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Actual or Presumed Citizenship? Rethinking Renunciation Requirements for Persons of Mixed Parentage in Tanzania

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Abstract

Citizenship establishes the legal relationship between an individual and the state and provides the foundation for the enjoyment of rights and fulfilment of civic obligations. In Tanzania, citizenship by birth and descent is generally determined by parental citizenship and the circumstances of birth. However, administrative practice may require individuals to renounce a foreign parent's nationality as a condition for recognition of Tanzanian citizenship, even where the foreign state does not legally recognise them as its citizens. This article examines the legal basis and implications of this practice. It argues that requiring renunciation of a nationality that an individual does not legally possess lacks a proper statutory foundation and creates legal uncertainty, with a consequent risk of statelessness. The article distinguishes between actual and presumed citizenship and contends that nationality should be established through objective legal evidence rather than assumptions based on parentage or place of birth. The study adopts a doctrinal legal approach, supplemented by interviews and practical cases involving affected persons. It is informed by the author's doctoral research, *Determination and Proof of Tanzania Citizenship,* and draws on selected approaches in Kenya and Zimbabwe to illuminate alternative responses to nationality, parentage and renunciation. The article recommends administrative and policy

reforms to align citizenship determination with law and strengthen protection of the right to nationality.

Keywords
Dual Citizenship, Renunciation, Nationality, Mixed Parentage.

1. Introduction

Citizenship occupies a central place in modern legal systems. It determines membership in a political community and serves as the gateway through which individuals access a broad range of civil, political, social and economic rights[2] The importance of citizenship becomes particularly evident when questions arise concerning the status of persons whose entitlement to citizenship is challenged despite substantial legal and factual connections to the state.[3]

In Tanzania, citizenship law seeks to define who belongs to the national community while simultaneously safeguarding the state's longstanding policy against dual citizenship. Although this policy serves legitimate objectives related to national allegiance and sovereignty, its implementation occasionally produces unintended consequences. One such consequence arises in relation to individuals born in Tanzania to one Tanzanian parent and one foreign parent. The other is when an individual is born outside Tanzania to a parent (or parents) who is (or are both) citizen (s) of Tanzania.

In practice, some individuals in this category encounter difficulties when seeking recognition of their citizenship status, obtaining passports or accessing other citizenship-related documentation such as the National Identity Card. The difficulties

[2] Bauböck, R. (2019). *Genuine links and useful passports: Evaluating strategic uses of citizenship*. Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, 45(6), 1015–1026. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2018.1440495.

[3] Institute on Statelessness and Inclusion [ISI], 2021; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2022.

frequently arise from assumptions that they may have inherited the nationality of the foreign parent or of the state where they were born (on the basis of *jus soli* principle). Consequently, authorities may require proof of renunciation of that presumed foreign citizenship before recognizing the individual's entitlement to Tanzanian citizenship.

The challenge emerges where the foreign state does not recognize the individual as its citizen under its own nationality laws. In such circumstances, the person may find himself in a paradoxical position. Tanzania may question his exclusive Tanzanian citizenship on the basis of presumed foreign nationality, while the foreign state simultaneously denies that he is its citizen. The individual is thus required to renounce a citizenship which, in legal reality, may never have existed.

This article examines the legal and policy implications of this situation. It argues that citizenship determinations should be based on objective evidence of actual nationality rather than assumptions arising from parentage alone. The article further contends that where no foreign citizenship has been acquired, a renunciation requirement becomes both legally unsound and administratively unreasonable.

2. Legal Framework and Administration of Citizenship in Tanzania

The Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania[4] constitutes the first component of the legal framework. The Constitution earmarks citizenship matters to be among Union matters.[5] It provides for the

[4] *Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977* (adopted 26 April 1977). (Revised edition incorporating amendments through 2005).

[5] On 26 April, 1964 Tanganyika and Zanzibar united to form the United Republic of Tanzania (hereinafter referred to as Tanzania) where some matters were to be dealt with semi-autonomously (Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar respectively) and others under the Union Government. Citizenship was held to be a Union matter. Article 4(3) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania provides for Union matters

rights and duties of a citizen of Tanzania as opposed to any other person. Among the rights and duties stipulated in it are those related to franchise and those specifying for holding of certain public positions. The Constitution delineates what rights are available to every person, including non-citizens and those which are exclusive for citizens.

The Constitution however is limited to stipulating such rights and does not create a framework as to what then constitutes Tanzanian citizenship by birth, descent or naturalisation. Neither does it stipulate what constitutes proof of Tanzanian citizenship. Instead, it refers matters related to citizenship to legislation, that is, the Tanzania Citizenship Act, of which the current version was adopted in 1995.

Although citizenship details were included in the independence constitution of Tanganyika, they were within one year excised from the Constitution and incorporated instead in legislation, that is the Citizenship Act.[6] The *Republic of Tanganyika (Consequential, Transitional and Temporary Provisions) Act*[7] provided that Chapter I of the existing Constitution, which dealt with citizenship, would continue in force as a separate Act of Parliament, to be cited as the *Citizenship Act*.[8] In effect, the constitutional provisions on citizenship were reconstituted as standalone legislation.

The Tanzania Citizenship Act[9] is thus the principal legislation which provides for matters relating to citizenship in Tanzania. It provides for two categories of citizenship automatically acquired at birth (referred to as 'attainment' of citizenship), that is, by birth and descent; and also, for means of acquisition of citizenship by

listed in the First Schedule to the Constitution and Non-Union matters are all those not listed in the First Schedule.

[6] Tanganyika. (1961). The Citizenship Act, 1961 (Act No.43 of 1961). Adopted December 1, 1961.

[7] 1962 (Section 26(1)).

[8] 1961

[9] Cap.357, Revised Edition 2023 (originally enacted as Act No.6 of 1995, adopted on 9 June 1995).

naturalisation. In Tanzania, therefore there are three categories of citizenship namely, citizenship by birth, descent and naturalization.

The above-named categories of citizenship are spread in two parts of the law. Part two covers citizenship by birth and descent and it is entitled "*Attainment* of Citizenship on or After Union Day" (emphasis added) while citizenship by naturalisation is covered under part two which is entitled "*Acquisition* of Citizenship by naturalisation" (emphasis added). Attainment of citizenship implies automatic acquisition of citizenship at birth, provided the relevant conditions of place of birth and parentage are fulfilled. On the other hand, acquisition of citizenship implies a non automatic means of being a citizen of the United Republic. One has to fulfill some conditions and apply for citizenship in order to be considered for the same.

