



# Sauti ya



# Siti

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## Sexual Corruption/Sextortion in the Media

*DanniMzena*

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"I never allow sexual corruption to judge my work performance."

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Sexual Corruption:  
Rampant Crime  
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How sexual corruption  
encourages women  
journalists to become  
economic dependent



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# EDITORIAL

## Media: Be the role model in combating sexual corruption

**In 2020, Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) conducted a study at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and the University of Dodoma (UDOM) to explore realities about sexual corruption in the universities.**

Over 50 percent of respondents admitted the existence of sexual corruption in the higher learning institutions.

In 2021, Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) in collaboration with Women Fund Tanzania Trust (WFT-T) carried out a preliminary evaluation for a project meant to provide training and education on sexual corruption in the media newsrooms in Dar es Salaam region.

The assessment involved 20 media channels and 25 journalists including women journalists, trainees, editors of television, radio and newspapers as well as prominent social media and digital media actors.

The assessment examined the situation of sexual corruption in the newsrooms for journalists and ways of preventing further effects on themselves and their profession when in colleges and later in the media while executing their jobs.

The evaluation report revealed that 48 percent of freelance journalists opened up and said they have experienced incidences of sexual corruption in the newsrooms and 52 percent of those interviewed decided to remain silent.

It was discovered that the biggest number of victims of sexual corruption are women journalists students doing field work in the newsrooms and correspondents who are paid based on the number of news reports and articles they produce and get published.

The results suggest that journalists who are supposed to be the voice of the voiceless are also making a mistake of staying silent on this criminal offence that affects the integrity of the media in general, human dignity and undermines development of our country.

Sauti ya Siti emphasizes that the culture of silence is increasingly giving opportunities to people in position of power committing the crime of sexual corruption to hide and continue the crime without fear as if they have the right to perpetuate the evil.

There is no doubt that the silence in sexual corruption is due to the victims fear of not to being heard as they are treated as culprits and resented or/and even defamed

whenever they go instead of being helped so that the law takes its course against the perpetrators of the crime. In fact, silence is the key social mistake in combating sexual corruption.

It should be noted that Article 25 of Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act No. 11 of 2007 state that a person who uses his authority to perform his duties to request or give sexual favor as a criterion for providing employment, promotion, giving rights or service, commits the offence of claiming sexual bribe.

Sexual corruption has negative impacts on women journalists because them fear to apply for jobs in the media and end up becoming economic dependence.

It affect the society and nation as a whole because news reports prepared by women journalism students and correspondents who are paid based on the number of stories, because of sexual corruption, their stories hardly get published even if they are of high quality standard.

As a result, some media outlets end up hiring non-professionals and the media in general end up losing credibility and respect in the society. Sexual corruption can be abolished in the country if journalists break the silence through such incidences which occur in their own media outlets because charity begins at home.

Like other members of society journalists should be ready to testify in the courts of law so that the perpetrators are dealt with according to the law.

That is why we the owners of Sauti ya Siti demand that all colleges including journalism establish and manage gender desks that deal with issues of justice and gender equality.

Importantly, in order to end sexual corruption in colleges and in newsrooms collective power and efforts of media channels, journalists men and women, government agencies and all those with good will are required so that the media sector in the country can fully contribute to national development. ■



# “I never allow sexual corruption to judge my work performance.”

By Elizabeth Edward



*One of the victims of sexual exploitation/corruption inside the media houses (name withheld) (photo by TAMWA)*

**“Had it not been my courage and confidence that I can do my job well, perhaps today I would be a victim of sexual corruption as a means of securing or/and sustaining job opportunity”, says Devotha Kihwelo a woman journalist in Tanzania who has worked in the profession for more than ten years.**

Devotha has resigned from four media houses after refusing sexual corruption to be a measure of her job performance which resulted to her suffering marginalization.

She says “I consider myself an old monkey who has survived several arrows up to now where I can confidently speak out about my personal experience of sexual corruption without fear”.

Perhaps Devotha’s confidence is a result of efforts by Tanzania Women Network Against Corruption which since 2000 has been campaigning against Sex Corruption (Sextortion) with a motto “Break the Silence against Sexual Corruption”.

Sexual corruption is a crime under the Article 25 of the Anti-Corruption law. Article 25 of the law was meant to hold accountable people in power to observe leadership values in their position. However, the government intends to amend the law by adding sub article 25 (2) which women rights movement does not accept.

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## “I never allow sexual corruption ....

Women rights activists say if the amendment of the Article is passed it will be a claw back because changes say anyone who causes a person in power to commit sexual corruption will be considered to have committed an offence and will be charged between two to ten million Tanzania shillings or sentence of not less than five years.

“This amendment reinforces misconduct of people in power because practices have shown that for example there are some university students who have voiced out that they were forced by their lectures to give sexual corruption as a condition for getting higher grades in their examinations’, says Professor Ruth Meena, anti-sexual corruption activist.

In resisting sexual corruption as a condition to get employment or retaining her job, Devotha also abandoned her journalism career for a while and engaged in entrepreneurship but because of her passion to work as journalist she is now back again in the media working with a daily newspaper.

Devotha argues that “for a person who has never experienced sexual corruption may not know the magnitude of this problem. But for me a big part of my journalism life, I have encountered this kind of corruption and I never succumbed to it.”

Devota says for example when she graduated from journalism college, she secured an opportunity in a newspaper to start practicing journalism and because of my good performance my editor would send me to cover stories which had monetary rewards.

However, “I did not know that he was offering me such assignment because he had his own agenda”, narrates Devotha adding “after completing my practical tenure I was retained to work with the newspaper”.

She said after working with the newspaper for a while, the editor broke the silence and told her he wanted to have sexual relations with her.

“I had to ask him twice what he meant and without hesitating he replied I wanted to have a sexual relationship with you. I told him openly that, this is not what brought me to the newspaper but he continued insisting for a long time and when he realized I was not in favor of his request, he changed the way he treated me”, Devotha explained.

“From there I started experiencing difficulties because the editor would not assign me to report any story and

even the stories I reported out of my own initiative, he would not give them space in the newspaper”, Devotha says adding:

“In journalism, there is nothing painful than struggling to pursue a story and after producing it editor decides not to publish it without telling you the reason(s)”.

However, she says, she did not despair; instead she decided to focus on stories that had the possibility of being published on the dates she was off duty.

Nonetheless, that alternative did not help for long before lies fabricated to smear her which she later realized that the source was the editor who had wanted sexual relationship with her but without success.

After enduring such traumatizing situation for too long, she decided to quit and joined another newspaper hoping the situation would be different.

To her surprise, the situation was not different because in that newspaper she resorted to do sports reporting and good enough coverage on sports had some opportunities for journalists to travel outside the country and editors would use that to exploit women reporters sexually.

“It did not take long before a man holding senior position in the newspaper approached me and said he would make plans to ensure that I get a work trip outside the country if I agree to have sexual relations with him”, Devotha discloses. ▶▶ Pg. 4



**TAMWA joined hands with TGNP in celebrating its 30 years commemoration, the event went hand in hand with 15 years gender festival which was held on 7th-10th November 2023 at the TGNP grounds, Dar es Salaam.**

## “I never allow sexual corruption ....

“I was surprised and asked myself this question: What is the importance of studying to become a professional, if someone’s work performance is not considered when seniors decide who should be given assignments? I thought deeply but could not get the answer”, she adds.

