



## The Agenda for the Tanzanian Man in the Year 2025

### Introduction and History

While there is an International Men's Day, the men of Tanzania are celebrating the Tanzanian Men's Day for the second time. The founder of International Men's Day is Dr. Jerome Teelucksingh from Trinidad and Tobago, who established the celebration on November 19, 1999, to coincide with his father's birthday. However, Tanzanian men do not see a need to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Teelucksingh's father and instead chose a date close to the birth of the Tanzanian nation on April 26, 1964. Tanzanian Men's Day is now celebrated every year on April 23rd.

### The Identity of the Tanzanian Man

This day celebrates the Tanzanian man as a citizen who values his national identity and is not swayed by foreign traditions. He takes pride in being Tanzanian and works to protect the honor of men at the family, community, and national levels.

### Challenges in Modern Relationships

Modern relationships in Tanzania face challenges due to social changes and evolving gender perspectives. Women are encouraged to be independent and competitive, which can affect traditional expectations. Meanwhile, some men worry about relationship stability when mutual respect is lacking. Relationships require cooperation and commitment from both parties to be successful. Often, challenges arise when relationships are treated as financial obligations rather than sincere partnerships.

### Social Issues and Men's Welfare

There is a growing concern regarding men being abandoned by their families and the impact of a patriarchal system that may benefit some while harming others. Both men and women are victims of gender-based violence, yet men's challenges are often not discussed enough. Some men feel like strangers in the homes they built, facing environments where partners may turn children against them. Additionally, many men lack personal savings for old age, leading some retirees to seek new employment just to survive after being neglected by their families.

Organizations like SHIWACHANDO (*Shirika la Wanaume Wanaopitia Changamoto katika Ndoa*- the association of men undergoing difficulties in marital relationships) have noted that economic disparities can lead to a lack of respect in marriages.

## Parenting and Social Responsibility

Child-rearing requires the presence of both parents, and the absence of one is a significant problem. While technology has enabled women to take on roles previously held by men, it has not replaced the need for both parents in raising children. When men fail to fulfill their roles, it places an overwhelming burden on women. Furthermore, men's silence regarding these struggles can lead to mental health issues, which affects the productivity and health of the entire society. It is also emphasized that street children are contrary to Tanzanian values and that parents must be responsible for all their children, including those from outside relationships, to ensure they have a proper upbringing.

## Conclusion and Acknowledgments

These efforts require cooperation between the government and various stakeholders. Recognition is given to the Government of Tanzania, Sokoine University of Agriculture, and Affirmative action on Gender Equality Network (AGEN) for their support of Tanzanian Men's Day. SHIWACHANDO is also commended for its work in establishing a men's clinic and providing awards to couples who demonstrate love and resilience, which helps reduce negative perceptions of marriage among the youth.