The Regulator

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Transforming Tanzania's Broadcasting Sector

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Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)

Vision

A society empowered by communication services.

Mission

To regulate communication services for the welfare of the Tanzanian society.

Mandate

Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) under the Act No.12 of 2003 is mandated to regulate the electronic and postal communications sector in Tanzania.

Core Values

PROFESSIONALISM

"We undertake our activities objectively and deliver quality services while upholding integrity and maintaining due respect to our stakeholders."

INNOVATION

"We embrace creativity and continuous improvement in addressing regulatory issues and adapting to the ever-evolving technological environment."

TEAMWORK

"We believe in synergy and collaboration to achieve shared goals, recognizing that effective and constructive communication is essential to maintaining a productive and supportive work environment."

AGILITY

"We remain flexible, responsive to change, and adapt to emerging trends, technologies, and regulatory challenges in the Communications Sector."

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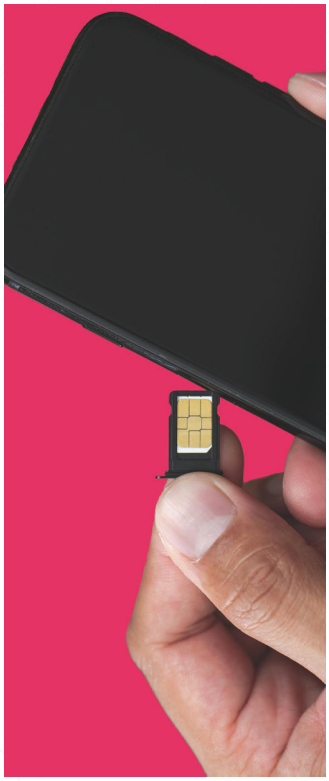
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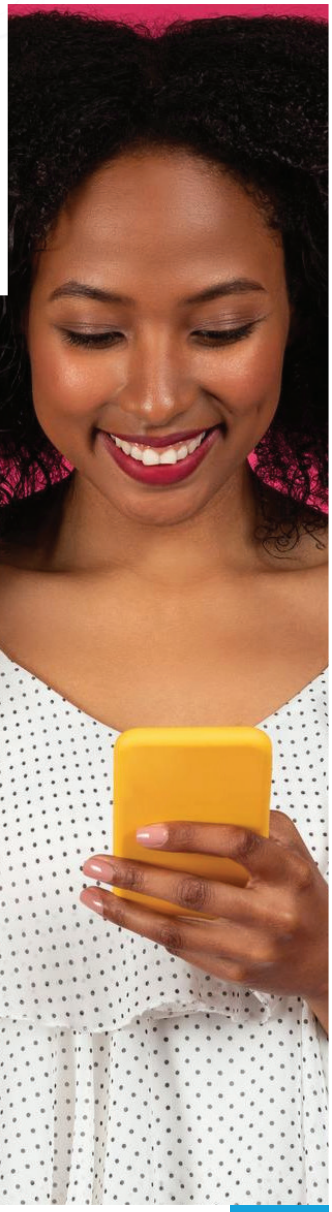
Network safety campaign

Risks of registering SIM cards for others



Registering a SIM card for someone else carries significant risks that can lead to serious consequences. .

1. *The Electronic and Postal Communications Regulations on SIM Card Registration prohibit using someone else's identification to register a SIM card.*
2. *The fingerprint or identification data of the person who will use the line must be directly linked to the SIM card.*
3. *The severe penalties for registering a SIM card on behalf of another person, using your own national identification, include fines ranging from 5 million shillings for individuals to 50 million shillings for companies or imprisonment for up to 12 months.*
4. *The respective service provider will connect all activities on the line to your identification, and you will be held accountable for any misuse. This includes mobile money fraud, identity theft, and cybercrimes.*
5. *When you register a SIM card for someone else, you assume liability for any actions carried out with that SIM card. If the person to whom you gave the SIM card engages in criminal activities, such as fraud or illegal transactions, law enforcement will trace these activities back to you. Your reputation will also be damaged.*
6. *Registering a SIM card for someone else may seem like a helpful gesture, but it exposes you to significant risks. Besides the legal risks, it poses significant privacy concerns – you compromise the privacy of your data. Your biometric data, including fingerprints or facial recognition, is used, depending on the system in place. This data is unique and is meant to protect you and the telecommunications system from fraud.*
7. *Fraudulent activities through SIM card use are increasing. Criminals seek ways to bypass regulations. If a SIM card under your name is linked to fraud, you may face legal repercussions and experience financial losses due to the misuse of mobile money services.*
8. *When you register a card for someone else, you lose control over how that number is used and cannot monitor or control the activities associated with it. Unethical or illegal activities carried out on that SIM card will still be traced back to you, regardless of whether you were aware of the actions or not.*
9. *The Regulations outline the procedures for registering a SIM card for minors or individuals who are genuinely unable to register using their own identity for valid reasons.*
10. *Please contact your service provider or TCRA through the toll-free number 0800008272 for additional information.*



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TCRA duties outlined in the establishing Act are:

1. *Promoting effective competition and economic efficiency;*
2. *Protecting the interest of consumers;*
3. *Protecting the financial viability of efficient suppliers;*
4. *Promoting the availability of regulated services to all consumers, including low income, rural and disadvantaged consumers;*
5. *Enhancing public knowledge, awareness and understanding of the regulated sectors, including:*
6. *The rights and obligations of consumers and regulated suppliers;*
7. *The ways in which complaints and disputes may be initiated and resolved; and*
8. *The duties, functions and activities of the Authority.*
9. *Taking into account the need to protect and preserve the environment.*

TCRA Functions are to:

a. *Issue, renew and cancel licenses.*

b. *Establish standards for regulated goods and regulated services.*

c. *Establish standards for the terms and conditions of supply of the regulated goods and services.*

d. *Regulate rates and charges.*

e. *Make rules for carrying out the purposes and provisions of this Act and the sector legislation;*

f. *Monitor the performance of the regulated sectors, including in relation to:*

   i. *Levels of investment;*

   ii. *Availability, quality and standards of services;*

   iii. *The cost of services;*

   iv. *The efficiency of production and distribution of services; and*

   v. *Other matters relevant to the Authority.*

g. *Facilitate the resolution of complaints and disputes;*

h. *Disseminate information about matters relevant to the functions of the Authority; and*

i. *Consult with other regulatory authorities, bodies or institutions discharging functions similar to those of the Authority in the United Republic of Tanzania and elsewhere.*

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Letter From The Editor

Renewed drive to develop broadcasting

This issue focuses on broadcasting trends, content quality and audience perceptions in Tanzania.

It highlights Government initiatives aimed at expanding universal access to broadcasting services through the development of communication infrastructure, including plans to launch Tanzania's first communications satellite. The satellite is expected to improve the delivery of broadcasting signals to remote and hard-to-reach areas across the country.