Underlying the discussions in this article is the implication of proscription of dual citizenship for adults (from 18 years and above). Challenges relating to requirements of renunciation of citizenship in mixed parentage even in situations where no foreign citizenship actually exists are founded on good reasons to enforce this position. As it will be seen in the foregoing discussions, the current citizenship legal framework stands for singularity of citizenship for adults.

In fact, Tanzania's prohibition of dual citizenship for adults is rooted in the founding philosophy of its citizenship law featured during the debates preceding the enactment of the Tanganyika Citizenship Act in 1961 and has remained consistent over time. During the parliamentary debates, Prime Minister Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere emphasized that citizenship should be founded on undivided loyalty to Tanganyika, arguing that the Government would not permit dual citizenship because allegiance to the nation must be exclusive.

Similarly, the Minister for Home Affairs stressed that Tanganyika citizenship required complete and wholehearted

attachment to the country alone, rejecting any form of divided loyalty or conditional commitment. These statements demonstrate that, from the inception of Tanganyika's citizenship regime, the principle of exclusive allegiance formed the basis for rejecting dual citizenship, a position that has continued to shape Tanzania's citizenship policy to the present day.[10]

2.1 Citizenship by Birth: Before the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar

A person who is a citizen of the United Republic of Tanzania by birth may qualify depending on when and where they were born. Before the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar on 26 April 1964, citizenship was determined separately under the laws of each territory as follows:

2.1.1 Tanganyika

(a) Before Independence (before 9 December 1961)

A person born in Tanganyika became a citizen of independent Tanganyika if:

(i) they were born in Tanganyika;

(ii) they were a Citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies (CUKC) or a British Protected Person (BPP) on 8 December 1961; and

(iii) at least one of their parents was born in Tanganyika.

This was governed by the British Nationality Act,[11] the Tanganyika (Constitution) Order in Council,[12] and later preserved under the Republic of Tanganyika (Consequential, Transitional and Temporary

[10] See pages 304 and 333 of the Motion for Tanganyika Citizenship, Government Paper No.4: *Tanganyika Citizenship*, also known as the *Citizenship Bill*-see Press Release, November 21, 1961, 593/NA/1, TNA adopted by the Tanganyika independence government.

[11] 1948

[12] 1961

Provisions) Act,[13] which transformed the citizenship provisions of the Constitution into the Citizenship Act.[14]

(b) After Independence but Before Union (9 December 1961 – 25 April 1964)

A person born in Tanganyika during this period was a citizen of Tanganyika by birth if:
(i) they were born in Tanganyika; and
(ii) at least one of their parents was a citizen of Tanganyika.[15]

Under the current Tanzania Citizenship Act, persons falling within either category are recognised as citizens of Tanzania by birth before the Union.

2.1.2 Zanzibar

Before the Union, Zanzibar had a comparatively well-defined legal framework governing membership in the political community. The applicable laws did not initially use the modern concept of "citizenship"; rather, the legal status was expressed principally in terms of Zanzibari subjecthood to the Sultan, and later as Zanzibar nationality. Under the Nationality and Naturalization Decree of 1911, Zanzibari status could be acquired principally by birth and by naturalisation. A person was a Zanzibari by birth where he or she was the child of a Zanzibari father, including a child born outside the Sultan's Dominions. The law also extended Zanzibari status to a child born in the Sultan's Dominions whose parents were unknown or whose nationality was unknown, and to a child born in the Dominions to an alien father who was himself born there. In addition, an alien

[13] 1962
[14] 1961
[15] Section 3 of the Citizenship Act, 1961.

could acquire Zanzibari status through naturalisation after the prescribed period of residence.

The Nationality Decree of 1952 subsequently provided a broader basis for acquisition of Zanzibar nationality. According to Nalule and Nambooze,[16] persons born in Zanzibar after the enactment of the Decree acquired status as Zanzibar subjects by birth, while naturalisation was available to persons who satisfied the prescribed residence requirements—three years of consecutive residence or five years of non-consecutive residence. Thus, the pre-Union framework recognised both *jus soli* and *jus sanguinis* alongside naturalisation as a mode of acquisition by aliens. The 1952 framework, however, also contained exceptions concerning nationals of certain states with treaty or other protected rights in Zanzibar.

The 1963 Constitution of the State of Zanzibar further articulated the categories of Zanzibari subjecthood immediately before the Union. It recognised subjects by birth where a person was born in the Sultan's Dominions and either parent was a Zanzibar subject, subject to specified exceptions concerning the status of the father. It also recognised subjects by descent where a person was born outside the Sultan's Dominions but had a Zanzibar-subject father. In addition, foreign residents could acquire status through naturalisation, subject to residence, good character, language and intention-to-reside requirements. The Constitution also provided for registration, including registration of women married to Zanzibar subjects and of minors through their parents or guardians.

Accordingly, immediately before the Union, the Zanzibar legal framework recognised four principal avenues to Zanzibari nationality or subject status: (i) birth, (ii) descent, (iii) naturalisation, and (iv) registration. Birth and descent constituted the principal forms

[16] Caroline Nalule & Anna Nambooze, *Report on Citizenship Law: Tanzania*, RSCAS/GLOBALCIT-CR 2020/6 (European University Institute, April 2020), especially the Zanzibar discussion at pp. 5–9

of original membership, while naturalisation and registration provided avenues through which persons who did not automatically qualify could acquire Zanzibari status.

2.2 Citizenship by Birth: On and after the Union (from 26 April 1964)

Following the Union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, citizens of Tanganyika and citizens of Zanzibar automatically became citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania. Today, their status is recognised under section 5(1), read together with section 30, of the Tanzania Citizenship Act, which preserves citizenship by birth acquired before the Union.

