



THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

TANZANIA COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY



STATEMENT BY HON. JERRY WILLIAM SILAA (MP), MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA ON THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAN AFRICAN POSTAL UNION (PAPU) DAY, 18TH JANUARY, 2025



Hon. Jerry W. Silaa (MP)

Minister for Communication and information Technology

THEME: "The Post: A Socially Responsible Industry for Inclusive Development."

It is a great honor and privilege for me to join other African Ministers in-charge of Postal communications to commemorate the founding of the Pan African Postal Union, a significant milestone in the history of our continent. Today, we celebrate not only the achievements but also the potential for continued growth and the prospective future innovations. We reflect on our journey, celebrate our accomplishments, and reaffirm our commitment to a common vision of inclusivity and progress in the Postal Sector throughout Africa.

The main theme of this year's celebrations is "**The Post: A Socially Responsible Industry for Inclusive Development.**" This theme resonates deeply as it captures the essence of what the Pan African Postal Union stands for which is a commitment not only to deliver letters and packages but also to deliver opportunities, foster economic growth, and enhance social cohesion. I am grateful that the PAPU continues to be a natural partner to governments to meet inclusive development objectives in our African Countries.

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology embraces this year's theme as we are committed to ensuring that the Communication Sector in particular Postal Sector continues to provide high quality and reliable postal and courier services. Being a Ministry responsible for technological development, we will strengthen ICT infrastructure and awareness programs throughout the country so that the Postal Sector players among others can make optimal use of ICT in new products development and service delivery.

While we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the PAPU DAY, we must also acknowledge the challenges that await us and use them as opportunities to build stronger Sector. The Postal Sector, once viewed primarily as a means of transporting letters and packages, has evolved into a vital component of our socio-economic structure. It provides an essential lifeline for millions, particularly in rural and underserved areas where access to information and services may be limited. The postal service is more than just mail delivery; it represents a vital link for communication and commerce, facilitating the reliable delivery of packages, and essential goods across distances.

Africa and the world are rapidly moving towards digitalization, and the Postal Sector must keep pace by integrating digital platforms that enable e-commerce, online banking, and electronic communication. We must embrace digital transformation to bridge the gap between urban and rural areas.

One of fundamental citizen's right is access to communications including postal services, we need to focus on policies that guarantee universal access to postal services, especially for remote, underserved and marginalized communities. This involves expanding our network, enhancing infrastructure, and collaborating with Local Government Authorities. Individuals, no matter where they are located, or their ability should have the opportunity to send and receive mail, access information, and engage in the digital economy.

As we strive for inclusive development, we must also be stewards of our environment. The postal industry has a responsibility to adopt sustainable practices that minimize our ecological footprint. This includes investing in green technologies, reducing waste, and promoting eco-friendly packaging. By prioritizing sustainability, we not only protect our planet but also enhance our reputation as a socially responsible industry.

To achieve our goals, we must invest in our workforce. Capacity building and training programs are essential to equip our employees with the skills needed to navigate the changing landscape of the Postal Industry. By fostering a culture of continuous learning, we can ensure that our workforce is prepared to meet the demands of the future and provide exceptional service to our customers.

No single entity can achieve inclusive development alone. We must foster collaboration among Governments, Private Sector players, Civil Societies, and International Organizations. By working together, we can share best practices, pool resources, and create innovative solutions that address the unique challenges faced by our communities.

The Government is currently in the process of finalizing the review of the National Postal Policy that was established in 2003. The revised policy aims to promote investment, facilitate trade, and unify the Postal Sector. Its main purpose is to leverage

the postal system for socio-economic development and support digital communication and physical delivery across all economic sectors. Ultimately, it is intended to act as a driving force for the country's socio-economic advancement and contribute to fulfilling the nation's aspirations.

In conclusion, may I restate that in recognition of the contribution of the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) of which we are proud of being the host country and active member, we are committed to support its activities for the benefit of our socio-economic prosperity and integration of the African continent.

I wish you prosperous Pan African Postal Day and look headlong to an exciting future in the African Postal Sector.