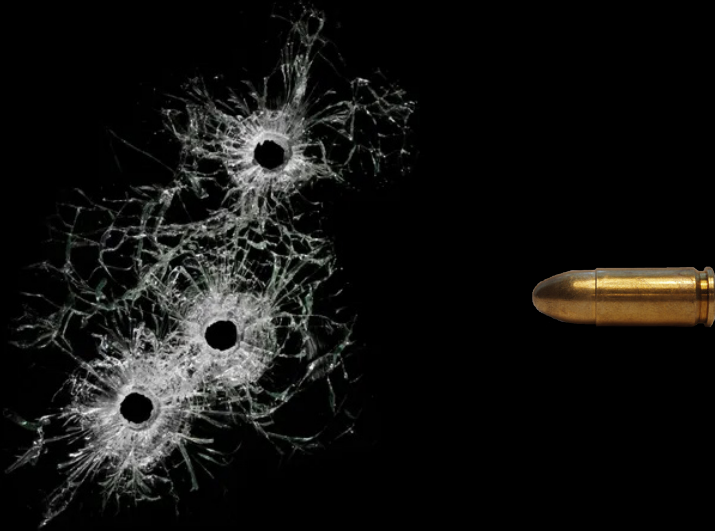


The AfriFiles

Volume III - November, 2025

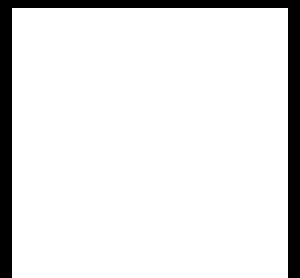
We Know Africa

Tanzania Special Edition



NEVER AGAIN

The October 29, 2025 unrest shook Tanzania and the world, costing lives and destroying property. This hour demands truth, accountability, and direction to defend peace, restore trust, and protect the nation's future. Read stories, analysis, opinion and more inside.





NEVER AGAIN

Cover Story:

The AfriFiles presents this special edition on Tanzania with a stark front-page image of a bullet hole and a fleeing round, a solemn reminder of what is at stake. Our message is clear and urgent: Tanzania must not allow itself to burn, and the government must act decisively to restore the nation's long-standing legacy of peace and tranquility. **Listen to our editorial audio version analysis – Page 6.**

The AfriFile Profile

The AfriFiles is the continent's flagship monthly technology-powered magazine, driven by Africa's top editors and journalists. It is shared free through Email, Signal, LinkedIn, email, and social platforms. Here, Africa's leaders and citizens unite to tell the real stories - of victories, challenges, and futures being built. Bold, incisive, and unapologetically African. The AfriFiles delivers the insights and perspectives that shape tomorrow.



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18%

Only about 18 percent of Ugandans access safely managed, clean drinking water, while roughly 59 percent rely on basic sources that remain vulnerable to contamination.

62

Rwanda's Akagera National Park now hosts an estimated 62 lions, marking a remarkable conservation success and the country's only thriving wild population.

Japan is living in 2050

JAPAN appears to be living in the year 2050, powered by a fusion of cutting-edge technology and disciplined, forward-thinking leadership.

From autonomous transport systems to ultra-efficient robotics, Japan's innovation ecosystem runs with unmatched precision.

The country's leaders have invested strategically in smart cities, AI-driven industries, and resilient infrastructure, creating a society where the future feels fully operational today.

Japan's quiet determination, cultural discipline, and long-term planning continue to set a global benchmark for what a technologically advanced and well-governed nation can become.

Global Beats

Malaysia now powerhouse

MALAYSIA has transformed itself. Today its economy clocks in at roughly US \$422 billion (2024 nominal GDP), with a per-capita income of about US \$11,700.

Its growth is driven by industry and trade: exports—especially electrical and electronic products, palm-oil agri-products, petroleum derivatives, machinery and parts—account for over 70% of GDP.

Once among the world's poorer nations just decades ago, Malaysia now stands ready to move from aid-recipient to aid-donor.

Its export-driven surge, diversified economy, and strategic investments in infrastructure and technology have flipped the script.

Ukraine's long road to rebuild

UKRAINE'S path to rebuilding will be long, complex, and heavily dependent on the trajectory of the war and the scale of international support.

Analysts estimate that full reconstruction could take a decade or more, given the immense damage to cities, roads, energy grids, and industrial zones caused by Russia's attacks.

The World Bank and EU have already placed the cost of recovery in the hundreds of billions of dollars, and that figure continues to rise.

Even after the fighting stops, Ukraine will face challenges of clearing unexploded ordnance, restoring critical infrastructure, stabilising the economy, and rebuilding communities.

Yet strong Western backing, resilient local governance, and Ukraine's determined population suggest that recovery—though slow—remains achievable.

Trump upset South Africa

PRESIDENT Donald Trump skipped the G20 meeting in South Africa largely due to strategic political calculations and domestic priorities that outweighed attending an international forum.

At the time, Trump faced intense pressures at home—from legislative battles to controversies dominating U.S. media, making foreign travel less advantageous. Additionally, Trump's Africa policy was widely seen as inconsistent, marked by limited engagement with the continent's leaders.

Analysts noted that attending the South Africa meeting offered him little political gain, especially as his administration was shifting focus toward trade confrontations with China and immigration debates in the U.S.

As a result, Trump opted to stay away, sending lower-level representatives and reinforcing perceptions of a diplomatic gap between Washington and African nations.

Cartoon by Gado



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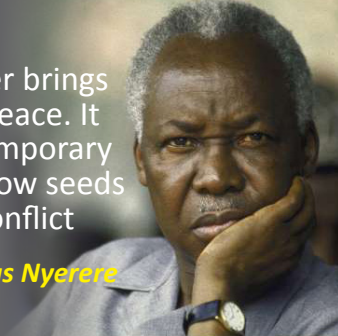


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Send to editor@afrifiles.com

“ Violence never brings permanent peace. It only brings temporary victories that sow seeds of future conflict

— Mwalimu Julius Nyerere



Letters to the Editor

I weep for my country Tanzania

Editor,
I AM crying for Tanzania. Our beloved nation, once a model of calm and dignity, now bleeds from the chaos that followed the elections.

The violence, fear, and shattered trust have broken our collective spirit.

Tanzania deserves peace, truth, and accountable leadership. We cannot allow our homeland to drift deeper into darkness.

**Juma Hassan,
Morogoro.
Via email**

Ethiopian Airlines leads

Editor,
ETHIOPIAN Airlines continues to soar as Africa's most reliable, profitable, and well-managed carrier, proving that excellence is possible on this continent.

Yet many other African national airlines keep collapsing under corruption, mismanagement, political interference, and weak long-term planning.

Why do they fail while Ethiopia succeeds? Africa must study this model seriously—our skies deserve better, stronger national carriers.

Via WhatsApp

Sudan cannot wait any longer

Editor,
IT is time for Africa, and the world to help Sudan. Millions are starving as conflict tears communities apart, silences hope, and blocks vital humanitarian aid.

Children are dying from hunger, families are displaced, and the crisis deepens by the day. We cannot watch in silence.

Sudan needs urgent food, protection, and collective action before an entire nation breaks.
**Proud Reader,
Via email.**

Never again must Tanzania bleed

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TANZANIA stands at a delicate but hopeful crossroads.

The memory of what unfolded after the October 29 general election is still vivid, a painful reminder of how easily the country's long-held peace can be shaken.

The chaos, the fear, and the tragic loss of lives must never become a recurring chapter in that national story.

Instead, these moments should compel the country to rebuild, reconcile, and return to the values that once made Tanzania a beacon of unity and stability across Africa.

True peace is never simply the absence of noise, gunfire, or demonstrations; it is the presence of justice, fairness, and dignity for all.

The unrest following the polls, though partly fuelled by a few with harmful intentions, reflected some disappointment among citizens who felt unheard, marginalized, and unprotected.

Those voices, whether agree with them or not, deserve to be acknowledged with empathy rather than dismissed with hostility. This is how reconciliation begins.

The responsibility to heal the nation does not rest on the government alone. It involves political parties, faith leaders, civil society,

elders, youth, and the wider public each hold a piece of the solution.

Yet leadership must set the tone. Leaders at all levels should rise above arrogance, tension, and triumphalism, and instead demonstrate humility, openness, and genuine commitment to dialogue.

Power is temporary, but the legitimacy that comes from serving citizens with fairness and respect endures far longer.

Rebuilding trust requires practical steps; strengthening democratic institutions, ensuring transparency, allowing space for peaceful political expression, and guaranteeing that no Tanzanian fears speaking, assembling, or dreaming of a better future.

These actions, more than speeches, will convince the nation that reconciliation is real.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan now stands at a defining moment. She has the moral and constitutional responsibility, and the historic opportunity - to lead a national healing process grounded in compassion, inclusion, and justice.

The world is watching, but more importantly, Tanzanians are watching. History, with its unforgiving memory, is recording.

Let the sorrow of October 29 become a source of collective wisdom.

Let the pain guide the country toward unity rather than division.

Let this be the turning point at which Tanzania reclaims its soul, anchored in peace, truth, and the unwavering protection of every citizen's rights.

Never again must Tanzania bleed for politics, let that nation rise together, stronger and more united than before.



Plot to overthrow President Samia

By The AfriFiles TEAM

WHEN violence erupted across Tanzania on October 29, and other days followed, the world initially viewed it as yet another tragic flashpoint in an already tense election season.

Images of burning tyres, stampeding crowds, and soldiers racing to restore control were quickly started to emerge – through cell-phones.

But beneath the visible chaos lay a meticulously crafted plan, one designed not merely to protest election irregularities, but to overthrow President Samia Suluhu Hassan's government.

