

18th May 2026

[Source: The Guardian](#)

ZANZIBAR SEEKS STRONGER UK PARTNERSHIP TO UNLOCK BLUE ECONOMY INVESTMENT

The Zanzibar government has intensified efforts to strengthen economic diplomacy and attract strategic investment in the blue economy, as part of broader plans to create jobs, boost exports, and accelerate economic growth in the Isles. The move was highlighted during talks between Zanzibar's Minister for Blue Economy and Fisheries, Hon. Ali Mohamed Masoud, and the British High Commissioner to Tanzania, Ms. Marianne Young, held at the ministry's offices in Maisara. Speaking at the meeting, Hon. Masoud said the blue economy remains one of Zanzibar's most important cross-cutting sectors, serving as a key source of livelihoods for many island communities and playing a central role in the government's long-term economic transformation agenda.

He said the blue economy is a strategic sector for Zanzibar's development. Greater investment and international cooperation are essential if we are to achieve sustainable growth and improve livelihoods. The minister noted that the government has already made progress in supporting marine entrepreneurs and improving the business environment for companies operating within the sector. However, he emphasized the need for increased investment in critical areas such as deep-sea fishing, marine product processing, and modern infrastructure to fully unlock the sector's economic potential.

GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS ASSURANCE TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRESS

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening Tanzania's private sector by creating a conducive environment for investment, innovation, and competitiveness in regional and international markets. The commitment was expressed by the Minister of Information, Communication, and Information Technology, Hon. Angela Kairuki, in Kigali, Rwanda, where she witnessed the signing of a landmark financing partnership worth over Sh40 billion aimed at expanding access to financial services for micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) across Tanzania.

The agreement, announced on the sidelines of the Africa CEO Forum 2026, will provide long-term financing over five years to support business expansion, strengthen economic resilience, and improve the competitiveness of Tanzanian enterprises in key productive sectors.

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The partnership brings together British International Investment (BII), the UK's development finance institution, and NBC Bank, in which the Tanzanian government holds a 30 percent stake. Officials described the agreement as a major step toward enhancing financial inclusion and supporting entrepreneurship.

Through the arrangement, local MSMEs are expected to benefit from improved access to working capital, enabling them to sustain and expand their operations. The initiative will also facilitate access to domestic and international trade finance, helping businesses participate more effectively in cross-border commerce. Hon. Kairuki noted that strengthening access to finance is critical to unlocking the potential of small businesses, which remain a key driver of employment and economic growth in Tanzania.

[Source: Daily News](#)

CONFISCATION LAW SET FOR REPEAL

The Government is planning to repeal laws related to property confiscation, citing concerns that they have been misused by some officials to abuse their powers. Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Mwigulu Nchemba made this revelation while addressing residents at Kambi ya Nyasa in Chemba District, Dodoma Region. He noted that the decision follows numerous complaints raised by residents of Kondoa and Chemba, who reported cases where their properties, including motorcycles, livestock, and machinery, were allegedly confiscated over offences that should have only attracted fines.

According to the Prime Minister, the President has already issued directives on the matter. He emphasized that the law on confiscation has become a loophole for abuse, and its repeal aims to curb such misuse and protect citizens from unjust deprivation of property.

GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENS COMPETITION POLICIES TO BOOST INVESTMENT CLIMATE

Tanzania has continued to strengthen fair competition policies and improve its investment climate as part of broader efforts to support economic growth and attract both local and foreign investors. The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mr. Aristides Mbwasii, said the country is experiencing strong economic performance driven by industrial expansion and growing participation in regional and international markets. Speaking during the Tanzania Competition Law and Investors Conference held in Dar es Salaam, Mr. Mbwasii emphasized that sustainable economic growth must be accompanied by accountability, fair business practices, and inclusive development.

He said Tanzania continues to experience strong economic growth, with the economy expanding, industries flourishing, and increasing integration into regional and global markets. Maintaining a fair and competitive market environment is essential to ensuring that economic gains are widely shared and that all players, including small

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and medium enterprises, have equal opportunities to participate. Meanwhile, Fair Competition Commission (FCC) Chairperson, Dr. Aggrey Mlimuka, described the conference as an important platform for advancing dialogue on competition and investment issues in Tanzania and across Africa.

