



ZANZIBAR President, Dr Hussein Mwinyi addresses Brazil delegation in the country and the Ministry of Health officials collaborating on maternal and child mortality programme during a meeting at the State House in the Isles, yesterday. (Photo by Zanzibar State House)

## TZ scoops UN award on digitilising public services

By BERNARD LUGONGO

GOVERNMENT'S efforts to digitalise services in public institutions have earned global recognition, with the United Nations (UN) Public Service Forum 2024 awarding the country for initiating e-Mrejesho platform under the e-Government Authority (e-GA).

Tanzania was among the only two African countries awarded yesterday during the forum, the other being South Africa.

The three-day annual forum, which was held in Songdo-Incheon, west of Seoul in the Republic of Korea, from Monday concluded yesterday with 72 UN Member States attending.

A total of 15 local governments and public institutions from around the world were honored with the United Nations Public Service Awards (UNPSA).

The awards were presented by Li Junhua, UN's Under-secretary-general for economic and social affairs, and the Republic of Korea's Interior Minister Lee Sang-min and received by Tanzania's Deputy Permanent Secretary in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), Xavier Daudi.

"I would like to congratulate all the awardees of the U.N. Public Service Awards. Your initiatives have showcased the breadth of innovations that governments are undertaking for inclusive development and fostering a culture of innovation in the public sector, which encourages generation of new ideas," Mr Li Junhua, UN's Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, said in his closing remarks.

He said it also means leveraging the technology to streamline the process and delivery of public services is critical in an effective and responsive public sector. Mr Li said throughout the session they heard inspiring examples of impactful public sector initiatives regarding digital technology advancement. The Tanzania's winning e-Mrejesho is a platform which centralizes the process of receiving citizen complaints, inquiries, and feedback. This online space promotes data-driven decision-making by collecting and analyzing citizen feedback and complaints. It empowers government agencies to make informed decisions based on public needs and concerns, fostering adaptability and responsiveness in governance.

The platform's user-centric approach also enhances the citizen experience and engagement with government agencies. After the award ceremony, e-GA's Director General, Eng Benedict Ndomba, said the e-Mrejesho platform is helpful in saving time and money, where a citizen is not forced to travel a long distance to public office to submit his/her complaints or making a follow up on the implementation, instead, he/she can do it digitally through his/her mobile phones.

"In the past when a person wanted to present complaints over public service, he/she was forced to physically submit them in the suggestion box or send a letter to the particular institution, but currently it is done digitally," Eng Ndomba explained.

Launched in 2003, the annual awards promote effectiveness, transparency and inclusivity to achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals by highlighting the creative achievements and contributions of public institutions addressing the social, economic and environmental needs of society.

The UNPSA were presented in three categories — innovation in public institutions, gender-responsive public services and tackling climate change. Five winners in the innovation in public institutions category were Sao Paulo City Hall, Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, Latvia's State Chancellery, the Western Cape Government of South Africa and Thailand's Chulalongkorn University.

and Investments), Prof Kitila Mkumbo said the economy expanded by 5.1 per cent in 2023 despite the impacts of adverse global economic situation, and is projected to grow to 6 per cent this year, the government has said.

The main drivers of growth were strategic investments in energy and transport infrastructure, tourism and mineral exports as the government undertook measures to cushion the economy from adverse impacts of global economic uncertainties.

However, despite stellar growth of the economy, it was slightly below 5.2 per cent target for 2023 mainly because of the rise in production costs in some sectors, and pro-longed rains which affected agricultural production and damaged roads and bridges in some areas.

## Budget sails through

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will each be cut by a half and the money be directed to roads and water projects.

### National debt

Dr Nchemba said the national debt that has increased to 91.7tr/- up to March 2024 is sustainable according to international ratings agencies. Moody's Analytics upgraded Tanzania's credit rating from B2 to "B1 with a stable outlook" in March 2024 signaling — in part — the agency's confidence about the country's improved business environment, and viewed as a stamp of approval for President Samia Suluhu Hassan's pro-business agenda.

The minister said Tanzania was seeking loans to finance strategic energy and transport infrastructure development such as construction of the standard gauge railway. He said Tanzania was also seeking loans not because it is a poor country but because it was rich and could be trusted by international lenders.

"The richest (country) in the world has the largest

debt," said the minister adding the ten leading economies have the largest loans.