***“I had to ask him twice what he meant and without hesitating he replied I wanted to have a sexual relationship with you. I told him openly that, this is not what brought me to the newspaper but he continued insisting for a long time and when he realized I was not in favor of his request, he changed the way he treated me”, Devotha explained.***

For the second time she found herself in the same situation: facing harassment by a leader who is not even her supervisor but just a person with influence on decision makers. She finally decided to move out of the newspaper but she continued to experience sexual corruption drama.

“I spoke to my husband who agreed to sponsor me to do graphics design”, she says and adds ; “When I completed

the course it did not take long before I secured job in a blog which in a reality it was two employees; me and the owner who initiated the blog”.

“We had a smooth start but after a short while the boss started the exact same behavior experienced in my former employment, hence I decided to quit the blog”. Devotha noted with concern.

Nevertheless, because Devotha has a passion for journalism, she then decided to apply for a job at a radio station and was accepted. Her work involved analysis of sports news but she was working from outside the studios of the radio station.

Her performance in the job impressed her supervisor and recruitment process started and in the process she was made to meet the owner of the radio who happened to be a lady.

“While continuing with sports reporting and the recruitment process was not yet finalized, my senior started demanding sex from me and my refusal was a warrant to stop the recruitment process and I was told I had not qualified to do broadcast work”, she said and added that later she discovered that the owner was not involved in the decision to deny her the job.

After this incidence, Devotha decided to abandon journalism profession which she had practiced for ten years and engaged in entrepreneurship but because of her passion of journalism she has come back to the profession.

Research conducted by Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA) focusing on sexual corruption in the media revealed that survivors of sexual corruption hesitate to speak about the issue.

The report shows 52 per cent of people interviewed during the study were not willing to speak about the problem although they admitted that sexual corruption is a real challenge in the media. ■







# Sexual corruption: Rampant crime committed against women journalists.

By Alexander Joseph

**A** recent study conducted by Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) indicates that 48 percent of women media correspondents have encountered sexual corruption and most of them keep silent about this crime.

The study conducted in the last quarter of 2022 concurs with Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) media gender policy of 2019 which indicates rampant anti-social behaviors in workplaces including sexual harassment and conditions that force someone to engage in sexual relationship.

However, sexual corruption is a criminal offence. Article 25 of Prevention and Combating Corruption Act No. 11/2007 holds accountable people in power to observe leadership values while performing their duties in their positions.

The law states, whoever is found to be using the authority to implement his duties to request or provide sexual favours, as a criterion for providing employment, promotion, providing rights or services, will be prosecuted under the Law of Economic Sabotage.

According to the Article, if a person is convicted, he can be sentenced to a fine not exceeding Tshs 5 million, or 20 years in prison or both punishments.

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## Sexual corruption: Rampant crime committed against women journalists.

But it seems media practitioners do not report sexual corruption in the media as Florence Majani, TAMWA Communication and Advocacy officer observes; "Journalists have been very good at writing what exists for others, for example, sexual corruption in universities, hospitals and elsewhere, but we don't say in our media how we are...there is a lot there, but we don't say...".

Nyambuzi Nyambata (not her real name) is one of female journalists who has suffered because of sexual corruption in media newsrooms.

She has worked as a volunteer for five years in a media company owned by a religious organization.

"We were six girls from the college who joined the media to volunteer hoping that in the long run, we could be considered if employment opportunities were available", says Nyambuzi adding; "But we noted that for one to be employed, one must be recommended by the editor."

According to Nyambuzi, during the early days, stories that she and her friend produced would be applauded, but as they continued to work hard and produce better stories, the chance to broadcast their stories was narrowed and the editor would be furious to them while also bashing their work.

"For that position, our editor behaved as if he had been given permission for polygamous marriages, to leave his wife at home and find his 'wives' at work place, but we were late to find out why the situation was like this", she says.

Nyambuzi says her colleague decided to abandon journalism and focus on business.

"I was surprised because every time my colleagues were given trips and great jobs with good allowances, but when they came back would bring a story that did not make sense" she narrates.

"I am always assigned night shifts because everyone likes to sleep at home. I did not know that I was being punished. In fact, it was hurting me a lot but I encouraged myself and persevered," she adds.

She says "at first I didn't understand the goal or the meaning but, every time through jokes, or when I took my issue to the boss, the first words he used to say were; you are boasting about denying me, it is up to you continue to keep it tight, and you will eat your vanity. This is Dar Es Salaam city, read the room..."

In an exclusive interview with this reporter Nyambuzi says at first, she was not paying attention because she knew it was just a joke.

She says "I found out what was going on after discovering that my colleagues were recommended and got jobs after giving up and getting into sex trap making the editor happy and later the things became public because love is not hidden."

"That's when I found out why my colleagues were eating ducks (meaning enjoying life) but I and my friend despite of our efforts and the quality of our work, we ended up getting yelled at and our work thrown away because we refused to enter the trap of sexual corruption".

She says the good thing was that, due to the quality of her work, management decided to offer her an employment without relying on the editor's recommendation after there were job vacancies.

In one of the seminars organized by TAMWA in Dar es Salaam (when?) many journalists said that the deception of some decision makers in the media against journalists who go there for practical experiences was a tragedy that leads journalists getting into the trap of sexual assault mealy for their news stories to be published in the media.



"Many girls are threatened while being cheated that they will be given a job, a big salary and even trips with big benefits from time to time. For broadcasting people, they start by being assigned studio jobs and popular talk show programs", explains Nyambuzi.



## Sexual corruption: Rampant crime committed against women ...

A study conducted by TAMWA in collaboration with Women Fund Tanzania-Trust in 2021 revealed that many stories produced by women journalists' students would not be published because of sexual corruption.

TAMWA Executive Director Dr Rose Reuben says the study noted that 48 percent correspondents' journalists have experienced cases of sexual corruption." For the few correspondents we reached out to them 52 percent did not disclose the crime against them" says Dr Reuben.

### Big challenge

In order to combat sexual corruption in the media news rooms, the Acting Head of the Institute for Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in Misungwi District in Mwanza region, Elly Makala says journalists have a duty to report allegations and circumstances of sexual corruption in the media so that the crime is dealt with according to the law.

"During my service at PCCB, I never seen or heard of a journalist coming to PCCB to report any incidence of sexual corruption they encounter in the course of executing their jobs" says Makala adding;

"When journalist face sexual corruption they should give information to PCCB so that necessary actions are taken to solve the problem instead of just continuing to report corruption issues affecting other members of the public while they are also facing the same."

The PCCB official says transparency and reporting of sexual corruption incidences is an important weapon to overcome the problem.

### Negative impact of sexual corruption

The director of Human Life International Africa Region for English Speaking Countries, Emil Hagamu says sexual corruption in workplaces encourages abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and stress that can lead to suicide.

Dr Reuben says "many students study journalism but due to sexual corruption, very few decide to work in the media."

"When they see how they have been fighting sexual corruption from all angles; college, the newsroom, and even when they are interacting with news sources, most are discourage and decide to abandon the profession. This is not a good thing", she noted.

"This problem is what makes some media hire unqualified journalists and which leads to loosing respect in front of society", says Joseph Sabinus, Coordinator of Habari Leo East Africa newspaper.

