THE CITIZEN ON SATURDAY
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NMB customers to enjoy relief on bank new charges

By Josephine Christopher
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Dar es Salaam, NMB Bank Plc customers have been assured that they will not feel the pain in the wake of increased service charges, after the lender launched its “Free Banking” campaign.

Briefing reporters yesterday in the city, bank’s Accounts and Payments for Retail Banking, Mr Mungure said NMB has decided to make its services accessible and affordable to most of its customers.

“Due to the increasing operational costs in the banking sector, some commercial banks, including NMB, announced recently that they would raise bank charges and fees. But because we understand that customers are the ones, who will carry this burden, we’ve decided to scrap some of the charges and fees,” said he.

Mr Mungure listed the fees and charges, which the bank decided to do away with, as including fee for opening accounts, checking balances, fund transfer, monthly payments and reviving dormant accounts, for those holding personal accounts.

The NMB senior manager for liabilities products, Mr Stephen Adili, for his part, said previous-ly the bank’s customers were paying Sh2,200 for reviving dormant accounts, Sh1,900 as monthly service levy and Sh800 for transactions.

Earlier this year, due to the declining profit and the high levels of non-performing loans, major commercial banks in the country adjusted upwards their charges and fees by between 30 per cent and 50 per cent.

Artists’ stakes from ring tones increase

By Alfred Zacharia
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Dar es Salaam, Telecom companies will from now up until June be forced to pay 50 per cent of the ring-back tone, which the telcos charge a subscriber of the service as royalties to artists, who own the songs.

The decision was made yesterday after a meeting, which brought together Tanzania Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TCRA), musicians, mobile phones operators and agents in the city.

Briefing reporters after their meeting, TCRA director general James Kilaba said the increment was equivalent to 20 per cent compared to previously, when an artist was paid only 30 per cent of what was generated through the service.

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MUNGURE | NMB BANK OFFICIAL

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania has been urged to create more civic space in order to enable its citizens to exercise their civic liberties as provided for in the country’s constitution.

By Louis Kolumbia
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Dar es Salaam, Tanzania has been urged to create more civic space linking the digital and physical spaces in order to enable its citizen’s exercise civil liberties enshrined in the country’s constitution.

The call was made yesterday during a breakfast meeting organised by Policy Forum.

Presenting her paper titled: “Is Social Media an Alternative Space for Politics in Tanzania in the context of shrinking civic space?” a senior consultant with Business Management Consultant (Bumaco) Ltd, Ms Alkande Kwaya, argued that civic space was not something to be given, but rather something to be created.

She said social media has played significant roles in providing citizens with platforms to enhance freedom of expression, broadcasting views, getting feedback and building audiences and sharing of knowledge.

Also, social media provides citizens with opportunities to collaborate for a certain cause including organising fundraisers, planning protests and resistances, and providing research materials for various purposes even in the academ- ics arena.

“The Cybercrime Act has been used for arresting social media users allegedly for insulting the President and that up until 2016 at least 10 had been arrested and charged in court,” she said.

According to her, the social media has in many occasions been used as a platform that users used to garner massive support and cheer leading, not-ing that, however, the said support and cheer leading were signs of declining political space in Tanzania.

Civic spaces are an extension of the community. When they work well, they serve as a stage for our public lives. If they function in their true civic role, they can be the settings where celebrations are held, where social and economic exchanges take place, where friends run into each other, and where cultures mix.

About: Civic Spaces

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DIPLOMACY: A gesture of good neighbourliness in the Great Lakes regional politics

From left, Vice President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation deputy minister Dasmas Niumbaho and other guests witness the swearing-in of the new President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mr Felix Tshisekedi in Kinshasa on Thursday. PHOTO | JCP

Dar es Salaam, German government has assured us of its support to combat poaching

By John Namkwave
jnamkwave@tz.nationmedia.com

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Speaking during the event, Dr Muldhin Shangare of the University of Dar es Salaam said incidents that include holding and interrogating people in relation to their citizen- ship, people’s disappearances, increases in incidents of extra judicial killings, arbitrary arrests by regional commis-sioners and district commis-sioners, closure of blogs and increase of media self-censor- ship were signs of declining political space in Tanzania.

The programme is meant to effectively conserve the Selous Game Reserve ecosystem and mitigate threats to its status as a natural world heritage site.

Referring to the positive impact of the programme, Prof Mkenda said the programme has helped to reduce wild animals poaching incidents.

“Germany government has assured us of its continued support to combat wild animals poaching incidents and improve environmental conservation,” Prof Mkenda said.