There is a confusion in the law relating to birth in Tanzania, particularly section 5(1) of the Tanzania Citizenship Act. Whereas the letter of the law implies unconditional 'attainment' based on birth in the territory (a typical *jus soli* model), the official interpretation of the law is that it is also a requirement that one parent be a citizen.[17] This official interpretation has remained unchallenged since its enactment, thus becoming almost inviolable. The law that backs up the position of unconditional attainment of citizenship based on birth in the territory is *in pari materia* to other similar provisions under the Commonwealth law on citizenship.[18]

2.3 Citizenship by Descent

A Tanzanian citizen by descent is a person born outside Tanzania whose claim to Tanzanian citizenship is based on the citizenship of

[17] For a detailed discussion on this section see Mubanga, C. B. (2020). *Jus soli or jus sanguinis? Diagnosing letters of law and official interpretation of Tanzanian citizenship*. *Eastern Africa Law Review*, *47*(1), 140 –169.

[18] See R.K.D Shah, "Britain and Kenya's Citizenship law: A Conflict of laws?" *Immigration & Nationality Law & Practice*, 6(4), 120-125.

one or both parents. The rules for determining citizenship by descent have changed over time and depend on when the person was born.

Before the Tanzania Citizenship Act, 1995 came into force, a person born outside Tanzania could only acquire Tanzanian citizenship by descent through their father. The law did not recognise the mother's citizenship for this purpose. Since the enactment of the 1995 Act, however, a person born outside Tanzania may acquire Tanzanian citizenship by descent if either the father or the mother is a Tanzanian citizen by birth or naturalisation.[19]

The law also places an important limitation on citizenship by descent. A person born outside Tanzania cannot acquire Tanzanian citizenship by descent if both of their parents are themselves citizens by descent. In other words, citizenship by descent is generally intended to pass only one generation beyond Tanzania unless another basis for citizenship exists.

These rules are particularly relevant when considering dual nationality and the renunciation requirements that may apply to Tanzanians of mixed parentage. Whether a person qualifies as a Tanzanian citizen by descent depends not only on the citizenship of their parents but also on how those parents acquired their Tanzanian citizenship and the legal provisions in force at the time of the person's birth.

2.4 Citizenship by Naturalisation

The third category is citizenship by naturalisation, which is available to certain foreign nationals who satisfy the requirements of the Tanzania Citizenship Act. Eligible applicants include resident foreigners, certain persons born outside Tanzania to Tanzanian parents in circumstances prescribed by the Act, minor children and foreign women married to Tanzanian citizens. Except for spouses, applicants

[19] See Section 6 of the Tanzania Citizenship Act.

must satisfy residence, language, character and integration requirements before they may be granted Tanzanian citizenship.[20]

A defining feature of naturalisation in Tanzania is the prohibition of dual citizenship. Once an application for naturalisation has been approved, the applicant must renounce any other nationality or citizenship and take the oath of allegiance within twenty-eight days of being notified. Failure to do so renders the application void, as though it had never been made. The Act makes a limited allowance where the applicant's country of nationality does not permit renunciation, in which case renunciation may be completed when it later becomes legally possible.[21]

The same principle underlies the broader Tanzanian citizenship regime. A Tanzanian who has attained the age of eighteen years is not permitted to hold another citizenship acquired voluntarily. The Act therefore requires a person who falls within its prohibition on dual citizenship to renounce the foreign nationality. Significantly, however, the Act does not prescribe a mechanism for determining whether a person actually possesses the foreign citizenship in question. As a result, the requirement to renounce another nationality may arise even where the individual has never formally acquired, claimed, or exercised the foreign citizenship. This issue is particularly relevant for Tanzanians of mixed parentage, who may be treated as having another nationality by virtue of descent under the laws of another country, notwithstanding that they have never obtained documentation or recognition of that citizenship.

3. Proof and documentation of citizenship

Proof and documentation of citizenship arise largely when one applies for a Tanzanian Passport and National Identity Card. This is due to the

[20] See Section 9 and the Second Schedule of the Tanzania Citizenship Act.
[21] See Section 12(3) of the Tanzania Citizenship Act.

fact that possession of a Passport and National Identity Card duly issued create *primafacie* evidence of citizenship even in other exercises that require verification of citizenship.

A Passport is issued by the Tanzania Immigration Services Department. A person who approaches the Immigration Services Department in order to be issued with a passport or travel document is required to prove his or her citizenship. Similarly, her or his citizenship will be scrutinized to ascertain as to whether he or she qualifies to be a Tanzanian citizen under the Tanzania Citizenship Act. Determination and proof of citizenship under this circumstance is necessary since passports and travel documents are expected to be issued to Tanzanian citizens only.

According to the Tanzania Passports and Travel Documents Act[22] a passport is defined as a document in an electronic booklet form[23] issued to a citizen of the United Republic of Tanzania under the Act for the purpose of facilitating his movement across boundaries subject to laws and regulations of the country of destination or transit. On the other hand a travel document is defined to mean a document other than a passport issued under the Act. In Tanzania there are Ordinary Electronic Passport, Service Electronic Passports and Diplomatic Electronic Passport. On the other hand, there are Emergency Travel Document, Certificate of Identity and General

[22] Section 2, *supra.*

[23] The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania officially introduced the Electronic Passport (e-Passport) on 31 January 2018, replacing the former machine-readable passport as part of the East African Community's harmonized e-Passport initiative. Holders of the old machine-readable passports were granted a two-year transition period and were required to replace them with e-Passports by 31 January 2020, after which the old passports ceased to be valid for international travel. To obtain an e-Passport, applicants were required to submit an online application and provide the prescribed supporting documents, including a birth certificate (or affidavit of birth), the birth certificate or proof of citizenship of a parent (or certificate of naturalization where applicable), a National Identity Card (NIDA), a recent passport-size photograph, the applicable prescribed fee and the previous passport for replacement.

Convention Travel Document.[24] An Emergency Travel Document is issued to a citizen of the United Republic for a single journey only. It expires upon return of the holder. Different from a passport, a travel document or Identity card's international recognition depends upon formal agreement between and among states.[25] For example, an Emergence Travel Document may be used to travel to Kenya upon agreement thereto while at the same time not allowed to travel to Namibia. Under the Tanzania Passport and Travel Documents Act, the holding of a passport or travel document is prima facie evidence of the nationality of the holder and his entitlement to state protection.[26]
Being documents issued to Tanzanian citizens by an institution that is charged with matters of determination and proof of citizenship, they create watertight evidence to prove that their holders have passed the test of citizenship. Of great concern under this research was the manner of establishment of whether an individual is citizen of the United Republic.