Broadcasting continues to play a vital role as a source of information and entertainment for Tanzanians, with more than 85 per cent of the population relying on radio services. Access to radio and television programming has continued to improve, and more radio stations are now on air, ensuring Tanzanians receive diverse content.



The Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) has invited additional service providers to use the available frequencies in the 87.5-108 MHz band for FM radio broadcasting. The advertised frequencies will increase FM radio penetration among the people and almost double the geographical coverage. TCRA has also awarded tenders for multiplexing services in five (5) regions where digital sound broadcasting is due to take off this year.

The recommendations of a recent TCRA-commissioned study on broadcasting and initiatives to transform the sub-sector have been analyzed. The 10-year Spectrum Management Strategy implemented by TCRA provide a framework for the effective management of the radio frequency spectrum up to 2034/2035. The purpose is to deepen penetration of broadcasting services and expand geographical coverage.

Programmes to improve broadcasting service quality include studies on audience perceptions of quality, content issues p such as presentation modes, suitability, quality and non-adherence to regulations. Content regulation remains a permanent agenda item under the TCRA Content Committee, which continuously monitors compliance with professional broadcasting ethics and regulations.

In addition, quarterly communications statistics indicate significant growth in data traffic, with a 700 per cent increase between March 2021 and March this year, and a further 15 per cent increase since December last year.

However, postal items received from abroad in March 2026 decreased by 85 per cent compared to March 2021 and by 4 per cent compared to the volume recorded in December 2025.



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Director General's Message

New TCRA strategic plan targets transformation, inclusivity

This issue coincides with the release of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority's fifth Strategic Plan covering the financial year 2026/27 to 2030/31. It is a blueprint for promoting inclusive, competitive and sustainable communication services that support digital transformation and national development.

The plan seeks to address the national priorities for digital transformation in line with TCRA's vision of empowering society by inclusive and sustainable communication services supported by robust communication infrastructure, applications and services.

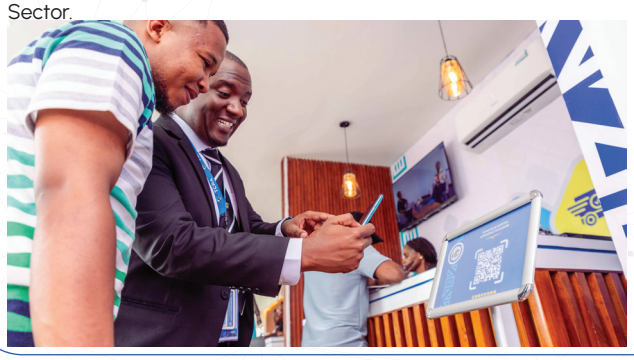
TCRA has aligned its operations with national development goals, as well as regional and international commitments. National, regional and international development instruments guiding TCRA include the Tanzania Digital Economy Strategic Framework 2024 – 2034, Tanzania Development Vision 2050, the Ruling Party Election Manifesto (2025-2030) and sector policies.



The strategic plan aligns with key national policies, including the National ICT Policy, National Information and Broadcasting Policy and the National Postal Policy. These instruments have led to digital transformations and more opportunities in the telecommunications, broadcasting and postal sectors.

At the international level, the strategic plan supports the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030, Africa Agenda 2063, and its recognition of the transformative power of ICTs are among the other drivers of TCRA's commitment.

TCRA also implements a Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda. This aims at promoting responsible and environmentally sustainable growth of the Communications Sector.



The strategic objectives for the next five (5) years seek to promote resilient and secure communications infrastructure and applications, and enhance accessibility and affordability of regulated communication services.

TCRA believes that the future of the Communications Sector will continue to be shaped by a dynamic environment, particularly emerging technologies and their applications. The plan, therefore, aims to foster the expansion of broadband coverage, local content development, stakeholders' engagement, and enhance institutional sustainability.



This will leverage a digitally inclusive, innovative and secure communications environment that supports national transformation and sustainable socio-economic development.

For effective implementation of the plan, TCRA remains committed to supporting its staff, ensuring they are healthy and competent to perform their duties and meet public expectations, while exercising robust regulatory oversight of the Communications Sector that responds to the dynamics of technological advancement.

TCRA remains focused on fostering an inclusive and future-ready regulatory environment and ensuring secured, affordable, quality and reliable communication services.



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Addressing financial inclusion barriers

Representatives of key stakeholders in digital financial services have recommended ways to expand access to digital financial services, to protect consumers against fraud, and to promote entrepreneurship for inclusion.

The recommendations were reached at a recent meeting of the Microfinance Subsector Technical Working Group (TWG) in Dodoma. It was convened by the Ministry of Finance, the coordinator, to discuss the implementation of the Microfinance Subsector Action Plan for the 2025/26 financial year.

The digitalization of the microfinance subsector and the financing of communications devices were extensively discussed.

Other agenda items were digital infrastructure and literacy, climate financing, and local content development.

The experts noted the increased adoption of digital solutions to enhance service delivery. However, they observed that the costs of some digital services were high. This posed a barrier for many microfinance institutions.

They called for targeted interventions to reduce costs, hence push inclusive digital transformation across the subsector. This would also advance the broader objective of achieving a cashless economy in Tanzania.

Meeting highlights

1. *The attainment of a fully digital Tanzania fundamentally depends on digital infrastructure, particularly the availability, accessibility, and reliability of broadband connectivity, as well as affordable devices that enable meaningful access to digital services.*
2. *There is a growing number of unlicensed digital platforms and social media accounts offering credit services directly to the public. Many of these entities exploit gaps in digital and financial literacy, which expose individuals to fraudulent practices and predatory lending schemes.*
3. *In the context of rapid digital transformation, monitoring and controlling such activities have become increasingly complex, particularly where public awareness remains limited.*
4. *Despite notable progress in infrastructure deployment, digital illiteracy remains a significant challenge. In some instances, digital platforms are misused for fraudulent activities and the dissemination of misinformation, rather than serving as tools for socio-economic development.*
5. *A critical mitigation strategy is to strengthen digital and financial literacy.*
6. *The Ministry of Finance will strengthen collaboration with TCRA and the Bank of Tanzania to implement coordinated capacity-building programmes to enhance digital financial literacy and promote inclusive access to digital financial services.*
7. *Literacy programmes should be integrated at early education stages to ensure that children and young people develop the necessary awareness and competencies to navigate digital financial services responsibly.*
8. *TCRA continues to implement awareness campaigns and initiatives to foster ICT innovation for responsible digital participation within the economy.*
9. *Fraud on WhatsApp platforms should be curbed. The experts noted that even when a number reported to engage in fraudulent activities on mobile networks was flagged or deactivated at the network level, it may continue to operate and target victims on WhatsApp.*



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Transforming Tanzania's Broadcasting

By Regulator Writer

Tanzania is transforming its broadcasting sector by expanding services to rural and underserved areas, introducing digital sound broadcasting in cities with a scarcity of frequencies in the FM band, and promoting local content development.

