

Tanzania

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1 Overview

1.1 Please describe the: (a) telecoms; (b) audio-visual media distribution; and (c) internet infrastructure sectors in Tanzania, in particular by reference to each sector's: (i) importance (e.g. measured by annual revenue); (ii) 3-5 most important companies; (iii) whether they have been liberalised and are open to competition; and (iv) whether they are open to foreign investment.

The telecoms, audio-visual media distribution and internet infrastructure sectors are the fastest growing sectors in Tanzania. Tanzania has the second largest telecoms market in East Africa, behind Kenya; from teledensity of 1% in 2001, the country reached over 40% in September 2012, representing a subscriber base of more than 16.2 million people. The driver of this phenomenal growth has been the mobile sector, which since the entry of the first mobile operator in 1994 has transformed the communications landscape.

The government too has played its part: competition has grown due to the liberalisation of the market and the introduction of a progressive licensing framework. As new infrastructure and new services come on stream, and the incumbent operators are joined in the space by new competition, the telecoms sector has never looked livelier.

The five most important telecoms companies in Tanzania include:

- Bharti Airtel Tanzania.
- MIC Tanzania Limited ('tiGO').
- Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited ('TTCL').
- Vodacom Tanzania Limited.
- Zanzibar Telecom Company ('ZANTEL') a part of Etisalat of the United Arab Emirates.

All of the above mentioned companies are in competition with each other and the entire sector is open to further investment be it local or foreign under the careful supervision of the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority ('TCRA').

1.2 List the most important legislation which applies to the: (a) telecoms; (b) audio-visual media distribution; and (c) internet, sectors in Tanzania.

The Electronic and Postal Communications Act No.3 of 2010 ('EPOCA') and Regulations made under EPOCA are the most important legislation which applies to the telecoms, audio-visual media distribution and internet sectors in Tanzania.

1.3 List the government ministries, regulators, other agencies and major industry self-regulatory bodies which have a role in the regulation of the: (a) telecoms; (b) audio-visual media distribution; and (c) internet, sectors in Tanzania.

The government ministries, regulators, other agencies and major industry self-regulatory bodies which have a role in the regulation of the telecoms, audio-visual media distribution and internet sectors in Tanzania include the TCRA, the Tanzania Revenue Authority ('TRA'), the Fair Competition Commission ('FCC'), the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Business Registration and Licensing Agency ('BRELA').

1.4 Are there any restrictions on foreign ownership or investment in the: (a) telecoms; (b) audio-visual media distribution; and (c) internet, sectors in Tanzania?

Yes there are certain restrictions on foreign ownership or investment in the telecoms, audio-visual media distribution and internet sectors in Tanzania.

EPOCA stipulates that the Minister of Science and Technology ('the Minister') shall in consultation with the TCRA make regulations prescribing the minimum local shareholding requirement and procedure for approval and transfer of shares in the electronic communications industry.

2 Telecoms

General

2.1 Is the United Republic of Tanzania a member of the World Trade Organisation? Has Tanzania made commitments under the GATS regarding telecommunications and has Tanzania adopted and implemented the telecoms reference paper?

Yes, the United Republic of Tanzania is a member of the World Trade Organisation. Tanzania has made commitments under the GATS regarding telecommunications and has adopted and implemented the telecoms reference paper.

2.2 How is the provision of telecoms (or electronic communications) networks or services regulated?

The provision of the telecoms (or electronic communications) networks or services is regulated by EPOCA and its regulations.

2.3 Who are the regulatory and competition law authorities in Tanzania? How are their roles differentiated? Are they independent from the government?

The regulator of the communications, postal and broadcasting sectors in Tanzania is the TCRA which was established by the TCRA Act No.12 of 2003, while the regulator of competition in Tanzania is the FCC established by the Fair Competition Act 2003 ('FCA'). The FCA applies to the commercial activities regulated by the EPOCA.

If the TCRA determines that a facility or service provider is in a dominant position in a communication market, it may direct such facilities or service provider to cease any conduct which has (or may have) the effect of substantially lessening competition in such market and to implement appropriate remedies. Both authorities are not independent from the government and are currently under the auspices of the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, respectively.

2.4 Are decisions of the national regulatory authority able to be appealed? If so, to which court or body, and on what basis?

