

# Tanzanian Affairs

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**Maasai Eviction Protests  
SGR Rail Route Launched**



*Thousands of Maasai gather to protest against evictions and are addressed by Arusha Regional Commissioner, Paul Makonda - see Page 5. Photo - IWGIA*

### **Growing concern over President Samia’s respect for democratic norms**

After President Samia Suluhu Hassan took office in March 2021, there were signs that she intended to “re-open” the country, both politically and economically. Her predecessor, President John Magufuli, had restricted the activities of opposition parties, and anyone critical of his government, as well as applying a firmly nationalist approach to economics that discouraged investment.

“Tanzania is less sinister and less mad since she took over,” wrote *The Economist* earlier this year.

Right from the start, however, questions were being asked as to how concerted President Samia’s new direction would be, particularly on politics. In part, this was because President Magufuli remained popular

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*Cover photo - shows a train on the new SGR (Standard Gauge Railway) route linking Dar es Salaam and Dodoma - see Transport page 20*

both with the public and with some powerful figures within the ruling party, CCM, and it was clear that any pro-democracy moves the new President introduced would meet with resistance – resistance that would also carry the temptation and/or promise of a relatively easy ride in forthcoming elections. Would the demands of holding the party together trump her supposed democratic instincts? And in part, it was because President Samia’s own position was not well known. She had spent over five years as a loyal Vice President to her predecessor, without ever marking out her own position on key questions. How committed was she, truly, to moving the country in a more democratic direction?

A number of recent events and trends have led to rising concern that her commitment is lukewarm at best. One pan-African publication described this as Tanzania’s moment of truth, where “the red flags are getting redder.” Another went with “Back to bulldozer politics”.

A planned celebration in Mbeya in August of International Youth Day by the opposition party, Chadema, was blocked by the police. More than 500 young Chadema supporters were arrested as they attempted to gather in defiance of the ban. Several senior Chadema leaders – including secretary general John Mnyika, national vice chair, Tundu Lissu and central committee member Joseph Mbilinyi – were detained for 48 hours and allegedly roughed up by the police, and party leader Freeman Mbowe was also arrested. Police Commissioner, Awadh Juma Haji justified their actions by saying the police would do everything in their power “to resist such glaring threats to public order”.

Further, in recent months, numerous opposition figures have reportedly disappeared. In July, regional police in Tanga confirmed that they were holding Kombo Mbwana, a Chadema district leader – some 30 days after he went missing. He had not been presented before court, despite appeals by his lawyers. Two other party leaders – Dioniz Kipanya from Rukwa and Deusdedith Soka from Dar es Salaam – have gone missing in the past few weeks, with no word from authorities. In August, the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) released a list of 83 people who had recently disappeared recently under mysterious circumstances.

There have also been other grounds for concern, too. There was the heavy-handed response to criticism of the controversial DP World contract to manage the port of Dar es Salaam (*see TA136 and 137*).

#### 4 *Respect for Democratic Norms*

There was a recent announcement by Zanzibar's police commissioner Hamad Khamis Hamad that they would review political speeches with the aim of identifying utterances made against the state or aiming to incite hatred. And there has been the reappointment of former close allies of President Magufuli to influential positions – most obviously the controversial Paul Makonda who was recently made regional commissioner for Arusha, after three years in the wilderness. He recently called himself the “favourite son of President Samia,” surely a knowing reference to the persistent rumours that he could be the illegitimate son of President Magufuli.

Even the reforms that the President herself had been strongly associated – such as establishing dialogue with opposition parties and forming commissions for criminal justice reform, constitutional reform and the running of elections – have slowed or stalled, showing little sign of progress in the past year. Recommendations are gathering dust on shelves, while local elections are due before the end of this year, and presidential and parliamentary elections will be held in October 2025.

Those elections are, of course, a major part of the context in which all of this is taking place. There is still an outside chance that President Samia may face a challenger in becoming the CCM presidential candidate. Having risen to the presidency through the untimely death of the previous incumbent, rather than through an election, as well as being the country's first female president, President Samia could be forgiven for feeling nervous at the prospect of not delivering a victory as clear as that of President Magufuli. Indeed, such was the extent of his win in the 2020 official election results, she cannot hope to match that outcome, whether or not the country returns to a more credible democratic electoral process.

A second factor, particularly in the most recent developments, is the recent “Gen Z” protests in Kenya. Across several weeks, widespread protests by young Kenyans, organised on social media, piled pressure on President William Ruto to reverse tax changes. A heavy response by state security forces, which killed dozens, failed to quell the unrest, and eventually, President Ruto fired his entire cabinet and was forced to halt planned tax hikes.

When announcing the ban on Chadema's youth day rally in Mbeya, Commissioner Haji specifically cited a statement by one Chadema

youth leader that called upon opposition supporters to be “inspired by our colleagues in Kenya”.

At the time of writing, the jury is still out on whether President Samia is genuinely committed to democratic reforms but having to proceed slowly in order to bring her party with her, or her stated commitment was only ever a strategy to buy herself time as the country’s new leader. What is clear, however, is that observers both within and outside the country are becoming less willing to give her the benefit of the doubt, and that their doubts are growing.

Ben Taylor:

## MAASAI EVICTIONS

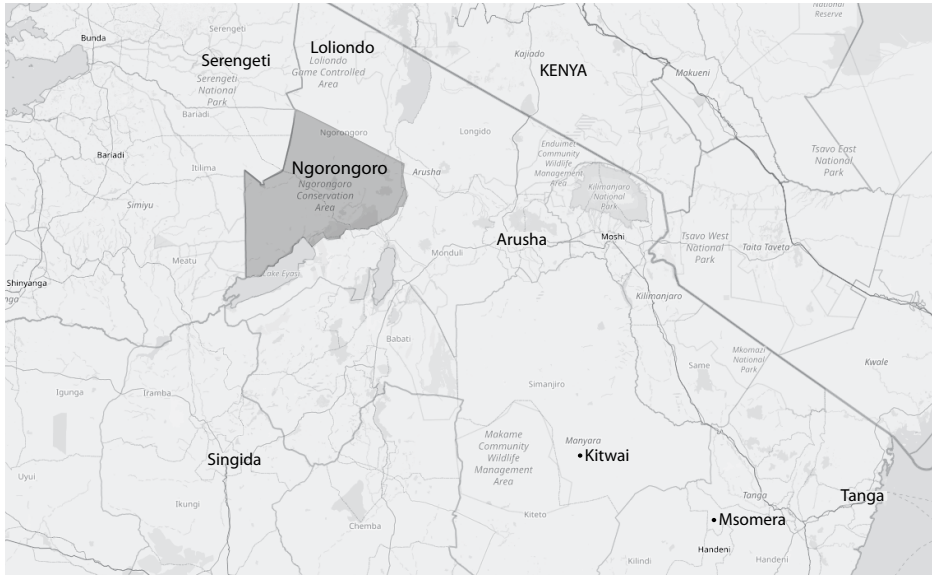
### **Maasai evictions – and protests – and concessions**

On August 18, 2024, hundreds of Maasai community members gathered to protest the denial of basic rights and the loss of their ancestral land in Ngorongoro, Tanzania. The protest is the latest in a series of actions against a government relocation plan aimed at moving 110,000 Maasai from Ngorongoro to Msomera, Sauni, and Kitwai, over 300 kilometers from their current homes.

Dressed in their traditional red clothing and holding leaves – as a symbol of peace recognized across many Tanzanian tribes – the demonstrators blocked the busy Ngorongoro-Serengeti Road. They carried posters, prayed, and marched, singing in the Maasai language to voice their grievances.

The government argues the relocation is essential to preserve the Ngorongoro Conservation Area, a UNESCO World Heritage site. “Due to escalating human-wildlife conflicts, overpopulation of humans and livestock, wide-spreading zoonotic diseases, shrinking wildlife corridor and grazing land, lack of safe water sources and poor sanitation, and the quest for socio-economic development of its citizens, the consensus was reached through a participatory and transparent process for a voluntary relocation program,” said Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga, the Zanzibar minister for Tourism and Heritage, speaking to a meeting of the World Heritage Committee in July in New Dehli, India.

Officials further maintain the relocation is voluntary, but residents have described the exercise as an eviction, pointing to the cutting



*Map showing Msomera relative to the Ngorongoro Conservation Area - data from [openstreetmap.org](https://openstreetmap.org)*

off of essential services such as water and health to make their case. “Conservation is a good thing, we are not against it. We are against ... discriminatory conservation, implemented in a militaristic way,” Maasai lawyer Denis Oleshangay told reporters. However, he said, “they are trying to make life so hard that no one will stay.”

The government has offered to build new homes to encourage “voluntary relocation” for those who agree to move to Msomera, as well as cash payments to support the move. The government reported having spent TSh 286 billion on the relocation effort, and said in early September that this has resulted in 9,778 residents moving since July 2022.

The immediate trigger for the latest protest appeared to be concerns that residents had been stripped of their right to vote in Ngorongoro. On August 3, some Ngorongoro residents alleged that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) had transferred the names of voters from Ngorongoro to Msomera, a place where only 2% of Ngorongoro residents have relocated.

“We are shocked and saddened that the entire Ngorongoro Division, which currently has a population of 110,000, will not be voting at usual polling stations,” said James Moringe Mollle, Councillor of Loitile

Ward. “They claimed the relocation was voluntary, but for example, I have been assigned to a hamlet in Msomera as my polling station, a place I’ve never even visited.”

Further, an official plan contained in the Government Gazette published on August 2, 2024, involved delisting 11 wards, 25 villages and 96 sub villages in Ngorongoro.

Prof Issa Shivji, one of Tanzania leading legal scholars, responded in a social media post that the villages’ delisting will have far-reaching legal and democratic implications for the people of Ngorongoro, and urged authorities to rethink their plan.

The protest than began on August 18th continued uninterrupted for five days, despite heavy-handed policing. According to some reports, this included the arrest of 39 members of the Maasai community. A week later, according to these same reports, the locations where the arrested were being held had not been revealed, and no charges had been brought.

The international human rights group, Amnesty, issued a statement calling on the government “to immediately disclose the whereabouts of the 40 arrested community members, grant them access to their lawyers, and due process, including being promptly brought before court to challenge the legality of their detention.”

Five days into the protest, the minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Coordination, William Lukuvi, addressed residents in Oloirobi Village, in Ngorongoro Ward. He was accompanied by the Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, Prof Palamagamba Kabudi, Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Mr Danstan Kitandula, Arusha Regional Commissioner, Paul Makonda, and the Police Force’s Commissioner of Operations and Training, Awadh Juma Haji.

Mr Lukuvi said in his speech that he had been sent by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, and that he had been instructed to ensure health and education services must continue to be adequately delivered. “Education services must be fully provided, and hospital services must be fully available. I want Mr Makonda to ensure that in all areas where services have been suspended, they are restored so that residents do not

face difficulties in accessing social services," he stated.