"You find a journalist going to a news source without doing research on the topic or knowing what questions to ask; and some can't even articulate their stories to their editor. It is a disaster", says Sabinus.

The Chairman of the Board of Ndanda Hospital Father Amani Nyoni says "it is morally wrong to demand sexual bribes from someone under your care or leadership because that person is not your wife, that is adultery and it puts both of you at health risks including sexually transmitted diseases".

Sexual corruption has multiple health risks including psychological. Director of Miracle Conner of Tanzania Dr Kantanta Simwanza says the risks include eliminating efficiency in performance and causing mental stress that can affect mental health and even cause stomach ulcers.

"Sexual corruption can also lead to lack of innovation, decreasing efficiency day by day and can also cause absenteeism at work", says Dr Katanta.

### Combating sexual corruption

Various sources say one of the main ways to combat sexual corruption is for women journalists to have professional and practice- self-confidence and not to accept threats or promises of favoritism.

The News Editor of Mwananchi Newspaper Lilian Timbuka says to end sexual corruption in newsrooms, a strong culture of transparency is essential.

"Every media outlet should have a specific policy on how to combat sexual corruption. The policy should be clear and understandable to all people" says Lilian.

Assistant Lecture at Tumaini University of Dar es Salaam (TURDAco), Kizito Noya says students who encounter sexual corruption should use gender desks in their colleges to get their rights and they should be free not to accept manipulation or tolerate any threat. ■



# Women journalist encounter sexual corruption in three areas

By Sterius Sane

**“Women journalists in the country are subjected to sexual corruption while in college studying journalism, during their field assignments at media houses, while volunteering, or employed and even when they go out to interview people who are sources of news stories” says Neville Meena, an experienced man news editor who has worked in the media for more than two decades.**

Meena who is also a member of Executive Committee of Tanzania Editor’s Forum revealed this information when the reporter of Sauti ya Siti requested his opinion about the magnitude of sexual corruption in the country’s media industry.

“Sexual corruption in the newsrooms exists to some extent, but the problem is much greater for news sources” argues Meena.

Meena’s observation is supported by the words of a woman journalist Furaha Mateso, (is it a real name?) a 2022 Bachelor’s Degree graduate from St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) Mwanza.

‘For a woman journalist, sexual corruption is like three candidates contesting in one constituency because it starts at college with some lecturers, goes to newsrooms and then it follows even in news collection while interviewing some news sources’, says Furaha.

“I started feeling the pain of sexual corruption when I was doing my Diploma in Journalism in Dar es Salaam. During exam period, while knowing you have his exams tomorrow, a male teacher will tell you let’s go out today”,

Furaha says, in her short journalism experience, she has also discovered that there are some sources who “want to give you stories in exchange for sex; if you are not careful and strong, you will be the daughter-in-law of every office. In fact, this is harassment which was very annoying to me and that’s why I did not get frequent trips like my colleagues but this has helped me”.

In the newsrooms, women journalists encounter sexual corruption when they are sent by their colleges to go for practical training, or when they decide to work voluntarily after completing college while waiting to get a job or even during securing employment.

Jeska, a woman journalist who once went through such situation in a newspaper tells how she was received doing her practical exercises while studying at the university.

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*Media and its participation in the campaign against sexual corruption in the media houses*

## Women journalist encounter sexual corruption...

She says “we went to do the field (the two of us), the male news editor (she refuses to name him) would call us one by one. At first, I thought he wanted to criticize and show us how to improve our work.”

She quotes the words that the editor used to call her with his agenda saying: “what are you being taught in the colleges like this! How can you start a story like that; If you are the editor of this story, will you understand? Come and read it here, maybe I’m the one who doesn’t understand because if you get a bad report, you will say you’ve been bullied. I went to look on this computer as it was very sixth day in the field.”

Jesca says that the words she found on the computer were; “because you didn’t understand me yesterday! Didn’t I tell you to wait for me in the evening! Now if you go out today, I will be waiting at the bus stop; let you colleague go home. If you try to make me fall, you will also fall,”

She says “I had to confide with someone about my situation. I saw the first person who opened to me was the Assistant Editor who was a woman, Inoti Manyama (not her real name). I explained everything to her”.

“I thank sister Inoti because the next day without mentioning the name of the person, she said in the postmortem meeting that it is wrong to use tyranny to seduce and if these things continue, she will report at higher level” she says.

“That was the end of those threats, and the editor no longer wanted to talk to me about anything, even sending me to work until I finished my field work” says Jesca.

A study conducted by the Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA) shows that 48 of the officially unemployed journalists (correspondents) said they have experienced cases of sexual corruption in the media.

### How to eliminate sexual corruption

Senior reporter and former Chairperson of Dar es Salaam Regional Journalists Club (DCPC), Irene Mark says the issue of corruption should be taught from the family level so that when children grow up, they know that giving and receiving any favor is corruption and it is an anti-social behavior.

On his part, Meena says for sexual corruption to end in media sector editors should do their work in

transparency manner and women journalists needs to work hard and believe in their professional competent rather than depending on favoritism. He says in so doing women journalists can garner respect and make a huge contribution to national development.

Meena says many women journalists in Tanzania have professional capability and can even initiate their own media channels. He cited example of Veronica Mrema a woman journalist (owner of maishanamatukio.blogspot.com) who through her initiative and work excellence, has won several awards.

In an interview with Sauti ya Siti reporter Veronica Mrema says “I was working in a media organization as a correspondent, but a problem occurred that forced me to leave. But when I was preparing to leave the media house, one of staff member in the media approached me wanting to know if I was leaving because any man had wanted to have sex with me and I refused”

Veronica says she was honest to the person that no one in the media had demanded sex from her.

However she says “the fact that the person asked me such a question directly shows that this problem exists in the media houses.”

To combat corruption in the media TAMWA Executive Director Dr Rose Reuben says ‘it is important to have gender desk in every media outlet.’

Importantly, all media staff men and women should be aware that sexual corruption is a criminal offence.

Article 25 of Prevention and Anti-Corruption Law 11/2007 states “a person who is found to be using the authority to implement duties to request or give sexual favours, as a criterion for giving employment, promoting, giving rights or service, will be prosecuted under the law of Economic sabotage.

The law states that if a person is convicted of sexual corruption, he can be sentenced to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or 20 years in prison, or both punishments together.

Moreover, gender desk in each media outlet will help in the prevention of sexual corruption if all new journalists, women and men, when they join a media house will be oriented on the way gender desk works, be informed about the law that deals with sexual corruption and women journalists to be trained on techniques of gathering evidence on sexual corruption. ■





# Imagine future of journalism in africa without women

By Dr. Rose Reuben

**S**exual corruption dubbed sextortion is a disturbing anti-social behavior that forces women in media industry in African countries to abandon their profession hence endangering their future and development of their countries.

Mercy Njoroge from Journalist for Human Rights Kenya says the World Association of News Publishers (WIN-IFRA) data which shows an average, 41 percent of women journalists have experienced verbal or physical sexual harassment in the workplace.

To control the problem, some international agencies initiated some actions. For example, Amina Mohamed from Camera for Girls, a Canadian Charity, says her organization is currently working in partnership with universities across Africa to empower women to enter the male dominated spaces but without succumbing to sexual corruption.

