

THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF TANZANIA

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September, 2024

2023-2024 MAT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Preamble

The Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT) is a professional association established in 1965 with its headquarters in Dar es Salaam. It is a guardian for over 3000 registered members (doctors) practicing in the country.

MAT is a well registered professional body for Medical Practitioners registered with the aim of promoting and safeguarding medical practice in Tanzania. It is an Umbrella association including all Medical Doctors and other medical practitioners in Tanzania together with its sister specialized associations.

Vision

To become the leading and learning professional body improving the quality of health care in Tanzania through attention to ethical, quality, evidence-based practice and continuous professional development

Mission

To promote the art and science of medicine and allied sciences, maintain medical ethics and conduct, in order to attain the highest level of quality healthcare services in Tanzania.

Goal

Promote and safeguard professionalism and medical practice in order to enhance a healthy Tanzanian society.

Roles and responsibilities:

1. Continued Medical Education, through conducting various physical and virtual meetings/seminar, including annual scientific conferences on key public health issues.
2. Providing evidence-based information to which may influence health related policies in the country, including publications in *Tanzania Medical Journal*.
3. Support adherence of high standard of medical ethics in clinical and public health practice by its members through the dissemination of the MAT booklet, **Guiding Principles on Medical Ethics and Human Rights in Tanzania**.

MAT as a professional organization has additional responsibilities as described below and during this reporting period, MAT has been continuing engaging with various institutions and organizations such as:

- Patron – Tanzania Medical Students Association (TAMSA)
- Member –National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) Council
- Chair – Health Professionals Apex body
- Member – Board to Medical Council of Tanganyika
- Chair – Examination and Registration committee of the Medical Council of Tanganyika
- Member – Tanzania Association of Professional Organisations
- Member – Federation of East African Medical and Dental Associations
- Member – Commonwealth Medical Association

Status of MAT office/secretariat

1. One full time Volunteer
 - Office secretary-Ms. Johari Waziri
2. During the year MAT engaged two temporary volunteers in the following capacity
 - Conference Logistics Coordinator – Dr Mdaki
 - Info-Technology Expert -Mr James

MAT membership status

- Total registered members-3065
- Active members (paid annual fees 2023/2024)- 50
- Filled forms but not yet paid registration fees- 00
- New members registered for year 2023/2024 -20

We encourage members to assist us in convincing their employers to pay for their annual subscription fees, and in the meantime, we urge members to honour payment of their annual subscription fee and get involved in MAT activities.

REPORT OF MAT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES 2022– 2023

During this period, the Association has made some progress in many areas. Some of these are ongoing from previous years and some are new projects. These various activities that we managed to carry during this year include the following:

1. Constitution Amendments

The current constitution of the Association has been observed to have many potholes that disadvantageously serves the Association. Hence the need for amending the it was deemed necessary. The council have sat and came up with new proposed changes, whereby it will be shared in our means of communications so that each and every one of you will have an access to it and add your comments/recommendations/inputs. Your feedback will then be taken to considerations and be added.

2. New MAT office-

It has been a long waiting since the Association was promised the new office and with greatest thanks to our Beloved President Dr Samia Suluhu, this was fulfilled. Therefore, currently MAT has a new office, located at Sokoine Drive/Luthuli Street, inside the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) building. It has four rooms for office work, one conference, two huge lounges, toilet, waiting bay and a kitchen area. God bless abundantly our beloved President.

3. MAT new office furniture

Our new office is currently fully furnished. MAT is sending its heartfelt thanks to our government through Medical Council of Tanzania (MCT) under the Ministry of Health for supporting MAT obtaining MAJOR PART of furniture that are required in the office. We are truly grateful for such incredible support from our government and we really appreciate that.

4. Financial manual amendments

The financial manual of the institution was also found to have some shortcomings hence the need to amend it was evident. Therefore, the council of the Association has managed to do some necessary constructive changes that will serve better our association.

5. Preparation of strategic plan for the next five years

It is well known that the MAT strategic plan has ended in year 2022. Therefore, all the necessary arrangements have been done. And we will soon add in our website and accounts links for collecting all of your thoughts and ideas so as to incorporate them in the final draft of the next five-year strategic plan.