What unfolded was not the spontaneous anger of a disillusioned electorate but the execution of a covert operation built on misdirection, digital manipulation, and the strategic exploitation of some youthful frustration.

New evidence suggests that what happened on that day was never intended to end in a peaceful demonstration.



Messages from the shadows

According to The AfriFiles 21 days investigations on the post-chaos review, crucial clues emerged from encrypted servers used by activist networks.

The recovered messages show clear instructions encouraging demonstrators to march toward the State House in Magogoni, Dar es Salaam, a move that would have represented a direct challenge to state authority.

Youth planned to gather in huge number near Askari Monument, at the city centre and start marching from there to Magogoni where they would start chanting; “We need our country back.”

Their communication shows that – with large number of youth gathered at the State House, no security details would block them, and then make their way inside the building. Their contacts didn’t say what they would be doing inside State House.

“The communications indicated a premeditated plan rather than a crowd acting out of emotional intensity,” says Dr. Julius Ouma, an East African security and intelligent expert, based in Nairobi who helped to delve into threads of soft documents.

“The rumour that the military had switched sides was not accidental, it was central to the mobilization strategy, mirroring classic coup psychology.”

The chant “we need our country back” grew louder as crowds swelled. Each hour brought more young people into the streets, many believing they were on the brink of rewriting Tanzanian history.

Instead, they were being manoeuvred toward a unimagined confrontation.

The mirage of military support

Central to the mobilization was a dangerous falsehood; that the Tanzanian military was ready to remove President Samia from office. No such pledge existed. The AfriFiles came to understand that Tanzania’s armed forces, widely respected for their discipline and constitutional obedience, had made no statement indicating interference.

A regional analyst based in Dar es Salaam – who preferred anonymity, explains the potency of such misinformation; “The idea that the army supported the uprising created a psychological momentum that emboldened people...”

“It made them feel invincible. Once that belief takes root, crowds behave as though victory is inevitable.”



He recalls that this tactic closely resembles the strategy used in Madagascar in 2009, when youth protestors were assured, - falsely, those military factions would protect them if they stormed government buildings.

In Tanzania, the identical narrative was weaponized again, this time through encrypted communications and open social media broadcasts that spread the rumour like wildfire.

Borrowed revolutions tactic

The organizers of the October 29 unrest; sitting in Nairobi, Kenya and in the United States of America, did not devise their playbook from scratch.

They learnt through several of the digital files retrieved from the encrypted servers referenced the youth-led uprisings in Nepal (2006) and Madagascar (2009), two movements that successfully toppled governments.

Dr. Lenny Kasoga, a visiting university lecturer and consultant – now based in Dar es Salaam, sees clear parallels; “In Nepal, the revolution’s momentum was built on a mixture of hope and misinformation...”

“Youths were told military units would join them, which was not entirely accurate but created enough belief to mobilize decisive crowds.”

Madagascar’s case was similar. The uprising drew its strength from widespread youth unemployment, deep political disillusionment, and constant rumours of internal military fractures.

For many Tanzanian youths, he said, these stories were held up as proof that “history was ready to repeat itself, this time in the East Africa country.”

Thread of soft documents show some activists even circulated messages suggesting, “What happened in Madagascar and Nepal will happen here. Tanzania will make new African history.”

He said these narratives resonated deeply with jobless young people, many of whom felt excluded from national economic gains.

A plan set in motion

The sequence of events on October 29 now appears far more deliberate than initially thought.

According to top security officials familiar with the classified findings, the mobilization began several months earlier by online meetings via end to end, uninterrupted cell-phones.

Digital influencers, self-claimed activists, few religious leaders and politically connected actors, amplified a single message; “That the moment for revolution had arrived.”

Calls for youths to converge toward the State House intensified by the hour.

The AfriFiles now believe that the aim was to create a constitutional crisis - forcing the military to intervene or provoking a power vacuum that could be exploited.

A former Tanzanian high ranking intelligence officer, now affiliated with a regional think tank, summarizes the strategy succinctly; “If the crowds had reached Magogoni, the state would have had to choose between force and fracture. Either outcome would weaken the presidency.”

He pointed out that in any functional democracy, such an action would be unmistakable; treason masquerading as liberation.

Between hope and manipulation

What makes the October 29 chaos particularly tragic is the vulnerability of the young people involved.

Tanzania has one of the youngest populations in Africa; digital activism spreads quickly among its urban youths, many of whom feel disconnected from political decision-making.

Dr. Aksele Nyakera, an East African governance specialist, notes that “The organizers weaponized genuine socio-economic frustrations. Young people were not acting out of malice, they were acting out of belief, however misguided.”

One 22-year-old protester in Mwanza (name withheld), who later fled the confrontation, told The AfriFiles; “We were told the army was behind us. When gunshots started, we knew we had been deceived. We ran—we had to.”

In Mwanza, Mbeya, and Arusha, protesters were gathering to march to Regional Commissioners

Their stories echo the countless young people in failed uprisings across the world who become, as Dr. Kasoga describes it, “both the engine and the casualty of political manipulation.”

Warning for the digital age

Tanzania’s attempted destabilization highlights a new era in political conflict, one in which coups begin not in barracks but in encrypted group chats.

Misinformation is not merely a side effect of political tension; it is now a weapon of destabilization capable of engineering mass belief in false realities.

“When rumours replace institutions, democracies become fragile,” warns Dr. Kasoga. “And when youth become the battlefield, nations risk sacrificing their future.”

Dr. Kasoga said the chaos of October 29 was not random. It was a calculated bid for power, executed through digital platforms, fuelled by false military assurances, and strengthened by myths of successful uprisings abroad.

A cross section of youth spoke to The AfriFiles suggests that after the chaos, Tanzania now faces the immense task of rebuilding trust, especially among young people who believed they were on the cusp of revolution, only to discover they were instruments in a much darker political design. ■





A view of Ratco Company buses that were set on fire due to violence that occurred during the October 29, 2025 General Election. (By Our Photographer).

Strike that targeted state nerve centers

By The AfriFiles REPORTER

WHEN the first crowds surged into Tanzania’s streets after the disputed October 29 election, the unrest appeared, at face value, like a spontaneous expression of anger.

As the day were unfolded and the following, a clearer pattern emerged; the demonstrators were systematically striking at the country’s most sensitive economic and security installations.

It was not merely disorder; it was an attempted paralysis of the state.

The AfriFiles has reviewed incident reports, imagery and security assessments say the violence mapped onto a deliberate operational logic; disrupt revenue, fracture communication lines, undermine public safety and weaken the state’s coercive ability to respond.

“These were not random outbursts. They were targeted actions designed to destabilize core functions of government,” says Hellen Joachim, a security analyst based in Dar es Salaam.

What follows is a breakdown of the most strategically significant targets.

Dar es Salaam Port under threat

At the heart of the chaos was the Dar es Salaam Port, a facility that handles more than 90% of Tanzania’s maritime trade and contributes significantly to national revenue.

Demonstrators claimed the government had “sold the port” to Dubai-based DP World, echoing months of online disinformation and claims that the concession was both opaque and a front for enrichment by political elites.

The government has repeatedly denied these allegations, insisting the concession aims to modernize port operations.

Protesters marching toward city centre chanted that the port had been “taken from Tanzanians,” while encrypted messages circulating on social platforms urged crowds to “liberate national assets.”

Security forces intercepted the procession before it reached port gates.

Nevertheless, analysts say the intention was unmistakable. “If the port had been breached, even briefly, the economic shock would have been immediate,” notes Lameck Mashauri, an independent economist. “Tanzania’s fiscal bloodstream flows through that harbour.”

TCRA became a lightning rod

Another key target was the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) — housed at Mawasiliano Towers along Sam Nujoma Road, accused by demonstrators of censoring online spaces and cooperating with telecom firms to impose punitive tariffs.

The youth-led groups believed TCRA had restricted platforms they relied on for mobilizing, accessing independent information and bypassing state-controlled narratives.

In the weeks before the protests, online restrictions were indeed documented by some global groups such as Access Now, which reported “episodic throttling” during politically sensitive periods in Tanzania.

TCRA official, speaking anonymously, says the regulator had been overwhelmed by misinformation in the days before the election.

“There was an information wildfire,” he said. “False videos, fake polls, fabricated military defections — all circulating at once. TCRA was trying to keep stability, but the perception among youth was that it was silencing them.”

Crowds attempted to march to Mawasiliano Towers, but security details, anticipating the move, blocked all access routes. Had they succeeded, analysts say it would have crippled regulatory control over communications, possibly amplifying chaos.

Banks on the hit list

While some targets reflected political grievances, the attacks on commercial banks were driven by opportunistic motives.

Several ATMs were smashed, set ablaze and stripped of cash cassettes.

Though damage was extensive, banks activated contingency systems, diverting transactions to digital channels and strengthening security at branches in high-risk zones.

Police stations overrun

Perhaps the most consequential assaults were on police stations and posts.

According to internal police statistics seen by The AfriFiles, 159 police posts across Tanzania were burned, vandalised or abandoned under pressure.

Police stations represent the front line of state authority in neighbourhoods. By overwhelming them, protesters aimed to make large areas ungovernable and deprive the state of eyes, ears and rapid-response capacity.



A senior law-enforcement spokesperson, David Misime, said the scale shocked even seasoned officers. “They were not just burning buildings. They were sending a message; that the state cannot protect itself, let alone the public.”

In several districts, officers had to regroup at regional headquarters as mobs overpowered small posts that housed only few personnel.

Burning rapid transit system

The destruction of the Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit (DART) system dealt another blow.

