



LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE

Justice Lugakingira House, Kijitonyama, P. O. Box 75254, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Telephone: 2773048, 2773038, Fax: 2773037, E-mail: lhrc@humanrights.or.tz
Website www.humanrights.or.tz

PRESS RELEASE

CALL TO TANZANIA PROSECUTION AUTHORITIES UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO BAIL FOR DR. WILBROAD SLAA

Dar es Salaam, 27 January 2025

On January 9, 2025, various media outlets in Tanzania reported the arrest of Dr. Wilbroad Slaa, a prominent diplomat and politician, on allegations of publishing false information in violation of Section 16 of the Cyber Crimes Act No. 14 of 2015.

On the same day, Dr. Slaa was arraigned before the Kisutu Resident Magistrate Court in Dar es Salaam under criminal case no. 993 of 2025 to answer to the charges. In an unusual and unexpected turn of events, even though the charges he faces do not fall under the ambit of Section 148(5) of the Criminal Procedure Act Cap 20, R.E. 2022. Dr. Slaa was reportedly denied bail after the prosecution applied for his detention, citing concerns over his security.

It is important to note that, under Tanzanian law, specifically Articles 13(6)(a) and 15 of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977, as well as various regional and international legal instruments to which Tanzania is a signatory, bail is not only a right under common law but also a constitutional entitlement.

Recently, there has been a concerning trend where prosecution authorities lodge applications or affidavits seeking to deny bail, particularly in cases involving individuals suspected of criticizing the government, even in instances where the offense is clearlyailable. Notable examples include the cases of former Ubungo Municipal Mayor Mr. Boniface Jacob and CHADEMA Officer Mr. Kombo Mbwana from Tanga region.

Additionally, it is worth mentioning that in 2022, the Criminal Procedure Act Cap 20, R.E. 2022 was amended to include Section 131A, which prohibits the

prosecution from filing criminal cases when investigations are incomplete. Therefore, it is imperative that the prosecution adhere to this law by refraining from presenting incomplete cases in court.

Considering these concerns, the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) calls upon the government and prosecution authorities to:

1. Refrain from lodging criminal applications that seek to deny bail for allegations that are clearly bailable and do not fall under Section 148(5) of the Criminal Procedure Act, Cap 20, R.E. 2022.
2. Ensure that law enforcement agencies grant Dr. Wilbroad Slaa, as well as other Tanzanians facing similar legal and criminal justice challenges, their constitutional right to bail.

Issued by:


Dr. Anna Henga
Executive Director- LHRC

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