

## **The Cyber Law and Freedom of Expression: The Tanzanian Perspectives**

Freedom of Expression in Tanzania is a constitutional and human rights issue. Various International and regional instruments play a pivotal role in trying to balance the interests between the human rights on one side and the need to regulate the society on the other. This balancing act can vividly be seen through various laws, which have been enacted to regulate freedom of expression. Most of the traditional media laws in Tanzania are penal in nature, thereby posing a valid question on not only the legitimacy of the laws regulating the freedom of expression but also the validity of making those laws penal.

The New Cyber Crime Law in Tanzania is an addition to the list of penal laws regulating freedom of expression. While the supporters of the laws positively dramatize the usefulness of the laws in combating cyber crime, online unethical conduct and violation of intellectual property on line, the critics are challenging the law for being draconian and infringing the freedom of expression which is the pillar and corner stone of democracy.

This paper intends to critically assess the opposing views opinion on the usefulness or draconian of the new cyber crime law in Tanzania, its making process, criminal inevitability and most important whether the same promote or hinder freedom of expression.

Documentary analysis of various matters relating to cyber law and a field research will be a key data collection methods to provide a back borne of this mini research.

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