The decisions of the TCRA may be appealed to the Fair Competition Tribunal within thirty days from the date of the decision. This may be done provided that:

- the award was not reasonably open to the TCRA based on the evidence;
- there was an error in law;
- the procedures or other statutory requirements applicable to the TCRA were not complied with and the non-compliance materially affected the award; or
- the TCRA did not have power to make the award.

Licences and Authorisations

2.5 What types of general and individual authorisations are used in Tanzania?

There is no general authorisation regime in Tanzania. There exists a technology and service-neutral licensing regime, based on four broad categories of licensable activities. The said four categories of licences are further distinguished based on type, i.e. an individual or a class licence.

2.6 Please summarise the main requirements of Tanzania's general authorisation.

An applicant for a licence shall be required to submit the following information:

- a certificate of incorporation or registration;
- business plan for the proposed services;
- technical proposal for the services to be provided including roll out plans;
- previous experience in the provision of the services;
- shareholding structure as prescribed under section 26 of EPOCA;
- proof of the applicant being financially capable;
- any applicant for an electronic communication licence which uses frequency bands that are competitive shall in addition submit a network plan and configuration for deployment, technical specifications and manuals of equipment to be used

- and products and services to be offered;
- an applicant is required to have a physical address in a place within the United Republic and shall provide the same to the TCRA; and
- any other relevant information the TCRA may require.

2.7 In relation to individual authorisations, please identify their subject matter, duration and ability to be transferred or traded.

The EPOCA regulates the provision of facilities and services within the communications and broadcasting sectors (which include the provision of electronic communications networks and services). There are also regulations issued pursuant to the EPOCA which regulate specific facilities and services in the communications sector.

One of the key features of the EPOCA is the fact that it has a technology and service neutral licensing regime, based on four broad categories of licensable activities. Unless exempt, the provision of facilities and services within the communications sector may require the following licences:

- Network Facilities Licence.
- Network Service Licence.
- Applications Service Licence.
- Content Applications Licence.

In addition to the above, there may be other licences or authorisations required for the specific facilities and/or services provided. With regard to competition, the EPOCA purports to prohibit:

- any conduct by any licensee which has the purpose of substantially lessening competition in a communications market;
- any arrangements and practices which provide for rate-fixing, market sharing and boycotting of a supplier or competitor; and
- mandatory tying or linking arrangements regarding the provision or supply of products and services.

Typically, the duration of an individual licence is 25 years. The breakdown is as follows:

- Network Facilities Licence - up to 25 years.
- Network Services Licence - up to 25 years.
- Application Services Licence - up to 10 years.
- Content Services Licence - up to 10 years.

Licences are not transferable except with the prior consent of the TCRA.

Public and Private Works

2.8 Are there specific legal or administrative provisions dealing with access and/or securing or enforcing rights to public and private land in order to install telecommunications infrastructure?

The EPOCA contains provisions relating to inspection of land and installation of network facilities (which includes telecommunications infrastructure). A network facilities installation permit is required as the EPOCA explicitly states that a person shall not install, operate, manage, construct, maintain, own or make available network facilities in the United Republic except under the terms and conditions of an individual licence granted by the TCRA.

Access and Interconnection

2.9 How is network-to-network interconnection and access mandated?

Every electronic communications licensee has the right for the purposes of enabling the provision of electronic communications to publicly negotiate an agreement for access to electronic communications network elements of any network facilities licensee and electronic communications services provided by any network service licensee.

A network service licensee shall have an obligation on receipt of a request for interconnection from an interconnection seeker, to interconnect with the interconnection seeker at reasonable terms and conditions set out in an interconnection agreement.

The TCRA has the mandate to issue interconnection procedures and guidance on approval or rejection of interconnection agreements and to place all interconnection agreements in the public register.

2.10 How are interconnection or access disputes resolved?

In a dispute regarding interconnection or access, the parties must first attempt to resolve their dispute by negotiation between themselves. If the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the parties may seek to resolve their dispute through the TCRA.

Upon receipt of written notification of the dispute, the Commission will convene to decide on the dispute. The TCRA will arbitrate by appointing an arbitrator to arbitrate on interconnection disputes. However, if the parties to the dispute are not satisfied with the award of the TCRA, they can appeal to the Fair Competition Tribunal as per the conditions set out in question 2.4 above.