Mr Lukuvi also said that President Hassan has directed that local government elections, scheduled for November, should be held in Ngorongoro, and preparations should proceed accordingly in the area as per existing boundaries. "The President has sent us to assure you that your rights to vote in the forthcoming elections remain intact. The director of Elections (from the Independent National Electoral Commission) will ensure all polling stations are set up to enable citizens to exercise their constitutional rights," he said.

At the same meeting, Prof Kabudi affirmed that all Tanzanians are equal and assured the residents that they will receive the same rights and treatment as those in other regions.

"Our country was founded by the Father of the Nation, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, as one united nation built on love, peace, and unity. President Hassan upholds these principles and urges you to preserve peace and stability while safeguarding the nation. Let us embody the spirit of peace and love, just like all other Tanzanians," he said.

In a separate development, the Arusha High Court has blocked implementation of the Government Notice that formally dissolved wards, villages, and hamlets, including those in the Ngorongoro District, until further court notice.

Thanking the government on behalf of the residents, Ngorongoro legislator Emmanuel Shangai said in the previous four years, residents have seen no leaders visiting the area, but today the President has sent them. "I urge you to trust the government because the President is for all Tanzanians. It is possible that some of her subordinates misled her, which is why these issues arose," he said.

### **The government case**

A series of articles in the (Tanzanian) *Guardian* newspaper presented the government case on the Ngorongoro issue, highlighting the legacy of a 1959 land use policy. Initially designed to accommodate human and wildlife populations, the policy aimed to harmonize their coexistence within the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA).

The Maasai were allowed to graze their livestock within the conservation



area, maintaining their cultural practices and livelihood. And in return, certain restrictions were imposed to ensure that wildlife habitats were preserved and that the ecological integrity of the region was not compromised. These restrictions included prohibiting permanent structures and agricultural activities that could disrupt wildlife habitats.

However, over time, the growth of both human and wildlife populations has intensified the competition for scarce resources like water and grazing land. Pressure on wildlife habitats intensified, leading to more frequent and severe human-wildlife conflicts.

Recently, the Tanzanian government, through the Ngorongoro Conservation Authority Area (NCAA), announced its goal to improve the living conditions of residents in the Ngorongoro division, especially those within the conservation area. This aims to separate human and wildlife habitats to enhance conservation efforts.

## Ben Taylor: **RESHUFFLES APLENTY**

In August, President Samia Suluhu Hassan announced her fourth cabinet reshuffle of 2024 and her fourteenth since taking office in March 2021.

The latest reshuffle sees the return of former ministers Palamagamba Kabudi and William Lukuvi to the cabinet, while two other ministers, Angela Kairuki and Umyy Mwalimu, have been removed. Kabudi, who has been reappointed as the Minister of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, and Lukuvi takes up the post of State Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, overseeing Policy, Parliament, and Coordination. This role effectively makes him the Chief Whip in Parliament.

Lukuvi's appointment reflects the trust President Samia places in him. Prior to this ministerial appointment he had been a key political advisor to the President since January 2022.

Jenista Mhagama, who was replaced by Lukuvi, has been reassigned to the Ministry of Health, where she takes over from Umyy Mwalimu, who has been completely removed from the cabinet. Mwalimu's departure is widely attributed to recent challenges at the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF).

Pindi Hazara Chana has also been reappointed, in her case to the Ministry of Tourism and Natural Resources, replacing Angela Kairuki, who has been made an advisor to the President. Chana, who was removed from the Ministry of Tourism in February 2023 and later served in the Ministry of Sport and Culture and then Constitutional Affairs Minister, now returns to her former role.

President Samia also announced the appointment of Hamza Johari as the new Attorney General succeeding Dr Eliezer Feleshi who has been appointed as a Justice at the court of appeal. Johari, who previously served as the Director General of the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority, played a key role in negotiating the Dubai-Tanzania port agreement, which granted multinational DP World a 30-year contract to run, operate, and develop Dar es Salaam port.

Earlier, in July, Tanzania's information minister Nape Nnauye was removed from his post following an outcry over comments he made suggesting that elections could be rigged. He was filmed at a rally saying that he would help a fellow ruling party MP win in the 2025 election, and that "election results are not necessarily those in the ballot box, rather they depend on the person counting and making announcements". He will now be replaced by former land and housing development minister Jerry Slaa.

At the same time, foreign minister January Makamba was also sacked, with Tanzania's ambassador to Italy, Mahmoud Thabiti Kombo, chosen as his successor. This means that between 2021 and 2024, Tanzania has had five different foreign ministers, a post that the President describes as "the heart of the government." The Ministry has not had any Minister who has stayed in the ministry for more than a year since President Samia Suluhu came into power.

Many observers have associated Makamba's sacking with his political ambition for the Presidency. "She saw the previous minister was going against her expectations," argued political analyst Thomas Kibwana. He added: "If the new minister is to serve for a long time, it is essential that they do not have excessive political ambitions that can detract him from the current responsibilities."

In announcing the changes, President Samia did not mention specific reasons for her decisions but emphasised the need to put the national

interest first. “Your own interests as a human being are secondary, but the nation’s interests come first,” she said. She referenced a Swahili proverb, saying that “positions of power are like borrowed clothes. If you use them well, and the owner sees you wearing them properly, looking neat, and not misbehaving they might let you keep the clothes for a while. But if they find that you are misbehaving with the clothes they lent you, they will not wait; they will take back their clothes.”

Since January, when Makamba had represented President Samia at the Italy-Africa summit, he had been on the receiving end of a social media campaign claiming that he used the trip to set up a network for his own bid for the Presidency.

Finally, the Director of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB), CP Salum Hamduni, has been appointed as the Regional Administrative Secretary for Shinyanga Region. Hamduni, who was appointed as PCCB Director in May 2021, leaves the organization amid an ongoing public awareness campaign against election-related corruption. Crispin Chalamila, a senior official from the President’s Office, has been appointed as the new Director of PCCB.

## Ben Taylor: MISCELLANY

### **Tundu Lissu announces presidential bid for 2025**

Tundu Lissu, the vice chair of the opposition party Chadema, has announced that he has informed his party about his intention to run for the presidency of the United Republic of Tanzania through his party. He was also the party’s presidential candidate in 2020.

“I have indicated my intention as a presidential aspirant through my party officially,” Lissu explained in an online interview in August.

In 2020, Tundu Lissu was a presidential candidate representing Chadema, competing against the late President John Magufuli. In that election, which many described as the most flawed election in Tanzania’s history, Lissu received 1,933,271 votes, while President Magufuli was declared the winner with 12,516,252 votes.

Lissu’s announcement comes after various signs suggest some tension with the party, between him and the party chair, Freeman Mbowe. This

rift was reportedly heightened during Chadema's recent internal party elections, where Lissu said that there was a lot of corruption fuelled by money coming from the ruling party, CCM.

### **Taxing cryptocurrency**

In the 2024/25 budget, Tanzania has announced a 3% tax on digital assets transactions. The new measure defines digital assets as anything of value that is intangible, including cryptocurrencies, token codes, and numbers held in digital form generated through cryptographic or other means.

The Act specifically targets non-resident individuals or entities that own platforms or facilitate the exchange or transfer of digital assets. This means the law will require crypto exchange sites and brokers to register in Tanzania's tax system and withhold a tax rate of 3% when making payments to a resident as a result of transfer or exchange.

While the global market value of cryptocurrency stands at an estimated USD \$2.46 trillion (2.2% of global GDP), Tanzania does not yet have a specific legal framework for digital assets. However, in 2019, the Bank of Tanzania issued a public notice against the use or trading of cryptocurrency in the country.

Nevertheless, various reports indicate that a significant number of Tanzanians own cryptocurrencies. One report by a Singaporean cryptocurrency research firm, Triple A, estimates that about 2.3 million Tanzanians own cryptocurrency. A separate survey within Tanzania, conducted by Financial Sector Deepening Tanzania (FSDT), found that 1.7% of Tanzanian adults – equivalent to over 580,000 people – have invested in cryptocurrencies.

Dr Hildebrand Shayo: **ECONOMICS - AIR TRAVEL**

### **Tanzania has launched a more modern passenger and cargo fleet to compete in the sky race**

Many readers will remember that eleven years ago, British Airways (BA) discontinued direct flights from London Heathrow to Dar es Salaam, due to what was then described as an inability to operate profitably. This marked the end of nearly forty years of BA flight services to Tanzania.

If the agreement to fly to London is successful and Air Tanzania (ATCL) begins operating direct flights from Dar es Salaam to UK airports – ideally London Heathrow or Gatwick – will travel agencies and the business community be able to profit from the direct flight to Tanzania at a competitive rate?

British Airways (BA) was the most dependable passenger airline for diplomats, government officials and intellectuals flying through Heathrow to the UK and the US for nearly forty years. According to statistics, the United States and the United Kingdom are among the leading countries where tourists arrive in Tanzania yearly.

The relevant inquiry is whether the acquisition of a more modern passenger and cargo fleet and the potential for direct flights from Tanzania to the major airports in the United Kingdom will support the economies of these two historically significant countries. Can Tanzania, through market-driven competition, close the 13-year-old gap created by British Airways' (BA) withdrawal of flight services between London Heathrow and Dar es Salaam?

In this analysis, I'll examine the main factors driving this expansion and any potential financial effects on Tanzania's aviation sector. Such discussion could signal what would keep ATCL competitive nationally, regionally and internationally.

After a history that is well known, ATCL now operates a fleet of sixteen aircraft, comprising three widebody Boeing B787-8s, one widebody freighter B767-300F, two narrow bodies B737-9, four Airbus A220-300s, six regional turboprops DHC-8-Q300 and five HDC-8-Q400s.

According to the ATCL route plan, the national carrier presently offers 13 domestic services and 11 international destinations. With further fleet expansion, it plans to add flights to other destinations including Kinshasa, N'Djili Goma, Lagos, and Muscat.

Economic benefits from fleet expansion will have a substantial financial impact, especially on revenue and tax contributions. They will increase Tanzania's regional influence while at the same time increasing ATCL's operational capacity. Tanzania continues to be a centre for our economic region. Improved business class seats with better cushions and a premium economy cabin on an extra new aircraft with a 262-seat capacity that can load 20 cargo tonnes on ATCL flights will put the ATCL fleet in

a more competitive market.

Looking at the areas where ATCL can resist competition in African aviation, most countries, including Tanzania, with national airlines, strive to maintain their competitiveness through market protection, preferential treatment, and incentives.

Therefore, ATCL operators must pay close attention to how State-owned airlines in Africa and the Middle East manage to maintain a lopsided competitive advantage and continue to provide high-quality services. It is crucial to remember that the free market economy in the airline sector has not historically performed as predicted in countries attempting to resurrect their national carriers.

