GOVERNMENT NOTICE NO. 135 published on 22/5/2026

THE TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY ACT,
(CAP. 172)

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RULES

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THE TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (DEPLOYMENT OF COMMUNICATION TOWERS) RULES, 2026

ARRANGEMENT OF RULES

Rules *Title*

SCHEDULE

THE TANZANIA COMMUNICATION REGULATORY AUTHORITY ACT, (CAP. 172)

RULES

(Made under section 50(2))

THE TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY (DEPLOYMENT OF COMMUNICATION TOWERS) RULES, 2026

PART I
PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

Citation

1. These Rules may be cited as the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (Deployment of Communication Towers) Rules, 2026.

Application

2. These Rules shall apply to all network services and network facilities licensees operating within Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar in relation to the following facilities:

(a) guyed towers;
(b) self-supporting towers;
(c) roof mounts;
(d) smart solutions; and
(e) monopole towers.

Interpretation

3. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires-

"antenna" means equipment designed and used for radio communications in sending or receiving signals by electromagnetic waves;

"Authority" shall have the meaning ascribed to it under the

Act;

Cap. 172 "Act" means the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority Act;

"co-location" means accommodation of two or more switches, antennas or other electronic communication equipment in or on a single building, tower or other structure;

"communications facility" means a passive and active infrastructure used for the provision of communication services;

"guyed tower" means a communication tower that is supported, either fully or partially, by cables anchored to the ground;

"infrastructure" means a communications network facility, whether tangible or intangible, used for the provision of network services or application services and for the avoidance of doubt-

(a) tangibles include cables or wires, whether fibre optic or other, equipment, towers, masts, tunnels, ducts, risers, manholes, pits, poles, landing stations, huts, lands, access roads, buildings or facilities; and

(b) intangibles include contracts, agreements, licences, rights of way and such other interests;

"licensee" means a person licensed by the Authority to provide network services or communication infrastructure services;

"monopole" means a self-supporting communication tower which consists of a single vertical pole fixed into the ground or attached to a foundation; and

"tower" means a structure that is designed and constructed primarily for supporting communication equipment, including radio and antennas.

PART II
DEPLOYMENT AND DISPOSITION OF COMMUNICATION TOWERS

Licensing and construction

4. A person who wishes to construct a communication tower in the United Republic of Tanzania

requirements

shall-

(a) acquire all necessary licences, approvals and permits from the relevant authorities before commencing communication tower construction; and

(b) construct a communication tower in adherence to the terms and conditions of a network facilities licence granted by the Authority.

Compliance requirements

5. A licensee shall-

(a) comply with the procedures and processes specified in these Rules during the deployment of communication towers;

(b) fulfil the terms and conditions outlined in the Service Level Agreements related to communication towers;

(c) incorporate adequate resilience mechanisms in the design and deployment of the communication tower to enhance reliability;

(d) raise awareness among the local population to safeguard the communication tower's infrastructure;

(e) submit communication tower rollout plans and other relevant deployment documents to the Authority;

(f) Provide quarterly reports on the performance of the communication towers to the Authority;

(g) update the communication towers' information and submit it to the Authority; and

(h) deploy communication towers with the specification prescribed under the Schedule.

Power of Authority to inspect compliance

6.-(1) The Authority shall have power to carry out inspections for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of these Rules.

(2) For the purposes of subrule (1), an authorised officer may, at any reasonable time-

(a) conduct regular inspections and audits of installed communication towers to ensure the compliance; and

(b) evaluate performance reports submitted by

service providers regarding the communication tower to ensure adherence to performance requirements.

Construction standards

7.-(1) A licensee shall construct communication towers in accordance with international and national standards and best practice as prescribed by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards and the Electronic and Postal Communication (Access, Co-location and Infrastructure Sharing) Regulations.