2.11 Which operators are required to publish their standard interconnection contracts and/or prices?

The operators are not required to publish their standard interconnection contracts and/or prices to the public. However, the interconnecting parties shall have rights to get information from each party in order to plan, establish or maintain the licensee's networks, use that information solely for the purpose for which it was supplied and respect confidentiality of information transmitted or stored.

The interconnection provider shall be required to have in place a Reference Interconnection Offer (RIO) available at the request of the interconnection seeker which shall be submitted to the TCRA for approval.

2.12 Looking at fixed, mobile and other services, are charges for interconnection (e.g. switched services) and/or network access (e.g. wholesale leased lines) subject to price or cost regulation and, if so, how?

With reference to the response to question 2.11 above, the TCRA has the regulatory powers to either approve or disapprove the pricing proposals for interconnection filed by licence holders. Interconnection costs and charges are to be computed based on, but not limited to:

Costs

- Forward looking long run incremental costs.
- The current costs of the modern equivalent technology.
- The level of cost that would occur in competitive and contestable markets.

- The relevant and efficiently incurred costs that would promote effective competition.

Charges

- Objective, transparent and reflective of underlying costs.
- Sufficiently unbundled to ensure that an operator requesting interconnection is not required to pay for network elements or facilities not strictly required for the services to be provided.
- Compensation arrangement, which is reciprocal for the transportation and termination of traffic.

2.13 Are any operators subject to: (a) accounting separation; (b) functional separation; and/or (c) legal separation?

Some licensed operators are subject to accounting separation. The EPOCA Regulations state that the accounting separation applies to licence holders who:

- have been declared by the TCRA to hold a dominant position in the national wholesale market or in two or more retail markets;
- have been granted multiple electronic or postal communication licences; or
- have business units in their entity which enter into transactions or otherwise do business with each other.

The accounting separation information is to be delivered to the TCRA. There are no explicit requirements for functional or legal separation.

2.14 Are owners of existing copper local loop access infrastructure required to unbundle their facilities and if so, on what terms and subject to what regulatory controls? Are cable TV operators also so required?

Yes to all. They are all subject to regulatory controls as prescribed by the TCRA through the EPOCA and its regulations.

2.15 How are existing interconnection and access regulatory conditions to be applied to next generation (IP-based) networks? Are there any regulations or proposals for regulations relating to next-generation access (fibre to the home, or fibre to the cabinet)? Are any 'regulatory holidays' or other incentives to build fibre access networks proposed? Are there any requirements to share passive infrastructure such as ducts or poles?

The regulatory regime of the TCRA is technology and service neutral; existing interconnection and access regulatory conditions apply to Hybrid Networks which are multiplatform networks which distribute signals using a number of digital electronic media which can be used in part or by a combination of IP and IPTV, Satellite and any other future platforms.

The Government of Tanzania is currently constructing the National Fibre Optic Cable network named as National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) with a view to achieve its ICT vision. The National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) is managed and operated by Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited on behalf of the Government of United Republic of Tanzania through the Ministry of Communication Science and Technology. The infrastructure will enhance usage of ICT applications for sustainable socio-economic development, including implementation of E-government, E-learning, E-health, E-commerce and much more locally and globally.

The National ICT Broadband Backbone (NICTBB) will also

provide access to international submarine Fibre Optic Cables (ESSY and SEACOM) at their landing point in Dar Es Salaam to all land-locked neighbouring countries for international connectivity. It should be noted that there are no 'regulatory holidays' or other incentives to build fibre access networks in Tanzania.

Yes there are requirements to share passive infrastructure such as ducts or poles. The access, co-location and infrastructure regulations to the EPOCA stipulate that licensees who own leases or manage infrastructure are obliged to negotiate and enter into sharing agreements upon request with respect to access, co-location and sharing of tangible communication facilities.

Price and Consumer Regulation

2.16 Are retail price controls imposed on any operator in relation to fixed, mobile, or other services?

Service providers are generally free to set their own rates. The EPOCA tariff regulations stipulate the following conditions on the setting of tariffs:

- that every licensee shall set tariffs that are just and reasonable;
- tariffs shall be cost oriented made on the objective criteria; and
- they are non-discriminatory and shall guarantee equal treatment.

The TCRA may approve or reject an application for review of tariffs for regulated services. It may reject a tariff if it is of the view that the proposed tariffs are unjustifiable, unfair and unreasonable.