Competitors from other areas, for example, have different strategies and often do not subscribe to the same school of economic thought. It is absurd to believe that ATCL can successfully compete with heavily subsidised regional airlines that are well-known in the industry and dominate long-haul travel.

One important thing to remember as Tanzania expands its fleet to compete in the sky race is that the continent's airline market structure differs significantly from other regions, such as the US, where the deregulation of the aviation industry has been a significant driver of the industry's expansion. In specific markets, the one-size-fits-all approach is inapplicable, and replicating it would be detrimental to Tanzania's long-term investment goals.

Building a sustainable enterprise requires certain fundamental principles, which the government is putting in place as it prepares to strengthen ATCL. The reciprocity principle is the first. ATCL must have an equivalent chance back home in regions around Tanzania where international airlines are permitted to operate.

Some airlines prefer to fly during the day into the nation, but on their soil, ATCL might only be permitted to utilise the airports during times that would be detrimental to the airline. Although open skies imply a mutual connection, certain airlines have often taken advantage of it. Tanzania shouldn't fall into that trap with our ATCL.

Similarly, cargo is one of airlines' primary sources of income. This corporate sector should support ATCL, just as other nations do. Rather

than importing specific goods from Europe for the continent's emerging industries sector, Tanzania should go in the same direction as the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), cultivate relationships with African producers to import the raw material directly.

The new aircraft would improve trade potential. The efficiency and capacity of the B787-8 would enable improved trade connections, which will help industries like manufacturing and agriculture by giving them better access to international markets.

For airlines operating in Tanzania to genuinely establish Dar es Salaam and Tanzania as the primary hub of East Africa's aviation sector, the airline must support its long-haul operations to reach global market destinations while simultaneously expanding service quality rapidly domestically and regionally.

By synchronising essential sectors and generating more economic value, ATCL should catalyze trade connections throughout Africa. It's a chance to expand both intra-African trade and the airline. To establish Julius Nyerere International Airport and Amani Karume International Airport as the principal hubs of Africa's aviation sector, ATCL should vigorously expand locally and regionally while supporting the airline's long-haul operations.

Tanzania's aircraft fleet is expected to boost air travel, demonstrating the aviation industry's exceptional growth potential, which Tanzania, led by President Samia, has in this sector. In my view, expansion points to a bright future for the aviation sector in Tanzania that is driven by several causes, including the country's strong economic growth, rising demand for air travel, government efforts, infrastructure development and fleet upgrades.

The enlarged fleet brings the potential for improved connection, job creation, economic growth, and tourism, all of which contribute to the nation's overall development. To facilitate the smooth integration of the expanding fleet into the aviation ecosystem, industry stakeholders must prioritise environmental sustainability and tackle infrastructure issues that, if not well managed, could be a constraint in achieving ATCL's full market potential.

## Ben Taylor: **ECONOMICS & BUSINESS**

### **Strong growth recorded, and projected**

Tanzania recorded economic growth of 5.1% in 2023, according to the latest government figures. This was stated by the Minister of Planning and Investment, Prof Kitila Mkumbo, in his National Economic Status Report for 2023, presented to Parliament in Dodoma in June.

This represents a small improvement in growth rates compared to recent years. Tanzania was among a small number of countries to maintain economic growth throughout the Coronavirus pandemic, though growth slowed from 6.9% in 2019 to 4.5% in 2020, 4.8% in 2021 and 4.7% in 2022.

According to Mkumbo, the growth in 2023 was driven by the arts and entertainment sector, which expanded by 17.7%, followed by the finance and insurance sector at 12.2%, and mining at 11.3%. The accommodation and food services sector grew by 8.3% and the information and communications sector by 7.6%. Prof Mkumbo noted that sectors that had traditionally provided substantial employment saw slower growth rates. He noted particularly that agriculture, which is vital for the majority of Tanzanians, grew by only 4.2% while manufacturing and trade expanded by 4.3% and 4.2% respectively. The result, he said, was that the benefits of growth have not been evenly distributed, particularly among the nation's poorest citizens

Nevertheless, the Minister also explained that the agriculture sector continued to make the largest contribution to GDP, accounting for 26.5%. This is followed by construction (13.2%) and mining (9%).

Prof Mkumbo told Parliament that the types of goods that Tanzania exports have changed over the past two decades. "In the 2000s," he explained, "57% of Tanzania's export goods involved agricultural products sold to markets in Europe, the United States, and Africa. However, twenty years later, Tanzania's exports are now dominated by minerals, with many products being sold to markets in Asia and African countries."

In 2023, 49% of exported goods were minerals, followed by manufactured goods (17%), with agricultural products (12%) coming in third, said the Minister.

Moreover, the country still continues to face a significant trade



imbalance. The value of the country's exports was \$8.2 billion in 2023, while imports amounted to \$13.7 billion. "This indicates that we are still spending a considerable amount of foreign currency on importing goods that could be produced domestically," the minister told Parliament.

Going forward, Prof Mkumbo said the government's target was to achieve 5.4% GDP growth in 2024.

Later in the same month, the IMF suggested that this target was in line with their projections. In a report, they predicted growth in Tanzania would pick up to 5.4% in 2024 and 6.0% in 2025, respectively, supported by improvements in the business environment and subsiding global commodity prices.

### **Njombe, Simiyu, Dodoma, Coast and Kagera regions experience growth spurt**

Njombe, Simiyu, Dodoma, Coast and Kagera regions recorded the fastest economic growth at the regional level from 2018 to 2022, according to data from the Bank of Tanzania's 2023 Consolidated Zonal Economic Performance Report. Despite having lower GDP figures than Dar es Salaam and other major urban centres, these regions posted notable growth during the five-year period.

Njombe's GDP surged 48% from TSh2.1 trillion to TSh3.1 trillion, Simiyu's jumped 45%, Dodoma and Coast regions both grew by 43% and Kagera by 39%.

In contrast, Dar es Salaam's GDP grew by 34% during the same period, the second slowest rate in the country. It should be noted, however, that Dar es Salaam has continuously retained its status as Tanzania's biggest and most important economic hub, with a regional GDP worth TSh29 trillion in 2023. "It's the norm that the larger the economy, the slower the growth," said Dr Daudi Ndaki of Mzumbe University. "That's why you will see that Tanzania's economy, for instance, is growing much faster than the GDPs of many developed countries," Dr Ndaki said.

University of Dar es Salaam Business School assistant lecturer Godsaviour Christopher said the five regions' economies are growing fast due to increased investment and untapped potential for growth.

"These regions still have many investment opportunities, while big cities such as Dar es Salaam have already used up a great deal of

available resources and are approaching full capacity,” he said.

There is plenty of arable land available for investment in Njombe for the cultivation of maize, tomatoes, potatoes, beans, pineapples, avocados, tea production, flowers and timber. And Coast Region has in recent years emerged as a key destination of strategic projects such as the Julius Nyerere Hydro Power Project (JNHPP).

### **Common East African currency postponed**

Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC), Ms Veronica Mueni Nduva, said in August that the process for monetary union and a single East African currency has been pushed back to 2031. Previously, EAC member states had committed to launching the currency in 2024.

“The Monetary Union was expected to be established in 2024 as per the Monetary Union Roadmap” she explained. “However, it has not been realised and the timeline was therefore revised to 2031.”

She said that so far, some aspects of the roadmap have been implemented even as members remain divided on several other aspects. She noted that central banks within the EAC have established the East African Payments System (EAPS), a multicurrency platform that enables settlements in the local currencies of the partner states, facilitating currency convertibility across the region, and said that partner states have signed and are implementing an MOU on currency convertibility and repatriation.

There have, however, been delays in obtaining a consensus on which country should host the East African Monetary Institute (EAMI), a precursor to an East African Central Bank, and member states have not yet managed to agree on the criteria to effectively converge the four macroeconomic fundamentals.

These include a headline inflation rate of 8%, a foreign exchange reserve cover equivalent to 4.5 months of imports, a ceiling on the overall fiscal deficit set at 3% of gross domestic product (GDP), and a limit on gross public debt capped at 50% of GDP for all partner states.

For context, Tanzania currently meets or is very close to meeting all four of these targets, with headline inflation at 3.1%, foreign exchange cover at 4.4 months of imports, an overall fiscal deficit at 3% of GDP and gross public debt at an estimated 38% of GDP.

# James L. Laizer **TOURISM & ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION**

## **Tour Operators Speak Out: Defending Conservation and Tourism**

Tanzania's tour operators voiced their concerns about the negative impact of allegations of human rights abuses on the country's tourism industry. They criticized foreign NGOs for spreading what they perceived as unfounded claims that tarnish Tanzania's image and portray it as a violator of human rights. The tour operators emphasized the government's commitment to responsible tourism and conservation, highlighting instances where relocations were conducted voluntarily and with adequate compensation. They defended the government's decision to incorporate key water catchment areas into the Ruaha National Park, arguing that it helped curb unsustainable agricultural and pastoral practices that were detrimental to the environment and the national economy. The tour operators' stance reflects the complex interplay between conservation, tourism, and human rights in Tanzania, and the challenges of balancing these competing interests.

## **Tourism Sector Rebounds: A Record-Breaking Year**

Tanzania's tourism industry experienced a remarkable recovery in 2023, with tourist arrivals reaching a record high of 1.8 million visitors. The sector's strong performance, driven by increased travel and transport receipts, contributed significantly to the country's foreign exchange earnings. Tourism's success, along with growth in gold exports and transportation earnings, helped narrow the current account deficit and boost the overall economy. The media highlighted the positive outlook for the tourism sector, despite ongoing external pressures, and its crucial role in Tanzania's economic development.

## **Carbon Trading: A Tool for Conservation**

Tanzania's exploration of carbon trading as a means to support conservation efforts gained prominence in media discussions. The concept of carbon trading, which involves the buying and selling of carbon credits to reduce overall emissions, has been presented as a potential solution to address climate change and promote sustainable development. Reports highlighted the efforts of leaders in the Manyara region to involve local communities in conservation programs through carbon trade agree-

ments. The participatory approach aims to not only protect wildlife and natural resources but also provide economic opportunities for villagers. The effectiveness of carbon trading in achieving its environmental goals remains a subject of debate, but its potential to contribute to conservation efforts in Tanzania has garnered attention.

### **Reforestation Efforts: A Commitment to a Greener Future**

Tanzania's commitment to reforestation and restoring forest landscapes was showcased in media reports. The government pledged to plant 5.2 million trees by 2030 as part of its efforts to combat deforestation and promote environmental sustainability. The initiative, led by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, has seen significant progress, with 2.4 million trees already planted. The focus on reforestation aligns with the global agenda to address climate change and protect biodiversity. The media highlighted the importance of these efforts in ensuring a healthy planet and promoting sustainable economic development in Tanzania.

Ben Taylor:

## **TRANSPORT**

### **SGR rail route launched**

THE Tanzania Railway Corporation (TRC) in June officially launched the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) operations from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro. The first day passengers enjoyed a free ride after President Samia Suluhu Hassan decided to provide free tickets to over 1400 travellers.