Amina says she has heard women journalist students in some African countries complaining that they were facing sexual harassments when they go to the media for field work.

She says “you know it’s ridiculous for a skilled person to be asked to pay money or offer sex to get a job...that is why we also teach students how to say No to systemic harassment”

It is important to combat sexual corruption in the media because if left to continue it may lead to many women journalists to quit or avoid entering into journalism or continue with this profession. ▶ Pg. 11



On the right is one of female journalists conducting her duties



## Imagine future of journalism in africa without women...

"I can imagine a newsroom without women journalists, the most resourceful people to cover gender sensitive stories will have left the media", says Wenceslaus Mushi who has worked in the media in Tanzania for more than 45 years.

Mushi says he know the negative impact of media not having women journalists because he once worked in a newsroom which had only two women journalists but later one left for further studies and the other got another job with lucrative rewards.

"For seven years before the media recruited women again our news room, we would produce stories which were not representing the realities of both women and men in society because stories focusing on issues affecting women's lives were not taken seriously" says Mushi.

Mushi's observation is supported by Abdallah Majura, once a media owner and journalist who has worked in the media for more than 34 years. He says, "media sector without women would be always boring environment to work and the profession will definitely be stagnant".

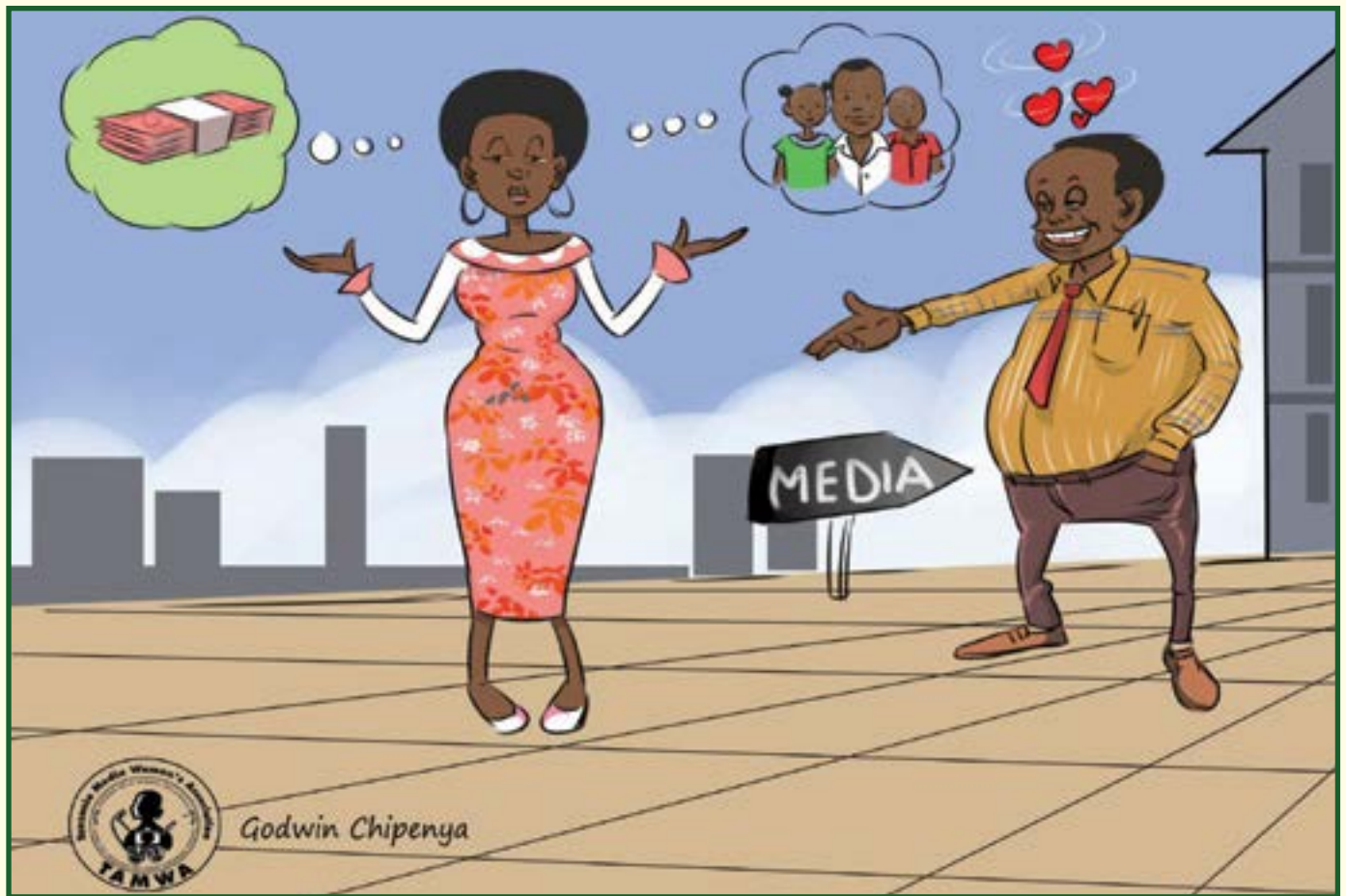
Majura says media outlets must have women and men journalists to be able to cover effectively diverse issues including those which mostly affect women such as maternal mortality and female genital mutilation. However, if the sexual corruption in the media is not battled it is likely that in the near future journalism profession in Africa will lack women and the unique news stories they report on different development aspects focusing on women.

Research reports from journalism and mass communication colleges show that many girls join and graduate every year, but only few remain to work in the media houses.

Some resort to do public relations where they are also not happy, others relocate to other profession including entrepreneurship and some end up becoming housewives.

Patricia Iyasi from Female Journalist Network in South Sudan says Sextortion and sexual Harassment continues in Africa because culturally women are expected not expose bad things done against them.

The evil things done against women include physical battery and sexual assault because society considers these violations as normal things and if reported can provoke retaliation by the perpetrators. ▶ Pg. 12



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## Imagine future of journalism in africa without women ...

Regarding cultural aspect that fuels sexual corruption Majura says the challenge is perception that women working in the media are also treated by men in the same negative light as women in society who also experience sexual corruption.

“But this is wrong because a media house is a work place where people should relate professionally and not otherwise”, insists Majura.

The African Women in Media and Fojo, International Women’s Media Foundation, Women in News, and research done by Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA) between 2019-2021 revealed that sexual corruption hinders women to attain leadership positions in the media.

This could be one of the reasons why when they encounter sexual corruption, report is not made to appropriate agencies so that legal action is taken against the perpetrators instead they prefer to remain silent.

Ibasi says women journalists in South Sudan are silent about sexual corruption. She says “may be because they are fearing a number of circumstances, may be they are protecting their job.... you know, there are various

media institutions in South Sudan where we have here says, but female journalist are not transparent.....they don’t want to come out to speak about it because they feel it’s the culture, you know”.

This is the reason why in the 1980s few women journalists in Tanzania decided to form TAMWA to challenge these barriers head-on, to rewrite the narratives.

The purpose was to empower women in the media to reach their full potential at work place and substantially increase views of women in the media content.

In fact, in Africa we must make sure journalism profession consist of men and women. Women journalists matter because women human rights matters.

Female journalists will always be significant in the media houses because they bring diverse perspectives, ensure representation, promote balanced reporting, serves as a role model, challenge stereotypes, engage with audiences, and contribute to more inclusive and empathetic journalism.

