



ELDERS of the Sukuma tribe bestow the title "MTAMBULWA," meaning Chief Leader of Elders, upon the Mainland Vice-Chairman of the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM), Stephen Wassira, at a public rally held yesterday at CCM Kirumba Stadium in Mwanza. The ceremony included presentation of a traditional symbol of leadership and the power to command large gatherings. (Photo courtesy of CCM)

Biteko takes TZ growing energy influence global

By SUSAN MMARY

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister of Energy Dr Dotto Biteko, arrived in India yesterday to participate in the India Energy Week (IEW), which coincides with the 3rd Annual India Energy Week 2025 celebrations.

The event opened yesterday and it will wind up on Friday at Yashobhooni, Dwarka, New Delhi.

Dr Biteko was warmly received at Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi by Tanzania's High Commissioner to India, Anisa Mbega and the Chief Executive Officer of India Oil and Gas Corporation, Sandeep Jain.

This visit comes just a fortnight after Tanzania played host to a historic Africa Energy Summit in Dar es Salaam. The summit, which gathered key stakeholders in Africa's ener-

gy sector, aimed to address the continent's energy challenges and explore sustainable solutions for economic growth.

It also presented an opportunity for Tanzania to display its ongoing intensive investments in energy sector, which continue to position the country as a model for best practices in electricity supply across Africa.

Dr Biteko explained that one of the key reasons Tan-

zania was chosen to host the summit is its achievement in connecting nearly all of its villages to electricity.

And, his visit in India, will certainly help expand the country's experience to the rest of the world.

India Energy Week 2025 will bring together energy ministers, top industry executives, policy makers and technology innovators from around the world, with the

goal of exploring sustainable solutions for global energy access.

The week will also feature exhibitions showcasing cutting-edge clean cooking energy technologies.

The event is expected to bring together over 70,000 delegates, 700 exhibitors and 500 speakers from across the globe, positioning itself as one of the largest and most influential energy events worldwide.

Mpango opens up why he opts to retire

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leadership should not be monopolised by a few individuals, especially when many capable Tanzanians are sidelined. He stressed that it was time to give others the opportunity to serve the nation.

"I strongly believe that leadership is a shared responsibility. Many Tanzanians have not had the chance to serve at this level and it is only fair to give

them the opportunity. I also encourage others to document their experiences, so that future generations can learn from our history and continue to build our nation," he noted.

Dr Mpango also stressed the significance of Tanzania's youths, who make up the majority of the population.

According to the 2022 Population and Housing Census, 77 per cent of Tanzania's citizens are young

people.

"This country has a large population of young people and I am confident that among them, there are individuals who are capable of assisting President Samia in moving the country forward," he added.

Earlier, the Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), Mr George Simbachawene, admitted that many were surprised

by Dr Mpango's decision.

"This decision not only caught us off guard, but it also offers us a valuable lesson. Your willingness to step aside is a rare act of patriotism. Many political leaders struggle to relinquish power, but you have shown that leadership is about service, not personal gain," Mr Simbachawene said.

He praised Dr Mpango for setting an example in leadership transition,

saying, "A wise traveller knows where to board a bus and where to disembark. You have shown us the importance of knowing when to step aside."

Arusha Regional Commissioner Paul Makonda also weighed in, commending CCM for endorsing President Samia, while lauding Dr Mpango's decision to retire as an act of integrity and selflessness.

"Your decision is a sign of great wisdom and self-awareness. It teaches many that leadership is a responsibility, not a lifetime entitlement. You leave behind a legacy of honesty and service to the nation," said Mr Makonda.

'Tackle cyber crime threats'

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Earlier, when welcoming the Vice-President, Minister of State in the President's Office (Public Service Management and Good Governance), George Simbachawene, said the e-GA has made great strides in building digital platforms that have simplified provision of public services and driven the development.

Mr Simbachawene, among others, cited introduction of the e-Office as a major milestone in saving costs in government's operations.

The e-GA Director General, Eng Benedict Ndomba said the authority was established to coordinate and oversee e-Government initiatives, gaining more power through the 2019 e-Government Act. He outlined that e-GA operates on key pillars, including legal frameworks, regulations and ICT infrastructure.

He also mentioned some achievements, including the development of smart ICT systems, financial platforms such as the e-Government Payment Gateway (e-GPG) and strengthening local expertise in ICT within government institutions.

Regarding cybersecu-

rity, Eng Ndomba noted that e-GA is actively building capacity to address emerging threats and ensure the resilience of government systems.

"To enhance efficiency, e-GA prepares guidelines for implementing e-Government projects," he explained.

He also highlighted the successful implementation of the GovESB, which facilitates seamless communication between government systems. A key example is the integration of the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) system with various health centres.