19th May 2026

Source: Daily News

COURT DISMISSES SAHARA MEDIA STAY APPLICATION

The Court of Appeal has dismissed an application filed by Star Media (Tanzania) Limited seeking a stay of execution of a decision by the Tax Revenue Appeals Tribunal (TRAT) requiring the company to pay TZS 6.4 billion in taxes to the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). Justice Amour H. R. Hamis ruled against the company, holding that the Court lacked the necessary jurisdiction to determine the matter, as the application had been filed against the Commissioner General of TRA without a properly instituted appeal before the Court. In its application, Star Media had requested the Court to stay execution of the Tribunal's decision delivered on March 23, 2022, pending determination of its application for extension of time to file a notice of appeal.

According to an affidavit sworn by Mr. Chen Chen in support of the application, the company discovered on June 4, 2025, while reviewing its bank statements, that its banker, CRDB Bank Plc, had already debited TZS 400 million from its account on April 26, 2025, and remitted the amount to TRA. The company argued that if such deductions were allowed to continue, it would suffer irreparable loss, as the tax assessment was substantial and would severely disrupt its business operations. The applicant also stated that it depended on its cash flow to meet operational obligations, including payment of salaries, and expressed willingness to provide security by way of a bond for the due performance of any eventual court order. In his ruling, Justice Hamis relied on established legal principles and emphasized that the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal is ordinarily invoked through the filing of a notice of appeal, which was not present in this case.

MAT DISMISSES CLAIMS, DOCTORS' POCKET CONSULTATION FEES

The President of the Medical Association of Tanzania (MAT), Dr. Mugisha Nkoronko, has dismissed claims that doctors in public hospitals receive payments directly from patients, insisting that all consultation fees are processed strictly through the government's official payment system. Speaking to reporters in Dodoma recently, Dr. Nkoronko described the allegations as misleading and demoralizing, warning that such claims risk undermining public trust in the country's health professionals. He emphasized that all payments are made through official government revenue systems using control numbers and that no doctor in a public health facility receives cash directly from patients.

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He said All payments are made through the government's official systems. No doctor in a public facility receives cash by hand, adding that the collected funds are used to improve services in hospitals and health centers. His remarks come in response to a heated debate in Parliament last week during discussions on the Ministry of Health's budget. During the session, lawmakers raised concerns that upfront consultation fees remain a major burden for low-income patients. Members of Parliament, including Mr. Mwita Waitara and Mr. Mwila Getere, argued that such charges create unnecessary hardship and may discourage patients from seeking medical attention.

[Source: The Citizen](#)

ZANZIBAR LAWMAKERS QUESTION GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURE PLANS

Members of the House of Representatives have criticized Zanzibar's agricultural plans, describing them as ineffective, as the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, Natural Resources, and Livestock seeks approval for a budget of TZS. 81.8 billion for the 2026/27 financial year. The legislators noted that Zanzibar continues to rely heavily on imported food despite ongoing investments in the sector, raising concerns about the impact and efficiency of current agricultural policies. While presenting the ministry's budget estimates, the minister responsible, Hon. Suleiman Masoud Makame, stated that the funds would support ten development projects aimed at improving agricultural productivity and sustainability.

The proposed budget includes TZS12.4 billion in subsidies for institutions such as the Agricultural and Livestock Research Institute and the Government Agency for Tractor and Agricultural Equipment Services. According to Hon. Makame, approximately TZS. 14.5 billion will be allocated to development projects, with Sh8.65 billion funded by the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar and the remainder by development partners. During the debate, members of the House urged the government to prioritize modern technology and scientific farming methods to boost food production and reduce reliance on imports.

20th May 2026

[Source: Daily News](#)

TBS EXPANDS ZONAL OFFICES, BOOST STANDARDS

The Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has launched metrology services in the Southern Highlands, a move expected to enhance service delivery, improve the competitiveness of local products, and strengthen consumer protection across the country. The initiative was highlighted during the opening of a workshop aimed at strengthening collaboration between TBS and local councils. The meeting brought together stakeholders to review progress in implementing joint responsibilities focused on improving standards enforcement and expanding access to services. The opening remarks were delivered on behalf of the Director General, Dr. Ashura Katunzi, by the Director of Human Resources and Administration at TBS, Mr. Junius Lwenje.

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He described the rollout of zonal metrology services as a key milestone in bringing quality assurance services closer to users. Mr. Lwenje noted that decentralizing these services will reduce the time and cost required to access them, improve compliance with national standards, and enhance the competitiveness of locally manufactured goods in both domestic and regional markets. He further encouraged stakeholders to fully utilize the services, emphasizing that the expansion of zonal offices marks the beginning of stronger cooperation between TBS, local authorities, and other partners in ensuring the use of reliable and standardized measurements.

