

E-MAGAZINE

JUNE





RAHIM DOSSA
VICE CHAIRMAN

I'm pleased to provide an update on the key initiatives our association has been focused on over the past month. Regarding the port, our team has been working closely with local authorities to address the ongoing challenges faced by businesses and residents. We're happy to report that significant progress has been made in streamlining port operations and reducing delays. New investments in infrastructure and technology have improved cargo flow, and we're optimistic this will continue to yield benefits for the local economy. On the issue of road tolls, our association has been a vocal advocate for a comprehensive review of the toll system. We believe the current structure places an undue burden on commuters and businesses. After months of negotiations, we're encouraged that the government has agreed to re-evaluate the toll policies and consider more equitable solutions. Our team will remain engaged throughout this process to ensure the interests of our members are represented. Finally, the association has been spearheading a thorough review of relevant industry regulations and policies. Our goal is to identify outdated or ineffective measures that could be reformed or removed to create a more enabling environment for businesses to thrive. This collaborative effort with policymakers is still ongoing, but we're confident it will result in meaningful changes that support economic growth and innovation within our sector. I'm grateful for the continued support and engagement of our members. Together, we're making tangible progress on the key issues impacting our community. I look forward to building on these successes in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Rahim Dossa

TATOA PROPOSES REGULATORY REFORMS TO STREAMLINE TRUCKING OPERATIONS IN TANZANIA



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - The Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA) has submitted a comprehensive set of proposals to the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) aimed at amending current transportation regulations to better support the needs of its over 1,000 member companies.

The proposals, discussed during a recent meeting attended by TATOA representatives, members, and other stakeholders, address key issues in the areas of transport licensing, licensing fees, and penalty structures.

"As the backbone of Tanzania's goods transport network, both domestically and across the SADC/Great Lakes region, it is crucial that we have a regulatory environment that fosters the growth and sustainability of our industry.

Among the key proposals put forth by TATOA are:

Transport Licensing Regulations

- Requiring companies to submit a certificate of affiliation to a recognized transport association when applying for licenses
- Extending the license renewal period from 30 days to 90 days prior to expiry
- Reviewing or removing the surcharge for late license renewal applications
- Eliminating or reducing the fee for lost or destroyed license replacements

Land Transport Licensing Act

- Calling for private sector representation on the LATRA Board of Directors to improve decision-making

Licensing Fees

- Maintaining the current annual fee structure for local transporters
- Introducing reduced fees for online/digital application forms and duplicate license requests for local transporters

Penalties

- Removing the on-the-road penalty for operating without a valid license and instead charging through the system
- Reducing the penalty amounts for certain offenses, such as failure to exhibit a license and hindering authority officers



"These proposed amendments are crucial for improving the operating environment for truck owners and increasing the efficiency of goods transport in Tanzania. We are committed to collaborating closely with LATRA during the review process to develop regulations that foster a thriving, sustainable transportation industry."

The meeting participants emphasized the importance of these regulatory reforms, noting that they would help to reduce administrative burdens, encourage compliance, and ultimately strengthen the competitiveness of Tanzania's trucking sector.

TATOA has pledged to follow up regularly with LATRA on the progress of the proposals, with the goal of seeing them implemented in the near future.

Truck Owners Enhance Sustainability Practices at CTI-Led Responsible Business Workshop

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - The Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA) has lauded a recent training session on responsible business conduct hosted by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI) at the Protea Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

The comprehensive one-day workshop, attended by TATOA members, covered a wide range of topics aimed at uplifting sustainable and ethical practices within the trucking industry.

"As the backbone of Tanzania's logistics sector, it is critical that we, as truck owners, operate in a manner that is socially and environmentally This training, organized by our valued partners at CTI, has provided us with invaluable knowledge and tools to enhance our sustainability efforts.

The workshop was led by a team of experts from CTI who emphasized the importance of aligning business activities with national and international guidelines on responsible conduct.

"Responsible business practices are no longer a nice-to-have - they are a strategic imperative for companies seeking to remain competitive in today's global market.. "By adopting sustainable, transparent, and inclusive approaches, Tanzania's truck owners can strengthen their reputation, improve operational efficiency, and contribute to the country's overall development."