He said during the three-day conference which started yesterday, 18 topics would be presented, focusing on strategies to advance e-Government initiatives, which are expected to drive transformation across all sectors.

The Zanzibar's e-Government Chief Executive Officer, Mr Said Said, acknowledged the strong partnership between Zanzibar's e-Government and Tanzania's e-Government authority.

"We appreciate the close collaboration between the two governments in advancing e-Government initiatives. This partnership is a crucial pillar in our national

development," he said.

However, he pointed out that ICT infrastructure remains a major challenge for Zanzibar, requiring a national-level approach to improvement.

The Vice-Chairperson of the e-GA Board, Dr Jasmine Tiisekwa, insisted that the government must keep up with advancements in science and technology.

"e-GA ensures that the government aligns with technological growth to achieve its digital economy goals," he said.

Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Administration, Constitution and Legal Affairs, Dr Joseph Mhagama, stressed that poor ICT infrastructure in rural areas could hinder the expansion of digital services and called for urgent investment in connectivity.

"It is crucial that all government institutions' ICT systems are efficiently managed by e-GA," he added.

The 5th e-Government Annual Conference showcased significant progress in Tanzania's digital transformation. Stakeholders emphasised the need for collaboration, cybersecurity and sustainable ICT system development to improve service delivery to citizens.

Bunge unhappy with UDART, DART situation

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According to the legislators, DART has been performing adequately in fulfilling its responsibilities, including helping to alleviate the city's transportation challenges.

The MPs pointed out that the agency has contributed funds to the government, with over 723.74m/- being deposited into the consolidated fund over the past four years. The MPs argued that this contribution demonstrates the sustainability of DART's operations.

However, they noted that DART faces a significant challenge in not receiving funds from UDART, creating a dispute between the two entities.

The MPs said that in June 2024, the National Assembly passed the Finance Act, which gave DART the legal authority to carry out its duties. The Act man-

dates that UDART allocate a portion of its revenue from fares to DART.

Following the passage of the Act, UDART and DART entered into an agreement stipulating that UDART would collect revenue from fares before paying dividends to DART.

However, the MPs expressed concern that UDART's failure to meet its financial obligations is hindering DART's ability to effectively discharge its responsibilities.

The MPs called on the government to facilitate a meeting between the two parties to resolve the issue.

In addition, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Investment raised concerns about the underutilisation of the infrastructure and the lack of efforts to attract investors to provide transport services on completed routes.

Presenting the 2024 Report, Committee Chair

Augustine Hole said that DART was introduced to Dar es Salaam to address the city's severe traffic congestion by offering a high-quality, dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system.

The aim was to improve public transportation options and reduce dependence on private cars, especially given the city's rapidly growing population, by providing a more efficient and reliable means of travel.

However, after analysing DART's performance, the committee found that the agency's productivity has been low.

According to Hole, the government has invested billions of shillings in three phases of the project, with the expectation of a good return. In the first and second phases, the government spent a total of 847.03bn/-, while in the third phase, it invested 148.2 million US dollars (about 383.8bn/-)

Why TARURA received meagre funding

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last year's looming power shortage, which could have led to power rationing. This situation forced the government to make a difficult decision to allocate substantial financial resources toward completing the Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP).

"As the power shortage threatened, we faced two choices: Purchase emergency power generators or complete the JNHPP. We ultimately decided to prioritise the JNHPP, directing a significant portion of financial resources to the project," Dr Nchemba said.

Following this decision, the government began allocating 400bn/- per month to the power project until its completion.

"Today, JNHPP is complete and we are enjoying surplus power generation in the country," he added.

Dr Nchemba also noted another factor affecting the funding allocation: the government's decision to finalise the construction of the Dar es Salaam - Dodoma section of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project to enable its operations.

He assured MPs that Tanzania now leads in the imple-

mentation of development projects in Eastern and Southern Africa, crediting President Samia Suluhu Hassan's bold, exemplary and transformative leadership.

Minister of State in the President's Office (Regional Administration and Local Government) Mr Mohamed Mchengerwa reiterated the government's commitment to completing all projects.

He assured MPs that his ministry would begin implementing several projects in all constituencies next month, with the Finance Ministry having already committed a total of 247bn/- for his docket.

During the deliberations, legislators warned that failure to disburse funds to TARURA would exacerbate the state of rural transport infrastructure, including roads and bridges, which has already deteriorated due to the damage caused by last year's El Niño rains.

They noted that in some areas, roads are impassable, severely affecting the lives of rural populations who are unable to access markets, hospitals and other essential services.

TARURA is responsible for maintaining the rural road network, which stretches over 144,429.77 kilometres.

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