2.17 Is the provision of electronic communications services to consumers subject to any special rules and if so, in what principal respects?

The provision of electronic communication services to consumers is subject to the EPOCA regulations on consumer protection. A licensee shall provide the following services to consumers:

- information on products and services which are complete, accurate and up-to-date in clear and simple language; and
- address adequately consumer complaints.

In addition to complying with the regulations, the licensee is required to observe the consumer protection provisions stipulated in the FCA.

Numbering

2.18 How are telephone numbers and network identifying codes allocated and by whom?

All telecommunications network operators and service providers licensed by the TCRA to operate in Tanzania are eligible for assignment of electronic communications numbers. The telephone numbers and network identification codes are allocated by the TCRA.

The electronic communications licensee requiring electronic communications numbers shall submit to the TCRA:

- The appropriate application form.
- Documents and reasons for use of the said numbers.
- Estimated demand as the grounds for the said request.
- Plans for the provision of telecommunication services for the numbers required.

Subject to the above mentioned conditions, the TCRA may assign electronic numbers and issue a certificate of assignment based on the following conditions:

- It determines that the electronic communication numbers required for the provision of electronic communication services is available.
- Payment of the relevant fees.

2.19 Are there any special rules which govern the use of telephone numbers?

The EPOCA and its regulations on electronic communication numbering and addressing govern the use of telephone numbers

2.20 Are there any obligations requiring number portability?

The TCRA requires that mobile number portability be provided and supported by all mobile service providers. The porting processes shall be designed around a 'one stop shop' concept, whereby the customer shall start the porting procedure by contacting the new operator or service provider and the proposed recipient operator shall be required to manage the process on behalf of the customer.

A licensee shall facilitate number portability when a subscriber is:

- Changing the method of payment from prepaid to post paid services and *vice versa*.
- Changing from one mobile network technology to another.
- Changing from one licensee to another.

3 Radio Spectrum

3.1 What authority regulates spectrum use?

The TCRA is responsible for the regulation of the radio frequency spectrums.

3.2 How is the use of radio spectrum authorised in Tanzania? What procedures are used to allocate spectrum between candidates - i.e. spectrum auctions, comparative 'beauty parades', etc.?

Radio spectrum may be assigned for mobile or fixed wireless access, networks, private business radio, fixed links and broadcasting stations depending on availability of spectrum.

The procedure for spectrum assignments shall be determined by the TCRA, as the case may be and may include the following:

- the method of determining the price;
- the method of payment of the assignment fees;
- the advertisement of the proposed assignment;
- the potential of applications including the type of technology that may be used;
- the intensity of demand;
- the extent of spectrum usage;
- availability of equipment for use in the band; and
- ranges of the band and any other matters as the TCRA may deem necessary.

3.3 Can the use of spectrum be made licence-exempt? If so, under what conditions?

The use of spectrum cannot be made licence-exempt in Tanzania.

3.4 If licence or other authorisation fees are payable for the use of radio frequency spectrum, how are these applied and calculated?

An applicant shall pay the TCRA any fees as prescribed in the first schedule of the EPOCA (Licensing) Regulations and such fees shall include:

- An initial licence fee payable before the licence is issued.
- An annual fee of the amount specified in the rules made under the EPOCA.
- Fee in respect of the assigned frequency, frequency bandwidth or radio communication station.
- Fee in respect of assigned electronic numbering resource.

It should be noted however that the TCRA may from time-to-time review the licence fees.

3.5 What happens to spectrum licences if there is a change of control of the licensee?

Spectrum licences shall not be transferred, assigned, pledged or otherwise disposed off without prior written consent of the TCRA.

3.6 Are spectrum licences able to be assigned, traded or sub-licensed and if so on what conditions?

Please see our response to question 3.5 above.

4 Cyber-security, Interception, Encryption and Data Retention

4.1 Describe the legal framework (including listing relevant legislation) which governs the ability of the state (police, security services, etc.) to obtain access to private communications?

The EPOCA stipulates that a person shall not disclose any information received or obtained in exercising his powers or performing his duties except:

- Where the information is required by any law enforcement agency (police, security services, etc.), court of law or other lawfully constituted tribunal.

