



EUROPEAN UNION



British
High Commission
Dar es Salaam

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS OFFICIATES THE LAUNCH OF UK/EU FUNDED MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE MANUAL IN DAR ES SALAAM

Friday 12th November 2021, Dar es Salaam.

Tanzania takes a huge stride forward in accessing evidence from other countries to tackle transnational crime.

Mutual Legal Assistance is a process by which states co-operate in gathering evidence for use in criminal cases. It is the mechanism by which a sovereign state supports another to obtain intelligence, evidence or persons required to pursue a criminal investigation, prosecution or recover illicit assets.

Today the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Mr. Sylvester Anthony Mwakitalu, has officiated the launch of the Mutual Legal Assistance (MLA) Manual at the JNICC in Dar es Salaam. The manual was developed under the EU and UK funded project component 'Building Sustainable Anti-Corruption Action in Tanzania' (BSAAT). The BSAAT project is implemented by the British High Commission with the objective of improving capacity and coordination in the criminal justice sector in Tanzania.

It is against this background that the EU and UK have supported the Government of Tanzania in developing such a manual. The manual was produced as a result of collaborative action between the UK Criminal Justice Advisor and the technical team from the Tanzania National Prosecutions Services under the supervision of the DPP. Together they developed and published these guidelines, which outline how to obtain legal assistance from Tanzania in international criminal matters.

Speaking during the launch, the Director of Public Prosecutions remarked *"the dispensation of criminal justice, including crime prevention, protection of our citizens and the maintenance of peace, security and public order constitutes the foundation for development and welfare of any given society. The effort to achieve these objectives cannot be restricted to national borders, since it is evident that transnational organised crime, by its very definition, transcends boundaries and the crimes committed do affect not only individual countries but also the international community in general"*.

The British High Commissioner David Concar said, *"The importance of this work is not to be underestimated. Millions of people all over the world are affected by the scourge of organised transnational crime, the rise in terrorism and corruption. This is Tanzania's invaluable contribution to the fight to punish offences committed on an international scale."*



EUROPEAN UNION



British
High Commission
Dar es Salaam

The Head of the European Union Delegation to Tanzania and the East African Community (EAC), Ambassador Manfredo Fanti said, "We congratulate the Tanzania Government for the progress made in developing the Mutual Legal Assistance Manual as an important mechanism to tackle transnational organized crimes. The manual was developed as part of the IMPACT programme which aims at improving accountability through fighting corruption and increased access to justice."

Background Note

'Improving accountability through fighting corruption and increased access to justice' (IMPACT) programme has two components. One component is the Building Sustainable Anti-Corruption Action in Tanzania (BSAAT). Overall, the IMPACT programme supports inclusive development through improved transparency of governance and accountability of the state institutions. It has two specific objectives:

1. Reduced incentives for corruption through a combination of improved deterrence in the criminal justice system, increased transparency and governance of professional services, and collective actions that reshape social norms and expectations around corruption.
2. Increased protection of citizen's rights, in particular for women, through legal aid services and legal empowerment.

For more information please contact:

Susanne Mbise – EU Press & Information Officer

Email : Susanne.MBISE@eeas.europa.eu /+255 754323245

Ryan Mitchell – British High Commission Head of Communications

Email: Ryan.Mitchell@fcdo.gov.uk /+255 754765276

Paul Thomas Kadushi- Director of Asset Forfeiture, Transnational and Specialised Crimes, National Prosecutions Services

Email : paul.kadushi@nps.go.tz /+255 754497707