Therefore, all African countries need to combat sexual corruption in the media outlets because contribution of women journalists enriches media landscapes and helps to address the unique challenges and concerns of women. ■





# How sexual corruption encourages women journalists to become economic dependent

By Shadida Dalanga

**“Sexual corruption is a very dangerous for women including journalists because everywhere and every time it subjects them into the ditch of economic dependency”, says Dr. Katanta Simwanza, an expert on gender issues, health, parenting and family education.**

In an interview with Sauti ya Siti, Dr. Simwanza says “nowadays many women including journalists fear to apply for jobs in various institutions because in the process they encounter an obstacle of being forced to succumb to sexual corruption.”

He adds “others including those who are not employed and those who are in practical training are lured so to engage in sexual corruption after being given false promises of getting jobs quickly and easily if they accept and with good salary and live comfortably in the working environment”

The narratives of Dr. Simwanza are similar to those of the Chairperson of the Media Institute of Southern Africa Tanzanian Chapter (MISA-TAN) Salome Kitomari who argues that sexual corruption fuels economic dependency on women journalists.

Kitomari says for example “a certain organization can organize a trip for journalists to do reporting on issues of national interest, but some people in that institution may use it an opportunity to indulge in sexual relationship with the journalists.”

“Once a journalist has succumbed sexual corruption if such trip happens again, she may refuse to be part of the reporting team for fearing that they will meet the same anti-social behavior”, says Salome and observes.

“As a result the journalist will miss the opportunity to do the coverage and consequently end up missing financial rewards associated with journalistic work”.

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## How sexual corruption encourages women journalists ...

Salome advises women journalists to fight sexual corruption whenever they encounter it because when they succeed in crossing sexual corruption barrier they become stronger and work without been shaken by anyone.

An expert on economic and news reporting Resemary Mwakitwange says the root cause of sexual corruption in the media begins in colleges when students are in the preparation to enter the media industry.

"Many colleges in the country do not have teaching systems that enable a journalist to be confident after finishing studies", says Mwakitwange.

"This makes some of them when they get to the news rooms wanting to engage in sexual relations so as to be favored to get job opportunity".

"Some women journalists do not even understand that it is for their disadvantage if someone else write a news story and give them a byline so that the women who offer sex bribe appears as if she is the owner of that story. This situation makes the women involved in sex corruption become academic, operational and economic dependency" Mwakitwange asserts.

Examples of sexual corruption explained in this story have affected a woman journalist Nyanyumbu Matiga (not a real name) working in a daily newspaper and this is her testimony:-

"Often he would call me to his office and start saying, I will increase your salary four times so can't you see this a fortune in front of you?", explains Nyanyumbu.

She says her leader who was a human resource manager not a journalist would call her to his office and seduce her to have sex.

She says "the human resource manager was asking for a sexual bribe, saying that I am beautiful, and I should set aside time to spend with him after work hours so that he can guide me on how to be a better journalist though his profession was not journalism".

"What surprised me was that, when I was meeting him, he was not talking about work but praising me and promising to promote me quickly because I was beautiful", she adds.

Nyanyumbu says one day the human resource manager told her to wait for him so that he could direct her what to do the following day. She says she did what she was told and in the evening she received a call asking her to go to the manager's office.

"When I entered his office he started touching me again, but this time he started to increase his habits because now he grabbed my waist and wanted to touch my breast", she says and adds, "That day I was surprised because he closed the door and started pulling my skirt down".

She adds "I had to deceive him by telling him to wear a condom because I don't have time to get pregnant right now. He believed and when he bent down to his desk drawer to check if there was a condom I quickly opened the door and went out".

Nyanyumbu says the issue caused her anxiety and finally decided to quit journalism profession and engaged in small scale entrepreneurship.

***She says "the human resource manager was asking for a sexual bribe, saying that I am beautiful, and I should set aside time to spend with him after work hours so that he can guide me on how to be a better journalist though his profession was not journalism".***

### **A mistake she regrets**

Nyanyumbu says she regrets not having the courage to refuse directly and confidently the human resource manager proposal from the first day and that it was a grave mistake to allow him continue such habit.

### **How sexual corruption is perceived**

Sexual corruption is a criminal offence. Article 25 of Prevention and Combating Corruption Act No. 11/2007 holds accountable people in power to observe leadership values while performing their duties in their positions. ▶▶ Pg. 15



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## How sexual corruption ...

The law states, whoever is found to be using the authority to implement his duties to request or provide sexual favours, as a criterion for providing employment, promotion, providing rights or services, will be prosecuted under the Law of Economic Sabotage.

According to the Article, if a person is convicted, he can be sentenced to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or 20 years in prison or both punishments.

Principally, sexual corruption has been affecting many people in Tanzania especially women including journalists to the point of lowering their effectiveness of their work performance.

A publication of Door of Hope Tanzania called Ijuwe Rushwa ya Ngono (Understand Sexual Corruption) available online writes "Unlike other acts of sexual violence, sexual bribery is enforced without direct use of force".

The publications says "sometimes, sexual corruption does not only involves sexual acts, but also other aspects of sexual violence such as being forced to take sexual pictures and molesting the body and it happens when there is a power relationship between the claimant and the victim of sexual corruption".

A study conducted by TAMWA in collaboration with Women Fund Tanzania-Trust in 2021 revealed that 48 percent of correspondents' journalists have experienced cases of sexual corruption. "The few correspondents we reached out to them 52 percent did not disclose the crime against them", says TAMWA Executive Director, Dr Rose Reuben.

The study shows that the biggest victims of sexual corruption in newsrooms are women journalists who are

paid based on the number of news reports or articles they produce and publish.

Dr Reuben argues that there is a need to have a policy that will control sexual corruption in newsrooms accompanied by constant reminders on the issue.

"The biggest challenge in combating sexual corruption is the silence because victims fear that perpetrators will be heard more than victims who will bear the stigma" she says.

Various sources say that negative impact of sexual corruption against women including journalists includes turning rights into favoritism, a situation which leads to some incompetent persons getting employment while leaving behind competent individuals.

"Secure confidential and easily accessible channels to enable everyone to report cases of sexual corruption so that victims of such acts can give information without restrictions", says Dr Simwanza.

The Deputy Head of Prevention and Combating Corruption Bureau (PCCB) Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam Elizabeth Mokiwa says their institution efforts to curb sexual corruption are hindered by secrecy surrounding the crime.

She says it is surprising to see that journalists do not report cases of alleged sexual corruption against them

"Your journalism is just enough to get you a title or a good salary, don't let your body be used as a performance stick for you to get what you deserve, let your work performance raise you and not the other way round", says Elizabeth.

She says that PCCB in Kinondoni region intends to launch a special program to educate journalists about the effect of sexual corruption, how to gather evidence as well as the effective way of reporting incidences of the sexual crime. ■



# Sexual corruption in the media:

## A long way to go

By Zahara Tunda, Dodoma

**T**he issue of sexual corruption in workplaces is not something new in the world, and women have been the biggest victims than men.

In the media industry, sexual corruption is the most disturbing issue facing many young women who are emerging in the profession.

According to the data released by Women in the News Organization, 47 percent of women in the media have experienced sexual harassment in their workplaces.

