



AAR case against Dr Warsame held in camera

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE case involving Dr Abdi Warsame, who is accused of fraudulently obtaining millions of shillings from the health insurance company AAR (now Assemble), is being conducted in private, without public or media attendance.

The 'Daily News' sought clarification from Senior Resident Magistrate Gwantwa Mwanakuga, who is presiding over the case at Kisutu Resident Magistrate's Court in Dar es Salaam, but received no clear explanation regarding the imposed restrictions.

The magistrate stated that she was not in a position to provide an answer, as she had assumed responsibility for the trial from another magistrate midway through the proceedings.

"What I can confirm is that the case is indeed being held in camera," Magistrate Mwanakuga remarked. She then directed this newspaper to the prosecutors' office, noting that they would be better positioned to provide explanations, including the application for the case to be conducted in private and the reasons behind it.

The 'Daily News' visited the prosecutors' office

at Kisutu Magistrate Court. However, attempts to obtain an explanation regarding the decision to conduct proceedings in private proved futile.

The state attorney prosecuting the case simply confirmed that "the case is being conducted in camera."

When this newspaper sought an explanation for why the hearing was conducted in private, given the public interest of the case, the prosecutor advised this reporter to consult the head of the prosecution for the Dar es Salaam Zone for further clarification.

"For us here at the Kisutu prosecution office cannot provide reasons for the restriction. Perhaps you should seek answers from our in-charge," the prosecutor, who identified himself as Erick Kamala insisted.

However, the head of prosecution for Dar es Salaam Zone could not be found in his office.

Dr Warsame is facing two separate cases, both of which are currently at the stage of prosecution witnesses presenting evidence.

One of the cases is being heard by Senior Magistrate Mwanakuga, who is reviewing evidence related to fraud allegations. Dr Warsame is accused of obtaining millions of shillings from AAR

(now Assemble) by allegedly using his hospitals to falsify documents, thereby acquiring funds that were not subject to taxation.

The other case, being heard by Senior Resident Magistrate Rahimu Mushi, involves accusations that Dr Warsame fraudulently defrauded the company Strategies and obtained millions of shillings through deceptive means.

In Tanzania, several Acts provide for in camera proceedings. These are designed to protect the privacy of individuals involved, especially in sensitive cases. Some of the Acts include the Children and Young Persons Act (Cap 13). This Act provides for the conduct of proceedings in juvenile courts to be held in camera, ensuring the privacy and protection of minors.

Another is the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act, 1998, which allows for in camera hearings in cases of sexual offences, particularly to protect the identities of victims and witnesses and the Evidence Act (Cap 6) Section 135 which allows for in camera hearings in certain circumstances where public hearings may harm the interests of justice or individuals involved.

The list of the Acts also

has the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, 2015, which includes provisions for in camera hearings in cases involving domestic violence, particularly to protect the privacy of victims, while the Employment and Labour Relations Act (Cap 366), allows for in camera hearings in labour disputes involving sensitive matters, especially concerning private employment disputes.

The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act, 2008 is also in the list. This Act contains provisions for in camera proceedings in human trafficking cases, to protect victims, especially minors, as well as the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act, 2006, where in certain human rights violations cases, the Act allows in camera proceedings to safeguard the privacy of parties involved.

Also, the Criminal Procedure Act (Cap 20), where Section 250 of the Criminal Procedure Act allows the court to order in camera proceedings, particularly for certain types of trials, including those involving minors or sensitive matters.

These Acts aim to protect vulnerable individuals, maintain the integrity of the legal process and ensure fair treatment in sensitive cases.

SECRETARY General of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Ambassador Dr Emmanuel Nchimbi hosts Algerian Ambassador to Tanzania Ahmed Djellal for a farewell at the CCM's sub-office Lumumba in Dar es Salaam, yesterday. (Photo courtesy of CCM)

State pushes LNG deal

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Dr Biteko was speaking to India's Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh, during a discussion to explore opportunities for enhancing bilateral trade and investment in the energy sector. The conversation took place in New Delhi during the third annual Energy Week celebrations in India.

He highlighted the need for more competition in the fuel sector to ensure consistent availability.

"Tanzania is committed to utilising all available resources to ensure a sufficient energy supply, including electricity, to meet the needs of its citizens," Dr Biteko said.

He explained that for the energy projects to advance, there must be involvement of various stakeholders including the private sector.

He said Tanzania requires 12 billion US dollar to meet its energy needs and private sector participation is crucial to achieving this.

Dr Biteko welcomed Indian investors to explore opportunities in Tanzania's energy sector. "We are inviting Indian investors to venture in the energy sector in Tanzania, we have strong and favour-

able policies that promote investments," he said.

