



13 Febuari, 2026

TAARIFA KWA VYOMBO VYA HABARI MAADHIMISHO YA SIKU YA REDIO DUNIANI 2026

Siku ya tarehe 13 Febuari 2026, dunia inaungana kuadhimisha Siku ya Kimataifa ya Redio siku iliyotangazwa na UNESCO mwaka 2011 na kupitishwa rasmi na Baraza Kuu la Umoja wa Mataifa mwaka 2013. Maadhimisho haya ni fursa ya kutafakari mchango wa redio katika kuhabarisha, kuelimisha, kuburudisha na kuimarisha misingi ya demokrasia, haki za binadamu na maendeleo endelevu.

Kaulimbiu ya mwaka huu, **"Redio na Uaminifu" (Radio and Trust)**, inatukumbusha kwamba uaminifu ndio muhimili mkuu wa taaluma ya habari. Redio haiishi kwa nguvu ya mawimbi yake, bali kwa imani ya wasikilizaji wake. Bila uaminifu, hakuna ushawishi, bila ukweli, hakuna uwajibikaji.

Kwa mujibu wa Tume ya Utangazaji Zanzibar, kuna zaidi ya vituo 30 vya redio vinavyofanya kazi hapa nchini. Ukuaji huu ni ishara ya kupanuka kwa sekta ya habari na kuimarika kwa wigo wa mawasiliano. Hata hivyo, ukuaji wa idadi ya vituo haupaswi kuwa kipimo pekee cha mafanikio. Mafanikio ya kweli yapo katika ubora wa maudhui, uhuru wa uhariri, na uwezo wa redio kuwa sauti ya wananchi.

Redio imeendelea kuwa chanzo kikuu cha taarifa kwa wananchi wengi, hususan katika maeneo ya vijijini. Katika jamii nyingi zinazoendelea, redio ndio chombo kinachowafikia watu wengi zaidi kwa gharama nafuu na kwa lugha inayoeleweka.

Aliyekuwa Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa UNESCO, Irina Bokova, aliwahi kusesitiza umuhimu wa redio kwa kusema: *"Radio is the mass medium that reaches the widest audience worldwide. It is a powerful communication tool and a low-cost medium."* ("Redio ndicho chombo cha habari kinachowafikia watu wengi zaidi duniani. Ni chombo chenye nguvu kubwa ya mawasiliano na ni cha gharama nafuu.")

Kauli hii inathibitisha kuwa redio si chombo cha kawaida, bali ni muhimili wa mawasiliano ya umma, hasa kwa makundi yaliyo pembezoni mwa maendeleo.

Hata hivyo, nguvu ya redio lazima iambatane na uhuru wake. Katibu Mkuu wa zamani wa Umoja wa Mataifa, Kofi Annan, aliwahi kusema: *"No one should underestimate the*

importance of a free media in a democracy."("Hakuna anayepaswa kubeza umuhimu wa vyombo vya habari huru katika demokrasia.")

Maneno haya yanabeba ukweli usioplingika: bila vyombo vya habari huru na vinavyoaminika, misingi ya demokrasia hudhoofika.

Kwa muktadha wa Zanzibar, bado kuna changamoto za kisheria na kisera zinazoathiri tasnia ya habari. Miongoni mwa changamoto hizo ni matumizi ya sheria zilizopitwa na wakati kama Sheria ya Tume ya Utangazaji Zanzibar ya mwaka 1997 (iliyorekebishwa 2010) na Sheria ya Usajili wa Wakala wa Habari, Magazeti na Vitabu Na. 5 ya mwaka 1988. Aidha, bado kuna mapungufu katika ulinzi wa kisheria kwa waandishi wa habari na katika utekelezaji wa haki ya kupata taarifa za umma.

Sambamba na hilo, Ibara ya 19 ya Azimio la Kimataifa la Haki za Binadamu (UDHR) ya mwaka 1948 inaeleza kuwa "Kila mtu ana haki ya kuwa na maoni na kujieleza; haki hii inajumuisha uhuru wa kutafuta, kupokea na kusambaza taarifa kupitia chombo chochote cha habari... "Hivyo basi, kulinda redio ni kulinda haki ya msingi ya binadamu.

Katika kuadhimisha Siku ya Kimataifa ya Redio 2026, sisi wadau wa tasnia ya habari Zanzibar tunatoa wito kwa Serikali ya Mapinduzi ya Zanzibar kuharakisha mchakato wa kupitisha Sheria Mpya ya Huduma za Habari inayozingatia viwango vya kitaifa, kikanda na kimataifa vya haki za binadamu.

Kuanzishwa kwa chombo huru cha usimamizi wa vyombo vya habari kinachojitegemea pamoja na kuhakikisha ulinzi wa kisheria na kiusalama kwa waandishi wa habari.