4.2 Summarise the rules which require market participants to maintain call interception (wire-tap) capabilities? Does this cover: (i) traditional telephone calls; (ii) VoIP calls; (iii) emails; and (iv) any other forms of communications?

The EPOCA stipulates that subscriber information be kept within the TCRA. The TCRA shall take charge of the monitoring and supervising of the information stored.

Every application services licensee shall be required to submit to the TCRA once a month a list containing its subscriber's information and shall issue guidelines on details of subscribers' information to be submitted. This covers traditional telephone calls, VoIP calls, emails and any other forms of communications.

4.3 How does the state intercept communications for a particular individual?

An application must be made to the public prosecutor for authorisation to intercept or to listen to any communication

transmitted or received by any communications. Only the following offers may have such access:

- A public officer.
- An officer appointed by the TCRA and authorised in writing by the Ministry of Science and Technology and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The public prosecutor must consider whether any communications is likely to contain any information which is relevant for the purpose of any investigation into an offence under the EPOCA and its regulations before authorising such access.

4.4 Describe the rules governing the use of encryption and the circumstances when encryption keys need to be provided to the state?

There are no rules governing the use of encryption in Tanzania.

4.5 What call data are telecoms or internet infrastructure operators obliged to retain and for how long?

Tanzania has no Data Protection Act; however, the EPOCA regulations on consumer protection state that a licensee may collect and maintain information on individual consumers where it is reasonably required for its business purposes. The collection and maintenance of information on individual consumers shall be:

- Fairly and lawfully collected and processed.
- Processed for identified purposes.
- Accurate.
- Processed in accordance with the consumer's other rights.
- Protected against improper or accidental disclosure.

Not transferred to any party except as permitted by any terms and conditions agreed with the consumer as permitted by any approval of the TCRA or as otherwise permitted or required by applicable laws and regulations.

5 Distribution of Audio-Visual Media

5.1 How is the distribution of audio-visual media regulated in Tanzania?

The distribution of audio-visual media is regulated by the EPOCA (Digital and other Broadcasting Networks) Regulations 2011.

5.2 Is there a distinction between the linear and non-linear content and/or content distributed over different platforms?

Yes there is a distinction between linear and non-linear content and/or content distributed over different platforms.

5.3 Describe the different types of licences for the distribution of audio-visual media and their key obligations.

The different types of licences for the distribution of audio-visual media include the multiplex licence operator, content service licensee in relation to terrestrial digital television broadcasting networks and content service licensee in relation to AM and FM Radio broadcasting networks.

The Multiplex Operator

The Network Facilities Licensee who has been authorised to

provide digital terrestrial broadcasting multiplexing and signal distribution to:

- Provide access to free-to-air content services as a primary obligation.
- Provide access to subscription (pay television) on a secondary basis.
- To make available, provisioning of content aggregation and programme bouquet handling systems that shall support data paths embedded in the DVB stream based on open source (non-proprietary) multimedia system to support Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) and Electronic Programme Information (EPI) for Free To Air (FTA) and Conditional Access for subscription services. The schedule on Set Top Box (STB) shall describe all services carried on the Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) platform for the following seven days.
- Provide services to current and new content service licensees on a fair, transparent, impartial and non-discriminatory manner.
- To construct, operate, install, manage and maintain network facilities in accordance with the regulations of the EPOCA.
- To submit to the TCRA quarterly reports on network utilisation, spectrum utilisation, interference within and across borders of Tanzania.

The content service licensee in relation to terrestrial digital television broadcasting networks

- A content service licensee may negotiate with a multiplex operator on redeployment of usable infrastructure on commercial arrangements during the transition period.
- Prepare and submit to the TCRA roll out plans for content services, service areas and programmes.
- Prepare and submit to the TCRA business plans for digital terrestrial broadcasting frameworks.
- Ensure that content for transmission carries station identification information by periodic announcement for radio station and logo for television.
- Construct and install infrastructure in accordance with the parameters provided under the rules made by the authority.

Content service licensee in relation to AM and FM Radio broadcasting networks

- To prepare and submit to the TCRA roll out plans for content services, service areas and programmes.
- To submit to the TCRA business plans for AM and FM radio broadcasting networks.
- To construct and install infrastructure for AM and FM broadcasting networks in accordance with parameters provided under the Rules made by the TCRA.