As most Tanzanians continue to use broadcasting services as an essential source of information and entertainment, radio continues to be the most widely used platform, with approximately 85 per cent of broadcasting audiences relying on it.

Broadcasters, traditional and internet-based, play crucial roles in serving diverse audiences nationwide. They include radio listeners, television viewers, and social media audiences.

The government, through the Universal Communications Services Access Fund (USCAF) and the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), is implementing several programmes aiming to improve and expand broadcasting infrastructure through the construction of towers, site building, and the purchase of transmission equipment.

As of March 2026, the Fund has released subsidies for the construction of thirty-two (32) communication towers. Refer to box 1.

The status of a programme to build broadcasting infrastructure through the Universal Communications Services Access Fund (UCSAF) by March 2026.

UCSAF is implementing a programme to facilitate broadcasting services and improve penetration and coverage in rural and underserved areas. The Fund has released subsidies for the construction of thirty-two (32) communication towers. Eleven (11) of these have been commissioned, and twenty-one (21) are at different stages of completion.

Seven of ten (10) towers for community radios have been completed in Dodoma, Kigoma, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, Pwani/Coast, Tanga, Lindi, Simiyu, Arusha and Morogoro regions.

Two (2) radio stations in Dodoma and Arusha have been refurbished to improve the production and broadcasting quality of their content.

These achievements have led to a wider reach of FM signals, hence fostering community engagement through local content.

Source: UCSAF presentation at the 2026 annual broadcasting conference in February in Dodoma.

The National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) has been expanded and has connected eighty-five (85) districts by March 2026. The expansion has a positive bearing on costs for broadcasting and data service providers.

The new broadcasting infrastructure and services are expected to meet the evolving needs and expectations of its citizens in the digital age.

Likewise, TCRA is implementing a 10-year Spectrum Management Strategy, launched in September 2024, to guide the effective management of the radio frequency spectrum until 2034/2035. The Authority is working to deepen penetration of broadcasting services and expand geographical coverage.

As of March 2026, FM signals penetration reached eighty-five per cent of Tanzania, and in a measure to increase coverage and enhance content diversity, the Authority has invited radio broadcasting services providers to apply for services in twenty (20) regions and compete for two hundred and seventy-four (274) FM frequencies by 1 June this year.

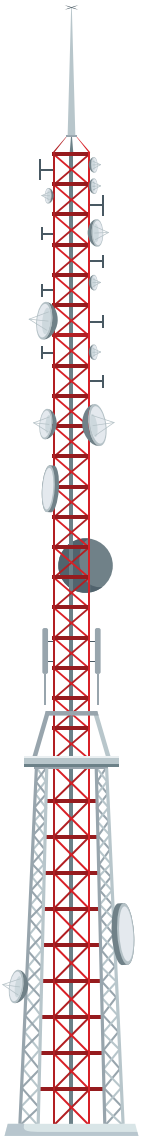
The Spectrum Management Strategy also manages radio frequencies for satellite and mobile technologies. The efficient allocation of radio spectrum for broadcasting services ensures sufficient bandwidth for terrestrial television and radio transmissions.

The radio frequency spectrum bands allocated to FM radio are from 87.5 to 108 MHz, those for terrestrial television broadcasting services are in the 470-694 MHz range, while 174 to 230 MHz and 525 to 1605 kHz bands are for Digital Sound Broadcasting (DSB) in Tanzania, using the T-DAB and DRM standards.

DSB is expected to enhance the quality of broadcasting services while making more efficient use of available radio frequency spectrum resources and solving the challenge of scarcity of radio frequency spectrum in major cities.

These radios are unevenly spread, with some regions having more than... and others having less than 10. Refer to Table 1.

Region	Number of radio stations	Available FM frequency slots
Arusha	18	4
DSM	27	
Dodoma	13	
Geita	3	
Iringa	10	13
Kagera	14	5
Katavi	4	21
Kigoma	8	9
Kilimanjaro	16	6
Lindi	2	18
Manyara	6	12
Mara	5	15
Mbeya	22	2
Morogoro	23	14
Mtwara	13	25
Lindi/Mtwara	22	
Mwanza	18	23
Njombe	8	
Pwani/Coast	5	25
Rukwa	4	17
Ruvuma	10	6
Shinyanga	8	25
Simiyu	3	14
Singida	1	
Songwe	1	13
Tabora	5	3
Tanga	11	



TCRA has been responding to advancements in broadcasting technologies and sub-sector challenges.

In 2024, TCRA commissioned a broadcasting consultancy to review the Legal and regulatory framework for Tanzania's broadcasting sub-sector.

The study recommended a review of regulations to create a more balanced playing field in view of the proliferation of content through internet-based platforms. It also recommended stricter enforcement of standards and the promotion of local content.

The study also proposed a new licensing framework for the broadcasting sector, including categories, duration, and fees.

Licensing should be based on "points of presence" rather than on administrative areas. The current framework has free-to-air national, regional, district and community licences. Subscription licences are for national and district services.

The highlights of the report and its recommendations are presented below.

Highlights of the report on a study on Transforming Tanzania's broadcasting regulatory framework.

The developments in Tanzania's broadcasting sector require a new regulatory framework.The study identified weaknesses in the service chain. Online TV, radio, and streaming services have created new business models. The traditional broadcasting model was becoming unsustainable.

Unlicensed digital platforms operated alongside traditional media, which paid fees and were obliged to adhere to content quotas.

Traditional broadcasters couldn't compete with advertising-funded OTT platforms that operated without regulatory costs or content obligations. This leads to cheap content. Refer to Box X.

Licensed traditional radio and television stations competed unfairly with unlicensed digital platforms, which captured advertising revenues that once sustained the former.

Some of the broadcasters had no business plans, leading to underperformance and failure to pay regulatory fees, employee salaries, and other obligations.

Some licensed operators had not commenced operations within the prescribed period and held valuable spectrum that could have been used to meet growing demand and expand coverage.

There is a need for urgent intervention to prevent Tanzania from losing local content production, seeing traditional media collapse, and allowing foreign platforms to dominate without contributing to local development goals.



The consultant identified how traditional broadcasting, online audiovisual services, and advertising markets had become interconnected ecosystems.

This has also created the foundation for evidence-based regulation that could address competitive imbalances while fostering innovation.

Tanzania's broadcasting regulations should be reviewed to address the dynamics of a digitally transformed market.

The consultant proposed new licensing criteria for different business models and regulatory mechanisms to create fair competition between traditional and online platforms.

They recommended unified content regulations across all delivery methods.