He said the India's Energy Week has provided valuable insights into the sector, facilitated knowledge exchange and promoted investment opportunities, including the development of oil and gas fields in Tanzania.

Minister Singh acknowledged the strong trade relationship between India and Tanzania, noting that the commercial ties between the two countries have been growing. He also insisted that India is keen to expand its business ties with Tanzania.

Mr Singh said there are plans to invest in the distribution of gas cylinders in Tanzania, especially as the country implements its National Clean Cooking Energy Strategy.

He said India has made considerable progress in distributing LPG cylinders, with a 99.9 per cent distribution rate among its population.

Moreover, India is looking to invest in oil and natural gas exploration. Indian companies are preparing to participate in the upcoming Fifth Round of Oil and Gas Block Auctions scheduled for March this year in Tanzania.

"We are also ready to invest in Liquefied Natural Gas

(LNG), biofuels and collaborate with Tanzania on technical matters related to the energy sector by building capacity for Tanzanian professionals and facilitating a professional exchange programme between our countries," Minister Singh said.

Mr Singh commended Tanzania for its significant progress in expanding electricity access, particularly in rural areas and for implementing its clean cooking energy strategy, which includes subsidizing LPG cylinders.

Furthermore, Minister Singh commended Dr Biteko for advocating for the development of untapped energy resources in Africa, such as coal, which if developed, could ensure energy security for the continent.

The discussions were attended by several key figures, including a member of the Permanent Parliamentary Committee on Energy and Minerals, representing the committee's chairman, Mr Idd Kassim, the Commissioner for Electricity and Renewable Energy, Engineer Innocent Luoga and the Director General of the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA), Dr James Andilile.

Bunge sets new tone to tackle climate change

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the second and third reading in the National Assembly yesterday, the Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), Hamad Yussuf Masauuni said the legislation is proposed to be amended generally in order to accommodate requirements within the ministries to have a unit that deals specifically with environmental issues.

"The objective of this amendment is to accommodate the differences in Organisational Structures in the ministries, said Mr Masauuni.

Among other issues, the 28-article bill is amended in order to remove the qualification of diploma for Environmental Management Officers.

Also, the proposed law is amended in order to include other emerging environmental assessments to be monitored, reviewed and approved by the environmental officer. The objec-

tive of these amendments is to have qualified officers for effective implementation of objectives of the Act.

"The bill proposes prohibition of human activities that may affect conservation from being conducted within all categories of water sources instead of "ocean or natural lake, shorelines, riverbank, water dam or reservoir" in order to comply with the proposed amendment...the objective of this amendment is to recognise and protect all water sources under the Water Resources Management Act," added Mr Masauuni.

The law proposes amendments to recognise Technical Committees and ministers responsible for standards in the formulation and approval of environmental quality standards. The objective of this amendment is to comply with the standards, which is the specific legislation regulating standards.

Furthermore, it is proposed to be amended in order

to accommodate changes of names of Tanzania Plant Health and Pesticides Authority and Tanzania Veterinary Laboratory Agency.

Also, by adding the Tanzania Communication Regulatory Authority, Tanzania Bureau of Standards and the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority, in order to require them to inform the Council on their functions which have a great impact on the environment.

The objective of this amendment is to require the said institutions to inform the council of their functions in order to enable it take the appropriate measures to protect the environment.

"The law also proposes to widen the mandate of the minister in making regulations prescribing procedures for the management of climate change. The objective of this amendment is to ensure that procedures for combating climate change are well stipulated in the regulations," noted Mr Masauuni.

Zanzibar takes leap in enhancing road safety

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sector," Dr Mwinyi said. "By adopting global best practices in vehicle inspection, Zanzibar is aligning itself with international standards and improving efficiency in road transport," he said.

The president highlighted broader efforts by his administration to improve road safety, including the installation of traffic lights, pedestrian walkways, modern bus stops and designated parking areas.

He mentioned the acquisition of advanced breathalyzer equipment to curb drunk driving and the strengthening of driver licensing systems to ensure that only competent drivers are on the road.

President Mwinyi used the occasion to urge all drivers whether operating passenger buses, trucks, private cars, or motorcycles to comply with the new inspection regulations and prioritise regular vehicle maintenance.

He assured them that the inspection process would be swift and efficient, with appointments available via mobile phones and inspections completed within 15 minutes.

"We must embrace modern solutions. No more long

queues. This is the kind of progress we want to see in our country," he said.

As part of the government's broader transport modernisation strategy, President Mwinyi announced plans to introduce a fleet of electric buses to enhance public transport services in Zanzibar City.

He also announced plans to build modern bus terminals in Kijangwani, Chuiini, Malindi, Mwera, Jumbi, Mwanakwerekwe, Buyu and Fumba to support this initiative.