5.4 Are licences assignable? If not, what rules apply? Are there restrictions on change of control of the licensee?

Licences shall not be transferred, assigned, pledged or otherwise disposed off without prior written consent of the TCRA.

6 Internet Infrastructure

6.1 Are conveyance services over the internet regulated in any different way to other electronic communications services? Which rules, if any, govern access to the internet at a wholesale (i.e. peering or transit) and/or retail (i.e. broadband access) level? Are internet service providers subject to telecommunications regulation?

There are no special provisions regulating the Internet that are

different from the electronic communications laws and regulations. Internet service providers are subject to the EPOCA and its regulations.

6.2 How have the courts interpreted and applied any defences (e.g. 'mere conduit' or 'common carrier') available to protect telecommunications operators and/or internet service providers from liability for content carried over their networks?

The courts have yet to interpret any defences available to protect telecommunications operators and/or internet service providers from liability for content carried over their networks. However, telecommunications operators and/or internet service providers who are 'innocent carriers' may have a legal defence against action taken against them if they comply with the EPOCA and its regulations.

6.3 Are telecommunications operators and/or internet service providers under any obligations (i.e. provide information, inform customers, disconnect customers) to assist content owners whose rights may be infringed by means of file-sharing or other activities?

There are no specific provisions in the EPOCA obligating telecommunications and/or internet service providers to assist content owners whose rights may have been infringed by means of file sharing or any other activities. The TCRA may impose such an obligation on the operators upon application by the content provider on a case-by-case basis without infringing the EPOCA and its regulations.

6.4 Are telecommunications operators and/or internet service providers able to differentially charge and/or block different types of traffic over their networks? Are there any 'net neutrality' requirements?

There is no specific net-neutrality requirement in place; however, the EPOCA and its competition regulations provide the TCRA with powers to monitor and enforce fair competition in the electronic communications sector. Electronic communications licensees may set and revise prices for the services they provide. The TCRA has the power to carry out reviews of rates and charges applied by electronic communication services licensees. Such powers allow the TCRA to closely monitor the acts of the telecommunications operators and/or internet service providers that will differently charge and/or block different types of traffic over their networks.

6.5 Are telecommunications operators and/or internet service providers under any obligations to block access to certain sites or content?

The EPOCA stipulates that the Minister may make regulations based upon recommendation of the Content Committee who may make rules on content related matters. In exercising its powers, the TCRA acting upon the recommendation of the Content Committee may make rules on content related matters.

The code of conduct contemplated shall:

- be binding on all Content Service Licensees; and
- prohibit the provision of content which is indecent, obscene, false, menacing or otherwise offensive in character.

6.6 How are 'voice over IP' services regulated?

Voice over IP services are activities within the electronic communications sector that are generally regulated the same way as other electronic communications services under the EPOCA and its regulations.



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Nimrod Mkono is the founder and Managing Partner of Mkono & Co, which he has headed since 1977. The name Nimrod Mkono has come to be the mark of competence and efficiency in relation to legal work in Tanzania. His specialisations include company law, corporate finance, privatisation and corporate taxation. Hon. Mkono has handled numerous consortium arrangements and has been responsible for advising on a number of high profile acquisitions including the unbundling of and eventual privatisation of the National Bank of Commerce and the privatisation of Tanzania Telecommunications Company Limited, as well as acting for both the government and major corporations in international commercial litigation and investment arbitration.



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Kamanga is an Associate who specialises in telecommunications and information communication technology law. He also regularly advises clients on capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, employment and banking and finance transactions. He graduated from the University of Warwick with an LL.B. (Hons.) in 2008 and obtained a Masters of Laws (LL.M.) specialising in Regulation and Technology from King's College London in 2010, a Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law School of Tanzania and a Nominated Adviser Representative Certificate from the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) of Tanzania.

Mkono & Co Advocates

Mkono & Co Advocates (the "firm") has considerable experience in advising clients in the Telecommunications Sector in Tanzania. It has provided legal advisory services to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (the "Government") acting through Presidential Parastatal Sector Reform Commission on the privatisation of the state-owned telecommunications entities during the 1990's and the early 2000's.

The firm has also represented and still currently represents a number of International and local Telecommunication and ICT companies in setting up joint ventures, submit proposals to own, finance, construct and operate Telecommunications, wireless internet networks in the United Republic of Tanzania.