

# Communication Sector Undergoes Exponential Growth

By Semu Mwakyanjala

THERE has been exponential growth in the Country communication sector with increased number of registered SIM-Card lines from 48,939,530 in 2020 to 53,063,085 by April 2021, equivalent to 10.8 per cent increase.

Tabling the annual budget for 2021/2022 in Parliament, Dodoma recently, the Minister for Communication and Information Technologies Dr, Faustine Engelbert Ndugulile (MP) said the number of internet service users had shot up from 26,832,089 in 2020 to 29,071,817 by April 2021, equivalent to an increase of 8.3 per cent.

He said users of mobile money services increased from 27,127,298 in 2020 up to 32,720,180 in April, 2021 equivalent to an increase of 20.6 per cent.

The Hon. Minister Dr. Ndugulile (MP) also told members of the parliament that the number of Radio Stations had gone up from 193 in 2020 to 200 in April, 2021 and Television Stations increase from 43 in year 2020 to 50 by April 2021.

The total amount of money sent and received through mobile money services from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 to 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 amounted to 170,513,110,859,867, according to the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) manned Tele-Traffic Monitoring System (TTMS).

Vibrant increase in numbers of the Country's critical communication infrastructures is a clear testimony and manifestation of improved delivery of services that contribute to increased income and subsequent improved living standards of people.

The United Republic of Tanzania, liberalised the Country's Communication in 1990s and put in place Economic Reforms that involved creation of Communication Policy which paved way for a conducive environment for Vibrant growth of the Telecom Sector.

Tanzania's Telecom Services have proven to be the hub of Social, Economic growth of the Country benefitting almost every sector, either directly or indirectly.

During independence in 1961, Tanzania had only one Radio Station, One land line Telecommunication Company and no Television Station. The Telecom sector almost contributed nothing to the Government Coffers. The Sector has now become one of the largest employers with immense contribution to the enhanced People's Living Standards.

Tanzania's eight neighbouring countries now stand a visible Open Chance to directly benefit of a reliable communication infrastructure known as Optic Fire System that has reached almost each border in boost of Social, Economic activities within the country and its neighbouring States.