The first train started its journey from Dar es Salaam at 6.10 am and arrived at Morogoro main station at 7.56am. It had covered 300km in under two hours.

"This is a milestone in the history of transportation sector in the country," said David Kihenzile, Deputy Minister for Transport.

A few weeks later, passenger trains began operating beyond Morogoro, as far as Dodoma. SGR electric train services from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma substantially reduce travel time, with the express train completing the journey in approximately three hours and 25 minutes. This is around half the time of a bus journey.

Alternatively, it is around three times the time of a flight that would

cost more than ten times the price. The Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) announced rail fares for Dar-Dodoma of TSh 31,000 for adults, with children aged 12 and below paying half the cost. Air Tanzania's price for one way trip to Dodoma is around USD \$150 in economy class, while the fare on Precision Air is around TSh 250,000.

St Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) Economist, Dr Isaac Safari told Daily News that it is not easy for airline passengers to switch to trains, as many of them feel that flying is more prestigious.

"However, the route is too good for those who travel by buses as they may be more likely to switch to trains, as it offers greater safety," he said.

Indeed, the impact on bus routes was felt immediately. Two weeks after the launch, a reported 4,000 passengers per day were using the train between Morogoro and Dar, equivalent to over 70 fully-laden buses. One company that previously made 20 bus trips a day from Dar es Salaam to Morogoro reduced its trips to nine or ten per day. Some drivers have been staying at home without much work to do, and bus owners were thus compelled to provide them with money to live on.

Faced with rapidly dwindling profits on the Dar es Salaam- Morogoro-Dodoma route, bus operators quickly devised a plan to maintain their business viability. A representative for Shabiby Bus Company, Mr Edward Magawa, said they were currently working on a way to their business by looking at other destinations instead of relying heavily on the Dar es Salaam-Dodoma route. He asked the government to establish bus stations near SGR stations so that it could be easy for passengers to connect or access buses and continue with their journeys.

### **Air France to replace Dar with Kilimanjaro**

Air France has rescheduled its flight to Tanzania beginning mid-November by replacing the Dar es Salaam stop with Kilimanjaro.

The new route will now be Paris-Zanzibar-Kilimanjaro, flying three times a week with returns on alternate days instead of Paris-Zanzibar-Dar es Salaam.

Air France-KLM's Tanzania Country Manager Rajat Kumar said the Paris-Kilimanjaro route is a strategic decision aimed at meeting the

growing demand for travel to East Africa.

“The new route replaces the Paris-Zanzibar-Dar es Salaam route, but travellers to Dar will have access to the city via Air France’s partner airline KLM, which operates seven weekly flights to the region,” the firm’s statement said.

The decision means that Turkish Airlines and KLM will be the only remaining European airlines that fly direct to Dar es Salaam.

## Ben Taylor: **ENERGY & MINERALS**

### **Further delays to LNG plant**

Negotiations for the development of Tanzania’s proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) export plant have been delayed by proposed government changes to a financial agreement reached last year, according to sources both in government and in the companies involved.

The long-delayed project, with an expected budget of USD \$42 billion, is a major part of the infrastructure required to capitalise on the full potential of Tanzania offshore natural gas resources.

The government and investors announced in May 2023 that they had completed negotiations on the project. The government said at the time that cabinet would review the agreements the following month, but they have not yet been approved.

As of May 2024, it was reported that the Attorney General, Eliezer Feleshi, had raised queries. These required re-opening discussions with the investors, Equinor and Shell as joint operators and Exxon Mobil, Pavilion Energy, Medco Energi and Tanzania’s national oil company TPDC as partners.

Sources told The Citizen newspaper that the government was still weighing various contract terms. This reportedly includes a proposal from the companies involved that proceeds from the project be banked by foreign financial institutions, as well as withholding tax exemptions and using foreign insurance companies.

Head of communications for Equinor Tanzania, Genevieve Kasanga, said that Equinor and Shell, on behalf of the Tanzania LNG partners,

initialled fully termed agreements with the Tanzanian government in May 2023. "Since then, the progress has indeed been slower than we expected," she said.

Government spokesperson, Mobhare Matinyi said Tanzania was still interested in working with the group of investors, but said that the government was proposing changes to the initialled agreement that would "ensure that truly both sides benefit fairly in the whole deal."

"We hope that our experts and officials will conclude the amendments sooner than later to allow this important project to go ahead," he added.

A source from one of the investors said that the proposal "completely blew the project economics out of the water".

The US Ambassador to Tanzania, Mr Michael Battle, told The Citizen that he had met with the investors, and "they said they would meet again to negotiate the issues that were raised to satisfy both the Tanzanian side and the investors."

It is now more than two years since President Samia Suluhu Hassan witnessed the signing of the preliminary agreement for the project HGA in June 2022. This was signed between the government on one side and Shell and Equinor companies which are the main partners in the implementation of the project.

Tanzania currently boasts 57.54 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves located both onshore and beneath the Indian Ocean.

### **Gas conversion plant in the pipeline?**

A Canadian firm, Rocky Mountain GTL, reportedly has plans to build a \$420 million plant in Tanzania that will produce diesel and jet fuel from natural gas.

"Once the project is up and running, Rocky Mountain GTL's technology will supply Tanzania with diesel and jet fuel and will also be able to produce naphtha," said a representative of the firm.

Naphtha is the main ingredient used to lighten heavy oil in pipelines, and the plant would also produce by-products such as hydrogen fuel.

According to initial plans, the plant could be completed within two years and will at first produce 2,500 barrels of fuel per day.

“Through this project, Tanzania will be the first country in Africa to sell jet fuel and diesel to neighbouring countries. This is a significant step that will also lower the prices of these two important sources of energy,” said the spokesman.

### **Tanzania faces court case over natural gas dispute**

A Canada-listed gas development company from the British Virgin Islands, Orca Energy Group Inc, has filed a USD \$1.2 billion (TSh 3.2 trillion) claim against the United Republic of Tanzania and the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).

This action, initiated by Orca’s wholly-owned subsidiaries PanAfrican Energy Tanzania (PAET) and Pan African Energy Corporation Mauritius (PAEM), highlights growing tensions over alleged breaches of contractual and investment treaty obligations.

The dispute arises from TPDC’s rejection of PAET’s proposed commercial terms for Additional Gas (AG) and a new gas sales agreement. PAET contends that these actions breach their contractual rights and expectations and is seeking compensation exceeding \$1.2 billion (TSh 3.2 trillion).

The central issue revolves around the Songo Songo Development License, granted to TPDC in 2001 for the development of the Songo Songo Field.

The agreement, which includes the Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) and the Gas Agreement (GA), was set to deliver Protected Gas (PG) until the end of July 2024, primarily for power generation at the Ubungo complex near Dar es Salaam.

The Notice of Dispute calls for negotiations with the Tanzanian government and TPDC, with arbitration proceedings expected if a resolution is not reached within the specified timeframes.

Speaking to The Citizen newspaper in early August, Solicitor General Boni Luhede stated that the parties now have six months to resolve the dispute amicably. “If not settled,” he explained, “arbitration proceedings will be instituted.”

Separately, in July, Tanzania reached a settlement agreement with Indiana Resources Limited, resolving a lengthy dispute over the



expropriation of the Ntaka Hills Nickel Project. The government agreed to pay a total of USD \$90 million to Indiana Resources and its associated entities, marking the end of nearly seven years of arbitration at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), a World Bank division.

And in October 2023, Tanzania settled with Canadian mining company Winshear Gold Corp, paying \$30 million (TSh 75 billion) following a dispute over the expropriation of its SMP Gold Project in southwest Tanzania, originally seeking more than three times this amount in compensation.

### **Tanzania aims to become Africa's leading graphite producer**

Tanzania is working to become Africa's largest graphite producer, according to the Minister for Minerals, Antony Mavunde.

Currently, Tanzania contributes only 0.6% of Africa's graphite production, well behind Madagascar (13%) and Mozambique (10%).

However, Mr Mavunde, said that if the ten companies that currently hold graphite mining licenses start production, Tanzania will surpass the two and become Africa's leading producer.

Graphite is used to make pencils, lubricants, crucibles, foundry facings, polishes, brushes for electric motors, and the cores of nuclear reactors. It has high thermal and electrical conductivity that makes it a key part of steelmaking, where it is used as electrodes in electric arc furnaces.

## **Ben Taylor: HEALTH**

### **Vigilance around Mpox**

On August 17th, 2024, the Ministry of Health provided an update on the threat of Mpox outbreak. This followed a recent global upsurge of cases, including in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, as well as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) where the disease has long been established. One confirmed case was identified very close to the Tanzanian border, in Taveta, Kenya.

Due to this threat the public was advised to take recommended precautions to protect themselves and prevent the disease from entering

the country.

The Minister of Health, Jenista Mhagama, offered reassurance that “until now, no patient has been proven to have Mpox infection in the country,” and that “the Ministry of Health continues to take measures to prevent Mpox from entering the country.”

This includes strengthening port health services through screening of all travellers entering the country through ports, land borders and airports, to identify travellers with signs and symptoms of Mpox and take appropriate action.

The Ministry said it would also strengthen surveillance in the community for early and timely identification of any person with signs or symptoms of Mpox, in order to manage suspect and prevent the spread of infection in community.

Further, the Ministry said it will enhance the preparedness and readiness in health care facilities and provide health education through multi channels communication approach.

The Minister also issued guidance on steps people should take to prevent infection. These included seeking medical attention in case of rashes and swelling, avoiding skin-to-skin contact with patients, cleaning hands regularly and avoiding eating carcasses of animals that may be infected.

### **Understanding the virus**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on August 14th declared that the upsurge of Mpox in the DRC and a growing number of countries in Africa constitutes a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). As of August 17th, there had been 545 alerts of Mpox cases in Burundi, one confirmed case in Kenya, four in Rwanda and two in Uganda.

Confusion around how Mpox spreads and what risks it presents has been exacerbated by the range of viral variants in circulation. In East Africa, a strain known as clade 1b appears to be responsible for the majority of new infections, and has been detected elsewhere in the world in recent travellers.

In western DRC, a separate strain, known as clade 1a, has been in

circulation at a relatively low level for over 50 years.

A third variant, known as clade II that had previously been circulating only in west Africa – Nigeria and elsewhere – was responsible since 2022 for a global epidemic. This spread largely among gay men and has thus far caused over 100,000 infections, including in the UK. With vaccination campaigns, this outbreak has been largely brought under control.

While clade II is thought to largely to be sexually transmitted, clade Ib is thought to be transmitted both via sexual contact and likely in other ways. Clade 1a is thought to be transmitted between humans only rarely, with most cases resulting instead from animal-human contact, such as consumption of bush meat.