In establishing as to whether an individual is citizen or not ready to be granted a Passport three levels are looked into. The first is whether an individual is citizen by naturalisation or registration, the second is whether an individual is a citizen by descent and the third is whether a person if citizen by birth. The first requires passport applicant to produce a certificate of naturalisation or registration while the second requires the applicant to produce a letter of confirmation for Tanzanian citizenship by descent. Once these documents are respectively produced, then it follows that the applicant's citizenship is conclusively proved unless the documents were issued on falsified information.

[24]See the Second Schedule of the Tanzania Passports and Travel Documents (Amendment) Regulations, GN No.121 of 16/03/2018.
[25]See Turack, D.C, *Selected Aspects of International and Municipal Law Concerning Passports*, William & Mary Law Review, 1971, Vol.12, No.4, pp 805-837, at p.807.
[26]Section11.

The third level runs into two sub-levels namely, the level of birth of an individual her/himself and the level of parent (s) a typical *jus sanguinis* mode. In support of this determination, a birth certificate or affidavit of birth of an individual and her/his parent(s) are required.

By and large, passport and travel document applications have a significant position in testing as to whether an individual is Tanzanian citizen or not. A person who would have thought to be citizen for decades may find her/himself non-citizen and at an extreme case stateless upon conditions attached to determination by authorities as to whether she/he is Tanzanian citizen or not.

The second circumstance that calls for determination and proof of Tanzanian citizenship arises during application for National Identity Card. Amongst the categories of national identity cards issued by the National Identification Authority are identity cards issued to Tanzanian citizens.[27] Determination and proof of citizenship is bound to arise here. Applicants for such national identity cards are therefore required to be interrogated and provide to that effect evidences of proof of their citizenship.

Determination of citizenship of an individual applying for a national Identity Card involves the Immigration Services Department. The latter's officers are required to interrogate an applicant to ascertain as to whether she/he is a citizen. The basic information of the applicant are obtainable under Form 7 which is filled in by the applicant to be approved by an Immigration Officer, among others. Documents that are required to be attached with the application form include any of the following: passport, father or mother's national Identity card, Driver's licence, National Electoral Commission (NEC)

[27] Other two are issued to foreigners residing in the United Republic who have residence permits and to refugees. See Mubanga, C. B. (2020). *The roll out of national identity cards and the Tanzanian citizenship test: The case of long-term migrants and persons originating from border regions*. *The Tanzania Lawyer Journal, 1*(1), 1–26.

or Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) registration card, National Health Insurance Card, Taxpayer Identity Number (TIN), Zanzibar Residence Identity Card, Social Security Membership Card, Primary School Leaving Certificate and Secondary School Academic Certificate.

Amongst the information required are the names, dates, places of birth and citizenship status of parents of the applicant. An applicant is at times required to attach a birth certificate or affidavit of birth of the applicant's parent coupled with her/his own birth certificate or affidavit of birth. This is done to establish citizenship of the applicant through *jus sanguinis* mode. Where citizenship of the respective applicant is in doubt, formal processes of investigations by the Immigration Services Department.

In applications for citizens born in Tanzania, a birth certificate is accorded great weight as evidence of one's birth place in establishing citizenship by birth. Prior to changes in column of citizenship of parents in a birth certificate, there used to be noted of citizenship of parents which critically called for ascertainment of citizenship of the parents. An applicant for a birth certificate was required to present her/himself before an immigration officer for citizenship interrogations. Upon satisfaction of citizenship of the applicant a notice to that effect would be sent to the Administrator General for further action.[28] Although this practice has been omitted, yet applications for birth certificates remain essentially requiring ascertainment of the applicant's citizenship status at least for records.
The essentiality of a birth certificate as a determining factor of Tanzanian citizenship can be referred in the case of *Robert John Penessis v. United Republic of Tanzania*.[29] In this case a certified copy of birth certificate possessed by the Applicant was essentially used as a means to contest that the Applicant was a Tanzanian citizen.

[28] Interview with an official from RITA.
[29] Application No.013/2015, 28 November 2019.

Although the Respondent state advanced its argument that the document was fraudulent, yet the African Court placed much weight on the essentiality of a birth certificate and declared the Applicant to be citizen of Tanzania. The Court ruled that the Respondent state had arbitrarily deprived the Applicant of his nationality, among others.[30] The holding of a birth certificate was also among others, the factor which made Anudo in the case of *Anudo Ochieng Anudo v. United Republic of Tanzania*[31] to be declared Tanzanian citizen.

4. Dual Citizenship and Renunciation Requirements

Dual citizenship is acceptable for minors. In this period, a minor is allowed to possess both Tanzania passport and foreign passport. The assumption is that when the minor turns 18 years, choice has to be made whether to renounce other citizenship and remain Tanzanian, otherwise automatic cessation of Tanzania citizenship follows if no such renunciation is done.

The gist under the law is that if one actually possesses dual citizenship but fails to renounce other citizenship upon reaching 18 years the conditions for late renunciation under Section 7(8) which require the consent of the Minister step in. Challenge arises where such a situation has befallen an individual who has never thought to or actually enjoyed any right relating to the foreign citizenship aspect. To cap it all, where an individual has never exercised rights exclusively accorded to its citizens and further that the individual possesses no document linking him/her to the foreign country, acceptance as its citizen in practice becomes difficult. Even in countries whose laws

[30] Manby, B., & Mubanga, C. B. (2020). Case note: *Robert John Penessis v. United Republic of Tanzania* (Judgment) (African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, App. No. 013/2015, 28 November 2019). *Statelessness & Citizenship Review*, *2*(1), 172–178.

[31] African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Application No.012/2015, 22 March 2018.

may be seen to recognize such a person as its citizen such a recognition in practice becomes untenable.

In a situation judicially considered, the Case of Kabourou[32] is worth illustrating. In principle, this was an appellate election case. Dissatisfied by what had transpired during election campaigns, the Respondent had successfully filed and won a case at the High Court against the Appellants. Amongst matters raised in the High Court proceedings was the issue of citizenship of the third Appellant, Mr. Azim Suleman Premji.

The facts of the case were that he was born in Tanganyika in 1954 and one of his parents (his mother) was also born in Tanganyika in 1926. Particulars of his birth certificate produced as evidence during trial at the High Court showed that both parents of the third appellant possessed Indian nationality. For purposes of registration of birth under the Births and Deaths Registration Ordinance,[33] the column of nationality of parents in birth certificates connoted citizenship status. Judicial notice was also taken into account that at the time of birth of the third appellant in 1954, India had already attained its independence since 1947.