6. MAT PLOT development in Mbweni

MAT has a plot at Mbweni Mpiji (sq.m. 1680). In May 2017, MAT has started developing the plot by building an office and two rooms for renting. Sewage system and water supply have been put in place. Business Proposal and architecture drawings and bill of quantity to get an estimate of what the cost expected to be incurred are in Place. We are still working on securing fund to manage and complete the building plan

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENTS

A) ADVOCACY ON PROFESSIONALISM IN HEALTH PRACTICES

This campaign was launched in October 2017.

Goal: To strengthen professionalism and doctor patient relationship

Status: Professionalism talk/discussion is urged to be carried out repeatedly. MAT last year requested to participate and be a part of MCT's talk/tutorials on professionalism and ethics particularly for junior doctors during pre-internship examination orientations and that permission was granted, currently we are participating in the orientation activity.

B) QUALITY OF MEDICAL EDUCATION

MAT participates effectively in ensuring quality medical education is provided and internship is done in qualified health institutions.

Status: MAT is entrusted by Medical Council of Tanganyika to be part of the examination committee in activities surrounding internship pre and post evaluation/ examination and this task is being carried out effectively.

C) SAFEGUARDING PROFESSIONALISM

MAT supports and safeguards professionalism among medical professionals by ensuring that the public is aware of where MAT stands and that MAT condemns any brutality to medical professionals, likewise condemns any malpractice by the medical professionals.

D) ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER PARTNERS

I. PARTNERSHIP

During this period, MAT has continued to engage with the following partners:

1. Tanzania Medical Journal: The transfer of management to Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) has been done already
2. TANCDA activity of basic health check-up/screening to society, the event took place during the medical camp.

II. NEW PARTNERS

1. Coalition of African National Medical Association (CANMA)
It was formed in 2018. Have a constitution and Interim Leadership. We revived the collaboration, and managed to attend Kenya Medical Association conference and Zambia Medical Association conference as part of our continued collaborations.
2. We Revived our collaboration with Commonwealth Medical Association (CMA), and participated in a summit held in Kochim India. The summit was organised by Indian Medical Association and CMA.
3. Ministry of Health (MoH)
MAT has approached the Ministry of Health to run a project aiming to equip Medical Doctors in Primary Healthcare Facilities with knowledge and skills on performing safe surgeries and making early identification & management of NCDs. A concept note has been submitted and we are awaiting response.

E) CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

MAT has continued to promote and encourage members to participate in different CPD activities offered in the country and outside the country. CPD is integrated in the current circulating Medical and Dental Practitioners' Act 2017.

F) TANZANIA MEDICAL JOURNAL

The Tanzania Medical Journal is still hosted at an official journal platform commonly referred as Open Journal Systems (OJS) on a local domain (www.tmj.or.tz) that enable users to access full articles without any charges.

The journal is still being sponsored and managed by the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) with various publications and more papers are being published.

J CHALLENGES

1. Resources – The association lacks stable and sustainable financial resources. So far, we our main source of income is through members contribution, of which up to current records, only about 20% have managed to pay their subscription. Others are small/ minor projects which do not raise enough income to sustain or run the office activities.

Therefore, we greatly urge our esteemed members to give a full support to this Association through paying their subscriptions and buy MAT’s few items like car stickers, medical/ lab coats

2. Secretariat – The association lacks a full-functioning secretariat with permanent personnel to run programmes and serve members’ interests. Executive committee members who are supposed to run day to day activities are all full time employed, making it challenging to support the institution 100%. Thus, having a full secretariat will help in supporting the executive committee.

4. Commitment of Members – Our biggest problem as MAT is the commitment of our members. Very few doctors are members. The few who are, do not participate fully in matters of the association.

FUTURE PLANS

- 1. MAT will continue with advocacy on professionalism to be done all over the country
- 2. Follow up on the inputs from the members on new constitution amendments
- 3. Mobilize resources and fundraise for association activities
- 4. Follow up on the members’ comments and inputs on strategic plan and hence complete the task of constructing it.
- 5. Write/encourage members to write proposals and solicit for funds
- 6. Continuing working to secure funds for Mbweni Business Project
- 7. Establish more partnerships and networks with other organizations

AUDITORS

The Auditors **Moria Associates (Certified Public Accountants)** have expressed their willingness to continue in the office and eligible for re- appointment

BY ORDER OF THE MAT COUNCIL

SIGNATURE.....

DATE.....