A key factor in the rise of Mpox cases is thought to be the decline in population immunity after smallpox was eradicated in 1980 and smallpox vaccination—which also protects against monkeypox—was ended. (*World Health Organisation, The Citizen, Science.org*)

### **Dr Faustine Ndugulile elected to WHO role**

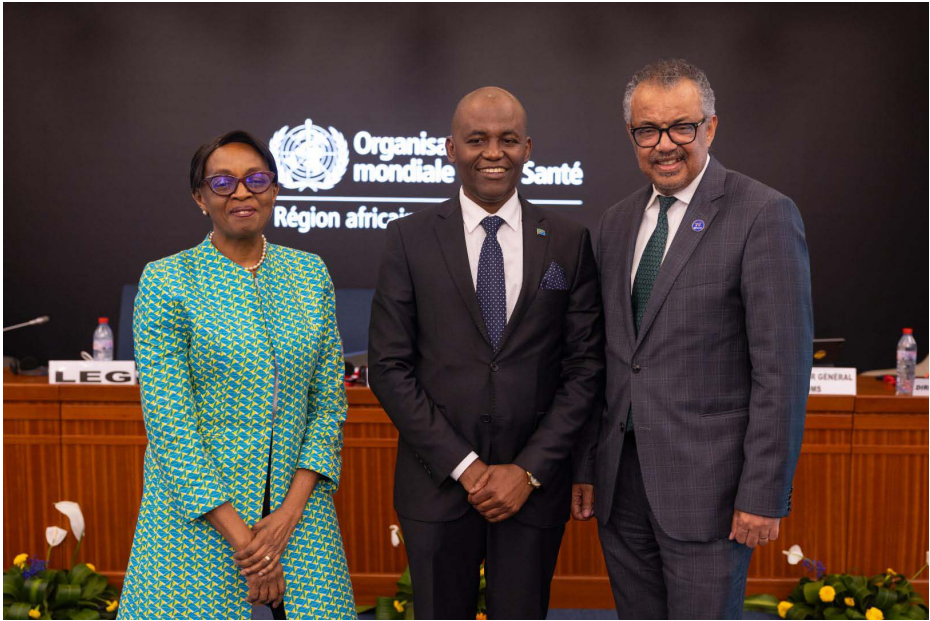
Tanzania politician and medical doctor, Dr Faustine Ndugulile, has been elected as the new World Health Organisation (WHO) Regional Director for Africa.

Elected to the position on August 28 during the 74th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa in Brazzaville, Congo, Dr Ndugulile, the former Deputy Minister for Health and Kigamboni Member of Parliament, will succeed Dr Matshidiso Moeti.

While acknowledging the progress Africa has made in the health sector, Dr Ndugulile emphasised in a statement to Parliament that substantial challenges remain before the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) deadline.

His campaign focused on four key areas: ensuring access to health services for all Africans, preparing the continent for pandemics such as Covid-19 and Mpox, fostering unique cooperation among African institutions—including parliaments—and strengthening the WHO's presence in Africa to maximise resource benefits.

“I am currently preparing for my new role. I have been given six months to organise myself, understand the organisation's operations and



*Dr Ndugulile (centre) with Dr Moeti (left) who has completed her term. Photo WHO/Daniel Elombat*

develop my vision.

This preparation will ensure that I can start effectively when I begin my tenure in March,” Dr Ndugulile said.

## Ben Taylor: **EDUCATION**

### **Rollout continues of new education policy**

The government’s reforms in the education sector are increasingly taking shape, as teachers’ colleges are restructured to meet the demands of the new curriculum.

During a visit to Rukwa Region, President Samia Suluhu Hassan inaugurated the Sumbawanga Teachers’ College, reinforcing the government’s dedication to supporting teachers nationwide.

“We have revamped the education system,” she said. “While challenges are inevitable during this transition, rest assured the government stands with you. Study diligently, graduate and teach other teachers and students. Your work is invaluable.”

Minister for Education, Professor Adolf Mkenda, highlighted that

under President Samia's leadership, four new teachers' colleges have been established, including those in Ngorongoro, Kabanga, Mhonda and Sumbawanga.

"The government now operates 35 teachers' colleges," he explained. "These colleges are being specialised; for example, Marangu Teachers' College now focuses on languages like Arabic, French and Chinese, Butimba College specializes in sports and Kleruu offers technical training," Prof Mkenda explained.

The new policy has eliminated certificate-level training for teachers, allowing current certificate holders to advance to diploma levels before phasing out certificates entirely.

President Samia also laid the foundation stone for a new Vocational Education and Training Authority (VETA) college in Kashai Street, Sumbawanga Municipality, urging local youth to take advantage of this new institution.

Prof Mkenda noted that this project would fulfil President Samia's directive for each region to have a VETA college. Currently, 64 additional VETA colleges are under construction.

VETA Chief Executive Anthony Kasore said that the Sumbawanga VETA college, constructed at a cost of TSh 6.8bn, includes 24 buildings, eight workshops, three staff houses and dormitories for 248 students.

### **Education budget increased, criticised as insufficient**

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology is expected to spend TSh 1.96 trillion in 2024/25, just under 200 billion more than its budget for the previous financial year. Part of this increase is intended to fund the implementation of the new education curricula, which began operations in January.

"We intend to expand opportunities and enhance the quality of technical and vocational education and training (TVET), as well as to make more opportunities available and improve the quality of primary, secondary and teacher education," said the Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda, in presenting his ministry's budget to parliament.

Husna Sekiboko, chair of parliament's education, culture and sports committee, noted that "despite this increase, the education budget

is only 14% of the total government budget, thus not reaching the international goal of 20%.”

Moreover, the committee was not satisfied with the funds allocated in some areas, including the implementation of the new education policy and curriculum. “This will result in a lack of learning and teaching infrastructure, a shortage of teachers with qualifications matching the new curricula, and may even affect students’ ability to achieve educational success,” Ms Sekiboko said.

The committee also noted that the majority of the ministry’s budget is allocated to the Higher Education Students Loans Board, which accounts for 60% of the development budget.

Prof. Mkenda mentioned that the government plans to increase loan opportunities from 223,201 to about 252,245. “The government aims to provide loans to 84,500 first-year students, including 80,000 for undergraduate programs, 2,000 for postgraduate programs, 500 for foreign students, and 2,000 for Samia Scholarships.”

Beyond parliament, analysts argued that the budget fails to reflect the reality of the educational reforms needed. “The issues of infrastructure are the same every year. We were not shown how the ministry will implement the new policies and curricula as planned because the approved amount cannot effectively achieve this,” Dr Wilberforce Meena, an education expert from HakiElimu.

Mr John Jafari, a retired teacher, echoed this view. He said the budget did not aim to bring about the changes that the government was talking about yet. “Before the arrival of the new curricula, the budget was already small, and now the needs have increased but not to the same extent as the allocated budget.” He added that “the burden rests squarely on the shoulders of the Ministry of Finance.”

### **Acute teacher shortage continues**

Despite government efforts to recruit and train more teachers at primary and secondary levels, statistics reveal a significant need for more teachers, especially competent ones. As of December 2023, Tanzania had 207,323 primary school teachers for 11,425,482 students – a pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of 1:57 – according to the Basic Education Statistics 2023, published by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS).

The statistics also reveal that some schools have one teacher handling

up to 600 students in a class, while others have over 1,000 students with only three teachers.

The government has promised to hire 12,000 teachers in the 2024/25 fiscal year. However, analysis shows that over 116,885 teachers would be needed to bring the teacher-student ratio down to 1:45 (the government's own mandated ratio) in early years and primary education alone. A similar number would also be needed for secondary schooling.

Mwanza and Songwe Regions trail, in having an average of 59 students taught by one teacher in 2023, while Kagera Region has an average of 58 students per teacher. Only five regions (Coast, Njombe, Arusha, Kilimanjaro and Dar es Salaam) had the recommended average PTR of 1:45.

The Deputy Minister of the President's Office Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities (PO-RALG), Ms Zainabu Katimba, explained that the latest recruitment drive is part of ongoing efforts to reduce the existing shortage of teachers. She pointed out that between the 2020/21 and 2022/23 fiscal years, the government had employed 29,879 new teachers, including 16,598 for primary schools and 13,281 for secondary schools.

### **Tradition blocks girls' progress in education in coastal areas**

Kisarawe, a coastal district, is grappling with a cultural belief that prioritises marriage over education for girls. This entrenched mindset is reportedly hindering government efforts to reintegrate teenage mothers into the school system.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan had previously issued a directive to allow pregnant students to return to school after giving birth, a reversal of her predecessor's policy on the issue. However, in some areas, implementation of the new approach has faced significant resistance.

One education officer in Kisarawe, who requested to remain anonymous, told *The Citizen* that "we face a very tough time encouraging them to return to school while the community is resistant. Some of these girls have already been married off and their education dream is lost."

According to a report by HakiElimu on reintegrating teenage mothers into formal secondary schooling, parents and community members hold traditional or conservative viewpoints that cast teenage pregnancy in a negative light, treating it as a matter of moral failing or social disgrace.

The prevailing attitude is that education for girls is secondary to their roles as wives and mothers, a belief that is deeply rooted and difficult to change, especially in families with strong beliefs in religious customs. Education experts argue that more intensive and culturally sensitive awareness campaigns are needed. “Changing deep-seated beliefs requires a multifaceted approach,” says education policy specialist, Ms Amina Mwajuma. “We need to engage community leaders, parents, and the girls themselves in dialogue about the long-term benefits of education.”

## Philip Richards: **SPORT**

### **Summer Olympics – Paris 2024**

As reported in TA 138, Tanzania sent 7 competitors to the XXXIII Olympiad in Paris, made up of four athletes (marathon), two swimmers and one competing in judo. Sadly, the country’s representatives returned empty handed, meaning that it is 44 years since Olympic medals (two silvers) were won in Moscow in 1980, and the glint of a gold medal remains an elusive dream.

In the men’s marathon, Alphonse Simbu finished a disappointing 17th after experiencing muscular pain 31km into the race, whilst Gabriel Geay did not finish the route. In the women’s race, whilst Magdalena Shauri posted a season’s best time, she still finished 40th whilst Jackline Sakilu did not finish.

In the pool, Collins Saliboko and Saphia Latiff did not advance beyond the heats of their 100m and 50m freestyle respectively. On the judo floor, Andrew Mlugu won his contest in the round of 32 for the 73kg class, but failed to progress against his French opponent in the round of 16.

Preparations will no doubt have started already for the Los Angeles 2028 Games. Alphonse Simbu has commented that the standards of other sports in the country need to be raised, rather than pinning the country’s hopes on athletics (*The Citizen*, 15/8/24). However, the challenge surely is for each sport, including athletics, to focus on raising their own standards, rather than comparing themselves to the perceived weaknesses of other sports, otherwise there is a risk that the only goal will be to meet the standards of the lowest common denominator.