A total of 27 stations were engulfed in flames, crippling a public service that moves hundreds of thousands of commuters daily.

Urban-transport experts say the choice of DART was strategic.

“Transit systems are symbolic of modern governance and state efficiency,” observes Jesca Mdegwa, a transport-policy scholar. “Destroy them, and you create paralysis, fear and economic slowdown.”

She said, repairing the infrastructure will cost millions and may take months, a blow to a city already strained by political tension.

Petrol stations onfire

Fuel stations across the country were also targeted, particularly in Mwanza, Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Mbeya.

While full national statistics remain under assessment, early reports indicate several were burnt, raising fears of supply disruptions and explosions.

Attacking petrol stations is a common tactic in uprisings globally, security experts say, because fuel shortages can rapidly destabilize transport,

food distribution and emergency response.

Nearly 5,000 vehicles torched

The demonstrations left behind another staggering figure; 4,892 government and private vehicles torched nationwide.

From buses to family cars to delivery trucks, the destruction represented not only financial loss but the deliberate aim to hinder mobility and logistics.

Logistics specialist, Paulo Eliesha says the economic effect is profound adding; “Vehicles are the capillaries of any functioning economy, burning them is a tactic to choke circulation of goods, services and security.”

An attempt to paralyze state

Though the government has restored relative calm, the coordinated nature of the attacks remains a major point of concern in diplomatic circles.

Crisis management analyst, Charles Buyombe – based in Nairobi, Kenya, adds a broader caution; “East Africa is seeing a rising pattern where disputed elections quickly morph into attempted state paralysis...”

“Tanzania’s experience shows how fast misinformation, anger and opportunism can combine into a perfect storm.”

Whether the October 29 unrest was a failed insurrection or a chaotic collision of grievances is still debated.

The intention, analyst agree, was stark, to weaken the government, disrupt national functions and sow enough instability to shake the foundations of Tanzania’s governance architecture. ■



3.8cm

The moon drifts away from Earth by about that centimeters (which is almost 1.5 inches) per year.



900

The number of Americans who lost their fingers in snow blower accidents between 2003 and 2015

How signals missed before October 29

By **Khamis KALUNGU**

TANZANIA’s security and defence agencies entered October with confidence that the situation – towards Election day, across the country would remain calm.

Prior to 29th , various internal reports had indicated the possibility of demonstrations gaining momentum, yet the overall assessment within the system remained that large-scale unrest was unlikely.

It is believed that intelligence briefs had noted growing conversations about protests, especially among youth, and flagged the potential for gatherings to become unpredictable.

Such reports were circulated through the usual channels, forming part of routine early-warning mechanisms. However, they did not appear to alter the prevailing view that public order would hold.

For decades, Tanzania has been known for its stability, with demonstrations rarely escalating beyond manageable levels.

This long-standing national experience shaped expectations in 2025, influencing how information was interpreted.

Security planners seemed to rely on historical patterns of public behaviour — particularly the belief that Tanzanians generally avoid disorder and tend to comply with police directives.

This belief, grounded in past experience, contributed to an institutional understanding that any calls for mass action would not attract widespread participation.

As a result, warnings were assessed within a context that prioritized continuity over emerging social shifts.

What became clear after the events is that the social landscape, especially among younger citizens, has been changing.

Youth today communicate rapidly through digital platforms, share information across networks, and are influenced by global protest cultures.



Inspector General of Police, Camillus Wambura

Their perceptions and reactions are shaped by different pressures than those of previous generations. The data suggesting heightened mobilization potential reflected this evolving reality, though its full implications were not fully anticipated.

Coordination among agencies operated as designed, with routine communication channels functioning normally. Yet the interpretation of reports is as important as their circulation.

Early-warning information is often weighed against historical precedent, and in this case, precedent suggested stability.

The result was a calm posture heading into Election Day — a posture shaped by Tanzania’s long record of peaceful civic engagement.

The unrest that unfolded did not reflect a failure of any single institution, but rather a gap between established expectations and the emerging dynamics of a rapidly changing society.

As Tanzania reflects on those events, the focus has shifted toward strengthening analytical capacity, updating risk-assessment models, and ensuring that future evaluations incorporate both historical experience and new behavioural trends.

In a country with deep traditions of peace, understanding these evolving patterns will be essential to maintaining stability in the years ahead. ■



President
Samia
Suluhu
Hassan

Samia urges healing Tanzania's fractured spirit

By The AfriFiles REPORTER

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan is calling for national healing at a moment when Tanzania stands bruised by political tension, social mistrust, and the lingering shadows of a turbulent election season.

Her appeal is not merely rhetoric; it is a strategic attempt to restore confidence in a country whose cohesion has been tested.

"We must begin anew," she said recently, "because a divided nation cannot prosper, and a fearful nation cannot progress."

Her words land in a context where many Tanzanians; youth, civil society, opposition supporters, and even some within the ruling establishment, are demanding transparency, justice, and a clear roadmap for reconciliation.

Analysts argue that Samia's tone signals an acknowledgement of the deep emotional fracture that has widened across the country.

As political scientist Dr. Lenny Kasoga, a lecturer and consultant based in Dar es Salaam notes; "Healing begins with truth. What the

president is offering is a window, but it must be followed by concrete action."

A delicate balancing act

Since assuming office, Samia has positioned herself as a reformist, opening civic space, engaging the media, and initiating rare dialogue with opposition parties.

Yet the aftermath of the 2025 general elections has complicated her reform narrative. Protests, disputed results, and accusations of repression left Tanzania's democratic credentials under scrutiny.

Her call for healing is therefore both a moral and political necessity, an effort to restore the signature history of the East Africa nation.

Diplomats observing Tanzania's trajectory say that her tone marks a significant shift from defensive post-election postures to a forward-looking national conversation.

A senior East African envoy remarked, "The president understands that stability is currency. She needs political calm to revive investor confidence and push economic reforms."

The road to reconciliation

Samia's message gestures toward a broader reconciliation project; mending relationships between citizens and the state, between political rivals, and between communities shaken by fear and uncertainty.

Her administration has hinted at institutional reforms, improved electoral processes, and deeper engagement with civil society.

But expectations are high, especially among young Tanzanians who want justice, accountability, and dignity restored.

"Healing is not an event—it's a process," says Pambazuko Managing Editor, Peter Nyanje. "It demands acknowledgement of harm, inclusion of all voices, and guarantees that the past will not be repeated."

Samia's call becomes a transformative national moment will depend on the courage of her leadership and the willingness of Tanzania's political actors to put the country before self-interest.

Healing requires truth. Healing requires reform. Most of all, healing requires trust.

For now, Tanzania waits; hopeful, cautious, and watching closely as its president asks the nation to breathe, listen, and begin again. ■



Our resources cannot continue to enrich others while our people remain in poverty. This injustice must end
 – Burkina Faso President, Ibrahim Traoré

G20 charts a future of opportunity for Africa

By Dr. Govinna MASLEYE

AFRICA sits at a decisive turning point. Home to the world’s youngest population, vast natural resources and rising entrepreneurial energy, the continent has all the raw ingredients for economic transformation.

Yet it remains trapped in cycles of debt, commodity dependence, weak industrialization, and an unequal global financial system.

As the world’s most powerful economies, the G20 has both the responsibility, and the strategic interest — to help Africa unlock inclusive, sustainable growth.

For decades, Africa has been marginal in global decision-making forums. Though 54 nations bear the weight of climate shocks, fragile health systems, and volatile capital markets, they have often been positioned as recipients rather than partners.

The African Union’s admission into the G20 in 2023 created a historic window; a chance for Africa to shape the rules that shape its fate.

But to convert symbolism into substance, the G20 must confront long-standing structural barriers.

First, the global debt architecture must change. More than 20 African countries are either in debt distress or flirting with it, trapped by high interest rates, depreciating currencies and an unforgiving bond market.

The G20’s Common Framework has so far delivered little relief. A more credible system — one that forces transparency, speeds restructurings and pulls private creditors to the table, is vital for freeing fiscal space for social services, agriculture and job creation.

Second, the G20 must drive fairer trade. Africa’s share of global manufacturing remains below 2%, partly because G20 economies still impose tariffs on processed African goods while importing raw materials cheaply.

A shift towards incentivizing value-addition,



G20 in South Africa. Here are some of the finance ministers from member countries. Photo: UNDP meeting

supporting intra-African trade through the Af-CFTA, and removing discriminatory trade measures would help build industries that employ millions.

Third, climate finance must become real. African states lose up to 5% of GDP annually to climate-related disasters yet receive the least adaptation funding.

The G20 can champion a loss-and-damage facility, expand concessional loans, and shift the World Bank and IMF toward financing green industrialization rather than austerity-driven reforms.

Finally, digital and infrastructure investment is crucial. From energy to logistics to broadband, Africa needs long-horizon capital.

The G20 should mobilize blended finance, back African Development Bank-led projects, and support technology transfer that builds skilled jobs, not extraction.

If the G20 seizes this moment, Africa can accelerate its rise as a global growth engine. But failure to act will deepen inequality, instability and missed opportunity, for Africa and the world alike. ■

Rakesh's stark advice for Tanzania



Rakesh Rajani

By The AfriFiles REPORTER

RAKESH Rajani, President of JustSystems, an organization strengthening civil society and public leaders - offered a powerful reflection on Tanzania's turmoil following the October 29 election chaos, urging meaningful reform.

His remarks come amid mounting public anxiety, calls for accountability, and urgent appeals for national dialogue.

Rajani said the unrest witnessed in parts of the country was not spontaneous but the culmination of growing frustration among citizens who feel excluded from governance.

