



# THE SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF TLSB OVER FOUR YEARS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF Hon. DR. SAMIA SULUHU HASSAN

The Tanzania Library Services Board (TLSB) operates as a public institution under the auspices of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. It was established by Act of Parliament No. 39 in 1963 and subsequently amended by Act No. 6 in 1975. The primary functions of the Board encompass the establishment, development, and coordination of library services across the nation, the preservation of national publications, and the dissemination of knowledge to the community without discrimination.

The Board has consistently fulfilled its responsibilities with efficacy under the leadership of Her Excellency President Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, during the four years of her administration. Throughout this time, the institution has achieved considerable milestones in various domains, including infrastructure development, legal reforms, information and communication technology (ICT), international cooperation, and the advancement of knowledge resources.

**BUDGET TREND**

From 2021 to 2025, the Board experienced an average annual budget increase of 20.4 percent. The budget encompasses salary allocations, other operational expenditures, development initiatives, internal revenue, and contributions from donors.

**Salaries**

Salaries constitute an average of 34 percent of the budget, reflecting the Government's commitment to enhancing the well-being of the human resources within TLSB.

**Internal Revenue**

Internal revenue has risen from TZS 1.5 billion in the fiscal year 2021/22 to TZS 1.92 billion in 2024/25, reflecting an overall increase of 28 percent, corresponding to a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 6.37 percent. This improvement is attributable to the institution's enhanced internal efficiency. It is noteworthy that the Board does not engage in commercial activities. Library services are provided equitably to all individuals, regardless of income level, gender, or socioeconomic status. A nominal membership fee is implemented to assist in the maintenance of library resources, including books and lending materials.

**AUDIT REPORTS**

The Board is pleased to report that we have received unqualified audit opinions for the financial years 2021/2022 through 2023/2024. These audits were conducted by the Controller and Auditor General

(CAG).

**DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS FUNDING**

The budget for development projects has been reduced from TZS 10 billion in the fiscal year 2021/22 to TZS 1.5 billion in the fiscal year 2024/25. This adjustment is part of a strategic initiative aimed at completing significant projects that are already underway and enhancing recurrent expenditure.

Additionally, the Board received TZS 702 million from the government to address outstanding payments for staff and contractors. Furthermore, a contribution of TZS 22 million was secured from Book Aid International for the renovation of the children's section of the Central Library.

**LEGAL REFORMS**

The Board has undertaken a thorough review of the 1975 Act to ensure its relevance in meeting contemporary needs. These reforms lay a foundational framework for the Board, providing it with regulatory authority and identifying various reading resources that have emerged due to advancements in technology, including electronic materials.

Furthermore, this initiative seeks to promote equitable access to knowledge services within the community. It also aims to facilitate connections among libraries nationwide and establish consistent standards for service delivery.

The Board has also initiated the process of developing Regulations and By-Laws designed to enhance its ability to fulfill its responsibilities effectively.

**PROCESS FOR ACHIEVING A NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES POLICY**

In the course of the National Symposiums conducted to enhance library services across the country from 2021 to 2023, feedback was gathered from 1,500 stakeholders regarding the proposed National Library Services Policy. Remarkably, 85% of participants expressed support for the introduction of this policy, while 65% indicated that prioritizing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is essential.

Additionally, stakeholders highlighted the need for modern, innovative services within libraries, the establishment of adequate infrastructure, and the recruitment of qualified librarians in primary and secondary educational institutions.

The draft of the Policy proposals has been finalised and will be presented to stakeholders for additional feedback. Following this, it will be submitted to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology



The new appearance of the National Central Library Building in Dar es Salaam after renovation.



Dr. Mboni A. Ruzgea  
Director General - TLSB

for further consideration and action.

**CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Government has committed to allocating a budget for the enhancement of public library infrastructure within the next four years. To date, renovations have been completed for approximately nine Regional Libraries, including the National Central Library and the Ruvuma Regional Library.

Additionally, the Board is progressing with the construction of two new library facilities: the JPM Memorial Library, located in the Chato Geita District, where construction is currently underway, and the Mwanza Regional Library, which commenced construction in April 2025.

**ICT AND DIGITAL LIBRARY**

In response to the swift advancements in Science and Technology, an ICT Infrastructure has been established across 12 regional libraries, complemented by the acquisition of 609 pieces of equipment, including computers, scanners, and servers, funded through government subsidies.

Furthermore, the government has initiated the development of the Integrated National Digital Library System (INDLS) under the auspices of the e-Government Authority (eGA).

The forthcoming online services will encompass the issuance of publication identification numbers (ISBN & ISSN), online lending and reading of books, resource sharing with educational institutions such as colleges and schools, as well as mobile applications.

The INDLS system is scheduled for launch by December 2025 and is projected to serve no fewer than 4 million users annually.