*Hilmy Shawwal in Ealing (photo Oliver Monk)*

## **Paris 2024 Paralympic Games**

Hilmy Shawwal represented the country as its sole competitor in the Paralympics in August/September in the T54 100m wheelchair racing category. He has made history by becoming the first wheelchair racer to represent Tanzania and is hoping will inspire others to follow. The T54 class includes people with spinal cord injuries who compete using a wheelchair in track events. Although currently located in Ealing, UK, where he is a tutor and mentor to young people, Hilmy qualifies to represent Tanzania on account of it being his mother's country of birth.

In the event, he finished 6th in the heats so did not progress in the competition but his consistency and determination will surely inspire himself to greater heights and an example for others to follow (*Kingston Nub News 2/9/2024*)

## **Football**

The men's national team, Taifa Stars, kicked off their 2025 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) Group H campaign against Ethiopia in early September. The match played in Dar es Salaam ended in a goalless draw which was characterised by cautious play and a lack of clear-cut chances (*CAF Online, 4/9/24*). The team faces further group matches against Guinea and DR Congo in an attempt to reach the finals in Egypt in Morocco next year.

### Beach soccer

The conventional field-based game may be the most popular sport in the country, but competitive beach-based “soccer” is gaining popularity both in Tanzania and across the world. In Tanzania, you may see the game being played on the popular beaches of Kigamboni, Kwenda, Nungwi and Paje.

This popularity has led to an Africa-wide (AFCON) tournament to be held in Egypt in October. Tanzania’s campaign began with a match against Uganda in the qualifiers and has culminated in them reaching the 8-team finals. (*AllAfrica.com, 18/7/24*). Coach Jaruph Juma (pictured) is reported to be aiming progress the sport through qualification for the World Cup in Seychelles in 2025.



*Jaruph Juma, coach of the beach soccer team in action (FIFA)*

Donovan McGrath:

## TANZANIA IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

### **Rapidly urbanising Africa to have six cities with populations above 10m by 2035**

*(Guardian online – UK) Extract: ... Angola’s capital, Luanda, and Tanzania’s commercial hub, Dar es Salaam, will join the metropolises of Cairo, Kinshasa, Lagos and Greater Johannesburg with populations of more than 10 million, the Economist Intelligence Unit said in a report on African cities... This fast-paced urbanisation, which will result in more than half of Africans living in towns and cities by 2035, is expected to create wealth, dynamism and business opportunities, the report says. But, it adds: “Overcrowding, informal settlements, high unemployment, poor public services, stretched utility services and exposure to climate change are just some of the major challenges that city planners will have to grapple with.” By 2035, on top of the six megacities, the continent will have 17 urban areas with more than 5 million people and about another 100 with more than 1 million. Of the largest cities by 2035, Addis Ababa is expected to grow at an average annual rate of 10.6%, followed by Kampala, Dar es Salaam and Abidjan at above or near 9%... (22 August 2024)*

### **I spent three days with one of the world’s last hunter-gatherer tribes where they stalk squirrels and baboons with bows and arrows**

*(Daily Mail online – UK) Extract: An intrepid filmmaker has revealed how he spent three days living with one of the world’s last hunter-gatherer tribes in a bid to document their stripped-back existence. Ruhi Çenet ventured to near Lake Eyasi in Northern Tanzania with a guide and translator where he met with members of the Hadza tribe. He explains in a YouTube documentary detailing his trip, that the Hadza people ‘survive by hunting their food with bows and arrows just like our ancestors did thousands of years ago deep into the wild savannah.’ Some of the animals they hunt for food, Ruhi says, include rock hyrax, squirrels, antelopes, and baboons, and to wash it down, they drink ‘muddy water,’ as their ‘immune system is strong enough to deal with the bacteria and parasites.’ Along with a unique diet, Ruhi reveals that the Hadza people speak a complex language called Hadzane which combines spoken words with clicking noises. After being introduced*



*Ruhi Çenet and Hadza hunters*

to the tribe's chief, Sakoro, Ruhi prepares to go on a hunt with the male tribe members. They wake up very early in the morning in the darkness with around 10 hunting dogs in tow. Their weapons of choice include knives and arrows, with some rubbed in poison. As a form of camouflage, the men wear baboon furs and other animal skins on their head as well as around their torsos. The main portion of Ruhi's short film then focuses on the arduous and tiring task of hunting for food. The dogs help sniff out rock hyrax and mongoose in their underground dwellings, before the tribesmen go in and spear the animals... During their breaks, the men eat from honeycombs and Ruhi explains that honey is the tribe's 'liquid gold' and is 'packed with energy and vital nutrients to keep them going strong in the wild.' ... Ruhi reveals that there has been a drop in animal population in the region where the Hadza people live due to 'neighbouring tribes cutting down trees and driving away wildlife for crops and livestock.' ... (7 June 2024)

### **'I am their voice now': the Tanzanian rapper with a mission to spread pride in his own colour**

*(Guardian online – UK) K-Zungu, an up and coming singeli artist with albinism, says he was lucky to have a protective family because so many with the condition in Africa have not been so fortunate. Extract continues: Every day during school break, Ramadhani Idrisa Muhando and his friends would turn on their radio to listen to 20 Percent or Jose Chameleone, stars of bongo flava, a Tanzanian music genre influenced by hip-hop and R&B. So his love of music, he says, "has its roots in that schoolyard"*



*Singeli artist K-Zungu at Sisso Records, Dar es Salaam. Guardian*

in Tanga, on Tanzania's east coast, but it was singeli, a style developed 125 miles away in Dar es Salaam, that changed the course of his life. "Boda boda [motorcycle] drivers played singeli on loudspeakers. Those new rhythms flooded our neighbourhoods and I couldn't help but fall into its nets," he says. Muhando – know as K-Zungu – is a singeli artist, the first the country has known with albinism. "Zungu means 'white' in Swahili, and K is the first letter of my grandfather's name, Kaniki. That's why I chose that name," he says. Albinism, a hereditary condition that results in a lack of pigmentation in skin, hair and eyes, affecting one in 1,400 Tanzanians, is bound up with superstition. Some people believe myths that the body parts of people with the condition can bring wealth or cure illness, which has led to attacks and killings. UN statistics show 75 people with albinism were murdered in Tanzania between 2000 and 2016... K-Zungu ... is using his music to challenge the fears around albinism... His song, *Albino*, describes someone returning home to find a gang of boys threatening to cut off his hands and sell them. "We deserve peace and happiness. I'm proud of my colour, this is me," he raps in the song, appealing to the government to take action against those "who brutally attack and kill us"... (17 June 2024)

### **Idris Elba's studio plan sparks dreams of 'Zollywood'**

*(BBC News online – UK) Extract:* Hollywood star Idris Elba has been allocated land in Zanzibar ... to launch a film studio. The British actor, who has roots in Sierra Leone and Ghana, has previously voiced his ambitions to develop Africa's expanding film industry. Roughly a year-

and-a-half after discussing his plans with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, the authorities in the East African nation have given Elba the green light. The studio would be similar to any in “Hollywood, Nollywood or Bollywood” – and may give rise to “Zollywood”, Zanzibar’s investment minister is quoted by local media as saying. “I’m not sure how we will call it in Zanzibar, whether Zollywood or Zawood,” Shariff Ali Shariff joked as he addressed industry figures at the Zanzibar International Film Festival ... President Samia spoke with Elba, best known for his roles in *Luther* and *the Wire*, about the studio in January 2023 at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. Following discussions, the president’s spokesperson said “if successful, the project will help not only Tanzania but also eastern and central Africa”... (2 August 2024)

### **Tanzanian artist who burnt president’s picture freed**

*(BBC News online – UK) Extract:* A young Tanzanian portrait artist who was convicted ... of cybercrimes has been released from prison after social media users raised more than \$2,000 (£1,600) to pay his fine. Shadrack Chaula was ordered by a court to pay the fine or face two years in prison after he admitted recording a video that went viral on social media, showing him burning a picture of President Samia Suluhu Hassan while insulting her. “Thank you very much fellow Tanzanians for coming to my rescue,” Mr Chaula told journalists shortly after his release ... The case sparked an uproar in the country, with some lawyers saying the 24-year-old painter did not break any law by burning the picture. Police said they arrested him for using “strong words” against President Samia in the TikTok video he recorded in Ntokela village near the south-western city of Mbeya. When he appeared in court ... Mr Chaula was charged with spreading false information about the president, contravening the country’s cybercrime laws. The court ruled that his actions constituted cyber-harassment and incitement. Mr Chaula said the sentence was too harsh but the prosecution had pushed for a more severe penalty, saying this was necessary to deter others from “disrespecting” the president... (9 July 2024)

### **Tanzania police commander transferred over sex work comment**

*(BBC News online – UK) Extract:* A police commander in Tanzania’s capital, Dodoma, has been removed from her post following controversial comments in which she linked an alleged gang-rape victim to sex

work... [A] video appearing to show a young woman being assaulted went viral, prompting an outcry in the East African nation. Four men ... denied charges over the alleged attack... [The] police commander in ... Dodoma, was quoted in a Tanzanian newspaper as saying the “woman in question appeared to be engaged in sex work”. Following a backlash and accusations that the comment minimised the woman’s ordeal, Tanzania’s national police force apologised and said the commander had been transferred. “The police force would like to apologise to everyone who was touched and offended by the statement circulating in the media while monitoring is being done to find its accuracy,” national police spokesperson David Misime said ... Mr Msime added that in her comments to local newspaper Mwananchi, Dodoma Regional Commander Theopista Mallya had said that even if the woman was a sex worker, “she did not deserve to be treated that way”. These words did not appear in Mwananchi’s report – the BBC has contacted the newspaper for comment. In response to Mwananchi’s report, lawyer Peter Madeleka said on social media platform X that Ms Mallya’s comments were “proof of police cruelty to women’s rights”. Fatma Karume, a lawyer and prominent activist, also expressed outrage on X, writing: “Those who sell themselves can not be raped in this country?” In the video that appeared to show the woman being raped, the suspects reportedly interrogated her, forcing her to apologise to someone referred to as “afande”. In Tanzania “afande” is often used to refer to a soldier or police officer, so many activists and social media users expressed outrage that a sexual assault could have been carried out on the orders of a member of the security forces... (19 August 2024)

