find sources of funding to help train the many freelance journalists.

### OBJECTIVE 3: PLURALITY OF NEWS

#### Tanzania Objective Score: 2.38

There are many news sources to inform Tanzanian citizens, but the panelists noted that not all of these sources provide accurate information to the public. Furthermore, most of these news sources are centered in cities and towns and benefit mostly from those living in these areas—leaving the rural dwellers with just a few information sources to rely upon.

In terms of expense, print media are a bit costly for much of the public, leading many to rely on radio for news and information instead. Likewise, although it is not restricted, the Internet is not available in many areas—and where available, it is costly. Panelists reported that blogs do exist, and more are coming up, such as Michuzi and Mujengwa, but they are not deemed very reliable. The panelists cited one blog, called

*Community radio stations and newspapers exist for the people living in the regions, but according to the panelists, the major problem is their lack of sustainability.*

Ze utam, which the government blocked after it insulted the president; it was also pornographic.

Community radio stations and newspapers exist for the people living in the regions, but according to the panelists, the major problem is their lack of sustainability.

The government does not restrict citizens from accessing both foreign and domestic news sources, which the public obtains mainly through radio and television—which are generally more affordable than the foreign print media. Those who can access and afford the Internet also get news online without any restrictions or interference from the government.

The panelists said that the government continues to dominate the public media, which it uses as its voice and mouthpiece to disseminate propaganda. “Both the radio and television dance to the tunes of the government—and the situation has worsened since last year, when airtime was still given to opposition news. We do not know why it has changed so much, but it could be because of the elections,” remarked one panelist. However, the panelists commended the state broadcaster for playing a big role in providing public programs regarding community welfare.

#### MULTIPLE NEWS SOURCES PROVIDE CITIZENS WITH RELIABLE AND OBJECTIVE NEWS.

##### PLURALITY OF NEWS SOURCES INDICATORS:

- > A plurality of affordable public and private news sources (e.g., print, broadcast, Internet) exists.
- > Citizens’ access to domestic or international media is not restricted.
- > State or public media reflect the views of the entire political spectrum, are nonpartisan, and serve the public interest.
- > Independent news agencies gather and distribute news for print and broadcast media.
- > Independent broadcast media produce their own news programs.
- > Transparency of media ownership allows consumers to judge objectivity of news; media ownership is not concentrated in a few conglomerates.
- > A broad spectrum of social interests are reflected and represented in the media, including minority-language information sources.

The panel reported that the only independent local news agency in Tanzania had closed, and to date there is only one news agency—the Tanzania News Agency—owned and fully controlled by the government. However, the panelists noted that local media continue to depend on foreign news agencies through subscriptions, including Reuters, AFP, AP, IPS, and many others. According to the panelists, they are always credited whenever stories are carried by the local media.

The panelists said that independent media produce their own programs, but they have become more expensive to produce, pushing them to change to imported content. Most of the locally produced programs relate to agriculture, health, education, and drama.

The panelists noted that the dramatic programs produced locally are very popular; they touch upon day-to-day life situations familiar to the public and feature familiar actors, but they are lacking in quality compared with those purchased abroad.

The panelists believe that the news produced by private media is as strong as state radio news. Community radio stations exist, and they produce some of their own programs—but they also obtain programs from state radio that they relay to the communities.

As described in previous years, media owners are known by the public, as most are politicians who started media houses to promote themselves and curry political favor, commented the panelists. Such political owners tend to influence heavily the editorials of their media houses. Another panelist noted that media are concentrated in a few hands in Tanzania but added that information about the owners of any media houses can be obtained easily from the registrar. Some of the strongest owners listed in last year’s chapter, who are still expanding, include GIPP Group of companies, owned by Reginald Mengi; the New Habari Corporation 2006 Ltd., owned by Rostam Aziz; Mwanainchi Communications, owned by Aga Khan; Saharah Communications, owned by Anthony Diallo; and Africa Media Group, owned by Shabil Abdi.

Social issues are covered fairly well in the media, according to the panelists. Gender issues are covered, but not to the extent panelists believe they should be highlighted. As for minority language and media, the panelists said this does not exist in Tanzania, as all Tanzanians speak one language (Swahili).

## OBJECTIVE 4: BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

### Tanzania Objective Score: 2.28

The panelists agreed that there are some private media houses that are managed as profit-making ventures, while others are not managed well. One challenge is the scarcity of good managers; the few good managers tend to be poached by international organizations that can provide better pay.