TRA MOVES TO STRENGTHEN TAX EXPERTISE WITH NEW MASTER'S PROGRAMME

The Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), through its Institute of Tax Administration (ITA), is planning to introduce a new master's degree in taxation aimed at producing highly skilled graduates who can meet the demands of the modern labor market. Speaking on behalf of the ITA Rector, Prof. Isaya Jairo, the Deputy Rector for Academic, Research and Consultancy, Dr. Lewis Ishemoi, announced the development during a stakeholders' consultative meeting held in Dar es Salaam. He explained that the main objective of the meeting was to bring together experts from various sectors whose input would help design a curriculum aligned with real-world fiscal and industry needs.

The upcoming postgraduate programme is intended to equip tax administrators and private sector professionals with the advanced skills necessary to navigate complex and evolving tax environments. Dr. Ishemoi emphasized that the curriculum will be based on the Competency-Based Education and Training (CBET) model, ensuring that graduates are not only theoretically competent but also capable of applying taxation principles to practical, real-life situations. Supporting this initiative, the Head of Postgraduate Studies at ITA, Mr. Praygod Chao, noted that the programme was developed to address an existing gap in professional expertise within auditing firms, tax consultancy services, and related institutions. By providing practical, industry-relevant training, the programme aims to strengthen professional capacity, improve tax compliance, and enhance efficiency in tax advisory services across both public and private sectors.

21st May 2026

Source: The Guardian

TISEZA PARTNERS WITH TRADITIONAL CHIEFS IN BOOSTING LOCAL INVESTMENTS

The Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA) has launched a capacity-building and sensitisation programme for traditional chiefs and cultural leaders in the Rukwa Region, aimed at enabling them to play a more active role in attracting investment and driving local economic development. The initiative forms part of efforts to implement the country's National Development Vision 2025/2050, which focuses on promoting sustainable economic growth through productive investments and community-inclusive development strategies. Speaking

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during a special convention that brought together traditional leaders from various districts in Rukwa, TISEZA Coordinator, Mr. Fidelis Obanga, said that strong collaboration between government institutions, investment agencies, and traditional leaders is essential for creating a conducive and investor-friendly environment that benefits local communities.

Mr. Obanga noted that traditional leaders hold significant influence and authority within their communities, placing them in a strategic position to raise awareness about the socio-economic benefits of investment and promote constructive engagement between communities and investors. He said that traditional chiefs serve as an important bridge between the government and local communities. By equipping them with knowledge of investment frameworks and opportunities, they can help accelerate grassroots development and address concerns communities may have about foreign or domestic investors.

ZRA PLEADS COOPERATION WITH GOVT TO RESOLVE CHALLENGES FACING TRADERS

The Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) has reaffirmed its commitment to working closely with the government and other stakeholders to address challenges facing business operators, promote business growth, and improve tax compliance. During an official tour to meet large taxpayers across the islands, Commissioner General Mr. Said Kiondo Athumani emphasized that strong business performance is essential for increased revenue collection. He acknowledged the significant role traders play in driving economic development and assured that ZRA would continue to support them in overcoming operational difficulties, while recognizing their contribution to national growth through taxation.

At the same time, the Commissioner General expressed concern that some businesses are paying taxes that do not accurately reflect the scale of their operations. He stressed that tax payments must correspond with actual business activity to ensure fairness and adequate government revenue. While ZRA remains committed to resolving business challenges, it also underscores the obligation of taxpayers to comply with all national tax laws and regulations. This balanced approach seeks to create a sustainable environment where businesses can thrive while fulfilling their responsibilities to the state.

[Source: The Citizen](#)

PULA CHALLENGES ARC INVESTMENT IN RIVAL GRAPHITE PROJECT IN COURT

A USD195 million legal dispute involving two major players in Tanzania's graphite mining sector, Pula Group and African Rainbow Capital (ARC), has come before the Commercial Division of the High Court, where proceedings continued with testimony from a key witness. The case, filed in May 2023, centres on allegations that ARC and its associated companies breached a non-compete clause contained in a confidentiality agreement linked to graphite mining projects in Tanzania. Pula Group

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has instituted legal action against companies associated with South African businessman Mr. Patrice Motsepe, including African Rainbow Minerals (ARM), ARC, and ARCH Emerging Markets. The company alleges that the respondents violated contractual obligations by investing in Australia-based Evolution Energy Minerals, which is developing a graphite project near Pula's own operations in Ruangwa District, Lindi Region.