(2) Notwithstanding the standards referred to in subrule (1), a licensee shall-

(a) ensure new sites are not located near national strategic areas or sites without prior consultations with the Authority and other relevant authorities;

(b) explore and demonstrate the opportunity for tower sharing with existing towers within an area of 300 meters radius of the interested site before considering a proposal for another tower;

(c) consider the use of alternate structures within the vicinity of the site, such as building rooftops or other facilities, to mount their antenna systems with permission from the building or facility owner;

(d) avoid construction of large base stations or towers close to sensitive public areas or buildings like schools, hospitals, public amenities or national heritage sites;

(e) ensure the site is large enough for the installation of the communication tower, equipment enclosure, generator set, fuel tanks and electrical feeders with metering and mains distribution board;

(f) ensure that the design, selection of materials and construction is carried out by professional engineers and certified experts to ensure the maximum service life of a communication tower is attained;

(g) ensure the design, fabrication materials, installations, safety factors, wind, and tower loadings conform to national and international standards requirements;

(h) place the name tag-

(i) in the case of the owner of the tower, in a visible area; or

(ii) in the case of the tenant, in the communication equipment;

(i) not construct communication towers near high voltage electrical power transmission lines for safety and prevention of electromagnetic waves interference;

(j) ensure that the ground base of communication towers has sufficient light and the buildings at the site have enough lighting inside and outside;

(k) ensure that communication towers have aviation warning obstruction lights on top of the tower, and the light shall be positioned to ensure unobstructed visibility from aircraft at any normal angle of approach and shall comply with the requirements of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority;

(l) ensure the tower premises are provided with a comprehensive lightning protection scheme to protect the site from lightning- related damage, and shall be equipped with lightning arresters or lightning prevention systems to protect it from lightning strikes;

(m) ensure that exposure limits of Radio Frequency Electric and magnetic fields radiation are in accordance with the limits specified by the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection;

(n) ensure that equipment installed at the site complies with national and international standards to ensure the harmful effects of human exposure to electromagnetic field radiation are minimized;

(o) ensure the site is fenced and provided with security measures such as security alarms, closed-circuit television cameras and or security guards; and

(p) notify the permitting agencies upon the completion of the construction, where applicable.

Installation of communication equipment

8. A licensee shall ensure that a communication tower, or another communication tower constructed within a radius of 300 meters, does not accommodate the installation of additional communication equipment, including radios and antennas, where-

(a) it is verified by a licensed structural engineer that such installation may exceed the structural capacity of the communication tower;

(b) the reinforcement or modification of the existing communication tower cannot be achieved at an economical cost to accommodate additional communication equipment;

(c) installing additional communication equipment may cause interference to existing communication equipment or other planned communication equipment, impacting their performance, as verified by a professional engineer in a related field, and the interference cannot be prevented at a reasonable cost; and

(d) the existing tower or building cannot provide the necessary height for the communication equipment to provide adequate coverage within the geographical service area, as verified by a professional engineer in a related field.

Disposition of communication tower

9.-(1) The Authority may issue a disposition order of the communication tower installed or constructed contrary to the requirements specified under any relevant law or these Rules.

(2) Where the Authority has issued a disposition order under subrule(1), the owner of the tower shall bear

the cost for the disposition.

Sharing of towers

10.-(1) In the design of a communication tower, the licensee shall ensure that the tower is designed in a manner that enables sharing with other licensees to avoid the construction of additional communication towers in that area.

(2) A licensee shall not construct a new communication tower at the same location unless it is demonstrated that the facilities of the existing tower cannot meet the requirements of the applicant.

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(3) Where co-location is not feasible, an owner of the communication tower shall inform the applicant of the reasons for not collocating as stipulated in the Electronic and Postal Communications (Access, Co-location and Infrastructure Sharing) Regulations.

Safety requirements

11.-(1) A licensee shall-

(a) install appropriate warning signs that shall include the name of the owner, site name, site identification code (if any) and emergency telephone number that are visible to workers and members of the public, indicating the relevant dangers posed by the site;

(b) ensure that appropriate safety equipment, including fire extinguishers, is accessible on the site;

(c) ensure that workers have access to appropriate safety equipment when working on-site including Personal Protective Equipment and a first aid kit;

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(d) ensure compliance with power supply, safety and site accessibility conditions stipulated in the Electronic and Postal Communications (Access, Co-location and Infrastructure Sharing) Regulations;

(e) ensure that access to the tower is restricted at all times, and entry into the tower premises is permitted only to authorised persons such as owners, operators, tenants, and regulatory

authorities performing official duties;

(f) ensure a person who visits a communication tower fills in the visitor's log book;

(g) strictly control access and maintain records of visitors' identification copies, authorisation letters or authorised work permits;

(h) ensure hazardous warning signs, including high voltage, radio frequency and electric warning signs are displayed at the site; and

(i) ensure all installed equipment, including feeder cables, signal lines, antennas or auxiliary equipment, is labelled for easy identification.