Amongst the women who encountered sexual corruption, 56 percent of them were sexually harassed using words, while 38 percent were forced to engage in sex in their workplaces.

In Tanzania, sexual corruption in the media is rampant. A study conducted by TAMWA in collaboration with Women Fund Tanzania-Trust in revealed that 48 percent correspondents' journalists have experienced cases of sexual corruption.

The author of this article of Sauti ya Siti magazine had an opportunity to interact with Doris Damian (not her real name) working in a media based in Dodoma region who has experienced sexual harassment and exploitation at workplace and saw the bitter end of her journalism career.

**Sauti ya Siti:** How did the issue start?

**Doris:** The issue started when I reported to my second workplace after beginning my journalism career. In the news desk, my editor

was a man. So, I encountered challenges indicating it was sexual harassment. They included including being denied the right to leave the workplace in the scheduled time when I could get office transport.

**Sauti ya Siti:** How long did this situation last?

**Doris:** It took a little while, until I wanted to leave the media house to find another place because of the challenge I was facing. But when I informed my spiritual father, he advised me not to leave, but to continue asking God to reveal my destiny and where I should work.

**Sauti ya Siti:** Being a journalist, how did you feel during that period? ▶ Pg. 17



One of the victims of sexual exploitation/corruption inside the media houses (name withheld) (photo by TAMWA)



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## Sexual corruption in the media: a long way to go ...

**Doris:** I felt so bad, and I saw that this is where the English words "Why Me" were applicable. However, I continued to pray to God and encouraged myself that I can overcome the challenge".

**Sauti ya Siti: Did he ever hold you tight or force you to do anything without your consent?**

**Doris:** Grabbing my shoulders and forcing me to hug.

**Sauti ya Siti: What action did you take following the incident?**

**Doris:** In fact, I shared my concern with people in the office and they said such behavior was a culture in that media house. So I just continued to pray to God to help me to avoid sex corruption because I never thought of using my body to get anything and when I joined the media station I was just volunteering

and not an employed. Fortunately, God did it and I got hired. He was very ashamed because he said that without him, I can't get a job because he is the one who can talk to the top decision maker in the media and no one else.

**Sauti ya Siti: Did you experience any physiological challenges following the incidence of sexual harassments?**

**Doris:** There are some challenges like starting to think maybe I should quit my job there to avoid further sexual harassment. but I believed my God will help me to overcome the situation.

**Sauti ya Siti: How did the event affected your work performance?**

**Doris:** My work performance began to decline especially in production of news stories because presence of the editor in the news editorial desk. Sometimes I would be denied a tape recorder when I wanted to go out to do recording for my radio programs.

**Sauti ya Siti: What do you think should be done to reduce or eliminate sexual harassment in the media houses?**

**Doris:** The biggest thing that needs to be done now is for women journalists to strengthen their ability to work professionally and be confident in their work performance. It is also important that everyone rely on God because there are other trials in the workplace that are difficult especially for those who never thought of having sexual relationship at workplace.

In fact, through the case of Doris we see how the issue of sexual corruption can discourage a person from working if the person lacks the right people to turn to and get the right advice.

However, Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) through Tanzania Crisis Resolving Center help victims of sexual harassment by offering counseling as well as directing them to places where they can be helped including Prevention of Corruption Bureau (PCCB).

"Anyone who wants to report on sexual corruption can come to us and talk about her problem and can also send information through [tamwa@tamwa.org](mailto:tamwa@tamwa.org) although up to now we do not have hotline where someone can send their messages directly", says Dr Rose Reuben, TAMWA Executive Director.

However, sexual corruption is a criminal offence. Article 25 of Prevention and Combating Corruption Act No. 11/2007 holds people in power accountable to observe leadership values while performing their duties in their positions.

The law states, whoever is found to be using their authority to implement his duties to request or provide sexual favours, as a criterion for providing employment, promotion, providing rights or services, will be prosecuted under the Law of Economic Sabotage.

According to the Article, if a person is convicted, he can be sentenced to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or 20 years in prison or both punishments. ■

# Sexual corruption tortures volunteer journalists

By Suda Msangi

**“Women journalists who work as volunteers while waiting for employment opportunities go through a lot of suffering because we encounter several traps of sexual corruption”, says Nangasu Majidy (not her real name) 28 years old journalist.**



*Journalists conducting an interview with a source*

The woman journalist who is a Bachelors' graduate of Public Communication at St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) Mwanza narrated this during an interview with the author of this article who wanted her to express her view about what she knows about sexual corruption in the newsrooms in the country.

She says, “for example, I see myself as a loser and someone who wasted my time going to journalism school because instead of reaping the

fruits, I see myself suffering as if being a woman is my fault. However, I will not give up”,

She explains “the biggest problem is discrimination, humiliation and sexual abuse especially to be forced to have sex with a man who supervises you so that you can get the rights you deserve based on your criteria and your work performance”. She adds “that’s why when women journalists arrive in the newsroom it’s possible that they may either be received harshly and with threats,

or with kindness that every time you evaluate it you see that it is not politeness, but something that is being sought on basis of love affairs.

Nangasu says despite her self-confidence and the fact that several people have been appreciating her stories; she has remained in the position of volunteer although some of her colleagues including those who came after her that media house have already been employed.

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## Sexual corruption tortures volunteer journalists

She argues “my qualifications are very good, I have the ability to cover various stories and report them well and that is why my stories often are published at the front page and not only stories I am assigned but also those I investigate myself”.

“This has been hurting me a lot because what made me quit the first company is what I am also encountering where I am now because all the editors are men, and it is as if they are talking to each other. It’s like I jumped over a mud and stepped on another mud” she says.

She argues that sexual corruption contributes to poverty and dependency amongst women journalists. She says for example, even though volunteers do not have official pay, they are expected to go back and forth to the workplace when they are assigned to do work outside the media house at their own costs.

She adds “you really have to be strong to overcome this humiliation”.

The News Editor of Mwananchi Newspaper Lilian Timbuka says sexual bribe makes some women journalists become economically dependent because despite having qualifications some do not want to apply for a job in the media for fear of being forced to pay sexual bribe.

The Executive Director of the Tanzania Women’s Association (TAMWA), Dr. Rose Reuben says that due to sexual corruption, few journalists appear in the newsrooms although there are many who have studied and completed journalism.

Joseph Sabinus, a man editor who is the coordinator of government owned Habari Leo East Africa newspaper says that a person in

position of power who engage in sexual corruption, if he wants sexual bribe from a woman, he will use words that will make the women feel like she is not capable to perform her work.

He says if the woman asked to give sexual corruption refuses, the man in position of power may decide to punish the woman by not publishing her story without valid reasons.

Sabinus says “in government media channels sexual corruption is less because employment, salary increase and work trips are usually given following an official process involving men and women executives”.

Sexual corruption is classified as offenses of economic sabotage under Article 25 of Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act No. 11/2007.

The law states “a person who is found to be using the authority to implement duties to request or give sexual favours, as a criterion for giving employment, promoting, giving rights or service, will be prosecuted under the law of Economic sabotage.

According to the law if a person is convicted of sexual corruption, he can be sentenced to a fine not exceeding five million Tanzanian shillings or 20 years in prison, or both punishments together.

In 2020, WAN-IFRA (Women in News-WIN) decided to analyze the extent of sexual corruption in news organizations and measure the effectiveness in controlling it.