The government is also working on amending road transport laws and regulations to ensure that Zanzibar's transport systems are not only modern but also safe and accessible to everyone, including the elderly and people with special needs.

To ensure compliance, President Mwinyi directed the Road Transport and Safety Authority, Traffic Police, and other relevant agencies to strictly enforce road safety laws. He warned that drivers who fail to comply with vehicle inspection requirements or violate road safety regulations will face strict penalties.

"We must work together to combat traffic violations, which have caused loss of

life, injuries and property damage," he explained.

He also commended Zenz General Merchandise for its commitment to improving Zanzibar's transport sector, reaffirming the government's support for private investments that contribute to national development.

The Isles' Deputy Minister of Infrastructure, Communication, and Transport, Mr Nadir Abdul-latif, described the vehicle inspection centre's launch as a milestone in Zanzibar's journey toward a safer, more efficient, and technologically advanced transport system.

"With modernised inspections, improved road infrastructure and upcoming public transport advancements, President Mwinyi's vision of a safer and more organised transport sector is becoming a reality," he said.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications, and Transport, Dr Habiba Hassan Omar explained that the construction of the newly inaugurated vehicle inspection centre, which began in August last year, is the result of a public-private partnership (PPP) between the government and Zenz General Merchandise, a local investment firm.



MINISTER of State in the President's Office, Public Service Management and Good Governance, Mr George Simbachawene

E-Govt systems elevate TZ status internationally

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through e-Government.

The conference began on Tuesday with the theme "Efforts and Innovation in E-Government for Efficient Public Service Delivery." The theme underscores the importance of innovation in implementing e-Government initiatives to improve efficiency and service provision.

He explained that in 2024, Tanzania was honoured with the United Nations Public Service Award (UNPSA) for its excellence in public service delivery.

The award was attributed to the e-Mrejesho system, a platform for receiving and addressing complaints, feedback, compliments and inquiries.

Moreover, the e-Mrejesho system was recognised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) as one of the top eight systems highlighted at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) held in Geneva in May 2024.

Tanzania has also gained global recognition, ranking second in Africa and first in East and Central Africa in the GovTech Maturity Index report released by the World Bank in 2023. This report assesses the maturity of technology use in government services and citizen engagement.

The National e-Procurement System of Tanzania (NeST), designed and developed in collaboration with the Public Procurement Reg-

ulatory Authority (PPRA), won the award for the Best Public Procurement System in Africa in 2024.

These awards, presented by the African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM), were contested under the supervision of the African Union (AU).

The e-Government Authority has also received delegations from various African countries, including Zambia, Gambia, Namibia and Comoros, who visited Tanzania to learn and gain experience in various aspects of e-Government.

"I extend my gratitude and congratulations to the board of directors and the management of the e-GA for their collaboration and

teamwork in strengthening e-Government efforts. This cooperation has enabled the authority to achieve its goals with professionalism and efficiency," he said.

The e-Government Authority is an internal government institution that facilitates the execution of government functions through Information and Communication Technology (ICT). In essence, it serves as the government's digital infrastructure responsible for securing government information.

The establishment of e-GA is a response to technological advancements, particularly the increasing use of ICT in government operations and public service delivery.

Envoys laud Samia, commit to strengthen ties

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leadership exchange and educational opportunities.

In his meeting with Dr Nchimbi, India High Commissioner to Tanzania, Bishwadip Dey, underscored the growing partnership between Tanzania and India, which has yielded mutual benefits, especially in business, investment, technology and health-

care sectors.

He further congratulated CCM for trusting Dr Samia, President Mwinyi and Dr Nchimbi as its flag bearers for the 2025 General Election.

Dr Nchimbi also held a meeting with the US Deputy Ambassador to Tanzania, Andrew Lentz, where they both underscored the importance of continuing to strengthen the longstanding relation-

ship between Tanzania and the United States in various fields.

Ambassador Lentz also offered his congratulations and best wishes to Dr Samia, President Mwinyi and Dr Nchimbi following the decisions made during CCM's Extraordinary General Meeting in Dodoma.

On his part, Ugandan High Commissioner to Tan-

zania, Retired Colonel Fred Mwesigye, conveyed congratulations from both the Ugandan government and the ruling NRM party.

He expressed Uganda's recognition and respect for Tanzania and CCM's contribution to the African liberation movement.

The High Commissioner reassured Amb Nchimbi that the brotherly relationship be-

tween Tanzania and Uganda would continue to flourish for the benefit of both nations.

He also stressed that the historical friendship between Tanzania and Uganda is founded on regional solidarity, political cooperation and economic development, and that this partnership would continue to grow for the prosperity of both countries.