There should be local content strategies that balance market dynamics with cultural objectives.

The license and spectrum fee structure should be sustainable for operators to ensure their economic viability, while generating appropriate revenue for the regulator.

TCRA has reviewed broadcasting services licence fees. It has reduced fees for online content services and introduced a new category of "Amateur Online Content Service Providers". The licence provides for a one-year free period as an incentive, after which they will pay concessionary fees. The aim is to support startups and to promote the development of local content.

Reference: *https://cenerva.com/articles/transforming-tanzanias-broadcasting-landscape/*



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The Electronic and Postal Communications (Radio and Television Broadcasting Content) Regulations,2024 set the following content quotas and requirements, which apply only to free-to-air traditional radio and television broadcasting service providers.

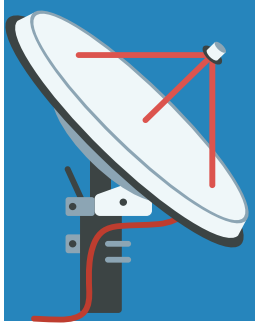


1. *Observance of the watershed period. They should not broadcast material not suitable for family viewing during the 'watershed period', from midnight to 0500 hours. They may broadcast material suitable for adults during this period.*
2. *Offering diverse content. Programming should reflect the culture, needs, and aspirations of Tanzanians. They should also include drama, documentaries, and children's programs that reflect the nation's themes and cultural identity.*
3. *.Allocating sufficient time for news. They must present news daily, cumulatively, for at least 90 minutes.*
4. *Airing educational programmes. Service providers must ensure that a minimum of 2% of their daily content output is of an educational nature. The Electronic and Postal Communications Act (EPOCA) requires TCRA to make rules for the provisions of content of an educational nature.*
5. *Local content. They must ensure that at least 60 (sixty) per cent of their content, measured as a weekly average, is local.*
6. *Publishing and adhering to programme schedules. They are required to publish a schedule of their programs in a daily newspaper widely circulated in Tanzania or on its broadcasting channel at least one month in advance. They must adhere to this schedule unless obliged to broadcast live, spontaneous events of national or international significance, or to broadcast them through special news programs*

Reference: *https://www.tcra.go.tz/documents/regulations*

https://www.tcra.go.tz/documents/legislation-1

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TCRA picks Digital Radio service Multiplexers for five regions

By Regulator Writer

TCRA has picked multiplexers (MUX) for DSB services in Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Dodoma, Mwanza, and Mbeya. Each will have one service area. These multiplexers were obtained through a competitive tendering process.

Tanzania has introduced Digital Sound Broadcasting (DSB) services to transform radio coverage and communication in the country.

Unlike traditional analogue radio broadcasting, DSB involves a technology that combines multiple encoded audio streams and data into one signal for transmission over a shared medium.

Multiplexing is used in Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) broadcasting, which uses decoders to deliver diverse content to viewers.

DSB is expected to enhance sound broadcasting quality and provide additional spectrum capacity without discontinuing analogue sound broadcasting.

It is also designed to address the limited availability of radio frequencies, particularly in congested urban areas and would extend radio coverage to a wider audience.

DSB provides a more spectrum-efficient alternative to FM, with enhanced audio quality and greater consumer convenience.

Multiplexing maximises spectrum utilization and reduces the number of physical transmitters. It allows multiple radio stations to share a single frequency block.

Digital Sound Broadcasting (DSB) will benefit broadcasters, consumers, the regulator, the Government and broadcasting service supply chain players. The latter include content developers, digital broadcasting facilities operators and equipment vendors. Refer to page 11..

By introducing DSB, Tanzania will significantly increase radio broadcasting coverage and widen access to audio content across Tanzania.

DSB also opens up exciting opportunities for new radio stations and expands the range of available radio channels. It broadens coverage and improves access to content nationwide.

Digital radio technology also supports communication. It widens the range of available content and creates opportunities for the production and distribution of high-quality content to wider audiences.

DSB devices remain operational even when the internet or cellular infrastructure fails due to various reasons, including being in remote locations.

It also allows personalized, on-demand, and interactive internet streaming, enhancing user experience.

It also supports economic activities such as businesses, farming and personal pursuits. Digital radios can transmit audio and text, including disseminating crucial information during disasters.

Farmers can also get timely weather updates and crucial information, such as markets and prices.

TCRA decided to license one private service provider for each service area to ensure efficient utilization of the radio spectrum.

The companies were successful in a tender floated by TCRA last year for multiplexing services using two frequency sets, aligned with two international DSB standards –Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting Plus (T-DAB+) and Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM-30).

The allocated frequencies are in the 174-230 Megahertz (MHz) band and the 525-1605 Kilohertz (kHz) bands.

TCRA has developed and published minimum technical requirements and specifications for DSB devices.

These specifications are intended to guide equipment suppliers and vendors wishing to import these devices into Tanzania.

They are aimed at ensuring quality and compatibility with other communications equipment used in the country.

Tanzania is the first country in Africa to have guidelines on DSB. It is also the first to type-approve DSB receivers.

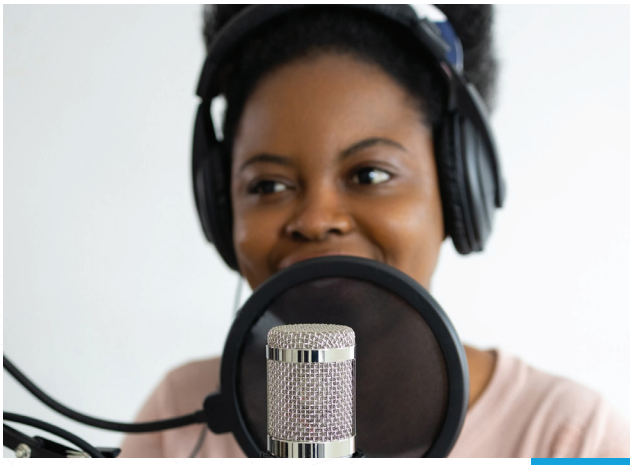
The introduction of DSB is also another first for Tanzania in the East, Central and Southern African region.

It was the first in the region to migrate fully to digital terrestrial television broadcasting, having switched off analogue networks in December 2014, ahead of the international deadline of June 2015.

There is no universal deadline for moving to DSB, unlike in Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) migration, which has a deadline set by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

DSB will not replace analogue sound broadcasting, and the two technologies will co-exist until the market determines the direction. Existing licensed broadcasters will be authorized to simulcast on digital networks without paying additional regulatory fees to encourage the transition to DSB.

The first DSB trials were made in Europe in 1990. DRM was developed in 1997 in China to digitize long, medium and short-wave frequency bands. In 2005, the standard incorporated modes were designed for very high-frequency (VHF) broadcasting bands.



