



MEDIA STATEMENT

FROM THE DESK OF REV MZWANDILE MOLO, FOCCISA CHAIRPERSON

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For immediate release

STATEMENT ON THE DETERIORATING POLITICAL AND HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN TANZANIA FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER 29, 2025 GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA), representing Christian councils across our region, expresses its indignation at the deepening political and humanitarian crisis unfolding in the United Republic of Tanzania in the aftermath of the 29 October 2025 general elections.

As a fellowship rooted in the Gospel imperative of justice, peace, and the sanctity of human life, we are compelled to speak with moral clarity at a time when our brothers and sisters of all faiths in Tanzania are facing unprecedented levels of violence, fear, and disruption and a high number of deaths.

Reports from credible international and regional observers, including the African Union Election Observation Mission, indicate that the electoral process did not meet the minimum standards for a free, fair, and transparent election. Restrictions on opposition participation, credible allegations of ballot manipulation, the shutdown of communication networks, and the intimidation of observers collectively cast a dark shadow on the legitimacy of the declared outcome.

Protests erupted in several cities after the results were announced. We are deeply dismayed by credible reports that security forces used lethal force, killing hundreds of Tanzanians, with some estimates exceeding one thousand deaths. Families are still searching for missing loved ones, civil society voices have been silenced, and entire communities remain under curfew and fear.

This loss of life is a profound moral tragedy. A nation cannot claim stability when citizens are killed for demanding dignity and accountability. If confirmed by the

independent investigations now being urged globally, this repression marks one of the bleakest moments in Tanzania's post-independence history.

Tanzania has long been a symbol of peace in our region. Today, that legacy is at risk. Instead of the unity and progress we once celebrated, we are confronted with reports and images of a nation slipping into the political tactics of power consolidation that Africa continues to resist.

When opposition parties are silenced and leaders disappear, the political environment resembles authoritarianism. History shows that nations under such conditions regress before they heal. Tanzania must not be allowed to follow that path.

As FOCCISA, we, therefore, call upon:

1. The Government of Tanzania

- To put an immediate end to all violent crackdowns against civilians and ensure that security forces act in full respect of human rights and international humanitarian law.
- To release all political detainees, journalists, and civil society leaders arrested for exercising constitutional freedoms.
- To develop a standard of transparency in governance, where the needs of the people come ahead of partisan agendas, and the government can be held to account on its strategies and promises.
- To restore full access to the internet, media platforms, and communication networks.
- To commit to an independent, impartial, and transparent investigation into the killings and abuses reported during and after the elections.
- To initiate an inclusive, nationally owned dialogue that brings together political actors, civil society, faith communities, and youth movements to restore trust in governance.

2. Opposition Parties and Civil Society Organisations

- To continue advocating for democratic reforms through nonviolent means, guided by respect for human life and the broader wellbeing of the nation.
- To work constructively toward national reconciliation and not allow political frustration to fuel division or retaliation.
- To assume a standard of ethics in politics that respectfully holds government to account for the promises they make to the people, for the benefit and progress of the people.

3. The International Community (AU, SADC, UN, and global partners)

- To strengthen diplomatic and mediation efforts aimed at averting further loss of life.

- To support independent investigations into allegations of electoral fraud and human rights violations.
- To accompany the people of Tanzania in efforts to rebuild confidence in democratic institutions.

As Christians, we believe that peace without justice is fragile and false. Our faith teaches us that leaders are stewards of God's people, not rulers over their fear. We therefore urge all actors to choose the path of truth, accountability, and reconciliation.

We stand in prayerful solidarity with the bereaved, the wounded, the dispossessed, and all Tanzanians yearning for a future free of fear. May the God of peace grant healing to this nation and wisdom to its leaders, so that Tanzania may rise from this moment with renewed commitment to justice, dignity, and unity for all.

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Editor's Notes:

About FOCCISA:

The Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa (FOCCISA) is a fellowship of twelve Christian Councils of Churches in the SADC Region who strive to advocate for preserve the unity of the Body of Christ and the peace of all people. FOCCISA's mission was inspired and persuaded by the value of life and inspired by the call for justice as defined by the Holy Scriptures and pronounced by the Lord Jesus Christ.

FOCCISA represents the following Christian Councils:

Botswana Council of Churches; Christian Council of Lesotho; Christian Council of Mozambique; Christian Council of Tanzania; Council of Christian Churches in Angola; Council of Churches in Namibia; Council of Churches in Zambia; Council of Eswatini Churches; Malawi Council of Churches; National Council of Churches of Kenya; South African Council of Churches; Zimbabwe Council of Churches.

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