"These events would not have unfolded if people felt heard, respected, and included," he said. "When citizens see tangible results from their labour, when they feel that the government

listens and admits mistakes, trust is restored," he said.

He pointed to past instances where community dialogues, barazas and listening tours had helped rebuild confidence between leaders and citizens.

Rajani urged authorities to revive such forums, noting, "The government must not tire of talking with its people – not at them."

A significant part of his reflection focused on the country's youth, whom he described as both the most misunderstood and the most critical demographic for Tanzania's future.

Rajani criticized the tendency by some leaders to dismiss young people as lazy or unserious. "Words shape reality – maneno huumba," he warned. "When leaders repeat such labels, they crush hope."

He argued that the country's systems, from homes to schools, often undermine creativity and confidence while promoting fear and obedience.

The result, he said, is a generation pushed into a job market defined by bureaucracy, corruption, and prohibitive startup costs.

"When they protest or demand answers, we call them troublemakers," Rajani said. "Youth don't need police batons; they need to be heard."

Rajani further appealed for humility in leadership, invoking an old Swahili proverb: "Mkubwa ni jaa – greatness lies in humility."

He said the government must find the courage to acknowledge mistakes, listen to citizens, and correct its course.

"Power is not measured by the number of soldiers it commands but by the compassion it shows to the wounded and the grieving."

He stressed that political leaders across party lines must remember that politics is meant to serve, not harm, the population.

Yet, he insisted, the responsibility does not rest with leaders alone. "This journey belongs to all of us. Every citizen has a role; to listen more, to care more, to act with empathy."

Rajani's remarks add to the growing voices urging Tanzania to confront its divisions honestly and rebuild trust before the damage deepens. ■

‘Don’t burn the country you will inherit’

By The AfriFiles REPORTER

TANZANIA’s young people are the nation’s largest demographic force; its most energetic asset, and the heartbeat of its future.

Yet in moments of dissatisfaction, some are tempted toward anger, destruction and political violence, acts that ultimately scorch their own future.

This is a plea, grounded in reason and reinforced by the wisdom of leaders who understood the value of national stability.

Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, the nation’s founding father, warned that “don’t burn your country as other people do, if you are not happy, speak out and discuss to solve issues.”

His reminder resonates today; burning infrastructure, vandalizing property or plunging the country into chaos, is not resistance, it is self-destruction.

Every torched bus, every destroyed shop and every shattered streetlamp is a wound that the youth themselves will inherit.

Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan once said, “Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation, not destruction.”

Tanzania desperately needs its youth to choose innovation over destruction, dialogue over anger, and participation over protest violence.

The world rewards countries that stay stable, predictable and peaceful, qualities that attract investors, tourists and opportunities that young people seek.


Even Barack Obama, during his 2013 visit to Africa, reminded youth that “progress requires a spirit of partnership, a willingness to listen, and the courage to compromise.”

There is no courage in burning your own home. Strength lies in organizing, demanding accountability lawfully, and building communities anchored in justice.

Tanzania is a beautiful, fragile tapestry, woven over generations.

The youth must choose to protect it, not burn it.

Their future depends on the country they preserve today.

 **a patriot**
@Nicodemus1998 Follow

Funny that a young citizen would risk his/her life to prove something he/she is unable to handle. People's government can only be realised through voting, other means would only bring instability and ruin country's economy. Strategize my dear Gen Z.

6:36 · 11 Nov 25 · 204 Views

 **Salma**
@MsSalimSM Follow


They won't listen to anyone because they're not the ones getting hurt, they don't live in Tanzania and some of them are not Tanzania citizens

2:02 · 12 Nov 25 · 34 Views

 **Jeffie254**
@jeffreyinganga Follow

Again as a Kenyan I discourage tanzanians from protesting on 9th. The number of lives lost and those arrested will be much greater, find another way to air out your grievances

15:07 · 11 Nov 25 · 2,271 Views

 **Aphro Clovis**
@aphroclovis_ Follow

My high school teacher once told me: when strikes happen, go home and watch a good movie don't go.
That's my advice to young people from Tanganyika today, the people sending you to the streets are the same ones watching you die on TV. Democracy is a scam. Respect the leader!

22:48 · 10 Nov 25 · 155 Views

Here are some opinions collected from various people requesting Tanzanians not to burn their country under the name of being disgruntled by what the government is doing in some scenarios. ■

Three reporters lost to election violence

By The AfriFiles Reporter

THE deaths of three journalists during Tanzania's 2025 election period left the media community and the wider public grappling with grief, shock, and quiet disbelief.

These were not reporters embedded in violent clashes or deliberately seeking danger, they were ordinary people; fathers, sons, colleagues - caught in a moment when fear, force, and uncertainty overtook daily life.

A life cut short at the doorstep

The first to die was Maneno Selanyika, a Dar es Salaam-based journalist and a father. On October 29, Election Day, Maneno stepped outside his home in Tegeta to buy food for his family. It was an ordinary task, one he had done countless times before. He never came back.

Witnesses later recalled hearing a single gunshot in the fading daylight. The bullet struck Maneno only a few steps from his front door.

Instead of returning with groceries, his family received devastating news. The doorway that had marked the boundary between work and home became the place where a life ended.

For his children and wife the loss was sudden and incomprehensible. For colleagues, it was unsettling - a reminder that the violence unfolding across the city was no longer distant or abstract. It had reached into private homes.

Maneno's death took place as Tanzania entered a period of heightened security following the general elections.

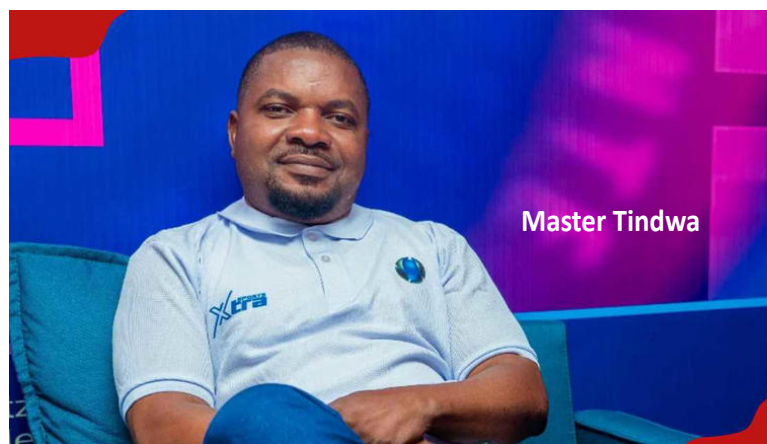
Reports of unrest, scattered shootings, and heavy police presence had begun to emerge from different parts of the country.

A city brought to a halt

In response to the growing tension, the Inspector General of Police announced a strict four-day lockdown in Dar es Salaam.

Movement was restricted, businesses were ordered to close, and access to key areas was blocked.

Banks closed their doors. Shops shut down. Roads leading to Julius Nyerere International Airport were barricaded. Public transport largely disappeared from the streets.



For a city of millions, many of whom rely on daily earnings to meet basic needs, the impact was immediate.

In this silence, marked by fear and uncertainty, residents, stayed indoors as gunshots echoed in some neighborhoods.

It was during this period of paralysis that Maneno was killed.

A quiet afternoon turns fatal

On October 30, Master Tindwa Mtopa, a journalist with Clouds Media Group, was shot at his family home in Temeke.

He was not on assignment. He was not recording or interviewing. He was simply seated on the veranda, resting in the open air.

A bullet fired from a distance struck him in the chest.

Family members and neighbors rushed to help, transporting him to hospital in a desperate attempt to save his life.

He was pronounced dead on arrival. The speed with which the ordinary became tragic left his family stunned.

For colleagues at Clouds Media Group, the loss was deeply personal. A familiar voice, a shared workspace, a trusted teammate, suddenly gone, without warning.

A young voice silenced in Mbeya

Hundreds of kilometres away in Mbeya, the violence reached another newsroom. Kelvin Lameck (31), a reporter with Baraka FM, stepped outside his station to understand the situation unfolding in his community.

Residents were anxious. Rumors were spreading. People were unsure what would come next.

Kelvin, described by colleagues as calm and curious, began speaking with people, listening to their concerns, and trying to make sense of the moment.

It was an act at the heart of journalism; bearing witness and giving voice to public feeling.

While gathering these views, he was shot in the street.

Kelvin became the third journalist to die in the post-election turmoil. His colleagues describe an empty desk that now serves as a daily reminder of unfinished stories and a life interrupted.

An unprecedented moment

The deaths of Maneno Selanyika, Master Tindwa Mtopa, and Kelvin Lameck brought the number of journalists killed during the election period to three.

No clear number has been said by the government following the deadly election chaos.

For a country long regarded as relatively stable and safe for media practitioners, the loss struck deeply.

It unsettled assumptions about safety, not only for journalists covering events, but for those simply living their lives amid political tension.

Newsrooms across the country entered periods of mourning, reflection, and quiet fear.

Editors checked in on reporters. Families urged loved ones to stay home. The boundary between professional duty and personal safety felt thinner than ever.

One journalist survives

Amid the tragedy, one journalist narrowly escaped death.

Michael Noel, a reporter with Radio Free Africa in Dar es Salaam, was injured on the same day violence erupted. Gunshots rang out near his newsroom, echoing through nearby streets.

Like many journalists, Noel and his colleagues stepped outside briefly to assess what was happening.

The situation quickly appeared too dangerous. Shots grew louder. Panic set in. The decision was made to retreat inside and secure the building.

Noel volunteered to close the gate.