The US, the richest nation in the world in terms of GDP, leads the world with the highest debt close to 70 trillion US dollars followed by China, the second richest whose debt is total debt is around 47.5 trillion US dollars.

The minister said there would be no day a Tanzanian would be asked to pay government loans as some corrupt politicians claim.

### CNG conversion

Minister Nchemba said the government was going to lead by example by converting its vehicles to run on gas.

"The government is going to be a model on use of vehicles that run on gas... on use of natural gas on vehicles we are going to be a model," he said. He said the government would also open CNG fueling stations in Morogoro and Dodoma and more in other regions.

The minister said he had instructed the OC budget by 20 per cent and the money to be channeled to the CNG subsector.

### US dollar scarcity:

Minister Nchemba said the government will employ various strategies to improve access of the US dollars.

He said foreign currencies and US dollars in particular is obtained through exports, loans and grants. The government has increased investments productive sectors to boost exports.

He said he was also optimistic that access of US dollars would improve in the new financial year as the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Plant (JNHPP), the biggest hydropower station in Tanzania, nears completion.

The cost of implementing the JNHPP project, which is expected to generate 2,115 megawatts of electricity, is 6.5tr/- (about 3.9 billion US dollars).

The minister said other measures to address the problem of US dollar scarcity will include to enforcing Bank of Tanzania Act section 26, which provides that Tanzanian Shilling is the only legal tender.

The government will come up with regulations and punishment for those who will go against the law.

## IMF: TZ economy to rebound to 6.5pc

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to process gas from fields operated by Equinor, Shell and ExxonMobil, producing 10 million metric tons per year.

Economic activity is picking up despite challenges from the unfavorable global economic environment and domestic factors.

The real GDP growth picked up to 5.1 per cent in 2023, from 4.7 per cent in 2022, on the back of strong growth in agriculture, mining, and financial services.

Presenting the state of the economy for 2023 in the National Assembly recently, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Planning

and Investments), Prof Kitila Mkumbo said the economy expanded by 5.1 per cent in 2023 despite the impacts of adverse global economic situation, and is projected to grow to 6 per cent this year, the government has said.

The main drivers of growth were strategic investments in energy and transport infrastructure, tourism and mineral exports as the government undertook measures to cushion the economy from adverse impacts of global economic uncertainties.

However, despite stellar growth of the economy, it was slightly below 5.2 per cent target for 2023 mainly because of the rise in production costs in some sectors, and pro-longed rains which affected agricultural production and damaged roads and bridges in some areas.

The minister hinted out that the situation was also compounded by the impact of monetary policy tightening in advanced economies, which increased cost of borrowing from global financial markets, contributing to tight credit conditions, negatively affecting production.

The growth slowed to 4.7 per cent in 2022 from 4.9 per cent in 2021, due in part to the impact of the war in Ukraine that sent commodity prices, notably on food and energy, soaring.

## President Ruto withdraws controversial finance bill

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dissatisfaction which resulted in to the loss of lives, destruction of property and desecration of constitutional institutions.

He sent his condolences to the families of those who lost their loved ones during the protest against the contentious bill.

To address concern raised by the citizens pertaining to the Finance Bill 2024, Dr Ruto pledged an engagement with young people in the country to listen to their issues and agree with them on their priority areas.

"I also propose that within the next 14 days, a multi-sectorial, multi-stakeholder engagement be held with a view to charting the way forward on matters relating to the content of the bill," he said.

Furthermore, he directed for the immediate measures to reduce expenditure, starting with the Executive Office of the President and extending to the entire executive arm of government as the means

to secure the country's economy gripped with debt.

He explained that the cut in expenditure will include reduction in operational spending of the president office, to remove allocations for the confidential vote, reduce travel budget, hospitality and purchase of motor vehicles and renovations.

Likewise, he directed the parliament, the judiciary and county governments working with the National Treasury also to undertake budget cuts and austerity urging them to operate within their means.

Dr Ruto called upon all Kenyans to undertake constructive talks within the foundational principles including constitutionalism, adherence to the rule of law which are blueprint for prosperity of their country in all endeavors.

Earlier, the African Union (AU) urged Kenyan leaders and citizens to engage in constructive dialogue in order to address the contentious issues, which culminate into protests.

## Premier launches Bunge history books

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Ackson commended President Samia Suluhu Hassan for approving expansion plans of the National Assembly, which include acquiring surrounding land areas.

People and public institutions that occupied land surrounding the National Assembly here have relocated to pave the way for expansion plans.

