

**The Role of Co-operative Unions in Facilitating Primary Co-operative Societies
A Case Study of KNCU (1984) Limited**

By

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Co-operative contributes to national economic development in many countries Tanzania being one of them. This study examined the role of Co-operative Unions in facilitating primary cooperative societies in the economic development of its members. The study focused at examining the extent to which KNCU can effectively improve its coordination role in order to strengthen the primary societies still affiliated to the Union. The research examined the contribution of co-operative unions during the colonial period and after the colonial period; in strengthening primary co-operative societies. It is worth mentioning that co-operatives functioned well during the colonial period than they did after the colonial period; as after independence was achieved in 1961 some decisions were taken by the government vitally affecting co-operative negatively. For example, was the decision by the government to embark on a crash programme for the organization of co-operatives in vast sections of the country which until then were largely untouched by the movement. This more established primary co-operative societies and co-operative unions which were not created by the members but by the government. These were doomed to fail as co-operatives can only thrive when they are member based. As the needs of effective co-operative unions continue to remain, KNCU need to reorganize its self and provide the primary societies the support they need.