As he reached for it, a bullet grazed his head, tearing through the skin of his scalp and passing dangerously close to bone.



Kelvin Lameck



Maneno Selanyika

He heard the shot before feeling the pain, a sudden burning sensation followed by confusion and blood.

Colleagues rushed him to hospital, where doctors treated the wound and monitored him closely.

He survived by a narrow margin. Had the bullet traveled slightly lower, his story would have ended differently.

Today, Noel continues to recover, carrying both physical scars and the memory of how close he came to becoming another statistic.

A moment for reflection

The events of October 2025 and the days that followed demand careful reflection.

They raise questions about the use of force, the protection of civilians, and the safety of journalists during political transitions.

Journalists play a vital role in society, especially in moments of uncertainty.

Their work depends on trust, access, and protection, not only from targeted attacks, but from the broader consequences of unrest.

As Tanzania moves forward, healing will require more than official statements. It will require accountability, restraint, and clear safeguards for those whose role is to observe, document, and inform.

Above all, it will require a shared resolve that no one, whether a father was buying food, a man resting on his veranda, or a reporter listening to community voices, should lose their life simply for being present in a moment of national tension.

The stories of Maneno, Tindwa, and Kelvin stand as reminders of what was lost, and of the responsibility to ensure such losses are never repeated. ■

Lumumba's stern warning to Tanzania



PLO Lumumba

By The AfriFiles REPORTER

AFRICA renowned legal scholar and Pan-African thinker, Professor PLO Lumumba has delivered a sharp and sobering message to Tanzania's political class following the turbulence that rocked the country in the aftermath of its general elections.

Speaking recently in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, Lumumba expressed deep concern over the political tension, misinformation, and

post-election violence that tainted Tanzania's image as one of East Africa's most stable democracies.

"I am saddened by what I have seen unfold in Tanzania, a nation that has long been a beacon of peace is now look like flirting with the ghosts of division and chaos..."

"Leaders must come to terms with the weight of their responsibility, to serve the nation, not themselves," Lumumba said.

He warned that the growing culture of propaganda, political intolerance, and reckless online incitement poses a real threat to national unity.

In his view, leadership in Africa must now rise above the shallow temptations of any foreign interfere and embrace the moral duty of stewardship.

"True leadership," he said, "is not about winning elections; it is about building nations."

Lumumba, who has built a reputation across the continent for his eloquent critique of corruption and bad governance, urged Tanzania's ruling and opposition leaders alike to pursue genuine reconciliation.

He said that what happened after the election, the street clashes, the spread of death tolls, and the attempts by some activists to destabilize the government, must serve as a warning of how easily peace can be shattered when leaders and citizens abandon dialogue for confrontation.

"The stability of a nation is like glass," Lumumba cautioned. "Once broken, it cannot be easily repaired. Tanzania must protect hers with vigilance and wisdom."

He also called on the youth, often used as pawns in political games, to reject manipulation.

"African youth must not become the tinder for other people's ambitions," he said. "Their role is to build, not to burn."

Lumumba concluded with an appeal for humility and reform.

"If Tanzanian leaders listen to the voice of reason," he said, "they will restore faith, heal the wounds of division, and save their beloved country from another chaos. The hour to act is now."

What happened in the country, the world have observed the very un-Tanzanian, and many well-wishers are saying the new administration should now reexamine the constitution to make a better country and back to its original culture of peace, love and humanity. ■



Tanzania edges toward sanctions showdown

By The AfriFiles REPORTER

TANZANIA finds itself at one of the most delicate turning points since the return of multiparty politics.

The bloody chaos that followed the October 29 election has left deep scars on the national psyche, and deep worries among international partners.

In Western capitals, donor institutions and financial markets, the conversation has quietly shifted from concern to consequences.

The fear is that Tanzania may soon face a form of economic pressure, even soft sanctions, from countries and blocs that once considered it an island of stability in East Africa.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan has already cautioned publicly that Tanzania's international image has been damaged and may complicate access to external financing.

Her words echo a reality that the global system rarely conceals for long; political instability

and human-rights abuses carry a measurable economic cost.

The challenge now is sobering but clear. Tanzania must act decisively; politically, legally, diplomatically and economically, to avoid sliding into a sanctions-induced crisis that could derail years of progress and impose a harsh daily life on ordinary citizens.

Africa knows sanctions too well

Africa has repeatedly witnessed how quickly a nation's fortunes can unravel once sanctions are triggered.

Zimbabwe remains the clearest example. When Western countries imposed restrictive measures in the early 2000s over electoral violence and land seizures, the country's economy spiraled.

Foreign investment dried up, credit lines collapsed, inflation exploded and millions fled the country. The IMF and World Bank suspended new lending, arguing that governance breakdown made financial support too risky.

Sudan provides a second lesson. Two decades of US sanctions over terrorism listings and human-rights abuses isolated the country from the global banking system.

Ordinary Sudanese paid the heaviest price; imported goods became unaffordable, inflation soared above 300 percent, and development projects stalled.



Even after partial lifting of sanctions in 2017, the recovery has remained fragile because trust, once lost, is painfully slow to rebuild.

Rwanda narrowly escaped a deep crisis in 2012 when several Western donors froze hundreds of millions of dollars in aid after UN reports linked Kigali to rebel groups in eastern Congo.

Although sanctions were targeted, the shock forced the government to alter its strategy, confront the allegations and re-engage donors with a more cooperative posture.

Kigali's quick course-correction prevented a full collapse of external support.

Tanzania is not Zimbabwe, Sudan or Rwanda, but the lessons are unmistakable, when donors believe governance is deteriorating, they move fast; when trust evaporates, money follows it out the door.

The fragility of Tanzania's economic

Despite impressive growth over the past two decades, Tanzania still depends on concessional financing. The World Bank alone holds commitments of around US\$9 billion.

The national budget anticipates trillions of shillings in external loans and grants annually. Much of this money is not decorative, it keeps hospitals stocked, roads repaired, water systems functioning and some food security programmes alive.

Whenever donors have suspended support in the past, the impact has been immediate.

In 2014, the "Tegeta Escrow" corruption scandal prompted donors to withhold nearly US\$500 million in budget support.

The government then reacted by cutting expenditures, delaying development projects and scrambling for domestic borrowing at higher interest rates.

Ordinary Tanzanians felt the pressure in rising costs, medicine shortages and stalled local government transfers.

The global markets also tend to react sharply. After contested elections in 2020, risk analysts flagged Tanzania as "politically uncertain," pushing up bond spreads and investor caution.

With the severity of violence reported after the latest election, and amid widespread calls for accountability, the pressure could be far more severe this time.

A sanctions trajectory, whether formal or informal, would weaken the shilling, increase borrowing costs, shrink public investment and force austerity measures.

For a population that already grapples with youth unemployment, rising food prices and strained social services, the consequences would quickly become unbearable.

Facing the mirror on accountability

Donors and investors are not merely watching Tanzania; they are waiting. The first requirement they expect is clarity on what happened during the chaotic aftermath of the election.

Countries that have escaped sanctions before, did so because they confronted the crisis head-on.

Kenya's example after the 2007–08 post-election violence is instructive.

The country stood on the brink of sanctions when more than 1,300 people were killed. Instead of denial, the government agreed to an international mediation process led by Kofi Annan.

A Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission was established, perpetrators were investigated, and constitutional reforms were embarked upon.

Though imperfect, these steps prevented Kenya from sliding into isolation and helped restore donor confidence.

For Tanzania, a credible path forward must begin with transparency. A truly independent commission of inquiry has been enacted, now need to be empowered to document, identify abuses, summon security officials and publish findings, would demonstrate seriousness.

Countries like The Gambia gained international respect and reopened aid flows after the 2017 Truth Commission exposed human-rights violations and recommended prosecutions.

Without a full reckoning, narratives of impunity will harden, and international pressure will escalate. Accountability is not just a moral act; it is a strategic necessity.

Rebuilding internal legitimacy

Healing the internal political rupture is the second critical step.

Tanzania can only persuade the world it is committed to stability if it first demonstrates commitment to its own people.



The release of non-violent political detainees, restoration of political freedoms and opening of public space for dialogue would send powerful signals.

Ghana, after experiencing periods of political turbulence in the 1980s, embarked on a process of national dialogue, constitutional reforms and press liberalization.

The country rapidly repositioned itself as a democratic success story and attracted record levels of aid and investment.

Similarly, South Africa's transition away from apartheid succeeded because leaders chose dialogue over dominance.

Even the most ruthless regime in recent African history understood that legitimacy, not coercion, is what ultimately unlocks economic opportunity.

Tanzania can take the same path. Dialogue with opposition parties, churches, civil society and youth groups would establish a foundation for both political stability and renewed donor confidence.

The credibility of such dialogue matters; it must be genuine, inclusive and free of intimidation.

Winning the battle of perceptions

Re-engaging Western donors requires a deliberate diplomatic strategy. Quiet, humble, fact-based engagement is far more effective than defiant rhetoric.

If Tanzania confronts the truth of what happened, embraces accountability, reforms its political landscape and re-engages diplomatically with humility, it can avert disaster and emerge stronger.

Countries that have successfully reversed sanctions have done so by acknowledging concerns, proposing reforms and demonstrating progress.

Madagascar emerged from the 2009 coup crisis only after it committed to a timetable for elections, restored civilian rule, and re-established cooperation with regional blocs and Western partners.

Foreign assistance, which had been severed, returned gradually as reforms took shape.

Ethiopia, despite deep political turmoil, avoided comprehensive sanctions in part because it maintained constant dialogue with international partners, provided access to investigators and signaled willingness to revise controversial policies.

Tanzania must therefore adopt a diplomacy of reassurance.