### **‘We don’t need more concrete’: A new village in Tanzania will use 3D printer and soil to build its community**

*(CNN online – USA) Extract:* Building with 3D printers has matured rapidly in recent years, as advances in technology and material science allow for grander and more ambitious designs. The potential uses are also increasingly varied, from affordable housing to a planned NASA base on the Moon. Most 3D-printed structures are built using concrete or other pourable, cementitious substances that are cheap, reliable and durable – although, almost invariably, with a hefty carbon footprint attached. But a nascent development in the field may offer a more sustainable approach: 3D printing with earth. In Kibaha, Tanzania, just

west of the capital Dar es Salaam, a group of pioneering architects are set to build a new village with “earth printing” at its heart. Created by architecture firms Hassell and ClarkeHopkinsClarke, alongside charity foundation One Heart Hope Village has been designed to help and house children from across the country who have experienced hardship or unsafe home environments... Nearly 50 buildings are planned for the site... The landmark building for Hope Village is its community center, a 3D-printed design that will serve as a school hall and cafeteria during the week and open to the wider community for events at weekends. The architects knew they wanted to use locally sourced earth for the community center, but were wary of the limitations of rammed earth, which is typically compacted into thick, flat walls. “We wanted to make sure that we’re able to create walls that could ventilate the building, but at the same time also bring in light,” said Hassell’s head of design and innovation, Xavier De Kestelier, in a video call with CNN... Building with earth dates back to prehistory and has taken many forms, including mudbricks, adobe and rammed earth. 3D printing with soil was first attempted in 2018, and the first 3D printed home made from entirely from earth, called TECLA, was designed by Mario Cucinella Architects and constructed near Ravenna, Italy in 2021... In Tanzania, the printer will build up layers of compacted soil in interconnected curved columns that leaves negative space for light and air to filter through. Beyond shape, engineering durability is a key challenge when working with earth. Concrete is a resilient material that can endure the elements; earth less so. But De Kestelier insists that when it comes to 3D-printed architecture, “we don’t need to use more concrete,” and that more sustainable options are the future – when used correctly... (1 August 2024)

### **Chilli bombs and honeybees: Weapons in Tanzania’s human-elephant conflict**

(*Aljazeera online – Qatar*) *Extract:* Mwana Athumani Msemo’s homestead sits encased in the undulating grasslands that surround Mount Kilimanjaro, an area so quiet and remote that clucking and bleating from her chicken and goat farm are the only sounds to be heard for kilometres. The landscape, with its crisp air and lush greens, holds glorious beauty. But for Msemo, it also holds ever-present anguish. It was somewhere in this wilderness that her husband took their cattle out to graze one afternoon two years ago and never returned. By the time the village



search team found him at the end of a long trail of elephant footprints, it was dark and he had been dead for hours – a gaping hole where his stomach once was... “He left me with five kids,” the 55-year-old said in Swahili, sitting in her living room, her hands over face. A sob escaped her pursed lips ... Across Tanzania ... expanding human populations are encroaching more and more on wildlife spaces, putting people on a collision course with roaming animals in increasingly fatal events. In many rural communities like Ngulu Kwakoa, which sits near a wildlife corridor, the most common are clashes with elephants – animals that must migrate in search of food and that can turn from gently giants to charging aggressors in an instant. The giant mammals are a massive pain for farmers, too... Finding solutions to elephant-human conflicts must focus on expanding and freeing up wildlife corridors, so the animals can roam more freely without encountering humans, analysts say... In Tanzania, some have taken to filling up rubber condoms with chilli powder – a spice the elephants hate – and hauling it at raiding invaders like bombs. Others use sound as a means of distraction, beating loudly on steel buckets at intervals to scare elephants away. Six hours west of the Kilimanjaro region, communities are scaling another method pioneered by [Lucy] King herself [a researcher with Save the Elephants, a non-profit based in southern Kenya], with the help of an unlikely character – tiny honeybees. In her research, King found that elephants are mightily scared of bees. Stings on the sensitive insides of their trunks, the sides of their mouths, and behind their ears are so painful, that the intelligent animals know to scam when they hear the buzz of a hive. Playing on that fear, King came up with the idea to position bees strategically around farms and realised that it could deter elephants from going ahead with raids. After testing the method in Kenya, the researcher created a manual and published it so that conservationists from Tanzania to India are now making use of it... (11 June 2024)

**‘Women have always been sidelined. So we’re radical’: the Zawose Queens go from Tanzania to Glastonbury**

*(Guardian online – UK)* The multi-talented musicians were held back in their home country where even certain instruments were off limits ... Extract continues: Walking into an industrial estate in Peckham, I can hear impassioned cries coming out of a rehearsal space located here. Soaring vocals are punctuated by the gentle strum of a thumb piano along with



*Leah and Pendo Zawose - the Zawose Queens - Photo Michael Mbwambo*

bells that are strapped to the shaking ankles of Pendo and Leah Zawose, who make up the Zawose Queens. It's their first time playing this music outside Tanzania ... The remarkable singing that fills the room has a long history in the Zawose family, with Pendo's father and Leah's grandfather Hukwe being a pioneer of Gogo music, which is specific to the tribe they belong to... Pendo sang and performed with her father, who died in 2003, since she was a child. However, for years her role was limited. "The women were always in the background," she says... "This is an opportunity to be at the forefront, prove myself, and shine." Now singing and playing a range of instruments, the Zawose Queens came to be after a British Council-funded project connecting Tanzanian and British artists put Leah and Pendo together with UK producers Tome Excell and Oli Barton-Wood. They have made an album together, the recently released *Maisha*. "This record has been something I've been dreaming of doing since I was 12," says Barton-Wood. "I moved to Tanzania for two years, and went to school there, so I've always wanted to come back to do a project like this." *Maisha* is rooted in traditional singing and instrumentation, featuring chizeze fiddle along with muheme and ngoma drums but it's also embellished with more contemporary electronic touches... The Zawose Queens ... also have a special show at Womad festival, where Hukwe used to perform as a trailblazing, yet rare, Tanzanian artist ... (25 June 2024)

Martin Walsh:

## REVIEWS

**ETHNICITY, IDENTITY, AND CONCEPTUALIZING COMMUNITY IN INDIAN OCEAN EAST AFRICA.** Daren E. Ray. Ohio University Press, Athens, Ohio, 2023. 329 pp. ISBN: 9780821426135 (paperback). USD \$36.95.



*From the cover of the book under review. Daren Ray/Ohio University Press*

For more than half a century, “ethnicity” and “community” as concepts have been at the centre of scholarship in eastern and southern Africa. More recently, academics have sought to understand the underlying cultural, historical, and political circumstances that (re)made social groups. In this volume from the Indian Ocean Studies Series at Ohio University Press, Darren Ray draws cases from southeastern Kenya to address how societies imagined themselves in contexts at the intersection of Africa and the Indian Ocean during the last two thousand years. The author emphasises the last two to five hundred years to avoid the typical foreshortening of history that often enables mummified social categories, such as “tribe”, in the region’s scholarship. Ray recounts developments internal to Kenya, but also social outcomes impacted by transoceanic commerce and the effects of disproportionate power in the postcolonial setting of an independent state.

In scholarship about Africa, it is now common to recognise that cultural communities were not absolutes; they varied somewhat from location to

location, shifted through time, and existed with permeable boundaries. Practices influence group relations. Difference is meaningfully constituted but did not neatly predetermine monolithic ethnic identities. Although these generalisations are well understood, authors rarely detail such cases in ways that crosscut deep precolonial and postcolonial contexts. Ray's work is a positive treatment in that it sheds the typical straitjackets of discipline, geography, and chronology to address social mosaics and change. His nuanced analysis – which also ranges beyond the “coast” and “hinterland” as exclusive geographies and beyond Africa and the Indian Ocean as separate domains of influence – highlights intersections: frontiers and cross-cultural interfaces that complicate the “local” and “global” via the region. In this volume, interdisciplinary evidence, from linguistics, material culture, oral traditions and histories, documents, and other sources, provides the substance that exposes relational dynamics within and among communities in Kenya. As the author demonstrates well, practices and expressions linked to language, kinship, and religion have ideological and ontological implications for concepts such as ethnicity and for interpretations of society.

Divided into three sections and eight substantive chapters, Ray's text shows that societies tend to categorise members using cultural characteristics and charters as they integrate historically distinct groups into a single political economy. The Comaroffs, Igor Kopytoff, and, in southeastern Kenya, Chapurukha Kusimba, among others, have engaged the topic of social and commercial networks with sophistication. In these cases, ethnicity is a “set of relations” and a “mode of consciousness”, a fact that pushes back against earlier, often colonial, representations that immutable African societies occupied specific areas. Precolonial African people, of course, had long engaged other people on the continent and beyond it through collaboration and competition. Ray emphasises the “littoral” as a domain of both the Swahili and Mijikenda peoples. The volume outlines changes to lineages and religious sects, among other social identities. Thus, kinship, Islam, and urban invention are treated as integral to shifts in identity and in place-making practice. This approach and the overall narrative address the ways speakers of Sabaki languages reconceived identities under changed regional circumstances and politics through time.

By examining multiple groups in the same speech community – the Swahili and Mijikenda are both members of the Sabaki language family in the littoral – Ray subverts the past practice of anthropologists and historians who reiterated single ethnicities through their research and writing. The author examines the ancestry

of ethnicity from deep time up to the contemporary moment to challenge the assumption that ethnicity is a colonial derivation. Ray notes, "...even at their greatest strain, relationships among Mijikenda and Swahili communities tended to be more amicable than those with Kamba or Oromo communities, whom they excluded as perpetual immigrants to the coast" (p. 242). The speakers of Sabaki languages, he stresses, "identify more as members of clan confederations that were founded as long ago as the sixteenth century (e.g., Rabai or Jomvu) than as members of the Mijikenda or Swahili ethnic group. ...they [also] employ religious practice as a key criterion for determining ethnic belonging" (p. 242). Ray employs a "cis-oceanic approach" (à la David Armitage in the Atlantic world), to study the movement and consequences of the intersection of people, products, and ideas in a specific coastal region. In such approaches, the ocean is treated as the link among parts but not the subject of analysis.

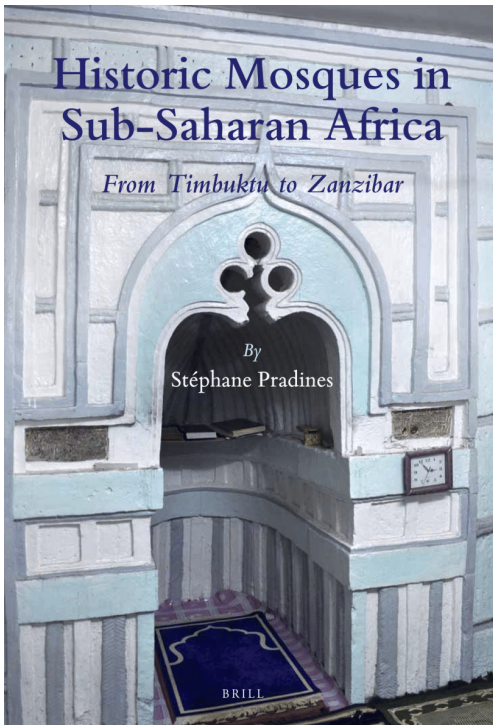
Ray's volume and its contributions are a welcome addition to the scholarship of eastern Africa. His writing is clear and engaging. However, there are concerning absences in citation. A lapse, Ray does not cite Chapurukha Kusimba's decades-long interdisciplinary scholarship on social mosaics and coast-hinterland entanglement in southeastern Kenya. In addition, after making robust arguments that scholars should work across spatial and social boundaries, the author closely follows nation-state borders to procure cases and sources. Research in Tanzania previously examined in detail topics closely aligned to Ray's text, including in areas of northeastern parts of the country which also are home to Swahili and Mijikenda communities. The works of Rhonda Gonzales and Geoffrey Owens are demonstrative of research in Tanzania that partially parallels Ray's narrative. They detail changes to societies' expressions and practices across time in a holistic regional manner (among communities) that consciously entangles the coast and hinterland. It might then be asked why nation-state boundaries are maintained as a frame of research practice by Ray when other boundaries are treated as permeable or unjustly limiting to debates about ethnicity and community in eastern Africa at large, especially for widespread groups self-identified as "littoral" along a lengthy coastline.