(2) An owner of the communication tower shall ensure that towers are equipped with safety equipment, including fall arrest systems, climbing ladders or step bolts, guardrails, work platforms, rest platforms, anti-climb systems, and fire extinguishers.

Modification of towers

12. A licensee, before commencing any modification of a tower, shall-

(a) consult relevant authorities;

(b) ensure that the communication tower complies with the required standards specified in the Electronic and Postal Communications (Access, Co-location and Infrastructure Sharing) Regulations;

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(c) ensure that the tower design meets structural standards as verified by a qualified structural engineer;

(d) ensure that antenna systems comply with the electromagnetic field radiation exposure limits as certified by a qualified professional engineer;

(e) notify the permitting authorities upon the completion of the modification, where applicable; and

(f) allow permitting authorities to inspect the tower at any time to ensure the modification or operation of the tower complies with their

respective requirements.

Integrity inspection

13. A licensee shall-

(a) inspect the structural integrity of towers using certified professional engineers at least once every three years; and

(b) submit the inspection report to the Authority within sixty days after the completion of the inspection.

Site maintenance

14. A licensee shall-

(a) employ reasonable care when installing and maintaining towers and their communication equipment to prevent failures and accidents which are likely to cause damage or injuries to the public;

(b) keep and maintain communication towers, equipment and supporting structures in good condition at all times by implementing routine maintenance schedules in order to prevent any risk to the life or property of any person;

(c) ensure the availability of a copy of the maintenance report to the Authority for inspection purposes;

(d) ensure the maintenance includes aviation light, lightning protection system, power system, tower structure strength, painting, security, cleanliness of the site, impact to the environment and anything that may endanger the life of persons or cause damage to other properties around the communication site; and

(e) employ licensed maintenance and construction personnel to perform maintenance or construction work on communication towers, communication equipment or supporting structures.

Site inventory

15. The licensee shall, on a quarterly basis, submit an inventory of the owned network facilities and those of companies co-locating on the communications tower.

Abandoned towers

16.-(1) The Authority shall deem communication towers that remain unused and unmaintained for a consecutive period of three years abandoned.

(2) Before deeming a communication tower abandoned under subrule (1), the Authority may request from the licensee the documents, including-

(a) service level agreements;

(b) co-location agreements; or

(c) maintenance report.

Disposition notice

17.-(1) The Authority, upon deeming a communication tower abandoned, shall issue a disposition notice to the owner of the tower.

(2) An owner shall dispose of the tower within ninety days from the date of receipt of the notice.

(3) Where an abandoned communication tower is not disposed of within ninety days, the Authority may dispose of the communication tower, and the costs associated with the disposition, along with any applicable penalties as determined by the Authority, shall be borne by the owner.

(4) The Authority or owner of the communication tower, as the case may be, shall dispose of electronic waste, batteries and other hazardous materials pursuant to the Environmental Management Act.

Cap. 191

Offences
Cap. 172

18. A licensee who contravenes any provision of these Rules shall be liable to a penalty provided under the Act.

SCHEDULE

(Made under rule 5 (h))

A. MONOPOLE OR POST TOWERS

1. Monopole towers are comprised of tapered steel tubes with a slipped joint or flanged joint that fit over each other or are bolted together to form a stable pole.