Protecting citizens from recession

Even with diplomatic agility, the turbulence of the next two years may be unavoidable.

To shield citizens, Tanzania must quickly implement economic guardrails that reduce vulnerability.

Countries under sanctions that avoided collapse, such as Myanmar in the 1990s or Iran during parts of the 2000s, did so by protecting essential imports and subsidising basic staples.

Rwanda used domestic revenue mobilization to prioritize social spending after the 2012 aid freeze, ensuring that the most vulnerable were shielded from austerity.

Tanzania may need similar measures; strengthening cash-transfer programmes, safeguarding school and health budgets, investing in job-intensive sectors such as agriculture and tourism, and reducing extravagant public expenditures.

Visible belt-tightening at the top fosters public trust, reduces social tension and encourages donors to maintain humanitarian support even during political disagreements.

Diversifying without bump on new traps

Another temptation for sanctioned or threatened states, is to pivot entirely toward non-Western partners.

While diversification is healthy, overreliance on new lenders can create fresh vulnerabilities.

Zimbabwe turned to China during its isolation, but the relationship resulted in limited investment, high-interest loans and asymmetric bargaining power.

Sudan deepened ties with Gulf states, yet these relationships did not solve structural economic issues and sometimes reduced internal policy autonomy.

Tanzania should diversify while maintaining balanced partnerships.

A healthy mix of Western donors, Asian financiers, Gulf investors and African development institutions protects sovereignty and stabilizes financing options.

But diversification cannot replace governance reforms. Even China, increasingly risk-averse, is cautious about heavy lending to politically unstable states.

A narrow window to act

The coming months represent a narrow and decisive window.

International pressure is real, intensifying and backed by a well-documented record of violence.

Investors are already pricing in political risk. Donors are debating options ranging from silent disbursement delays to formal conditionality.

Yet Tanzania still has agency. The country's long history of peace, its respected diplomatic tradition and President Samia's own reputation for reform create an opportunity to reset.

What happens next will determine whether Tanzania protects its economic future or drifts toward the troubled path of nations that ignored warning signs until sanctions hardened and collapse followed.

If Tanzania confronts the truth of what happened, embraces accountability, reforms its political landscape and re-engages diplomatically with humility, it can avert disaster and emerge stronger.

But if it refuses to face the crisis, blames only external enemies and clings to impunity, the world will respond the only way it knows how, by tightening the financial taps.

In the end, sanctions do not punish governments alone. They punish economies, dismantle livelihoods and grind down the hopes of ordinary citizens.

Tanzania must choose wisely, and act now - before the shadow of sanctions becomes the reality of a national crisis. ■

Washington reconsiders Tanzania file



Donald Trump, US President

By The AfriFiles REPORTER

THE United States has placed its long-standing relationship with Tanzania under formal review, signaling a sharp escalation in diplomatic concern following the country's tumultuous October 29 general election.

In a statement released Thursday, the U.S. State Department cited “grave concerns about the bilateral relationship and the reliability of Tanzania as a partner” after the vote triggered violent demonstrations and security response that left the nation unsettled and its international image bruised.

Rights groups, opposition leaders and United Nations monitors believe that hundreds of civilians may have been killed during the clashes — a figure that Tanzanian authorities firmly dispute.

While President Samia Suluhu Hassan has defended the election as free and fair, she has also pledged to investigate the unrest that pushed the country into its deepest political crisis in decades.

Washington, however, appears to be demanding more than assurances.

A test of democratic commitments

The U.S. review goes far beyond election-related violence.

Washington's statement highlights repression of religious freedom, shrinking space for free speech and longstanding obstacles facing American investors in Tanzania.

The unusually candid criticism underscores a growing belief in Washington that the political and regulatory environment has become increasingly unpredictable.

The reference to Americans being put at risk during the unrest may be a sign of the threshold for diplomatic intervention has been crossed.

For Tanzania, the implications are significant. The United States remains a major source of development assistance, health-sector support and private-sector investment.

A chilled relationship could complicate ongoing projects and unsettle both donor confidence and investor appetite.

It could also influence how other Western governments calibrate their own engagements with Dar es Salaam at a moment when calls for sanctions are growing louder.

What might happen next?

The opening of a comprehensive review does not necessarily mean the partnership will fracture. Rather, it sets the stage for a period of reassessment in which Washington will gauge the Tanzanian government's willingness to restore credibility.

A transparent investigation into the election violence, renewed protections for civil liberties and stronger guarantees for foreign investors would be seen as constructive steps.

A crucial moment

As Tanzania stands at a defining moment, the U.S. review underscores a broader question about the nation's trajectory.

Can it rebuild trust with its citizens and international partners after the upheaval of October 29? The choices made in the coming months will determine not only the future of U.S.–Tanzania relations but also Tanzania's standing in an increasingly vigilant global community. ■

Africa's elusive World Cup breakthrough

By Shukuru KHAMIS

AFRICA's football story is one of extraordinary talent, global stardom, and deep emotional connection. Across the continent, football is more than a sport, it is a cultural heartbeat, a unifying language, a source of identity and pride.

From dusty township pitches to electrifying

stadiums in Cairo, Lagos, Dakar, Dar es Salaam, and Johannesburg, the passion is unmatched.

African players continue to dominate Europe's top leagues, lift champions league trophies, and command the world's attention. And yet, despite this tsunami of individual brilliance, Africa still waits for the day its national teams reach the FIFA World Cup final.

This contradiction, unrivaled talent versus underwhelming World Cup performance, reveals a deeper story about systems, leadership, and preparation.

Talent alone does not win World Cups. Structures do. And it is here, in the realm of governance, planning, investment, and tactical evolution, that Africa's football dream repeatedly stumbles.

The leadership crisis

At the core of Africa's World Cup challenge lies a serious governance problem.

Many football federations are entangled in politics, corruption allegations, personal interests, and administrative instability.

Elections for federation leadership often resemble political campaigns rather than sporting processes. Disputes over funding, interference from government officials, and delayed payments to players and staff have become common headlines.

This instability undermines national team preparation. A federation that spends months resolving internal battles cannot build long-term sporting strategies.

While countries like Germany, France, or Argentina operate with detailed multi-year plans for talent development, African teams often rely on short-term improvisation.

National coaches come and go, plans shift abruptly, and continuity collapses, especially ahead of major tournaments.

The result? Teams enter World Cup qualifiers and the finals themselves without the stability or vision necessary for elite performance.

Inadequate youth development

Africa is rich in talent but poor in structured development. Large numbers of young players emerge from informal settings, street football, community tournaments, improvised training grounds.



Mbwana Samatta- Tanzania



Mohamed Salah- Egypt

While this environment produces flair and creativity, it rarely provides the holistic development needed for world dominance.

Europe's academies invest in nutrition, psychology, tactical training, strength conditioning, and sports science.

African academies, often underfunded and occasionally mismanaged, rely heavily on passion rather than modern sports development systems.

In many countries, national youth leagues are either inconsistent or non-existent.

Talented teenagers often leave for European academies, improving individually but not contributing to a unified national development strategy.

The continent's lack of investment in grassroots football means that promising talent is lost long before it is discovered.

Morocco has recently shown what is possible with intentional investment. The Mohamed VI Academy produced key players who led the Atlas Lions to the 2022 World Cup semifinals—the furthest Africa has ever gone.

This success underlined the power of structured development; Africa has everything it needs to replicate such systems, but only a few countries have taken actionable steps.

Coaching instability and tactical gaps

Modern football has evolved beyond raw talent. Tactical intelligence, system discipline, and adaptive gameplay now define success.

At the World Cup, almost every top team has

a clearly identifiable style, Germany's pressing, Spain's possession, Brazil's flair-with-structure, Argentina's organized chaos anchored by brilliance.

African teams, however, often lack tactical continuity.

Coaches are replaced frequently, sometimes just months before major tournaments. These changes—often political or emotional—destroy tactical progression.

The debate over local versus foreign coaches also continues to create division.

While several African coaches have proven highly capable, federations sometimes prefer expensive foreign coaches whose philosophies do not align with the players' style.

Conversely, local coaches often lack access to the elite training programs needed to compete with global tacticians.

The tactical gap becomes visible at the World Cup; lost leads, late-game collapses, poor game management, and difficulty breaking down well-structured European or South American teams.

Limited preparation, player fatigue

Many African players are spread across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

They travel long distances for national duty and often arrive just days before important matches. Unlike European national teams—whose players are mostly in the same time zone and often in domestic leagues, African squads rarely have adequate preparation time.

Fatigue is another factor. Africa's brightest stars compete in high-intensity leagues; the Premier League, Serie A, La Liga, Bundesliga. By the time the World Cup comes around, many are carrying heavy workloads or lingering injuries.

National teams that barely train together cannot quickly form the chemistry or tactical clarity required for the world's toughest competition.

The weight of underinvestment

Qualifying for the World Cup is often celebrated as the achievement itself. But the World Cup is not the final destination—it is the beginning of the real challenge.

Preparing a team to compete at such a level requires millions of dollars for logistics, training camps, scouting, technical staff, and sports psychology.

Unfortunately, many African federations underinvest after qualification. Budgets shrink, preparations become rushed, friendly matches are organized poorly, and scouting for opposing teams is minimal.

Players sometimes complain of poor accommodation, delayed bonuses, or chaotic planning—issues unheard of in top-tier football nations.

This underinvestment becomes a direct disadvantage when facing teams that have invested heavily in world-class preparation.

Psychological burden

African teams often carry the hopes of an entire continent. This pressure, amplified by media and national expectations, becomes overwhelming for some players.

