Fact 1. Four in ten Tanzanians have watched live TV broadcasts from parliament.
Four in ten Tanzanians report having watched live broadcasts from parliament on TV, and six in ten report having listened to live radio broadcasts from parliament.

Fact 2. Among those who watch or listen to broadcasts from parliament, most have done so recently.
Over half of those who report having watched or listened to TV or radio broadcasts from parliament say they have done so in the past two months. Roughly a quarter watched or listened in the past month, and around a third did so 1-2 months ago. Again, this shows that public interest in televised and radio broadcasts from parliament is strong.

Fact 3. Eight out of ten disapprove of the decision to stop live coverage of parliament.
A strong majority (79%) of Tanzanian citizens said either that they disapprove or strongly disapprove of the government’s decision to end live broadcasts from parliament. Further, within this group, most stated that they “strongly disapprove” (57%; not shown in chart). This shows that feelings run high on this issue, and the governments’ position is not supported by the public.
Fact 4. Almost all Tanzanians think it is important that parliamentary sessions are aired live on TV and radio.

Asked whether it is important for parliamentary sessions to be broadcast live on TV and radio, the vast majority (92%) stated that this is indeed important.

Fact 5. Top reasons for the importance of live broadcasts from parliament include following up on MPs’ performance, and citizens’ right to know.

Close to half (46%) of those who felt it is important that parliamentary sessions should be broadcast live gave following up on MPs’ performance as one reason. A similar number (44%) said it was important because citizens have the right to know what is going on in parliament. A smaller number (29%) said that live broadcasts were more trustworthy, as viewers/listeners can see and hear proceedings for themselves.

Fact 6. Even when reminded of the high cost of live broadcasts, public support remained strong.

When asked to choose between two alternative statements regarding live TV and radio broadcasts from parliament, each asking whether the cost could be justified, citizens responded strongly that the costs are worth paying. 88% stated that sessions should be aired live irrespective of the cost, compared to just 12% who felt it was important to think of the budgetary implications. Similarly, 80% felt that live broadcasts from parliament are just as important as other issues, and just 20% felt the money should be spent on public services instead. Finally, there was strong support for allowing non-government media to broadcast from parliament if the government feels it cannot justify the cost.