There were two main issues namely first, whether the third appellant was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies or was a British Protected Person at the time of his birth. The second was whether the third appellant was a citizen of Tanganyika during the time of election.

Before expounding the issues at hand, the Court described the position of law on what constituted Tanzanian citizenship. Referring to the Citizenship Act[34] read together with the British Nationality

[32]*The Hon. Attorney General, Radio Tanzania Dar es Salaam, and Azim Suleman Premji v. Dr. Aman Walid Kabourou* (1994). *Court of Appeal of Tanzania*, Civil Appeal Nos. 32 & 42 of 1994.

[33] Cap 108.

[34] 1961 Cap 512 *supra.*

Act,[35] the Court pointed out that there were three categories of citizenship namely, citizenship by birth, citizenship by descent and citizenship by registration. It went on to show that citizenship by birth was defined under section 10 of the Citizenship Act to mean a person who was a citizen of the United Republic by virtue of section 3 of the Act, by virtue of the combined effect of sub-section (1) of section 1 of the Act and paragraph 1 of the Fourth Schedule to the Extension and Amendment of Laws (No.5) Decree.[36]

The Court went on to point out the second category of Tanzanian citizenship by descent. It showed that a citizen by descent under the same section was defined to mean a person who was a citizen of the United Republic by virtue of section 4 or by virtue of the combined effect of sub-section (2) of section 1 of this Act or of section 4 of this Act as in force immediately before the commencement of the Extension and Amendment of Laws (No.5) Decree and paragraph 1 of the Fourth Schedule to the said Decree and by virtue of the combined effect of his being a Zanzibar subject by descent in accordance with the former law of Zanzibar (and had that law remained in force until immediately before Union day) and of paragraph 2 of the Fourth Schedule to the said Decree.

On the other hand, citizenship by registration was said to be found under section 2 of the Act read together with part II of the Citizenship Ordinance.[37] The Court pointed out that the position of the third Appellant was not within the purview of this category and that of citizenship by birth provided for under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 1 of the Citizenship Act. The section provides that a person became a citizen of Tanganyika on 9th December 1961 if he was born in Tanganyika by 8th December 1961 and in addition being a citizen of

[35] *Supra.*
[36] 1964.
[37] Cap 452.

the United Kingdom and Colonies or a British Protected Person and finally if one of his parents was also born in Tanganyika.

The Court went on to consider issues of duality of citizenship found under sub-section (1) of section 6 of the Act since the issue was found to be relevant in determining citizenship of the third Appellant. The Court noted that the said section was amended by the Age of Majority (Citizenship Laws) Act.[38] This Act reduced the age of majority from twenty-one to eighteen years. The section provided that a person who, in addition to being a citizen of the United Republic or of the former Republic of Tanganyika possessed also citizenship of other country, he was required to renounce that other citizenship upon turning eighteen years. Failure to renounce that other citizenship upon reaching the age of majority meant an automatic cessation of citizenship of the United Republic.

This applied also to a citizen by descent who also possessed other citizenship before turning the age of majority and failed to make and register a declaration of his intention to reside in the United Republic. The Court reiterated three factors that determined citizenship by birth within the scope of sub-section (1) of section 1 of the Act, *to wit* fistly, being born in Tanganyika by 8th December 1961, secondly, being a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies or being a British Protected Person on 8th December 1961 and thirdly, having at least one parent who was born in Tanganyika.

This was a departure from the case of *Abdallah Salim Ali Absalaam*[39] which considered only one factor of one's parent being born in Tanganyika as the only criteria to confer citizenship of Tanganyika by birth under the said section. The Court insisted that having one parent born in Tanganyika was not sufficient to confer citizenship by birth within the scope of this sub-section.

[38] No.24 of 1970.
[39] (1967) HCD No.174.

With respect to including citizenship of the United Kingdom and Colonies in the criteria of citizenship by birth, the Court made it clear that such condition is used only for purposes of determining citizenship by birth within the scope of sub-section (1) of section 1 of the Act. It is not a parallel citizenship that continued to exist after 9th December 1961. If it were a parallel citizenship, the Court went on to note that it would mean continuance of colonial citizenship even after independence.

In resolving the issue then as to whether the third Appellant was a citizen of the United Kingdom and Colonies the Court found that at the time of his birth, the third appellant was also a citizen of India. The reason for this reasoning was due to the fact that particulars of citizenship of his parents in his birth certificate showed that the latter were citizens of India, as a result making the third Appellant to acquire citizenship status of his parents.

The Court argued on this position that this Indian citizenship was presumed to continue to exist and the third Appellant was made to bear the burden to rebut it. This duality of citizenship existed until 1972 when he had turned eighteen years. The Court went on to argue that there was no evidence showing that the third Appellant had renounced Indian citizenship and as such automatically ceased to be citizen of the United Republic as provided for under the provision of sub-section (1) of section 6 read together with sub-section (7) of the Citizenship Act.

Based on this reasoning, the Court held that the third Appellant was not citizen of the United Republic during election. He had ceased to be citizen of the United Republic when he turned eighteen in 1972 and remained citizen of India thereof.

The case digests the practicalities of citizenship status to persons who possess dual nationality and the effect thereto upon non-renunciation of citizenship other than that of the United Republic. It also pinpoints possible situations of cessation of citizenship based on

legal conditions that do not allow dual nationality. The judgment stands to create a significant basis in interpreting citizenship of the United Republic by birth before Union as enshrined under the provision of section 4 of the Tanzania Citizenship Act in force.

5. Actual versus Presumed Citizenship

The table below presents selected practical cases illustrating the difficulties encountered in establishing and documenting Tanzanian citizenship among persons with foreign parentage or birth outside Tanzania. They demonstrate the gap that may arise between an individual's actual or claimed citizenship and the citizenship presumed by administrative authorities, particularly where the person is required to renounce a foreign citizenship that the relevant foreign state does not recognise.