Without elite-level psychological preparation

and mental resilience training, teams struggle to cope with adversity.

Small mistakes become decisive at the World Cup; a missed penalty, a defensive lapse, a moment of panic during extra time.

African teams have the talent to compete at the highest level, but the mental edge, honed through structure, planning, and experience, is often missing.

A glimpse of what is possible

Africa's journey has not been without breakthroughs. Cameroon's 1990 quarterfinal run, Senegal's golden generation of 2002, Ghana's heartbreaking 2010 quarterfinal loss, and Morocco's historic 2022 semifinal march all showed a glimpse of Africa's potential.

These moments prove that the dream is possible.

Morocco's 2022 run was especially powerful—it shattered stereotypes and reminded the world of Africa's rightful place in global football.

But it also highlighted what Africa can achieve with; strong governance, heavy investment in youth, modern coaching systems, tactical intelligence and meticulous World Cup preparation.

This blueprint is within reach for many African countries.

Africa's path forward

Africa's journey to the World Cup final is no longer a question of talent—it is a question of willpower, governance, and vision.

Federations must invest in grassroots football, build modern academies, empower local coaches, and embrace long-term planning.

The continent also needs stronger football institutions, free from political interference and corruption.

Consistent funding, transparent management, and professionalized federations will create an environment where talent can flourish.

If Africa adopts these reforms, the dream of reaching and winning a World Cup final is not only possible—it is inevitable.

For now, the dream remains elusive. But the future holds promise. Africa has the players, the passion, and the potential. What it needs is the structure to match its brilliance.

And when that alignment finally arrives, the world will witness an African team lifting the World Cup trophy. ■



Achraf Hakimi- Morocco



Bagamoyo Port rises after decade delay

By The AfriFile REPORTER

AFTER more than a decade of uncertainty, re-negotiations, false starts and political hesitation, the long-awaited Bagamoyo Port project is finally moving from aspiration to reality.

With offshore facilities and construction-support infrastructure now confirmed to be heading to Tanzania, the country stands on the verge of launching what could become one of the most transformative maritime developments in East Africa. The significance of this moment cannot be overstated.

Bagamoyo is not just another port—it is an ambitious deep-sea industrial and logistics hub designed to position Tanzania as a central gateway for regional and global trade.

Unlike Dar es Salaam Port, which was struggling with congestion, limited expansion space and shallow depth constraints before the arrival DP World, a multinational logistics company based in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Bagamoyo promises modern deep-water berths capable of handling the world's largest vessels. This shift alone could dramatically change the dynamics of cargo movement in Eastern and Central Africa.

If implemented as planned, Bagamoyo Port will anchor a Special Economic Zone stretching across more than 1,700 hectares, integrating manufacturing, logistics, value-addition chains and export-oriented industries.

For Tanzania, this means high-quality jobs, technology transfer, new tax revenue streams and a boost in foreign direct investment, and for East Africa, it offers a modern, efficient alternative for trade routes serving Zambia, Rwanda,

Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda and even Malawi.

Beyond economics, Bagamoyo carries geopolitical weight; global shipping is shifting, with increased competition between ports in Kenya, Djibouti, Mozambique and South Africa.

Tanzania's ability to host megaships and fast-track industrial production will reposition the country within regional supply chains. The port also aligns with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), giving Tanzania leverage as a manufacturing and export hub for a growing continental market.

The decade-long delay caused by political disagreements, contract disputes and shifting national priorities—offered Tanzania a valuable lesson. The renewed commitment today reflects a more strategic, balanced approach that protects national interests while still attracting global partners.

The fact that sea-based construction facilities are now heading to Tanzania sends a strong signal to investors that this time, the project is moving.

However, success will depend on transparent governance, sound financing, environmental safeguards and robust community engagement, especially with Bagamoyo's rich cultural heritage and fishing communities. If managed well, the port could become Tanzania's most important economic catalyst in a generation.

As construction preparations begin, Bagamoyo is no longer a delayed dream. It is emerging as the next frontier of Tanzania's economic transformation—one that could redefine the nation's role in global trade for decades to come. ■

Africa begins tearing apart



By **Norasco JOCKTONE**

DEEP beneath the vast and varied landscapes of Africa, an extraordinary transformation is unfolding, one so slow that no human will witness its completion, yet so powerful that it will eventually redraw the world map.

Scientists have confirmed that the African continent is gradually tearing apart, a geological process driven by monumental forces beneath the East African Rift.

It is a phenomenon that reveals, with rare clarity, how restless and dynamic the Earth truly is, and how even the most ancient and seemingly immovable continents continue to evolve.

The rift that won't stop moving

Stretching more than 3,000 kilometers from the Afar Triangle in Ethiopia, down through Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, and into Mozambique, the East African Rift System is one of the most dramatic tectonic features on the planet.

Here, the Somali Plate is slowly drifting away from the Nubian Plate, carving a widening gash into earth's crust.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey and peer-reviewed studies in *Geophysical Research Letters*, this separation occurs at a rate of roughly 2.5 to 5 centimeters per year, the pace at which a fingernail grows, yet significant enough to re-shape continents over geological time.

This rifting process has been active for millions of years, but modern satellite technology allows scientists to measure the movement with unprecedented precision.

GPS stations placed across East Africa detect subtle but continuous plate motion, confirming that the continent is being pulled apart millimeter by millimeter.

What makes the East African Rift remarkable is not only its scale but its visibility. Unlike the mid-Atlantic ridge, which hides beneath the ocean, Africa's rift valley allows us to witness tectonic forces at work directly on land, creating some of the most dramatic landscapes on Earth.

When the earth opened

The slow drift occasionally reveals itself through sudden, spectacular events.

In 2005, a 56-kilometer-long fissure tore open in Ethiopia's Afar region in just ten days following a swarm of tectonic earthquakes.

Researchers from the University of Rochester and Addis Ababa University documented the rupture, describing it as one of the clearest modern examples of continental breakup.

The fissure exposed a rising plume of magma, confirming that the rift is not merely a surface crack but a deep and evolving tear in the Earth's crust.

Such events offer a glimpse into the continent's future. Geological models predict that Africa will eventually split into two massive landmasses.

The Somali Plate, bearing countries such as Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, and parts of Ethiopia, will drift eastward, gradually peeling away from the rest of the continent.

Over millions of years, the widening gap will allow seawater from the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden to pour in, forming a brand-new ocean.

It will be a reenactment of what occurred roughly 180 million years ago when the supercontinent Pangaea fragmented and the Atlantic Ocean began to form.

The same tectonic choreography is now unfolding beneath our feet.

A living planet beneath our feet

The evidence of Africa's geological reshaping is visible across the region.

The East African Rift hosts some of the world's most fascinating volcanoes, each shaped by rising magma and thinning crust.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mount Nyiragongo contains a rare and volatile permanent lava lake.

In Ethiopia, the hyperactive Erta Ale volcano—famously dubbed the “Gateway to Hell”—boils continuously in the Afar Depression.

And in northern Tanzania, Ol Doinyo Lengai erupts unique carbonatite lava, the only volcano on Earth known to produce this pale, soda-rich molten rock.

Seismic activity complements the volcanic evidence. The U.S. Geological Survey's earthquake catalog records persistent tremors across Kenya's Rift Valley Province, Tanzania's Manyara and Dodoma regions, and Ethiopia's Afar Triangle.

Although most quakes are minor, their frequency underlines an important fact: the crust here is stretching, cracking, and adjusting as the plates pull apart.

Satellite imagery from the European Space Agency's Sentinel-1 mission has detected sections of the rift widening each year, validating what geologists have suspected for decades.

Toward a new ocean

Nowhere is the drama more vivid than in the Afar Triangle, one of Earth's most active tectonic and volcanic zones.

Here, three major plates—the Nubian, Somali, and Arabian—meet at what geologists call a triple junction.

The ground is sinking at a measurable rate, and some sections lie more than 100 meters below sea level. NASA's Earth Observatory describes Afar as “the closest land-based example of how ocean basins begin.”

The crust is so thin in places that new crust forms directly on the surface from erupting lava—an occurrence usually hidden beneath the deep oceans.

Even with all this evidence, the complete separation of Africa remains tens of millions of years away.



Geologists estimate that a fully formed ocean may take between 5 and 20 million years to emerge.

The scale of time is almost beyond human comprehension, yet the slow pace does not diminish the significance.

The continent is moving now, in real time, and the transformations—quiet but relentless—are carving Africa's future.

As the rift deepens, lakes will expand, valleys will sink, and new volcanic islands may emerge.

Lake Tanganyika and Lake Malawi, already among the deepest in the world, could grow even larger as the crust beneath them continues to thin and stretch.

Human infrastructure may increasingly interact with geological hazards, necessitating long-term planning for communities residing within rift-prone regions.

To witness Africa's slow tearing apart is to observe the earth writing its next chapter. It is a rare opportunity for scientists and a powerful reminder that the planet is alive—constantly shifting, evolving, and renewing itself.

The East African Rift, with all its beauty and volatility, stands as one of the clearest demonstrations of this truth.

The continent has already begun to split—one quiet centimeter at a time—marking the first steps toward the birth of a new ocean and the reshaping of the world as we know it. ■

Bibi Titi: The forgotten mother of Tanzania's freedom



IN the grand narrative of Tanzania's liberation, certain names are carried forward with reverence; Julius Nyerere, Rashidi Kawawa, and other towering men of the struggle.

Yet woven deep into that fabric is the story of a woman whose voice rallied thousands, whose courage unsettled colonial power, and whose sacrifices were instrumental in shaping the republic that Tanzanians call home today.