Dr Tulia said they are planning to construct a museum which will be big so that when one comes to the Parliament, one will get the history of the country and that of the National Assembly," she said.

The Clerk of the National Assembly, Nenenelwa Mwi-

hambi said through the two books, people would understand changes experienced since it was established.

People would also understand the course that the country undertook through decisions made in the Parliament and Members of Parliament in the political system.

Earlier, the Director for Department of Library and Research Deogratius Egidio said for the first time, the Parliament has written its own history in depth since it was established 98 years ago.

"The books have been written to preserve history of various issues and changes that occurred in Parliament before and after independence so that it can be heritage for future generation.

## Makala sees brighter future for TSN

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global technological changes, and operating commercially.

He advised the government owned Newspaper Company to develop a robust strategic business plan that will embrace and increase the use of digital technology in news' dissemination to capture wider readership and viewership market.

Mr Makala made these remarks yesterday during his visit at the TSN headquarters in Dar es Salaam, as part of his familiarisation tour in various media houses in the country.

"You must have a good

and clear strategic business and its execution plan, it is very important to have a clear roadmap of where you are heading, what you are doing and what you want to achieve. I urge you to conduct thorough research to understand the market requirements," said Mr Makala.

He also commended the TSN management for taking significant steps in embracing technological changes and using social media platforms in news dissemination, apart from the customary newspapers.

Mr Makala urged the company to increase the pace to capture the wider reader-

ship market, particularly the youth, whose generation is largely based online.


In addition to that, he praised TSN for continuing to maintain and protect its reputation as a reputable and reliable media house in the country, and equally asked the company to continue safeguarding its reputation by considering its significant role of being the mouthpiece for the government and general public.

"TSN is an institution that has maintained its long-standing reputation, and you cannot hear of it being taken to court or arbitration. Therefore, I urge you to continue


protecting this reputation so that it can endure," he said.

In a related development, he commended Ms Asha Dachi for being appointed as the Acting Managing Director of TSN and wished her well in bringing about a significant transformation in the media sector through the government owned newspaper company.

Furthermore, Mr Makala, expressed his condolences to TSN Management, employees and readers for the departure of the former veteran journalist and Editor for Daily News Ms Pudenciana Temba, who passed away on Tuesday in Dar es Salaam.



**JAMHURI YA MUUNGANO WA TANZANIA**  
**TUME HURU YA TAIFA YA UCHAGUZI**



**TAARIFA KWA UMMA KUHUSU ASASI ZILIZOPATA KIBALI  
CHA KUTOA ELIMU YA MPIGA KURA NA UANGALIZI  
WAKATI WA UBORSHAJI WA DAFTARI LA KUDUMU LA  
WAPIGA KURA MWAKA 2024/2025**

Dodoma, 25 Juni, 2024

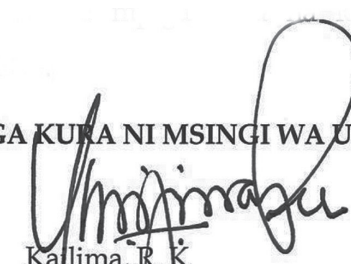
Tume Huru ya Taifa ya Uchaguzi katika kikao chake cha tarehe 22 na 24 Juni, 2024, kwa kuzingatia kifungu cha 10(1) (g) na (h) cha Sheria ya Tume Huru ya Taifa ya Uchaguzi Na. 2 ya Mwaka 2024 ikisomwa pamoja na kanuni ya 46(4) ya kanuni za Uboreshaji wa Daftari la Kudumu la Wapiga Kura za Mwaka 2024 imetova vibali vya kutoa elimu ya mpiga kura wakati wa uboreshaji wa Daftari la Kudumu la Wapiga Kura kwa asasi za kiraia 157 na kibali cha uangalizi wa uboreshaji kwa asasi 34 za ndani ya nchi.

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Majina ya taasisi na asasi za kiraia zilizopata kibali cha kutoa elimu ya mpiga kura na uangalizi wakati wa uboreshaji wa Daftari la Kudumu la Wapiga Kura 2024/2025 yatatangazwa kupitia tovuti ya Tume [www.inec.go.tz](http://www.inec.go.tz) na mitandao ya kijamii.

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**KUJIANDIKISHA KUWA MPIGA KURA NI MSINGI WA UCHAGUZI BORA!!**



Kallima, R. K.  
**MKURUGENZI WA UCHAGUZI**

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