This volume makes an important contribution to history and social science in southeastern Kenya while challenging problematic dichotomies and mummified identities on the continent. Ray's text will interest anthropologists, historians, political scientists, and Africanists in general, as well as those who want to learn more about similar dynamics and related communities in Tanzania.

Jonathan R. Walz

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**HISTORIC MOSQUES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: FROM TIMBUKTU TO ZANZIBAR** (Handbook of Oriental Studies. Section 1 The Near and Middle East, Vol. 163). Stéphane Pradines. Brill, Leiden and Boston, 2022. xviii + 350, with 213 colour illustrations. ISBN: 978-90-04-44554-3 (hardback) EUR 149.00; ISBN: 978-90-04-47261-7 EUR 149.00.



This compendious and well-illustrated volume, written by Stéphane Pradines, Professor of Islamic Art and Architecture at the Aga Khan University in London, is advertised as “the first comprehensive synthesis on mosques in sub-Saharan Africa, bringing together sites from more than twenty states from sub-Saharan Africa; and more than 285 monuments, from the IXth to the XIXth centuries.” In his relatively brief introduction, Pradines tells us that in addition to its broad scope, the “originality of this book resides in the presentation of African monuments in their historical, political and economic context”. This is facilitated by its division

into three main geographical areas, each characterised by different religious and architectural traditions. Chapter 1, “The Mosques of the Niger Valleys”, is more than 100 pages long and focuses on the mud brick mosques of West Africa, the “Sudanese” mosques as they were once called. The second chapter has the longest title (“The Mosques from the Horn of Africa to the Valleys of the Nile”) but at 30 pages is by far the shortest of the three, reflecting the lack of research in this strife-torn region.

Chapter 3, “The Mosques of the Indian Ocean Coast”, is longer than the other two chapters combined, and will no doubt be of most interest to the readers of *Tanzanian Affairs*.

This last chapter is in turn divided into twelve sections, the headings of which will give some idea of its contents:

- 3.1 The Swahilis [sic], a Cultural Model of Multiple Origins
- 3.2 Historiography of Research on the Swahili Mosques
- 3.3 The History of the East Coast of Africa
- 3.4 Trade and Islam in the Indian Ocean
- 3.5 Technology and Construction of the Swahili Mosques
- 3.6 Morphology of the Swahili Mosques
- 3.7 The Decorative Programme of the Swahili Mosques
- 3.8 Regional Groups and the Chronology of the Swahili Mosques
- 3.9 The Swahili Mosques of the Thirteenth Century
- 3.10 The Swahili Mosques of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries
- 3.11 Portuguese Domination and the Style of Lamu, Sixteenth to Seventeenth Centuries
- 3.12 The Swahili Mosques of the Nineteenth Century

The full list including subheadings can be downloaded from the publication webpage (<https://brill.com/display/title/59360>). This provides much more detail than can be included in a short review and is well worth perusing. Along with a good index, it is very helpful to have such a breakdown in a book that is likely to be most used as a work of reference. This is certainly one of the ways in which I will use it; I’ve also enjoyed reading about architectural and other aspects of the Swahili mosques and their history from the regional and wider perspectives that Pradines provides. There are still many lacunae in that history, and surveys of this kind are useful for drawing attention to them, whether intentionally or not. In addition to the obvious gaps in the archaeological record, it is frustrating to see so little attention being paid to linguistic evidence, though I was no more surprised by this than by the author’s intemperate criticism of “Africanist researchers” and their alleged efforts to “obliterate exogenous influences” (p. 157) in their reconstructions of coastal history.

Pradines concludes the text with an epilogue that is even shorter than his introduction. It is followed by a couple of annexes and other supporting matter, including glossaries. Given the high cost of this volume, it's a pity that more effort was not put into proof-reading and smoothing out the translation from the author's original French. That said, it is a very welcome addition to the literature on the heritage of Islam and Islamic architecture in Africa that will hopefully contribute positively to both understanding and conservation. And with any luck, it will also encourage other researchers to fill in some of those gaps and move beyond those contested historiographies.

Martin Walsh

*Martin Walsh is the Book Reviews Editor of Tanzanian Affairs.*

*Also noticed:*

**MORE THAN A RESOURCE – THE SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE OF LOCAL SEED SYSTEMS AND SEED EXCHANGE IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH: THE EXAMPLE OF TANZANIA.** Jonas Metzger. Springer VS, Wiesbaden, 2023. xv + 185 pp. ISBN: 978-3-658-40010-1 (paperback) EUR 74.99; ISBN: 978-3-658-40011-8 (eBook) EUR 64.19.

Here is the publisher's blurb: "Seeds are at the heart of a transformation process that affects more than two billion people worldwide. This study on smallholder farmers in Tanzania examines how local seed systems are anchored in the socio-cultural structures of smallholder life worlds. Using the example of seeds, the close interweaving of agricultural and social practice is traced and it is worked out how individual processes of modernisation brought in from outside have far-reaching consequences for smallholder coexistence. The study provides a concrete, detailed and differentiated account of everyday farming life and of how smallholder households deal with seeds. A particular focus is on seed exchange relationships and how these provide both social security and social cohesion in the study region. The study is based on extensive field research and intensive interviews with farmers, who also have their own say in the work."

And, for the sake of transparency, here is the publisher's declaration (confession?) on the copyright page: "This book is a translation of the original German edition "Mehr als eine Ressource - die soziale Bedeutung lokaler Saatgutssysteme und des Saatgutaustausches im Globalen Süden" by Metzger, Jonas, published by Springer Fachmedien Wiesbaden GmbH in 2022. The



translation was done with the help of artificial intelligence (machine translation by the service DeepL.com). A subsequent human revision was done primarily in terms of content, so that the book will read stylistically differently from a conventional translation. Springer Nature works continuously to further the development of tools for the production of books and on the related technologies to support the authors.” (!) They must have judged that this will not put off potential readers of such a seminal study.

**A DESCRIPTION OF PIMBWE (BANTU, TANZANIA): PHONOLOGY, GRAMMAR, AND DISCOURSE.** Jonathan Weiss. SIL e-Books 084, SIL International, 2023. vii + 97 pp. ISSN: 1934-2470 (eBook). Free to download from <https://www.sil.org/resources/publications/entry/97737>.

The Pimbwe are a relatively little known ethnic and linguistic group who live to the northwest of Lake Rukwa in what is now Katavi Region. Their Bantu language is one of many in southwestern Tanzania that is being documented by researchers working with SIL International, the evangelical organisation formerly known as the Summer Institute of Linguistics. Jonathan Weiss’s recently published description of Pimbwe is based on a MA dissertation completed in 2020 at Trinity Western University (British Columbia, Canada) that is also free to read online. As his abstract makes clear, this is a technical work: “The present study is the first formal description of Pimbwe [...]. After situating the Pimbwe language within the wider linguistic context, I describe Pimbwe phonology, tone, and grammar, with particular emphasis on the structure of the verb. Over 150 interlinear language examples are given. Finally, natural language use in extended discourse is described based on two running commentaries of the Pear Story film. The full text of the two Pear Stories is given in two appendices” (p. iii). (This refers to a “six-minute film made at the University of California at Berkeley in 1975 and shown to speakers of a number of languages, who were asked to tell what happened in it” (p. 5)). It’s good to see descriptive studies like this in print. As well as tracking down some of the references that Weiss gives, readers wanting to know more about the past and present of the Pimbwe might like to look up the work of the evolutionary anthropologist Monique Borgerhoff Mulder and her colleagues, including the interesting volume on *The History and Traditions of the Pimbwe* that was published by Mkuki na Nyota in 2014.

Martin Walsh

Ben Taylor:

## OBITUARIES

Prominent businessman and former Yanga Africans Football Club sponsor, **Yusuf Manji**, has died at the age of 48. He passed away in June in Florida, USA, where he had been receiving treatment. The news of his death was confirmed by his son, Mehbub Manji.

Manji built a reputation for entrepreneurial success and business leadership. He is particularly noted for his role as the founder and chairman of Quality Group Limited, a USD \$700m conglomerate with interests in manufacturing (including plastics and steel products), beverages, and pharmaceuticals. Under his stewardship, Quality Group grew to become one of Tanzania's leading industrial groups, and in 2017 Manji was listed by Forbes magazine as being one of Tanzania's richest men.

The football community had particular reason to mourn Manji's passing. The president of Young Africans, Hersi Said, expressed deep sorrow over Manji's death, describing it as a profound loss.

"He was a visionary leader who dedicated himself to laying a strong foundation for our team. His commitment to sports development in our country was unparalleled," Hersi said in a statement.

Born into one of the richest families in Tanzania, with his father being a respected businessman, Manji received a high-quality education. He studied at the American College of Switzerland, Morehouse College in Atlanta, and Hofstra University in New York. He took over his father's Dar-based motor works company in 1995 at the age of just 20. He diversified the company and turned it into a sprawling billion-dollar conglomerate. Over time, he became active in philanthropy and became close to various politicians, including both President Mkapa and President Kikwete.

The business magnate later drew unwanted attention from the government of President John Magufuli, which accused Manji of tax evasion and improper business practices, including a controversial tender to supply military uniforms. The government launched audits and investigations into the financial operations of several companies, and several of Manji's companies were accused of wrongdoing following the audits. The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) shut down one of his



*Yusuf Manji pictured in 2015*

company's farming outfits and demanded over TSh 12 billion in unpaid taxes.

Several economic and national security charges were brought against Manji, leading to his arrest. He had been a councillor in Tememe (Dar es Salaam) at the time, but ended up losing his seat after failing to attend six consecutive plenary council meetings while in detention. He was later released after the Director of Public Prosecutions dropped the charges against him.

The Quality Group empire suffered the brunt of his legal battles, undergoing restructuring and divestment as Manji struggled to put his life back together.

Manji had previously been considered untouchable, according to political analyst Buberwa Kaiza. "He wielded considerable influence as a prominent businessman with close ties to the state, especially during the administrations of Benjamin Mkapa and Jakaya Kikwete respectively."

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