Media houses that are well managed have proper structures in place with skilled and qualified staff; however, retaining such good employees remains a challenge. At the other end of the spectrum, some media owners prefer to employ relatives without skills and qualifications, who end up driving their businesses into ruins.

Panelists reported improved management of state media and proper use of funds allocated to them from tax coffers. They added that state media, such as *Daily News*, pay their journalists well, according to their qualifications, and on time.

Private media depend on multiple sources of funding or revenue, including copy sales, sale of shares where applicable, advertisements, donor funds, commercial printing for those with their own printing facilities, and bank loans. Community media depend heavily on well wishers, donors, and the communities themselves for funding.

However, public media are fully funded by the state. While this provides a steady source of revenue, public outlets also get money from the sale of copies and advertisements. Yet with this support comes full control, and the panelists

#### INDEPENDENT MEDIA ARE WELL-MANAGED BUSINESSES, ALLOWING EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE.

##### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT INDICATORS:

- > Media outlets and supporting firms operate as efficient, professional, and profit-generating businesses.
- > Media receive revenue from a multitude of sources.
- > Advertising agencies and related industries support an advertising market.
- > Advertising revenue as a percentage of total revenue is in line with accepted standards at commercial outlets.
- > Independent media do not receive government subsidies.
- > Market research is used to formulate strategic plans, enhance advertising revenue, and tailor products to the needs and interests of audiences.
- > Broadcast ratings and circulation figures are reliably and independently produced.

*“We have seen people from marketing and advertising departments at odds with their editorial colleagues over space for advertising,” noted one panelist.*

pointed out that influence on editorial policy, especially from advertisers, cannot be ruled out.

The advertising sector is growing, and more advertising agencies—both local and international—are emerging. Yet, many of them are based in the cities and towns where they find the most business. The panelists noted that these companies work actively with some media houses; however, some media houses have developed full-fledged departments of their own to handle advertising business. Such media houses have recruited skilled marketing staff to solicit business, according to the panelists.

Advertising contributes the main portion of revenue for most media houses in Tanzania. As a result, editors value advertisers very highly and in most cases are pressed to use more advertisements in their products—both print and electronic—than news, reported the panel. “We have seen people from marketing and advertising departments at odds with their editorial colleagues over space for advertising,” noted one panelist. Furthermore, some news bulletins are sponsored by major companies that even dictate broadcast times for ads and more airtime devoted to singing the sponsor’s praises than the actual news content.

Although the panelists reported that the government does not offer subsidies to private media, it does direct official advertising business to friendly media houses that it trusts will report government news favorably. The panelists also noted that several government officials, including the prime minister, have come out openly and said that any media house considered to be an enemy will not receive official advertising.

In terms of market research to inform programming, the panelists reported little change from last year. Many of the media houses do not value research. A handful of media houses engage international companies to conduct market research for them, while a few others conduct their own research, but the findings are never accurate, according to the panelists. The media houses that do use market research use the findings to improve on their business, and judging from their marketing promotions, the panelists believe it has made a positive difference.

*“The graduates are more theoretical than practical in their approach, and we think this problem can be traced to the lecturers—our editors are better teachers than the university lecturers,” noted one panelist.*

In terms of ratings and circulations analysis, all media houses do not accept the findings; the panelists noted cases where the lowest-ranked media houses dispute the results. The many methods used for such research, sometimes conducted by independent firms, include focus groups, call-ins, and questionnaires sent to readers and listeners.

#### **OBJECTIVE 5: SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS**

#### **Tanzania Objective Score: 2.75**

The panel noted that no new associations for media owners were formed in 2010, leaving in place the two old associations: Media Owners Association of Tanzania and The Editors Forum. Both lobby the government on a number of issues, such as improving media policies and reducing taxes on the media. The panelists believe they have managed to achieve a lot of progress.

#### **SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS FUNCTION IN THE PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA.**

##### **SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS INDICATORS:**

- > Trade associations represent the interests of private media owners and provide member services.
- > Professional associations work to protect journalists' rights.
- > NGOs support free speech and independent media.
- > Quality journalism degree programs that provide substantial practical experience exist.
- > Short-term training and in-service training programs allow journalists to upgrade skills or acquire new skills.
- > Sources of newsprint and printing facilities are in private hands, apolitical, and unrestricted.
- > Channels of media distribution (kiosks, transmitters, Internet) are private, apolitical, and unrestricted.

As for professional associations for journalists, the panel noted that new professional associations are emerging, but the older associations are growing weaker and losing membership due to a number of factors, including leadership problems. One panelist noted, “Some of these associations have not brought in new leaders in the last 10 years, and the leaders tend to work more for their own interests than those of their members—that is why some of us have decided to leave for newer organizations.”

