



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 3 May 2016

EU and UN MARK THE INTERNATIONAL WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

The United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr Alvaro Rodriguez, and the European Union Head of Political, Press and Information, Ms. Luana Reale, have been on a two day joint visit in Mwanza Region. While in the region, the two delegates visited EU and UN supported development projects. They have also taken part in the national commemorations of the World Press Freedom Day held on Tuesday May 3rd, and organized by the Media Institute of Southern Africa – Tanzania Chapter (MISA-Tan) in collaboration with other media stakeholders.

On Monday May 2nd, they visited the Performance Improvement Programme for **Mwanza Urban Water and Sewerage Authority** (MWAUWASA). The delegation learnt from the MWAUWASA team how the service has been improved through EU's support to provide more affordable and sustainable water supply, and better water governance. They also visited the treatment area, sewage point and one of the distribution points at Nyegezi area. EU provides approximately EUR 1.38 million to support the infrastructure, capacity building and delivery services of MWAUWASA.

At Bugando Hospital, Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Reale visited the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) strengthening and expanding cancer control project which supports the existing radiotherapy and nuclear medicine facilities, provides partner institutions with equipment and assists them to develop human resources required for cancer care.

While in Nyegezi, the two diplomats also visited Saint Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) where they met with the academicians and students. Mr. Rodriguez spoke about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while Ms. Reale presented the relations and partnership between the EU and Tanzania. Mr. Rodriguez also spoke at Radio SAUT on Access to Information, Press Freedom, responsible journalism and gender equality with reference to the new Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

At the World Press Freedom Day commemoration, Ms. Reale and Mr. Rodriguez joined the guest of honour, Hon. Judge Robert Makaramba, Judge-in-charge of the High Court in Mwanza Zone, who represented Hon. Mohamed Chande Othman, the Chief Justice of Tanzania, in presiding over the events with media stakeholders.



EUROPEAN UNION



Ms. Reale reiterated EU's commitment to promote and support freedoms of opinion and expression as fundamental human rights; and addressed the difficult balance between freedom of expression versus the restrictions to such freedom: "*There are clear **conditions for imposing restrictions**: they must be foreseen by law and they must be really needed and proportional to the need. They cannot be invoked to justify the muzzling of people exercising their freedom of opinion and expression. The legislation that allows restrictions must be transparent, reasonable and limited. It cannot be used to justify discrimination*".

In his statement for the day, Mr. Rodriguez called attention to the importance of the media's role in participating in the discussion and creating partnerships for disseminating information on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. "*The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development sets out 17 goals that aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, take action on climate change and the environment and improve access to health and education, build strong institutions and partnerships and more. As journalists you need to raise awareness and educate society to assist in the implementation of the SDGs so that the vision articulated in the 2030 agenda for a better world, free of poverty and want, will be achieved.*"

The European Union and the United Nations join the rest of the world to celebrate the shared fundamental principles of press freedom, to assess the state of press freedom throughout the world and to defend the media from attacks on their independence. It is also a day when the world pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

CONTACTS:

Hoyce Temu
Communications Specialist
Resident Coordinator's Office
UN Tanzania
Mobile: +255 682262627

Website: <http://tz.one.org>

Facebook:
<http://www.facebook.com/UNTanzania>

Twitter: United NationsTZ,
Alvaro_UNTZ

Susanne Mbise
Press and Information Officer
European Union in Tanzania
Mobile: +255 754323245

Website:
www.eeas.europa.eu/tanzania/

Facebook: EuropeanUnionTanzania

Twitter: EUinTZ