Kuimarisha utekelezaji wa haki ya wananchi kupata taarifa za umma na Vituo vya redio kuwekeza zaidi katika uandishi wa uchambuzi na ufuatiliaji wa masuala ya wananchi badala ya kujikita katika taarifa za matukio pekee.

Maadhimisho haya yasiishie kuwa tukio la sherehe. Yawe mwanzo wa hatua za mageuzi ya kweli katika sekta ya habari. Kwa sababu kama alivyowahi kusema mwanahabari mashuhuri Walter Cronkite:

"Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy."
("Uhuru wa vyombo vya habari si jambo muhimu tu kwa demokrasia - ndio demokrasia yenyewe.")

Wadau wa habari tunasisitiza kuwa Redio inapolindwa na kupewa uhuru wake kamili, wananchi hupata sauti, wananchi wanapopata sauti, demokrasia huimarika, na demokrasia inapoimarika, taifa hustawi. Kulinda redio ni kulinda mustakabali wa Zanzibar.

IMETOLEWA NA:

Klabu ya Waandishi wa Habari Zanzibar (ZPC),

Chama Cha Waandishi wa Habari Wanawake Tanzania, Zanzibar (TAMWA-ZNZ)

Waandishi wa Habari za Maendeleo Zanzibar (WAHAMAZA)

Baraza la Habari Tanzania, Zanzibar (MCT, ZNZ)

Jukwaa la Watetezi wa Haki za Binadamu Tanzania, Zanzibar (THRDC, ZNZ).

PRESS RELEASE COMMEMORATION OF WORLD RADIO DAY 2026

On 13 February 2026, the world unites to commemorate World Radio Day, a day announced by UNESCO in 2011 and formally adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013. This commemoration provides an opportunity to reflect on the vital contribution of radio in informing, educating, entertaining, and strengthening the foundations of democracy, human rights, and sustainable development.

This year's theme, "Radio and Trust," reminds us that trust is the cornerstone of journalism. Radio does not survive by the strength of its signal alone, but by the confidence of its listeners. Without trust, there is no influence; without truth, there is no accountability.

According to the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission, there are more than 30 radio stations currently operating in the country. This growth reflects the expansion of the media sector and the widening communication landscape. However, an increase in the number of stations should not be the sole measure of success. True success lies in the quality of content, editorial independence, and the ability of radio to serve as the voice of the people.

Radio continues to be a primary source of information for many citizens, particularly in rural areas. In many developing communities, radio remains the most accessible and affordable medium, reaching audiences in languages they understand.

The former Director-General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, once emphasized the importance of radio, stating, "Radio is the mass medium that reaches the widest audience worldwide. It is a powerful communication tool and a low-cost medium." This statement affirms that radio is not merely an ordinary medium, but a pillar of public communication, particularly for marginalized communities.

However, the power of radio must be accompanied by its freedom. The former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, once stated, "No one should underestimate the importance of a free media in a democracy." These words carry an undeniable truth: without free and credible media, the foundations of democracy are weakened.

In the context of Zanzibar, legal and policy challenges continue to affect the media industry. Among these are the continued application of outdated laws, including the Zanzibar Broadcasting Commission Act of 1997 (as amended in 2010) and the Registration of News Agents, Newspapers and Books Act No. 5 of 1988. Furthermore, gaps remain in the legal protection of journalists and in the effective implementation of the right of access to public information.

Similarly, Article 19 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media." Therefore, protecting radio is synonymous with protecting a fundamental human right.

As we commemorate World Radio Day 2026, we, stakeholders in the media sector in Zanzibar, call upon the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to expedite the enactment of a new Media Services Law that aligns with national, regional, and international human rights standards, to establish an independent media regulatory body that operates autonomously, to ensure legal and physical protection for journalists, to strengthen the implementation of the public's right to access information, and to encourage radio stations to invest more in investigative and analytical journalism that addresses citizens' concerns rather than focusing solely on event-based reporting.

These commemorations should not end as mere celebrations. They must mark the beginning of meaningful reforms in the media sector. As renowned journalist Walter Cronkite once said, "Freedom of the press is not just important to democracy, it is democracy."

As media stakeholders, we emphasize that when radio is protected and granted its full freedom, citizens gain a voice; when citizens gain a voice, democracy is strengthened; and when democracy is strengthened, the nation prospers. Protecting radio is protecting the future of Zanzibar.

ISSUED BY:

Zanzibar Press Club (ZPC)

Tanzania Media Women's Association – Zanzibar (TAMWA-ZNZ)

Zanzibar Development Journalists (WAHAMAZA)

Media Council of Tanzania – Zanzibar (MCT, ZNZ)

Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition – Zanzibar (THRDC, ZNZ)