Existing associations include the Tanzania Media Women's Association, Tanzania Union of Journalists, the Journalists' Environmental Association of Tanzania, the Association of Journalists against AIDS, the Parliamentary Press Association, the Sports Press Association of Tanzania, and many other niche associations.

In the view of the panelists, all of these associations carry out training for journalists, defend press freedom, fight to improve working conditions for journalists, and conduct lobbying and advocacy work toward better media laws and policies.

These associations have no steady source of funding; they depend mainly on donors because their members do not pay membership fees. The panelists said that there is a need for media professionals to come together and form one strong association, supported by all journalists.

The panel agreed that Tanzanian NGOs that work with media outlets and associations have helped make an important difference in the defense of press freedom and training. They include the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme, Legal and Human Rights Centre, Lawyers for Environment Association of Tanzania (LEAT), the Tanzania Association of NGOs, the Legal and Human Rights Centre, and many others. However, most of these NGOs are based in the two main cities and rarely extend their services to rural areas, where many of the journalists operate and face the greatest challenges.

The panelists agreed that a number of educational institutions continue to offer training in journalism and mass communication courses. These include the University of Dar-es-Salaam, St. Augustine University-Mwanza (founded by the Catholic Church), Tumaini University Iringa- (founded by the Lutheran Church), Mzumbe University-Morogoro (government-run), the Muslim University of Morogoro, and Dodoma University (government-run). The existing media houses absorb many of the journalists graduating from these institutions. However, the panelists expressed serious concern

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over the deteriorating standards at these colleges, leading to poor-quality graduates. “The graduates are more theoretical than practical in their approach, and we think this problem can be traced to the lecturers—our editors are better teachers than the university lecturers,” noted one panelist.

Other institutions offering certificates and diplomas exist in the country, with a few training opportunities abroad. Those who study abroad usually return to Tanzania, the panelists said, but tend to take their skills to other fields with higher pay. And, while opportunities to train abroad are available, it can sometimes be difficult to regain one’s position upon returning, unless he or she is a state media employee who is assured a position.

Short-term training opportunities are always available locally and beyond, but very few journalists take them up because they do not learn about them early enough to plan to attend. Most of these courses are paid for by donors, but some editors refuse to release their journalists to attend. Furthermore, very few media houses conduct in-house training.

The Media Council of Tanzania offers some training, through press clubs, where seminars and trainings are held. The panelists agreed that the most popular course is basic news writing, but the most needed courses are news reporting and writing, feature writing, and editorial skills.

The panel noted that some media owners have their own printing facilities and also import newsprint on their own. These larger media houses also print for other small papers but at times have been known to delay printing for competitors. As for state facilities, the private media are afraid to take their papers there, not wanting to invite extra scrutiny for content critical of the government.

The panelists, however, noted that a tax on newsprint is too high, rendering the final products too expensive for readers.

Media distribution channels remain in private hands; the government has no influence in this realm. Distributors use their own or hired vehicles, delivering newspapers to agents with offices or kiosks.

Some media houses use the Tanzania Postal Corporation to send newspapers to rural areas and other places lacking distribution networks. Under the same arrangement, papers are also sold in supermarkets in urban areas, but when it comes to small towns and villages, newspapers can be purchased from small shops or kiosks. For the broadcast media, some television and radio stations have their own transmitters, but the government controls them at times.

## List of Panel Participants

**Finnigan Simbeye**, senior reporter, *Daily News*, Mwanza City

**Joel Lawi**, sub editor, *Daily News*, Dar-es-Salaam

**Shani Kibwasali**, information officer, Tanzania Union of Journalists, Dar-es-Salaam

**Malick Sururu**, journalist, Dar-es-Salaam

**Nuhu Alpha**, editor, *This Day*, Zanzibar

**Lugano Mbwina**, online journalist, Dar-es-Salaam

**Boniface Luhanga**, editor, Radio One, Dar-es-Salaam

**Samuel Kamndaya**, journalist, *Citizen*, Arusha Town

**Joseph Kingu**, online journalist, Dodoma

**Neema Chalila Mbuja**, business editor, Independent Television Limited, Dar-es-Salaam

## Moderator and Author

**Godfrey Kambenga**, journalist and general secretary, Tanzania Union of Journalists, Dar-es-Salaam

## Coordinator

**Herbert Mukasa Lumansi**, vice president, Uganda Journalists Association, Kampala, Uganda