2. Monopole towers shall be guyed or self-supported and fitted with climbing rungs where necessary

3. Monopole towers have the following features:
   (a) sections of the tower are made of hollow, heavy-duty, thick steel tubes, flanged steel tubes or low- alloy, high-strength steel;
   (b) each shaft section should be a constant-tapered hollow steel section;
   (c) pipe diameter shall decrease from bottom to top;
   (d) monopole towers are to be made from galvanised hollow steel pipes or high strength steel and finishes to meet local aesthetic requirements;
   (e) for a slip-jointed tower, the pipes shall be tapered to ensure that one pipe base fits into the top of another until the desired height is achieved;
   (f) for a flange jointed tower, the pipes shall be tapered to ensure that one pipe base flange is bolted onto the top flange of another until the desired height is achieved; and
   (g) the depth of the overlay, the base width and the number of pipes in a particular monopole shall be determined by the expected height of a tower, the thickness of the pipe walls, the base diameter and whether the tower shall be guyed or not.

B. GUYED TOWERS

1. These are towers that are stabilised by tethered wires.

2. Guyed towers are designed and installed with consideration for the following:
   (a) guyed towers shall come in lattice, triangular, or square shapes, either tapered or straight, and may also be in monopole structural forms;
   (b) guyed towers shall be supported and held in position by guy wires or ropes;
   (c) guy ropes shall be made exclusively of pre-stretched steel. The specified minimum strength of the guy wire should match the maximum tension expected under the worst loading conditions;
   (d) guyed towers shall have tube or solid legs with solid bracing, enhancing tower rigidity and allowing for twist and sway;
   (e) guyed wires shall not be over-tightened to prevent excessive tension, which could lead to alignment issues, cable rupture and wrapping of structural parts; and
   (f) guyed wires shall be anchored in three directions at 120 degrees apart from each other for 3-sided towers and in four directions at 90 degrees apart for 4-sided towers. The distance from the tower base to the guyed anchor base should be one-quarter of the tower's height.

C. ROOF MOUNTS

1. Roof mounts are an economical solution for raising signals above roof obstacles or other obstructions.

2. The design and installation of roof mounts shall take into account the following features:
   (a) structural assessments shall be conducted to determine whether the chosen roof can withstand the additional load imposed by the structure and the entire antenna array it will support;
   (b) roof-mounted towers shall be certified by a structural engineer before installation;
   (c) roof-mounted towers shall have a barrier erected around them. However, monopoles can be mounted on rooftops without barriers;
   (d) roof mounts shall be limited to lightweight structures of low heights and shall support minimal and dynamic loads; and
   (e) roof mounts shall be installed in penetrating or non-penetrating modes and can be self-supported or guyed. However, non-penetrating roof mounts are most suitable for flat surfaces.

D. SELF-SUPPORTING TOWERS

(a) Self-supporting towers are free-standing lattice structures.

(b) Self-supporting towers shall have the following features:
- (a) Triangular or square structure;
- (b) Tube legs, angle legs, lattice legs or solid round legs;
- (c) Tapered sections, however, for shorter towers on rooftops with a small footprint, straight sections should be used to ensure rigidity at the top;
- (d) Face widths vary according to height and load capacity;
- (e) Rest platforms provided every 20 meters of height;
- (f) Work platforms provided at all heights where antennas are to be installed;
- (g) Fitted with a climbing ladder; and
- (h) Standard support forms for lattice structures are specified as follows:
  - (i) Lattice Leg;
  - (ii) Angle Leg; and
  - (iii) Tube Leg / Solid Round Leg.

E. SMART SOLUTIONS

Smart solutions shall include the following:
- (a) Signposts with antenna installations: These are self-supporting structures typically utilised as billboards or advertising structures along streets. Signposts conceal antennas and serve as standalone macro cells for urban densification or as part of an outdoor distributed antenna system;
- (b) Street Lamps: These are another class of infrastructure used as street lights. They can be installed with antennas and utilised as part of an outdoor distributed antenna system or as standalone microcells;
- (c) Wall Mounts: These solutions have diverse applications and equipment types. They encompass antenna types ranging from micro to macroRF antennas, typically directional or panel antennas mounted on the walls of high-rise buildings;
- (d) Small Cells: These are essentially small, low-powered radios that enable operators to densify cellular networks to enhance capacity. They include picocells, femtocells, metro cells, microcells, and indoor/outdoor distributed antenna systems. Outdoor small cells often utilise infrastructure types like street lamps, signposts, and wall mounts mentioned above.

DAR ES SALAAM,
....., 2026

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Director General