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# Activists' appeal to govt

Continued from page 1

other citizens were failing to express themselves because they are afraid thereby making it difficult for the media to access information and publish it.

He added that if the people who are expected to speak on something refrain from opening their mouths, it becomes difficult for the media to perform its role of disseminating information.

"We want the nation that talks so that we can get information and make it known to the public," he said.

Media Council of Tanzania's Paul Malinbo said that freedom goes together media freedom and the right to seek and receive information. "Without freedom of expression there is no democracy," he said.



Tanzania Editors' Forum chairman Theophil Makungu addresses a news conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday. With him are Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance official Constantine Luguth (left) and Legal Human Rights Centre acting Executive Director Ezekiel Masanja. PHOTO | SALIM SHAO

According to him, freedom of expression is protected by international standards such as article 19 of both UNDHHR and the ICCPR, guarantees the freedom of expression to everyone and at the same time protects individuals' privacy.

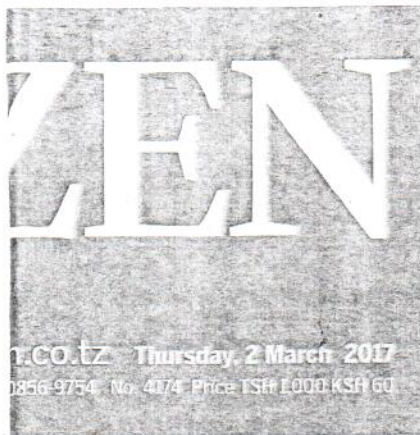
Other freedoms of expression include declarations of principles on freedom of expression in Africa and freedom of expression is also

guaranteed under Article 18 of the Tanzania Constitution.

He noted that since 2015, a number of laws have been passed such as Statistics Act, Media Services Act and Cybercrime Act which restrict freedom of expression across Tanzania.

The Director of Advocacy and Reforms, Legal Human Rights Center, Ms Anna Henga, said that

though freedom is a pillar of democracy, a number of human rights reports including the LHRC's perception index 2016, show that the freedom of assembly is under a two pronged attack from both political statements and the police. "As partners we have decided to organise this campaign to address various challenges including arbitrary limitation to assembly," she said.



# Activists bemoan restriction of rights

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**Dar es Salaam.** Human rights activists have condemned the government over its suppression of opposition parties and media role in championing press freedom and freedom of expression, urging vigilance in this matter.

Tanzania Editors Forum Chairman Theophil Makunga said yesterday at the launch of a one-year joint campaign of freedoms of expression and assembly, which seek to safeguard the freedoms of assembly and expression.

Through its Uhakiki project in collaboration with eight partners the campaign stresses that without freedom of expression and freedom of assembly there can be no development.

According to Mr Makunga, the government has recently been suppressing opposition parties' freedom of expression though it is the government itself that accepted the transition of multiparty system.

"If the government accepted the establishment of multiparty system, then it should ensure that it does not suppress opposition parties' freedom of expression and assembly," he said. He said that currently politicians and

*Continued on page 2*