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DSB benefits

1. *More efficient spectrum use.*
2. *Multiple functions that enable broadcasting multiple stations on one frequency.*
3. *Wider audience reach compared with AM/FM systems.*
4. *Lower operational costs.*
5. *Lower transmission costs*
6. *Energy efficiency.*
7. *They offer new innovative service opportunities for broadcasters who may provide numerous new digital radio stations instead of a single analogue radio station.*
8. *They promote investments in content services since they encourage infrastructure sharing through multiplex operators.*
9. *DAB audio quality is higher and better than current AM and FM radio broadcasts.*
10. *Less noise interference.*
11. *More reliable services.*
12. *User friendliness. DAB stations are easy to programme and select. Radio receivers are more flexible, with user-friendlier interfaces and can also be programmed to tune themselves automatically. DAB supports a wide range of equipment, such as fixed, portable and mobile receivers. They offer a wide station choice and varied content.*
13. *Benefits the economy through opportunities in support services along the supply chain. DSB offers opportunities for job creation in content development and aggregation. The importation and distribution of broadcasting equipment and handsets. Its energy efficiency provides more power for other activities.*

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Study to Assess Broadcasting Audiences, Service Quality

TCRA is undertaking a study to assess the broadcasting audience satisfaction and experience levels. The study will examine radio and television broadcasting trends in legacy media and online platforms that deliver content through digital devices.

Universal service penetration and uptake among various demographics, including special groups such as people with disabilities, will be addressed.

The study will evaluate viewer preferences and content quality as experienced by radio listeners, television viewers and online subscribers. It will shed light on the scope of broadcasting content services.

The findings and data presented will be used as a baseline for analysis and future studies.

The study will be carried out in 706 research locations in 139 Tanzania Mainland Districts. It is based on the Tanzania National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) survey protocol. The latest relies on the 2022 Population and Housing Census.

The survey is conducted by one of the successful bidders in a TCRA-floated tender on several sector studies.

The other studies were on the legal and regulatory framework for the broadcasting sector. This addressed advances in broadcasting technologies in relation to local sub-sector challenges.

Others are a survey on consumer satisfaction with communication services, and the level of satisfaction of TCRA customers.

The consumer satisfaction survey assessed compliance with Quality of Services and Quality of Experience targets as outlined in Regulations. The customer survey was based on TCRA's service delivery practices as guided by ISO 9001:2015 and the Authority's client service charter.

TCRA has also commissioned a study on emerging technologies to establish a regulatory framework for Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Tanzania.



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LEGAL, REGULATORY UPDATES

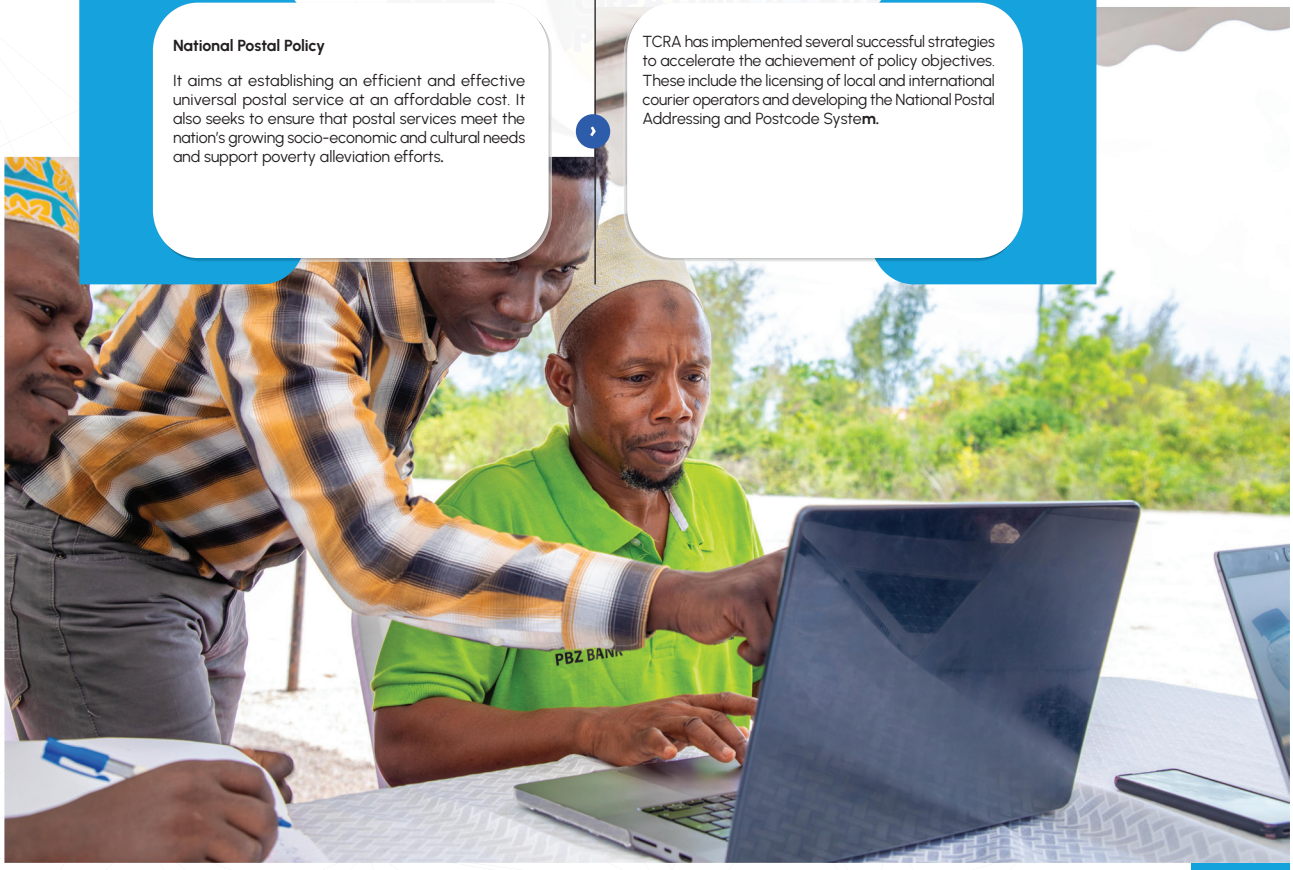
National priorities define TCRA's strategy

TCRA's new Strategic Plan is aligned with national policies related to governance, digital transformation, and regulatory oversight. It will support government efforts to strengthen institutional frameworks, promote accountability and ensure the orderly development of the communications sector