It conducted research in eight African countries including Tanzania, Botswana, Malawi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The results show that 47 percent of the respondents had been sexually harassed at work place.

According to the study, women were twice as likely to experience sexual harassment at work as men.

The study revealed that among the 32 managers interviewed, more than

half had been sexually harassed and among them, only three reported this problem, which shows that sexual harassment, including allegations of sexual corruption is shrouded in silence.

In addition, a preliminary assessment carried out by TAMWA in 2011 regarding sexual corruption in the media in Dar es Salaam revealed that 48 percent of journalists who are officially unemployed in the media said they have been demanded to give sexual corruption.

At different times, Dr Rose of TAMWA, and a member of Executive Committee of the Tanzania Editor’s Forum (TEM), Neville Meena, say sexual corruption causes many women who studied journalism to leave the profession and do other work.

Sexual corruption turns rights into privilege and causes the incompetent people to be hired and qualified to be left out. This is very bad”, says Dr Reuben.

Some journalists in the regions of Arusha, Mwanza, and Dodoma say that one of the best ways to put to an end sexual corruption in the newsrooms is for the media leaders in their headquarter offices to talk regularly with journalistsmen and women in the up country regions about challenges they face including sexual corruption.

The Editor in Chief of Radio Free Africa (RFA) and Human Resources Manager of Sahara Media Company, Sharban Ally says “every media outlet must have clear policies that are open to all people and a special system that allow journalists to report on incidents of sexual corruption. ■



# “I regret accepting sexual corruption”

By Vicky Kimaro

**“Men holding high positions in the office lured me with money, expensive pleasures, beer and barbecue; I was put in a team of people assigned to cover big stories, I felt great, but today I regret that I fell into the trap of sexual corruption”.**

This is how Zawadi John (not her real name) begins to narrate her experience of sexual corruption.

She says “I was given assignments which had monetary rewards; others went as far as writing news stories and having my byline as if I had written it” She adds “there was a time when fellow women journalists complained that I was favored because a story would be produced by someone but my name will appear in the byline but I didn’t care”.

She says there were employees who got into trouble because they would not be assigned stories to report and when they were assigned their stories would go by byline “Our Staff Reporter” instead of the name of the person who collected the information and wrote the story.

Zawadi says “all this was due to protesting against some things that they felt were not compatible with work ethics especially what was going on my side.”

## **A day she will never forget**

Zawadi says “there is a day, on a Saturday, I remember well, I will never forget it, a sister named J. who is in the media industry until now, a person with integrity and has high position, she called me.”

She says sister J. told her “Zawadi you are beautiful, every man wants to be with you, but it is not that they love you, they just want to use you because most of these men are married”.

She says that sister told her “they will play with you and when you are no longer attractive to them, you will find this office a bitter place.”

Zawadi says sister J. told her “in short what they are doing is playing with you, one day you will regret what you are doing, you will be removed with shame, stop what you are doing, calm down you are a beautiful girl don’t misuse your beauty”.

▶ Pg. 21



Gender stakeholders at a commemoration of 16 days of activism campaign.

## “I regret accepting sexual corruption”

She says she listened to sister J. and broke up with two men in senior position in the office. But she could not withstand the great pressure she was getting from the topmost man in the office, who threatened to fire her if she went against his wishes while also promising her many things.

Zawadi says that until then she was just a volunteer being paid based on stories published. So she got a promise including being given a job opportunity and she felt like she was a queen in the office.

She says that one day there was a conflict between her and the top man in the office after she was pregnant by another man outside that office.

“As the pregnancy progressed and the hostility between me and the big boss increased. To make matters worse, the man who impregnated me with the promise of marrying me, buying me a car and building me a house disappeared” she says.

She adds that the man sent her a brief message on the phone that read “I am not involved with that pregnancy; find the father of the child”.

Zawadi says that after reading the message she was confused because at the same time she had being laid off.

She says what hurt her most was that an announcement was posted on the gate of the office that read; “Starting today Zawadi is not a correspondent of this office, she is not allowed to enter the gate”.

Zawadi says she decided to return to her village to give birth and now she regrets her life and she has decided to start a new life by earning a living by selling food.

### Her advice to girls

Zawadi advice to girls who graduate from college and go to volunteer in the media or just employed, to not allow their work performance to be measured by accepting sexual bribe.

“I regret that I didn’t reject the temptations of men leaders at workplace, now I realize that I made a mistake. I wish the days could go back to correct my mistakes but it is too late now, so let me struggle to better my life”, she says.

Zawadi is one of the few young women journalists who have decided to break their silence against sexual corruption. This corruption is a crime perpetuated by people in position of power as a hook to trap especially young women when they are looking for employment or their other rights at work place.

According to the Auditor General of Government Accounts report (2022) incidents of sexual assault against women and children increased by 80 per cent in the five years between 2018 and 2022 and Dar es Salaam region was leading.

The report shows that in the regions surveyed in 2022, Dar es Salaam reported 1,656 incidents compared to 326 incidents in 2018 which is the increase of 407 percent.

The Executive Director of Tanzania Media Women’s Association TAMWA Rose Reuben says in 2021 her organization conducted a study which revealed that sexual corruption is a problem in the media houses in the country.

However, “only 48 percent of the interviewed journalists spoke on their experience on sexual corruption and 52 percent remained silent.

However, she says “the research results and its publicity motivated stakeholders and victims to speak out about sexual corruption at work place and in colleges”.

Sexual corruption is a criminal offence and it is dealt with legally in accordance with Article 25 of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Act No. 11/2007.

The Chairperson of the Network against Sexual Violence (MKUKI) Advocate Anna Kulaya says there are leaders in work places that misbehave and offer jobs by asking sexual bribes instead of looking at a person’s professional abilities and talents.

She says everyone should fight sexual corruption in colleges and workplaces and has asked the government to speed up the ratification of the C190 agreement as this will help to eradicate Sexual Corruption and Harassment in the workplace by 2030.

The representative of the Men Engage Network (MET) Dr Karanta Simwanza says that in dealing with corruption it is important that men are fully involved.

“Men, we should know that sexual corruption kills the dreams of many women, let’s focus on their individual professional qualification and work performance and not someone’s body outlook” he says.

Rainer Eben, a girl employee of a bank in Dar es Salaam says “sometimes we girls have a habit of wanting favors here and there which is not good as it leads to sexual corruption”.

She says “it’s good for us girls to value ourselves, be responsible because in case a man in decision making position in your work place wants to pull you down because of refusing to give sexual corruption, if your work performance is great, it will be difficult because your good work will speak for itself. ■



# “I had a very difficult time in the office”

By Sauti ya Siti Reporter

**“I was not happy, I had a very difficult time in the office and my work performance was going down from time to time because they hurt me a lot mentally.”**

This is how Rebecca Sospeter (not her real name) a woman journalist with a Master’s Degree from Makerere University, Uganda describes the impact of sexual corruption on her life as a journalist.

She says, “there were men decision makers who did not like the way I was being treated, one of them (he mentions name) encouraged me and told me to fight and not to give victory to the devil.”

In an exclusive interview, Rebecca says she was lucky enough to be employed by different media outlets and that moving from one media outlet to another was to look for greener pastures.