**BOOK AND USER DEVELOPMENT**

During the four-year period of the Sixth Term (2021 to 2024), a total of 2,157,622 users were served in public

libraries across the nation. This equates to an average of 539,406 users per annum. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly during the initial years of the Sixth Term (2021/22), led to a modest decline in user engagement, as certain services were suspended in compliance with health protocols. However, the Board anticipates a significant increase in the number of users in the forthcoming years, driven by a heightened demand for knowledge services in society and an increasing reliance on information and communications technology (ICT) within libraries.

Additionally, the Board has experienced a notable rise in book acquisitions, attributed to augmented budget allocations and manpower focused on resource management, as well as enhancements in distribution processes and collaborations with stakeholders, such as publishers. This expansion broadens the range of knowledge accessible to the community. Within the period from 2021 to 2025, a total of 364,062 books were received, representing a 27% increase compared to the number of books acquired during the preceding period of 2017-2020.

**REGISTRATION OF UNIQUE IDENTIFICATION NUMBERS (ISBN, ISSN, TNB)**

During the four-year duration of the Sixth Phase of the administration, the TLSB has maintained its role in coordinating the registration of unique identification numbers for books and serial publications, including journals.

**International Standard Book Number (ISBN)**

The volume of books registered with ISBNs has risen from 1,704 to 5,232, representing an increase of 51%. The contributing factors to this growth include:



Improvement of ICT infrastructure to enable the National Integrated Digital Library System to function effectively.

An escalation in publishing activities within the country, particularly among private publishers and educational institutions.

Enhanced awareness among publishers regarding the significance of registering their official works. Improved registration services, characterized by the simplification of procedures through the use of information and communication technology (ICT).

Collaborative efforts between TLSB and stakeholders, such as Book Aid International and UNESCO, in promoting the utilization of ISBNs.

**International Standard Serial Number (ISSN)**

The total number of serial publications registered with the International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) has experienced a slight decline, decreasing from 170 to 155, which represents a reduction of 5%.

The main reasons for this decrease are: Noticeable decline in the number of academic journals published in serial formats (periodicals). Additionally, some publishers have transitioned to informal digital platforms, neglecting the necessary procedures for ISSN registration. Furthermore, a lack of understanding among certain publishers regarding the significance of ISSN for online publications has been observed. Lastly, many institutions are shifting their priorities towards expedited and informal publishing methods.

**Tanzania National Bibliography - (TNB)**

The number of publications has risen from 1,570 to 5,368, reflecting a 55% increase. This trend indicates several positive developments: Enhanced collection of national publications Increased production of knowledge within the country Improved awareness regarding the



necessity of formal registration

**THE SCHOOL OF LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND DOCUMENTATION STUDIES**

The School of Library, Archives and Documentation Studies (SLADS) established in 1989 following the TLSB Act of 1975, has consistently served as a central hub for providing professional training to librarians and archivists across the nation. The institution operates from two campuses: the headquarters located in Bagamoyo and a secondary facility in Dar es Salaam, situated within the National Library.

During the four-year tenure of the Sixth Phase Government, SLADS has implemented strategic initiatives to enhance and broaden the scope of training programs. These initiatives are designed to align with the evolving demands of the job market and to effectively incorporate information and communication technology (ICT) into the curriculum.

The College offers a comprehensive range of courses, structured as follows:

**Long-Term Training Programs:**

- Long-Term Training Programs:
1. Basic Technician Certificate
  2. Technician Certificate
  3. Ordinary Diploma

In response to evolving market demands, SLADS is pleased to announce the introduction of two new curricula: Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Business Information Technology (BIT). These programs are anticipated to commence in the academic year 2025/2026.

**Short-Term Training for In-Service teachers**

Additionally, SLADS provides short courses tailored for teachers and librarians from both the government and private sectors, addressing specific training needs.

**BOARD'S DIRECTION AND EXPECTATION - 2025/2026**

**The Board aims to:**

Increase users to 10 million by 2030 to reduce the knowledge gap through school and community libraries and the use of ICT in service delivery, position libraries as knowledge hubs to provide knowledge and entertainment to the community (edutainment) and to ensure that the proposed National Library Services Policy includes special groups of readers - Children, women and people with disabilities and ensure equity in the provision of library services in the country.

**CALL TO THE GOVERNMENT**

The Board acknowledges the significant endeavors undertaken by the Sixth Phase Government to enhance the education and knowledge sector. Adhering to the motto "Kazi lendelee!" the Board is committed to further strengthening library services to support the comprehensive development of our nation.

The Board respectfully requests that the Government increase subsidies to achieve the following objectives; to enhance information technology infrastructure in all remaining libraries, Expand reading services to rural regions, Facilitate access to educational and training materials across libraries nationwide, and Strengthen inclusive and sustainable services available to the entire community.

Together, let us strive to build a nation that prioritizes learning, invests in knowledge, and fosters the digital economy.



A sketch of the Mwanza Regional Library building, the construction of which has begun. This appearance will be fully visible once the project is completed.