Plans, policies and their aims, objectives	TCRA's role, contribution
Tanzania Development Vision 2050 It sets out the strategic direction andpriorities forsocio-economic development over the next three decades. The aim is to transform Tanzania into a high-income, industrialized, and socially inclusive society with a high quality of life for all citizens by 2050.	Promoting communication infrastructure and connectivity, expansion of broadband access, strengthening cyber security, digital literacy, digital inclusion, emerging technologies and employees' empowerment by fostering a resilient, efficient, and inclusive communication ecosystem.
Tanzania Digital Economy Strategic Framework 2024 – 2034. It aims at creating an inclusive, resilient, and competitive Digital and Blue Economy in Tanzania. Priority areas include digital infrastructure and services, digital identity, cybersecurity, digital literacy, innovation ecosystems, emerging technologies, and e-commerce platforms.	TCRA continuously reviews and updates its regulatory framework to match developments in the global communication landscape. It also promotes investments and service quality through licensing and enforcing regulations. TCRA also manages national communications resources to ensure their efficient use.
Ruling Party Election Manifesto 2025-2030 It highlights the importance of communications infrastructure in creating and maintaining a sustainable economy, improving the quality of life and enhancing Tanzanians' standard of living. It also outlines commitments and priorities for socio-economic development, digital transformation, and inclusive growth	Ensuring that sector initiatives contribute to realizing national priorities. These include expanding the communications infrastructure to improve access to communication services in underserved and unserved areas. Other priority areas are deployment and use of emerging technologies, as well as awareness and digital literacy, innovation and strengthening cyber security.

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Plans, policies and their aims, objectives	TCRA's role, contribution
Sustainability and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) agenda. This seeks to promote responsible and environmentally sustainable growth of the Communications Sector by encouraging the use of energy-efficient and eco-friendly technologies, reducing electronic waste and supporting infrastructure sharing.	TCRA will integrate ESG principles across its regulatory frameworks, operations, and stakeholder engagements to ensure that the communications industry contributes meaningfully to national and global development objectives.
National ICT Policy The National Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy recognizes the crucial role of ICT development in driving the digital and blue Economy. It provides a national framework for harnessing ICTs to contribute effectively toward achieving Tanzania's development goals	TCRA has implemented a number of strategies that have facilitated the attainment of policy objectives. These include an effective regulatory framework that promotes the efficient allocation and utilization of communication resources, embraces technological advancements, and supports the development of communication services.
Information and Broadcasting Policy It provides the guiding framework for an enabling environment for the growth and sustainability of the Broadcasting Sector. Its objectives are to establish a conducive environment for the growth of broadcasting, to promote national values and professional	TCRA will continue to enhance performance standards for sectoral development, fairness, diversity in broadcasting, uphold accountability and responsibility to the citizenry through the promotion of ethical and professional broadcasting practices. It is implementing major programmes to transform broadcasting. Please refer to the main article in this issue.
National Postal Policy It aims at establishing an efficient and effective universal postal service at an affordable cost. It also seeks to ensure that postal services meet the nation's growing socio-economic and cultural needs and support poverty alleviation efforts.	TCRA has implemented several successful strategies to accelerate the achievement of policy objectives. These include the licensing of local and international courier operators and developing the National Postal Addressing and Postcode System.





Communications Statistics

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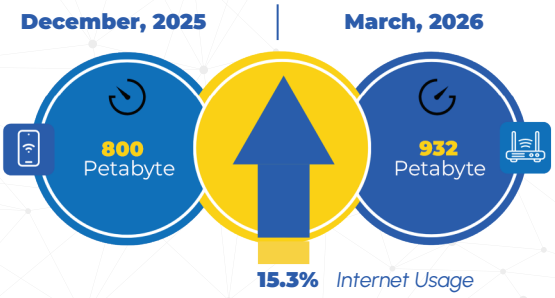
Online data usage soars, but internet capacity underutilized

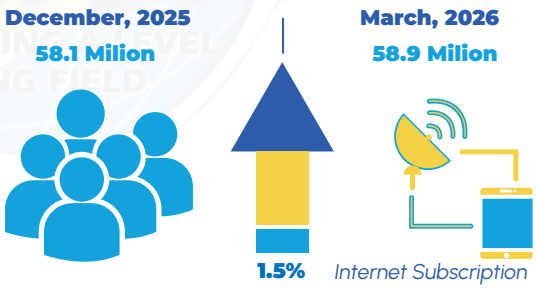
By Regulator Reporter

Online data usage increased by 700 per cent in five (5) years and 15.3 per cent between December 2025 and March 2026, although there is still potential for further growth, the latest communications sector status report shows.

The March 2026 report, released by the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Director-General, Eng. Peter Mwasalyanda highlights growth areas between January and March 2026 compared with the October–December quarter. They include new licences which have boosted access, expanded financial services, deeper penetration and an apparent positive impact of TCRA's online safety campaign.

Some 58,974,820 lines were used to access the internet in March 2026, a 102.86 per cent increase from March 2021, when 29,071,817 lines were used. Subscribers consumed 932 petabytes of data in March 2026, compared with 117 in March 2021. They consumed 808 in December 2025.