Table 5: Illustrative Cases of Actual versus Presumed Citizenship: Administrative Experiences of Persons with Foreign Parentage or Birth[40]

Case	Birth and Parentage	Presumed Foreign Citizenship	Position of Foreign State	Administrative Action in Tanzania	Key Legal Issue
Salim Omary	Born in Tanga, Tanzania. Mother is Tanzanian; father was a Somali Bantu[41] born in Somalia.	Somalia (through father)	Somali authorities state that Somali Bantus are not recognised as Somali citizens and cannot issue any citizenship documentation.	Required to renounce his father's presumed Somali citizenship before obtaining a National Identity Card and passport.	Renunciation is required despite the absence of evidence that the applicant possesses Somali citizenship.

[40] **Source:** Author's compilation from interviews and accounts of affected persons/respondents and cases documented during the author's doctoral research fieldwork entitled: "Determination and Proof of Tanzania Citizenship." The names of the individuals are, however not actual.

[41] The Somali Bantu are a minority ethnic population in Somalia, primarily descended from Bantu-speaking peoples whose ancestors originated in present-day Tanzania, Mozambique, and neighbouring parts of southeastern Africa and were brought to Somalia through the nineteenth-century East African slave trade, alongside some indigenous riverine communities. Traditionally concentrated in the Jubba and Shabelle River valleys, they have historically practised settled agriculture and experienced long-standing social and political marginalization. During the Somali civil war in the 1990s, many Somali Bantu fled persecution and violence, seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, including Tanzania, while others later resettled in third countries such as the United States. See Besteman, 1999, 2012; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], 2003 and Manby, B. (2018). *Statelessness and citizenship in the East African Community: A study for UNHCR*. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. UNHCR Operational Data Portal (report)

Case	Birth and Parentage	Presumed Foreign Citizenship	Position of Foreign State	Administrative Action in Tanzania	Key Legal Issue
Sunil Chandrakant	Born in Dar es Salaam in 1969. Father was naturalised as a Tanzanian citizen before his birth; mother was born in Uganda but has never been recognised as a Ugandan citizen.	Uganda (through mother)	Ugandan authorities declined to process renunciation because neither Sunil nor his mother is recognised as Ugandan citizens.	Denied an electronic passport until he renounces Ugandan citizenship.	Administrative presumption of foreign citizenship despite lack of legal recognition by Uganda.
Neema Poulsen	Born in Norway in 2000 to two Tanzanian parents who were studying in Norway.	Norway (place of birth)	Norwegian authorities have never recognised her as a Norwegian citizen and have issued no Norwegian identity documents.	Required to renounce Norwegian citizenship before obtaining a Tanzanian passport.	Citizenship is presumed solely because of place of birth despite Norway not recognising her as a citizen.
Johnson	Born in Moshi, Tanzania. Father is	Belgium (through mother)	Mother had already renounced Belgian	Required to renounce Belgian citizenship	Applicant is required to renounce a

Case	Birth and Parentage	Presumed Foreign Citizenship	Position of Foreign State	Administrative Action in Tanzania	Key Legal Issue
	Tanzanian; mother was Belgian but naturalised as Tanzanian two months after his birth after renouncing Belgian citizenship.		citizenship following naturalisation.	before recognition of his Tanzanian citizenship.	citizenship effectively extinguished through his mother's renunciation.
Emmanuel and siblings	Born in Tanzania. Father is Tanzanian by birth; mother holds Burundian refugee status.	Burundi (through mother)	No determination has been made regarding their Burundian citizenship.	Required to renounce Burundian citizenship before obtaining citizenship documents; applications subject to ministerial approval.	Applicants remain in legal limbo because of presumed foreign citizenship that has never been established.
Kijakazi binti Sayuni	Born in Tanzania. Both parents were born in Tanzania and were later confirmed as	Malawi and Kenya (through grandparents)	No evidence that Kijakazi acquired either citizenship.	Required to renounce the former citizenships of her parents before obtaining travel	Presumption of inherited foreign citizenship extends beyond the parents to the child without

Case	Birth and Parentage	Presumed Foreign Citizenship	Position of Foreign State	Administrative Action in Tanzania	Key Legal Issue
	Tanzanian citizens after renouncing Malawian and Kenyan citizenship respectively.			documents.	legal proof.
Bruno	Born in Kenya to two Tanzanian citizens by birth.	Kenya (place of birth)	Kenyan authorities confirmed that he never acquired Kenyan citizenship.	National Identity Card withheld until he renounces Kenyan citizenship or produces evidence from Kenya.	Administrative insistence on renunciation despite express denial of citizenship by the foreign state.
Prakash Chandrakant	Born in Tanzania in 2001. Father is Tanzanian; mother was Zambian but later naturalised as a Tanzanian citizen.	Zambia (through mother)	Zambian authorities do not recognise him as a Zambian citizen.	Existing Tanzanian passport could not be replaced with an electronic passport until he renounces Zambian citizenship.	Change in administrative practice resulted in loss of access to citizenship documents despite previous recognition as Tanzanian.

The table demonstrates a recurring disjuncture between substantive citizenship and administrative recognition of citizenship. Across the cases, individuals who appear to have acquired or possess a plausible claim to Tanzanian citizenship by birth or descent are nevertheless treated by administrative authorities as persons whose citizenship remains uncertain, largely because of presumed or alleged foreign citizenship arising from their parentage or place of birth.

A particularly striking feature is the requirement to renounce a foreign citizenship even where the relevant foreign authorities do not recognise the individual as their citizen and are therefore unable to issue the documentation required for renunciation. This creates a circular administrative process in which the individual is required to prove the loss of a citizenship that may never have been acquired before being permitted to establish or document Tanzanian citizenship.

The cases therefore reveal that the practical determination of citizenship may depend not only on the legal rules governing acquisition of nationality, but also on administrative presumptions, documentary requirements and evidentiary burdens imposed on individuals. In the most serious instances, these practices may place individuals in prolonged uncertainty regarding their nationality and, potentially, expose them to a risk of statelessness.

As a matter of practice, an individual with mixed parentage (Tanzania and foreigner) or one born outside Tanzania is issued a letter of Confirmation for Tanzanian citizenship by birth or descent (as the case may be). All applications for confirmation of citizenship were handled and certified by the Commissioner General of Immigration through incharge of Citizenship and Nationality Section. However, to abide by Sections 7(1) and 7(8) of the Tanzania Citizenship Act, the practice has been adjusted by classifying two groups of applicants for confirmation as citizens of Tanzania with their respective treatments. The first group is that of individuals who hold dual citizenship and

upon reaching 18 years choose to renounce other citizenship and remain as citizens of Tanzania as per Section 7(1) of the Tanzania Citizenship Act. The second group comprises of individuals who, due to justifiable reasons did not renounce such other citizenship when they reached 18 years, thus seeking to fulfil the process though late under Section 7(8) of the Tanzania Citizenship Act.