At the heart of the dispute is a two-year non-compete agreement signed in July 2019 between Pula and ARM. According to court filings, the agreement prohibited the parties from engaging in competing activities during its validity period. Pula contends that ARM breached this clause by delaying implementation of the agreement and subsequently collaborating with Evolution Energy Minerals in a competing project located in the same region. During the proceedings, Hon. Judge Mirindo ruled that if ARC wished the court to determine the matter based solely on the evidence already on record, it would proceed without hearing additional witnesses from ARC's side. Following the ruling, ARC's legal team opted not to pursue that particular application further. The outcome of the dispute is likely to have significant implications for investment practices, contractual enforcement, and competition in Tanzania's growing graphite mining sector.

22nd May 2026

[Source: Daily News](#)

ZRA PLEDGES STRONGER COOPERATION TO SUPPORT TRADERS AND BOOST COMPLIANCE

The Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA) has pledged to strengthen cooperation with the government and key stakeholders to address challenges faced by traders, to promote business growth, and improve tax compliance in the Isles. ZRA Commissioner General Mr. Said Ki-ondo Athumani committed during a recent special visit to taxpayers, where he emphasised the importance of creating a supportive business environment to enhance domestic revenue collection. Mr. Athumani said that business growth drives revenue collection. We will continue to support taxpayers and create a conducive environment for them to operate, reaffirming the Authority's commitment to working closely with stakeholders to resolve tax-related challenges.

He stressed that taxes paid must accurately reflect the true size of businesses, expressing concern that some traders under-declare their income and operations, resulting in lower tax payments than required. Mr. Athumani further assured taxpayers that ZRA would continue addressing their concerns while encouraging full compliance with tax laws and procedures to ensure fairness and sustainable national revenue growth. Business leaders welcomed the initiative, noting that engagement between tax authorities and the private sector is crucial for building trust and improving compliance. Premier Enterprise Limited Director, Mr. Humoud Nassor Al-Rawahy, commended the Commissioner's outreach efforts, describing them as a sign of respect and appreciation for taxpayers.

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KENYA TAX THREATENS TANZANIA GLASS EXPORTS

KIOO Limited has raised concerns over Kenya's proposed 35 per cent excise duty on glass bottles imported from East African Community (EAC) member states, warning that the move could significantly disrupt regional trade and manufacturing supply chains. The company's General Manager, Mr. Vineet Verma, said the proposal poses a direct threat to KIOO's export business and undermines existing trade arrangements within the EAC framework. He noted that the company has already submitted a formal complaint to key Tanzanian government officials, including the Minister for Industry and Trade, Ms Judith Kapinga, the Minister for Finance, Mr. Khamis Mussa Omar, the Minister for Planning and Investment, Prof Kitila Mkumbo, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Amb Mahmoud Thabit Kombo.

Mr. Verma said This proposed amendment would remove the preferential treatment currently accorded to glass bottles originating from EAC member states and substantially increase the cost of sourcing glass packaging within the region. He emphasised that the development raises serious legal and economic concerns under the EAC Customs Union framework, particularly with regard to the principle of free movement of goods among partner states. According to Mr. Verma, the Kenyan Finance Bill, 2026, published on May 5, 2026, proposes to remove the existing exemption on excise duty for glass bottles imported from EAC countries.

[Source: The Guardian](#)

GOVERNMENT REVIEWS EDUCATION ACT REFORMS

The government has announced plans to review and strengthen the Education Act [Cap. 353] as part of broader reforms aimed at modernising Tanzania's education system and aligning it with current and future national development needs. The announcement was made by the Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Prof. Adolf Mkenda, while speaking during a stakeholders' meeting in Dodoma. He said the government remains committed to improving the legal framework governing the education sector in line with ongoing reforms, including the implementation of the newly introduced education policy.

He emphasised that the ongoing consultation process is intended to ensure that any legal reforms reflect the realities of Tanzania's evolving education sector while addressing both national priorities and global challenges such as technological advancement, skills development, and competitiveness. According to the minister, recommendations and views collected from stakeholders during the consultation process will be submitted to the Cabinet for further deliberation, forming the basis for the next phase of legislative reforms.

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