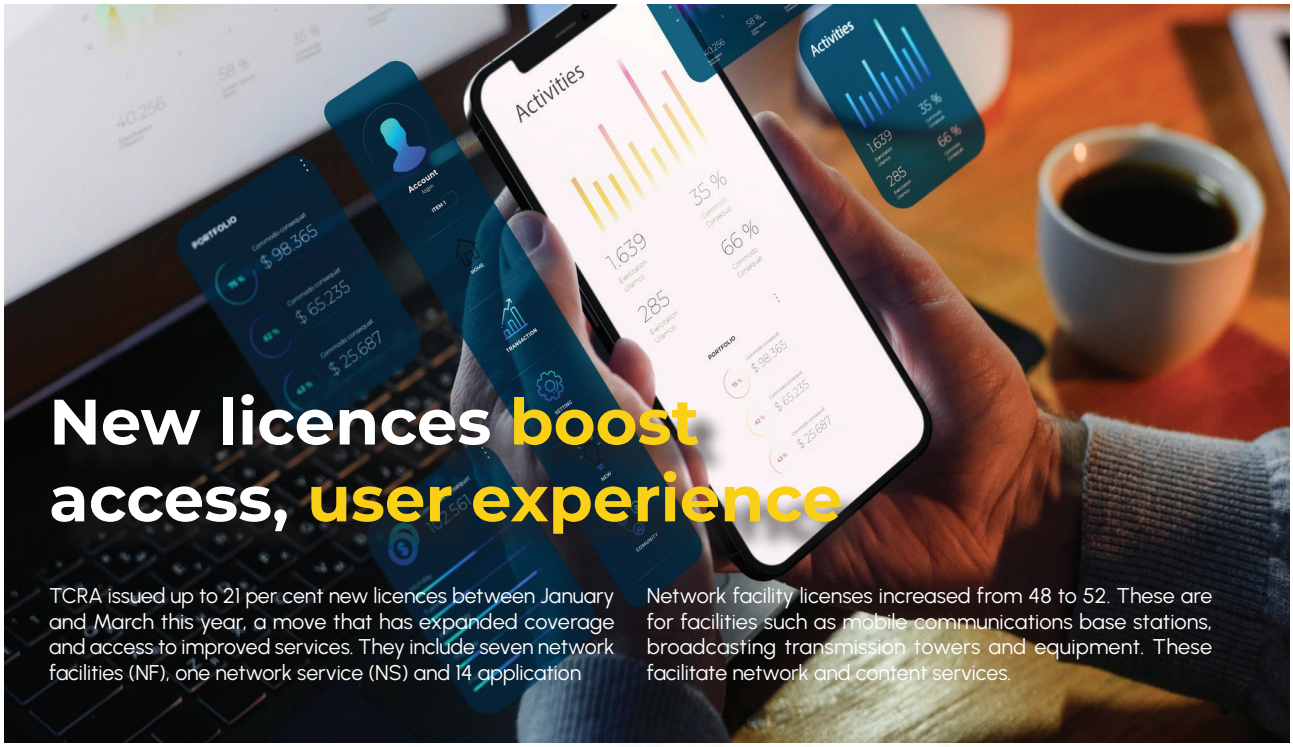


However, despite the increase, internet usage in Tanzania is very low. Subscribers use only 16.5 per cent of the available international internet capacity. They use only 2,915 gigabytes per second (GBPs) with 14,775 GBPS (83.5 per cent) left for new activation.

	Outgoing capacity (Gbps)	Incoming capacity (Gbps)
Total /Owned	17,690	17,690
Activated	2,915	2,915
Available for new activation	14,775	14,775

International Internet capacity as of March 2026

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New licences boost access, user experience

TCRA issued up to 21 per cent new licences between January and March this year, a move that has expanded coverage and access to improved services. They include seven network facilities (NF), one network service (NS) and 14 application

Network facility licenses increased from 48 to 52. These are for facilities such as mobile communications base stations, broadcasting transmission towers and equipment. These facilitate network and content services.

NS licences, which enable connectivity or transport between different networks, increased from 25 to 26. Operators may use their own or others' networks to provide services. Application services include voice, data, electronic commerce and other transmission services. Licences in this category increased from 159 to 173.

TCRA also issued 65 new authorisations for Global Maritime Distress and Safety Systems (GMDSS) and 12 numbers and short codes.

GMDSS is an international system for automated distress alerting and safety communications for rapid response to maritime emergencies. It facilitates rescue operations for ships at sea.

The Authority issued seven new licences for district radio content services, one for community radio services and five domestic courier operations. There are now 188 District radios, 37 regional radios, 14 national radios and 20 Community radios.

There were 21 National free-to-air (FTA) televisions, 21 district FTA televisions, 51 cable televisions and 30 national subscription televisions in March 2026.

Category	Number of licenses	
	December 2025	March 2026
National Content Television (FTA) Licences	21	21
District Content Television (FTA) Licences	21	21
National Content Radio Licences	14	14
Regional Content Radio Licences	37	37
District Content Radio Licences	188	195
Community Radios	19	20
National Special Content Television	1	1
National Content Televisions by Subscription	30	30
District Content Televisions by Subscription	1	1
National Content Broadcasting (Authority To Broadcast)- Channel Aggregators (Network Facility Licensee and Multiplex)	1	1
National Content (support services)	30	3
Online Content Aggregators	6	6
Weblogs (Blogs)	77	74
Online Radios	13	12
Online Televisions	222	221
Cable Televisions	55	51

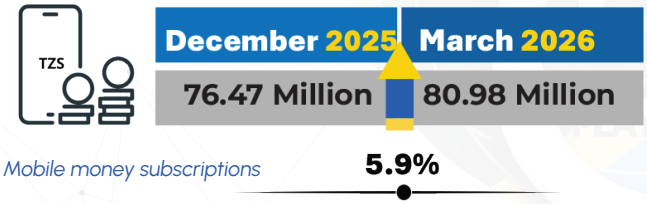
Number of Broadcasting Service Licences

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Trends towards universal mobile money services

Over 72 per cent of active SIM cards have been registered for mobile money services, with transactions increasing by 76 per cent in three years. The growth ratio of mobile money accounts overtook that of SIM card registration between March 2026 and March this year. This reflects Tanzania's desire to ensure universal financial inclusion.

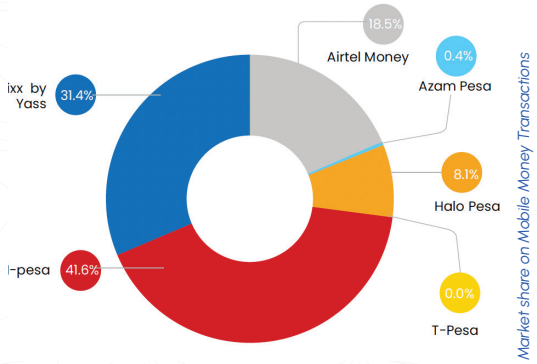


Mobile money subscriptions

Seventy-two per cent of active SIM cards were registered for mobile money services in March 2026, from 62 percent in March 2021. Some 52,813,930 SIM cards and 32,720,180 mobile money accounts registered in March 2021 increased to 111,907,235 and 80,977,268, respectively, in the period.

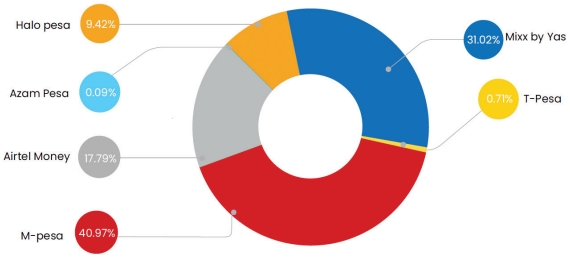
Active SIM cards increased by 112 percent and mobile money accounts by 147.48 per cent in the period. They increased by 4.6 and 6 per cent between December 2025 and March this year.

Mobile money transactions increased from 421,094,958 in March 2023, when there were 44,353,568 accounts based on 61,879,725 SIM cards, to 742,751,361 in March 2026. Transactions increased by 11.8 per cent between December 2025 and March this year.



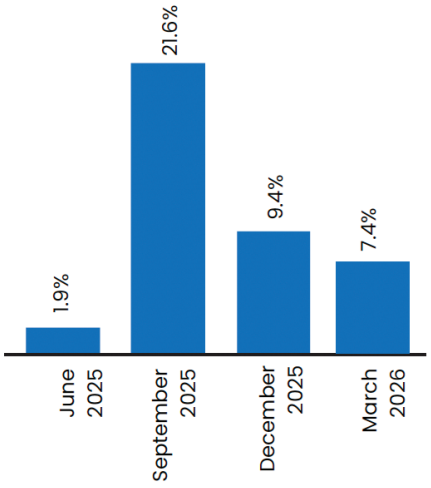
Market share on Mobile Money Transactions

Tanzania's mobile money market presents mixed indicators. It is very competitive, and no service provider has a monopoly, although Vodacom, through its M-Pesa brand, boasts of 40.97 per cent of the market. Azam Pesa holds 0.09 per cent of the market but accounted for 0.4 per cent of all transactions in March 2026. The company has a subscription television service.