In the first group, the Commissioner responsible for matters of citizenship (on behalf of the Commissioner General) issues directly a letter of Confirmation upon proof that the individual who previously held dual citizenship has renounced such other citizenship. In the second group, a consent to the Minister responsible for matters of citizenship must be sought and granted in order for the Commissioner to issue a letter of Confirmation.

In all these circumstances, responsible Immigration Officers are required to ensure that a letter of Confirmation is issued only after ascertainment that the individual has submitted a renunciation certificate or any other evidence that the said individual is not a citizen of such country. Such ascertainment can be made through respective Embassy if available.

It is pertinent to reflect as to whether the process of confirming such citizenship is intended to require renunciation even in cases where no foreign citizenship exists. Going by the requirements in group one, renunciation at the age of 18 years is anticipated to be made to an individual who actually possesses other citizenship. For example, a child who has been possessing two passports (Tanzanian and foreign) or one whose foreign passport has been endorsed with dual nationality stamp.[42]

The foregoing explanations underline the fact that the administration of citizenship law often requires states to determine

[42] According to regulation 9(2) of the Immigration (Visa) Regulations, GN 247 of 2016, a child with dual citizenship in accordance with the Tanzania Citizenship Act does not require visa to enter the United Republic.

whether an individual possesses another nationality. In many cases this determination is straightforward because the individual holds a foreign passport, has been registered as a foreign citizen or has otherwise exercised rights attached to foreign nationality. More difficult cases arise where the alleged foreign citizenship exists only as a possibility.

However, the mere fact that one parent is a foreign national does not automatically mean that a child acquires the citizenship of that parent. Nationality laws vary considerably across jurisdictions. Some countries confer citizenship automatically by descent. Others require registration procedures, declarations of intention, residence requirements or applications to competent authorities. In some states, citizenship by descent is unavailable in particular circumstances.[43]

Consequently, foreign parentage and foreign citizenship are not synonymous. The existence of one does not necessarily establish the existence of the other. Nevertheless, administrative approaches sometimes blur this distinction. The possibility that a person may have inherited foreign nationality is treated as sufficient reason to require proof of renunciation. This approach effectively converts a legal possibility into a legal presumption.

Such a presumption is problematic because it reverses the logical order of citizenship determination. Before renunciation can be

[43] Nationality and Statelessness under International Law (Cambridge University Press, 2014) 29–35; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Handbook on Protection of Stateless Persons under the 1954 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons* (2014) paras 43–49; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Guidelines on Statelessness No. 4: Ensuring Every Child's Right to Acquire a Nationality through Articles 1–4 of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness* (2012) paras 9–16; European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights and Council of Europe, *Handbook on European Law Relating to the Rights of the Child* (2015) 255–261; International Law Commission, *Draft Articles on Nationality of Natural Persons in Relation to the Succession of States, with Commentaries* (1999), Commentary to art 1, explaining that nationality is governed primarily by domestic law subject to international law.

demanded, there must first be proof that the citizenship sought to be renounced actually exists. Renunciation is a legal act through which a person voluntarily relinquishes a nationality that he possesses. It cannot logically apply to a nationality that was never acquired.

The concept of renunciation presupposes the existence of citizenship. One cannot surrender a status that one does not hold. This principle is reflected in both legal logic and administrative practicality. Where the law of a foreign state confirms that an individual is not its citizen, a requirement to renounce that citizenship becomes impossible to fulfil. The individual cannot obtain renunciation documents because there is no citizenship relationship capable of being renounced. Administrative insistence upon such documentation therefore creates an impossible condition.

The law generally disfavours impossible conditions. Administrative requirements should be capable of compliance and should bear a rational relationship to the purpose they seek to achieve. A renunciation requirement serves a legitimate purpose where actual dual citizenship exists. It serves little or no purpose where no foreign citizenship exists in the first place. The consequence is that affected individuals may remain indefinitely unable to regularize their status despite possessing a valid claim to Tanzanian citizenship by birth through a Tanzanian parent.

This article proposes that citizenship determinations should be guided by the principle of actual citizenship rather than presumed citizenship. Under this approach, the relevant inquiry should be whether the individual has in fact acquired another nationality under the laws of the foreign state concerned. Where competent evidence demonstrates that no foreign citizenship exists, the inquiry should end there. The absence of foreign citizenship necessarily eliminates concerns regarding dual nationality.

Several forms of evidence may be considered relevant, including official communications from foreign authorities, certificates of non-

citizenship, expert opinions on foreign nationality law and other documentary proof demonstrating that the individual has not acquired foreign nationality.

Furthermore, where a person has never held a foreign passport, never registered as a foreign citizen, never voted in a foreign state and never claimed any rights exclusively available to foreign citizens, such facts reinforce the conclusion that no competing nationality exists. While citizenship remains fundamentally a legal status rather than a matter of conduct, the absence of any exercise of foreign citizenship rights may provide useful supporting evidence where questions arise concerning nationality.

For comparative purposes, Zimbabwe provides perhaps the closest analogue to Tanzania's renunciation regime because its courts confronted the problem of presumed, rather than actual, foreign citizenship. In *Tsvangirai v. Registrar-General & Others* (2002), the High Court rejected the assumption that a Zimbabwean citizen by birth automatically possessed another nationality merely because one or both parents were foreign-born. The Court emphasized that the law could not compel a person to renounce a citizenship that he had never acquired, thereby distinguishing between a legal entitlement to foreign nationality and the actual possession of that nationality[44]. This reasoning directly supports the argument that renunciation requirements should arise only where dual nationality has been legally established, not merely presumed from ancestry.

The same approach was reinforced in *Trevor Ncube v. Registrar-General of Citizenship & Others* (2001), where the High Court held that citizenship cannot be lost or denied on the basis of a speculative entitlement to another nationality. The decision reflects the broader principle that nationality must be determined by an individual's objective legal status rather than administrative

[44] *Tsvangirai v. Registrar-General & Others*, 2002 (1) ZLR 268 (H).

presumptions based on descent[45] . Together, these Zimbabwean authorities caution against requiring proof of renunciation where no foreign citizenship has ever been acquired.