That woman is Bibi Titi Mohammed Salum, the fiery, charismatic and fearless organiser who helped turn a young political movement into a nationwide force capable of toppling British colonial rule.

Today, more than six decades after independence, her name is rarely spoken with the honour it deserves. Her legacy, central to the birth of the nation, remains overshadowed by the politics that later engulfed her life.

But history, when examined with honesty, reveals that without Bibi Titi, the independence

movement would have lacked its heartbeat.

She mobilized the nation

In the late 1950s, as nationalist sentiment was rising, Bibi Titi emerged from the streets of Dar es Salaam not as an elite politician, but as a natural-born mobiliser.

Her power lay not in formal education, she had very little, but in her extraordinary command of oratory, her organizational brilliance, and her ability to build trust in every corner of society.

She joined the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU) in its infancy and quickly became its most influential female leader.

While Nyerere provided vision and ideology, Bibi Titi provided the masses, particularly women, who would fuel the movement's momentum.

When she spoke, markets emptied, alleys stirred, and entire neighborhoods flocked to hear her. She was a bridge between Tanzania's traditional social structures and the emerging nationalist politics.

Her impact was unprecedented; she mobilized tens of thousands of women into TANU, turning what was once a male-dominated political project into a people's movement.

She led rallies, recruited members, collected funds, created organizational structures, and transformed social gatherings such as unyago ceremonies into political classrooms.

Historians agree that TANU would never have risen so quickly without the women's wings she built, wings she chaired with tireless passion.

Fearless against colonialists

Bibi Titi's rise unsettled the colonial authorities. A woman drawing such crowds was unsettling to a regime accustomed to intimidating male leaders.

Her message was direct: "Tanganyika must be free now, not tomorrow." She demanded an end to the colour bar, entrenched discrimination, and the deliberate suppression of African life.

In 1955, when TANU was banned from holding meetings, Bibi Titi organized clandestine gatherings anyway.

When colonial officers arrested activists, she turned every arrest into a rallying point. At one point, her influence was so strong that the British administration reportedly complained she had become “a threat nearly equal to Nyerere.”

She also used her platform to bridge ethnic, religious and social divides, an invaluable contribution in a country of over 120 ethnic groups.

In Bibi Titi’s hands, the struggle belonged to all Tanzanians, not just the political elite.

At the table of independence

When Tanganyika achieved internal self-government in 1960, Bibi Titi’s contributions were undeniable.

She became a member of the Legislative Council and later a deputy minister, making her one of the few women to reach such heights in the early years of independence politics.

Bibi Titi campaigned nationwide for the 1962 referendum that ushered in the republic and supported key reforms including the push for Africanization of the civil service.

But as the new nation took shape, her fortunes shifted. Political tensions, ideological rifts and the complex dynamics of power slowly edged her out of the centre.

By the mid-1960s, her influence had waned, leaving space for new political actors and narratives.

The trial that broke her

In 1969, Bibi Titi was arrested and charged with treason, accused of conspiring to overthrow the government she had helped build.

The case shocked the nation. To many Tanzanians, it felt like a betrayal of a mother of the struggle. She was sentenced to life imprisonment, only to be released after a presidential pardon years later.

The episode left a deep wound, not only on Bibi Titi herself, but on the nation’s memory.

She retreated into a quiet, private life, rarely speaking publicly about her ordeal. Her place in history slowly vanished from official narratives, textbooks and public ceremonies.

Yet the truth remained; Tanzania’s independence owed her an immense debt.

Why she deserves better

Today, the legacy of Bibi Titi Mohammed



calls for re-examination.

She was not simply a footnote in TANU history; she was one of its engines. While male leaders shaped policy, she shaped people.

Her story reveals how independence was not won only in parliament, party offices or diplomatic halls, but in neighborhoods, kitchens, marketplaces and women’s courtyards.

Her life also symbolizes the contradictions of post-colonial politics; how revolutionary women often become invisible once the revolution succeeds, their contributions overshadowed by the political dramas that follow.

In a nation striving to honour its heroes, it is time to restore Bibi Titi Mohammed to her rightful place.

That means teaching her story in schools, naming public institutions after her, documenting her role in public archives, and openly confronting the injustices she endured.

A legacy that lives on

When she died in 2000, Tanzania lost a living link to its liberation movement. But her spirit remains, in the women who lead, in the voices that refuse to be silenced, and in every Tanzanian who believes in the power of ordinary citizens to reshape their future.

Bibi Titi Mohammed was more than a mother of the nation. She was its backbone, its heartbeat, and its unacknowledged flame.

Tanzania’s freedom story is incomplete without her. It is time to give her the status she deserves. We need to celebrate her, and honour her—fully, finally, and forever. ■

Kente: The woven soul of Africa

By The AfriFiles REPORTER

FEW artistic traditions on the continent carry as much symbolism, colour and historical depth as Kente, the iconic woven cloth of the Ashanti people of Ghana.

More than an adornment, Kente is a visual language, each thread, motif and palette telling stories of kings, clans, victories, proverbs and philosophical values preserved across centuries.

Kente's origins reach back to the 17th century, when Ashanti weavers developed an intricate technique using narrow strip looms.

Legend tells of two brothers who learned the art from observing a spider weaving its web, in-

spiring the geometric, interlocking patterns now admired across the world.

What began as sacred royal regalia eventually evolved into a pan-African symbol of identity, resistance and pride.

Traditionally, Kente was worn only by royalty and during sacred ceremonies. Each colour carried deliberate meaning: gold for wealth and royalty, black for maturity and ancestral spirits, red for sacrifice, green for growth, blue for harmony.

Patterns had names rooted in proverbs—like Fathia Fata Nkrumah (“Fathia suits Nkrumah”), celebrating Ghana’s first president, or Adwini Asa (“my skill is exhausted”), signifying exceptional craftsmanship.

The weaving process is as meditative as it is meticulous. Young apprentices train for years before mastering the loom.

Strips of cloth, usually four inches wide, are woven separately and later stitched together to create full garments.

Each strip can take hours to complete, making Kente production a labour of cultural devotion rather than mass manufacturing.

The rhythmic clacking of the loom is a soundtrack of heritage passed from generation to generation.

In contemporary Africa, Kente has transcended ceremonial use.

It shows up in graduation gowns, diplomatic events, high fashion, and diasporic celebrations from New York to Nairobi.

Its presence in global fashion houses, Hollywood red carpets and Afrocentric movements reflects a renewed global appreciation of African aesthetics.

Yet, despite its global fame, its cultural weight is preserved through strict adherence to symbolism and traditional weaving methods.

Modern Ghanaian designers are blending tradition with innovation; mixing Kente with denim, tailoring it into jackets, gowns and accessories, and giving new life to patterns that once adorned only kings.

Still, the cloth remains a reminder of a deeper spiritual truth: identity woven through history.

Kente is not merely fabric—it is Africa’s ancient art made visible.

A tapestry of memory, philosophy and pride, it continues to assert a timeless message; our stories are worth wearing. ■



Scientists sound alarm on Ngezi Forest hotel plan

By The AfriFiles Reporter

A coalition of leading global environmental scientists is calling on authorities in Zanzibar to relocate a proposed five-star tourist resort from Pemba's Ngezi Forest Reserve.

They are warning that the development risks devastating one of East Africa's last surviving pockets of ancient, biodiversity-rich tropical forest.

"To ensure that Pemba's flagship protected area remains intact, we urge authorities in Zanzibar to move the Mantuli Luxury Resort project to a different location, one that will not damage vulnerable ecosystems," said a team of researchers led by Prof Tim Caro of the University of Bristol.

Their open letter, published in *News from Science* at the University of California, Davis recently, argues that the US\$8 million Mantuli Eco Resort threatens "endangered ecosystems and endemic species" found nowhere else on earth.

The scientists warn that the complex, planned within the Ngezi–Vumawimbi reserve, will consume an estimated 23% of tall mature trees with closed canopy and destroy stands of *Intsia bijuga*—a near-threatened hardwood once believed extinct on Pemba.

The island is just 988 square kilometres; the reserve covers a mere 14.4 square kilometres.

Researchers, including Giacomo Baldesi of the University of Pavia, Grazia Borrini-Feyerebend of the University of Florence, and Mathew Clarks of Imperial College London, further note that the developers might not have conducted the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment required by law.

If this development carries on, rare orchids such as *Bulbophyllum*, *Disperis* and *Oeceoclades*, along with at least three newly discovered *Sansevieria* species, face eradication.

Iconic vertebrates; the Pemba flying fox, Pemba scops owl and Pemba pigeon—are also at risk.



Rare red monkeys found at Ngezi Forest

Highlighting the globally unique Pemba featherleg damselfly, they urged the Zanzibar Investment Promotion Authority (ZIPA) to relocate the project outside the pristine forest, where trees are estimated to be over 200 years old.

They added that the resort's exclusivity would block public access to a beach used by school children and fishermen, disrupting local livelihoods.

Community voices echo the alarm

"This rare forest with unique plant species is being destroyed... our livelihoods are at stake because Pemba is sinking," said Abdurahman Mbaruk of the Ngezi Natural Resources Conservation Organization.

He insisted ZIPA approved the project without proper consultation, an accusation shared by conservationist Thabit Masoud of the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group.

Yet supporters of the investment defend it as a catalyst for boosting Pemba's tourism numbers—currently under 50,000 visitors a year compared to more than half a million in Unguja.

Outgoing Konde representative Zawad Amour Nassor argued the resort will "significantly improve tourism infrastructure" and benefit communities directly, claiming consultations were indeed conducted.

As debate intensifies, Ngezi's future hangs in the balance. ■

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