However, she says it’s not what she expected because the last media house she worked for, she experienced many problems not only from her superiors but also from his women colleagues for what they claimed “she is boasting with a lot of English”

“At first I ignored it, I thought it was just jealousy, but the situation got worse after a man senior to me in the position asked me for sex,” she says adding.

“I was angry to see that he despised me, he doesn’t respect me despite knowing that I am someone’s wife and my husband knows him but he was still bothering me sexually,” says Rebecca.

She says, she found herself entering a more severe conflict with her boss who used to assign her difficult tasks and transfer her to various sections just to lower her performance.

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## "I had a very difficult time in the office ..."

Rebecca says that some of her fellow women journalists seemed to enjoy the situation of abuse she was subjected to and even set up meetings to gossip about claiming that she boasts.

"When the situation got bad at the office, I involved my husband, but he didn't have anything to say because at that time he had lost his job after being laid off. So, I had to endure because we have children if I quit how will we live," she says.

She says, the conflict between her and her superior became bigger after she refused to be dragged and taken for granted and as a result she was dismissed.

"I didn't agree because I knew it was not right and I decided to take the matter to the court of law and won the case and was reinstated and I was given all my rights," she says.

"But despite everything I was not given any kind of cooperation, whenever I arrived to work in the morning I would sign and then sit and read the newspapers and after office hours I would leave the office", she narrates.

However, she says "that situation bored me because I found myself receiving salary that I have not worked for," she says

Rebecca says later she applied for job in a government institution and got it and that is where she is working today in Public Communication Department and although there are challenges but she is pushing forward.

Minister for Social Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups Dr Dorothy Ghajima says sexual corruption in workplaces is a crime like any other crimes.

The Minister says sexual corruption contributes to conflict at work, fear, mental health and economic problems.

She adds "it reduces the nation's workforce, brings poverty and causes society to live with fear".

Further she says in the period of January to March 2023 a total of 15,901 incidents of violence were reported to police to file the cases to courts with sufficient evidence, a situation that affects access to justice.

The Minister says out of the 15,901 cases of violence only 671 were brought to court of which 368 the culprits were sentenced to jail and 303 cases are still ongoing.

The Minister points out that the majority people in communities do not cooperate in giving evidence to enable police file cases to court.



*An expert of gender, health, reproduction, family and upbringing Dr. Katanta Simwanza talking to the journalists about sexual corruption/exploitation in the media house*

The Director of Women's Lawyers Association (TAWALA) TikeMwambipile says the law Number 6 of 2004 explains about employment and relations at work place and it requires everyone to avoid violence and observe respect and dignity.

Mwambipile says the law also says Article 25 of Prevention and Combating Corruption Act No. 11/2007 criminalizes sexual corruption.

The law states, whoever is found to be using the authority to implement his duties to request or provide sexual favours, as a criterion for providing employment, promotion, providing rights or services, will be prosecuted under the Law of Economic Sabotage.

According to the Article, if a person is convicted, he can be sentenced to a fine not exceeding Five million shillings, or 20 years in prison or both punishments.

Meanwhile, the Director Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA), Dr Rose Reuben says sexual corruption in the workplace is not only cruelty that disturbs a person psychological but also lowers productivity and fuels the spread of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Member of Parliament Special Seats NeemaLugangira says sexual corruption is gender violence and it should be fought by all groups and all groups in all areas of the country.

Rehema Maro, from the Women's Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) Tanzania chapter says "violence that occurs in workplaces does not only affect the offices, but also families of the people affected".

The Acting Head of Online News Division from Tanganyika Standard Newspaper (TNS) Sylvester Domasa says that workplace should be a safe place; otherwise the morale of work is lost...so let's all take appropriate action to abolish sexual corruption. ■

# Silence encourages sex corruption

By Penina Malundo

**M**any women in the country face the challenge of being asked for sexual corruption by people in the position of power at colleges and workplaces but instead of taking legal action against them, they decide to remain silent.

Amina Saidi (not her real name) a 27 year old woman journalist is one of those who have experience sexual bribery but they refused and kept silence without taking appropriate action against this anti-social behavior.

Amina says when she was in college studying journalism; she needed to find a place for her practical training and she managed to get a place in a media house.

She says throughout the period she was working in the media; her editor was harassing her by asking for sex but she refused. This matter kept hurting her, but she did not tell anyone or take any action against him.



Amina says, "I thought that if I told anyone and it spread and reaches the editor, it would have jeopardized my practical training performance".

Amina says while she was about to finish her studies in the second year, she received information that the media she was working during her practical training was looking for volunteers and she applied for a space. ▶▶ Pg. 25





## Silence encourages sex corruption ...

“The editor who I rejected his proposal for love affairs was in charge of administering volunteers and after disclosing to him that I was looking for volunteer post he refused, so I left and decided to reflect on my situation”, says Amina. She says later “I decided stop completely thinking that journalism profession will help me better my life, instead I decided to open my own small business and I have done so since I finished college in 2019 until now”.

Another woman journalist Antonia John (not her real name) says she was working as a volunteer in a newspaper and last year (2022) manager of a radio station in Dar es Salaam region invited her to work in his radio station and but later he started asking for sex so that he can give her employment .

She says after hearing that she decided it was better to remain at her previous workplace and continue to volunteer than to sacrifice her body for a job that she is not even sure about. However she remained silent and did not take any action.

The tendency of victims of sexual corruption keeping silence has had consequences because the perpetrators continue to think that nothing can be done against them and as a result many women journalists in the country have been affected.

The Director of Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA) Dr. Rose Reuben says her organization conducted a study in Dar es Salaam in 2021 whereby 48 percent of journalists who work in newsrooms but are not officially employed have experienced sexual bribery.

But the sad thing is that, although there is a law which states that sexual corruption is a criminal offence, the women journalists who were asked to give sexual bribe did not take legal action.

Moreover, during the survey, many women contacted to speak about this crime did not want to say anything as Dr Reuben reveals “52 percent remained silent, they were not ready to speak about this corruption...I emphasize this is for the few we reached”.

Article 25 of Prevention and Anti-Corruption Law 11/2007 states “a person who is found to be using the authority to implement duties to request or give sexual favors, as a criterion for giving employment, promoting, giving rights or service, will be prosecuted under the law of Economic sabotage.

The law states that if a person is convicted of sexual corruption, he can be sentenced to a fine not exceeding five million shillings or 20 years in prison, or both punishments together.

Therefore, it is important for all women in Tanzania especially women journalists who are in colleges and those working in the media for practical training or volunteering or are employed to know that they should not remain silent when a man in position of power asks for sexual corruption. They must take legal action so that the perpetrator recognizes that sexual corruption is a criminal offence. ■

# The Fight Against Sexual Corruption in Media Houses



*Workshop with female journalists and experts in Dar es Salaam.*



*Training with editors, media owners, managers and female journalists in Dar es Salaam*



*Majadiliano na wanahabari wanaume, Mkoa wa Dar es Salaam.*



*Dialogue session with editors, media owners, managers and female journalists in Dar es Salaam*

**I urge Women in the media to gather solid evidence of sexual corruption by, at least, getting initial seductive acts and report to their gender desks through which it will reach us and enable us to use our techniques to conclude the evidence and bring the case before the court**  
**- Bibie Mssumi, Officer, Public Awareness Desk, Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB-Kinondoni)**