Kenyan and regional jurisprudence likewise rejects administrative practices that treat persons of foreign ancestry as presumptive non-citizens. In *The Nubian Community v. Kenya* (2015), the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights held that citizenship procedures must be objective, transparent and non-discriminatory, condemning practices that effectively rendered persons stateless or denied them recognition because of their ethnic or ancestral origins[46]. Similarly, in *Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (on behalf of Children of Nubian Descent in Kenya) v. Kenya* (2011), the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child emphasized that States have a positive obligation to ensure that children entitled to nationality are not left in legal uncertainty through burdensome or discriminatory administrative requirements[47] .

A broader constitutional perspective is found in *Kaunda & Others v. President of the Republic of South Africa* (2005), where the Constitutional Court underscored that citizenship constitutes the legal bond between the individual and the State and carries with it constitutional protection and corresponding obligations. Although the case concerned diplomatic protection abroad rather than the acquisition of nationality, it reinforces the principle that citizenship is a substantive constitutional status that cannot be diminished through arbitrary executive assumptions[48]. Read together, these African

[45] *Trevor Ncube v. Registrar-General of Citizenship & Others*, 2001 (2) ZLR 246 (H).
[46] African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. (2015). *The Nubian Community v. Kenya*, Communication No. 317/2006. https://www.achpr.org
[47] African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. (2011). *Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (on behalf of Children of Nubian Descent in Kenya) v. Kenya*, Communication No. Com/002/2009.
[48] *Kaunda (Kaunda) & Others v. President of the Republic of South Africa* 2005 (4) SA 235 (CC).

authorities support the proposition that nationality law should be grounded in actual legal citizenship, not presumed foreign allegiance arising solely from mixed parentage or ancestry or from birth in a foreign country to parents who are citizens.

6. Conclusion

The prohibition of dual citizenship should not be interpreted in a manner that transforms every child of mixed parentage into a presumed dual national. Such an approach risks undermining the very certainty that citizenship law is intended to provide. Where a person is born in Tanzania to a Tanzanian parent and a non-Tanzanian parent, or where a person is born outside Tanzania to a Tanzanian parent(s) and the law of the other parent's country does not recognize that person as its citizen, there is no legal basis for requiring renunciation of a non-existent nationality. To insist otherwise is to require the impossible and to elevate administrative presumption above legal reality.

Citizenship determination should be grounded in evidence of actual nationality rather than assumptions based solely on parentage. A person who possesses Tanzanian citizenship by birth through a Tanzanian parent should not be denied recognition of that status merely because of speculative concerns regarding foreign citizenship. The proper approach is to require proof of actual dual nationality before imposing renunciation obligations. Such a framework would remain faithful to Tanzania's policy against dual citizenship while simultaneously protecting individuals from legal limbo, administrative uncertainty and the risk of exclusion from the rights and privileges that citizenship is intended to secure.

Looking ahead, any revival of Tanzania's constitutional review process would present an opportunity to strengthen and clarify the constitutional framework governing citizenship. Although the

Proposed Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 2014[49] never came into force, it contained a more comprehensive treatment of citizenship than the current Constitution. Chapter Six recognized the right to citizenship, distinguished between citizenship by birth and citizenship by registration, presumed citizenship by birth for foundlings under seven years of age, provided for the registration of adopted foreign children of Tanzanian citizens, addressed the status of former Tanzanian citizens who had renounced their citizenship and regulated citizenship by registration. If constitutional reform is revisited, these provisions should be retained and further refined to address the uncertainty surrounding children of mixed parentage. In particular, the constitutional and statutory framework should expressly require proof of actual possession of a foreign nationality before any obligation to renounce arises. Such a reform would preserve Tanzania's policy against dual citizenship while ensuring that citizenship by birth is not undermined by presumptions unsupported by law or fact.

[49] The Proposed Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 2014 emerged from the constitutional review process initiated under the Constitutional Review Act, 2011. Following extensive nationwide public consultations conducted by the Constitutional Review Commission chaired by Judge Joseph Warioba, the Commission produced a Second Draft Constitution in December 2013. That draft was subsequently debated and substantially amended by the Constituent Assembly, which adopted the Proposed Constitution in October 2014. Under the Constitutional Review Act, the Proposed Constitution was intended to be submitted to a national referendum before coming into force. However, the referendum was never held, largely because of political disagreements, the boycott of the Constituent Assembly by major opposition parties and the approach of the 2015 general elections. Following the change of administration in 2015, the constitutional review process was not pursued further. Consequently, the Proposed Constitution has never acquired legal force and remains a non-binding constitutional proposal rather than part of the law of Tanzania, although it continues to serve as an important reference point in debates on constitutional reform.

7. Author Biography

Dr. Clement Bernardo Mubanga is an Assistant Commissioner of Immigration, legal scholar, researcher, author and public servant with over two decades of experience in immigration, citizenship, migration governance, national security and regional and international migration law. He has served in the Tanzania Immigration Services Department since 2005 and currently serves as Personal Assistant to the Commissioner General of Immigration. He is an Advocate of the High Court of Tanzania and Courts subordinate thereto and a Visiting Lecturer at the Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA), where he teaches Tanzania Citizenship Law. Dr. Mubanga holds a PhD in Law, LL.M and LL. B (Honours) from the Open University of Tanzania and a Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law School of Tanzania. His professional and academic work focuses on migration governance, citizenship and immigration law. He has participated in major regional, continental and international migration and security forums, including the Global Compact for Migration, Pan-African Forum on Migration, SADC migration policy processes, the European University Institute (EUI) and the African Center for Strategic Studies, and has served as an expert witness on Tanzanian citizenship before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. He is the author of *The Making of Tanzania Immigration Services: History, Functioning and Statutory Evolution* (2023) and numerous scholarly articles, case notes and professional works. He served as Chief Editor and member of the Research and Publications Committee of the Tanganyika Law Society (2019–2022) and is currently Associate Editor of the *Journal of Migration and Security Studies (JMSS)* and a member of the Editorial Board of the *Tanzania Journal of Government Law (TJGL).*

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