Market Share on Mobile Money Subscriptions

Although the TTCL network had 578,850 mobile money subscriptions in March 2026, the operator recorded only 192,345 transactions in the period. This is 0.025 percent of all transactions.



Trend of Growth of Mobile Money Transactions

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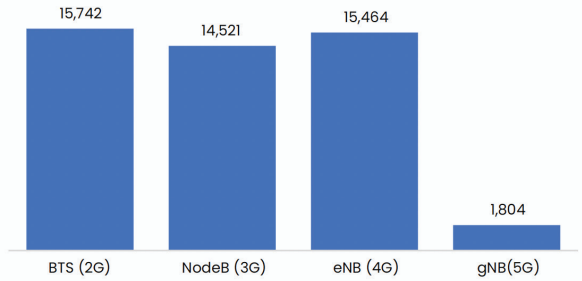
Five-G floods regions

The deployment of fifth-generation mobile phone technology (5G) infrastructure in Tanzania increased by 139 per cent between June 2024 and March this year, and all regions have at least three radio base stations for this standard.

5G facilities increased from 754 in June 2024 to 1,804 in March this year, and by 44 per cent between December 2025 and March 2026 - from 1,255.

Five G is now available in four regions which had no 5G facilities in June 2024. These and the numbers in brackets are: Katavi (8), Lindi (7), Mtwara (6) and Pemba North (3).

Five G debuted in Tanzania in 2022. The standard offers higher data speeds, enables faster downloads and can simultaneously connect multiple devices seamlessly without compromising service quality and user experience.



Radio base stations distribution per technology

5G networks have very little delay between sending and receiving data and support Internet of Things (IoT) communications. The latter includes machine-to-machine (M2M communications, where devices exchange data automatically and perform other actions without human intervention.

M2M SIM cards in Tanzania's networks increased by 22 percent between June 2024 and March 2026, from 969,440 to 1,182,797.



4.7%

P2P subscriptions growth indicates an increase in accessibility of telecommunication services.



4.4%

The increase in M2M signals gradual progress in the deployment of IoT and digital automation services

Month	Airtel	Halotel	TTCL	Vodacom	Yas	Total
January	23,421,212	17,714,324	1,752,205	33,728,178	31,164,195	**107,780,114**
February	23,388,041	17,855,496	1,774,538	34,570,964	31,161,620	**108,750,659**
March	23,405,300	18,222,244	1,797,670	35,538,870	31,760,354	**110,724,438**

Number of P2P Subscriptions per Operator

Month	Airtel	Halotel	TTCL	Vodacom	Yas	Total
January	339,354	88,020	3,461	628,330	83,385	**1,142,550**
February	344,353	90,520	3,467	637,262	85,419	**1,161,021**
March	346,794	93,520	4,023	648,069	90,391	**1,182,797**

Number of M2M Subscriptions per Operator

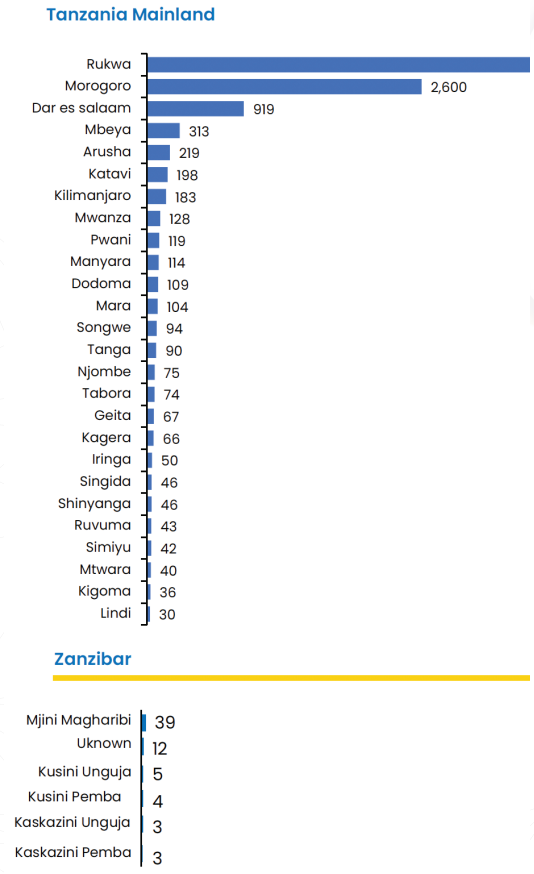
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Mobile Network Fraud down but Rukwa, Morogoro still infamous

Reported fraud and fraudulent attempts on mobile phone networks dropped by 140 per cent in 30 months – from 23,328 in September 2023 to 9,816 in March this year – but Rukwa and Morogoro are still notorious.

Despite an average 230 per cent drop in incidents reported in Morogoro and Rukwa regions in the period, the two account for 67 per cent of all frauds nationwide. Some 6,545 incidents were reported in the two regions in March 2026 compared with 15,021 in September 2023.

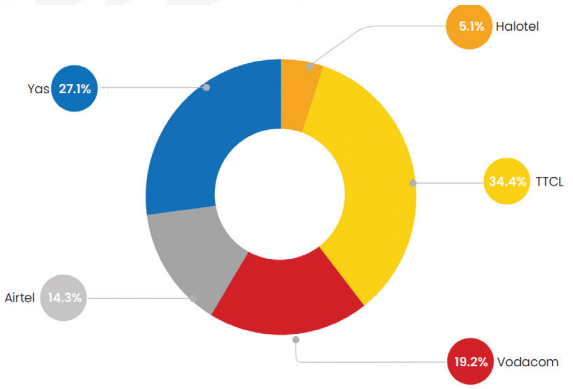


Distribution of Fraudulent Attempts per Region

Online fraud involves conmen purporting to represent network operators. They trick unsuspecting consumers into sharing information linked to their registered numbers and mobile money accounts.

Fraud undermines efforts to promote universal access to communications and financial inclusion. It erodes consumer and public confidence in electronic transactions and financial services.

Analysts attribute the improvement to increased consumer awareness and vigilance following TCRA's network safety education campaigns.



Fraudulent Attempts per Operator

TCRA urges consumers not to share sensitive information, such as their SIM card details, personal identification numbers or banking and mobile money account credentials with unknown parties.