

MCT lays stress on specialised reporting

By Correspondent
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THE Media Council of Tanzania (MCT) has criticised Tanzania's journalism curriculum, saying it does not prepare journalists to specialise in different fields.

MCT executive secretary Kajubi Mukajanga said this recently during a consultative meeting of scientists and the media. He said the situation had caused the country to have few specialised journalists.

He said science was one of the areas that lacked specialised journalists while it was an important area with news that touched people's lives.

"MCT has a list of journalists specialised in sports,

environment, HIV/Aids, health but not science," he said.

However, he said in recognising the importance of specialisation in journalism, the MCT had been encouraging journalists to specialise in different areas including science.

He clarified that the current system used in training journalists was taking journalism as a first career, instead of being second after professionalism.

"The country's system is similar to the British one, which teaches journalism in general but we should be applying the American system that enables professionals to attend journalism training with a view to writing professional issues," he noted.

Initially, the MCT boss urged scientists and researchers to collaborate with journalists by providing them with accurate information that would help and not misled people.

For his part, Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) researcher officer Godlease Malisa urged scientists to translate their scientific terminologies into simple language before giving information to journalists to enable them convey a clear message to their audience.

A local radio presenter and producer of science programmes, Greyson Mutembei, urged the scientists to present research reports in a summary way to enable targeted people to access it.