During interactive sessions, attendees learned strategies for reducing their environmental footprint, ensuring fair labor conditions for drivers, and implementing anti-corruption controls. They also discussed ways to enhance engagement with local communities and other key stakeholders.

The TATOA has pledged to implement the learnings from the training across its membership, with plans to hold regular refresher sessions and share best practices. The association also aims to collaborate with CTI on future initiatives promoting responsible business conduct in Tanzania's transportation sector.



PRIVATE SECTOR VOICES CONCERNS OVER TRA'S AGENCY NOTICE IMPLEMENTATION

In a meeting held on June 7th, 2024 at the TPSF (Tanzania Private Sector Foundation) House, representatives from the private sector gathered to discuss the implications of the operationalization of the Agency Notice under Section 67 of the Tax Administration Act (TAA) 2015.

The meeting was opened by the TPSF Secretariat, followed by a presentation from an EY Tax Partner highlighting the administrative procedures before the Agency Notice can be implemented. Participants then shared their experiences dealing with the closure of bank accounts and deactivation of EFD (Electronic Fiscal Devices) machines by the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA).



To address these concerns, the participants agreed on the following action items:

1. Hold a private sector position dialogue between TRA and the private sector on June 18-19, 2024.

- Companies affected are encouraged to register their complaints with TPSF by June 12th.

- The goal is to push for the removal of Agency Notices for unaffected taxpayers, and the implementation of installment payment plans.

2. Arrange a meeting with President Samia Suluhu Hassan to escalate unresolved cases.

3. Advocate for the total removal of the Agency Notice mechanism in the country.

4. Push for the creation of a more favorable environment for the growth and sustainability of taxpayers.

Key issues raised during the discussion include:

1. Lack of communication and collaboration between TRA and taxpayers before bank account closures.
2. Concerns over the accuracy of tax assessments leading to the Agency Notices.
3. Complaints that the Agency Notices do not follow legal procedures.
4. Frustration over the reconciliation process, where taxpayers are required to reconcile the same amounts multiple times with no update from TRA.
5. Unreasonable timelines provided in the demand notices, sometimes arriving after the deadline.
6. No legal basis for the blockage of EFD machines.
7. Difficulties in recovering amounts wrongly deducted due to mistaken Agency Notices.
8. Overall setbacks in the TRA's system implementation.



NATIONAL BUDGET REFORMS



Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - The Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA) has called on the government to address unfair fuel taxes as part of the ongoing national budgetary reform process. The chairman stated that the trucking industry has been overburdened by high and disproportionate taxes for far too long.

"Our members are the backbone of Tanzania's logistics and transportation sector, moving goods across the country to support businesses and communities. But the high taxes we face make it increasingly difficult to operate profitably and remain competitive. This ultimately gets passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices."

TATOA is proposing that the government reduce taxes for the trucking industry as part of the budget reforms. Lower taxes would allow truck owners to invest more in fleet upgrades, improving efficiency and safety. He argued that this would have a ripple effect, supporting economic growth and development across multiple sectors.

The TATOA's proposal will be among the many stakeholder inputs the government will consider as it finalizes the national budget for the coming fiscal year. Chairman expressed optimism that policymakers will recognize the trucking industry's vital role and incorporate tax policies.

"Tanzania's truck owners are ready to do our part, but we need a little help from the government," he concluded. "We're confident that through constructive dialogue, we can achieve a budget that works for our industry and the country as a whole."



MEETING WITH THE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

25 June 2024

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania - The Tanzania Truck Owners Association (TATOA) has met with the Temeke District Commissioner to address the rising tensions between truck drivers and the district's enforcement operators.

The meeting was called by the TATOA after a growing number of its members reported being unfairly targeted and fined by the Temeke District's designated enforcement agency, Amzson Auctioneers. Truck owners complained that Amzson's operators were issuing punitive fines for minor infractions, without proper consideration of the circumstances.

"Our drivers work long hours under difficult conditions to keep goods moving across Tanzania," said TATOA Elias Lukumay. "But instead of partnership, they are facing harassment and excessive penalties that are crippling our businesses."

During the meeting, the TATOA put forward several key demands to the District Commissioner:

1. Immediate cessation of Amzson's threatening behavior and imposition of unnecessary fines against truck drivers.
2. Identification and designation of suitable parking areas for trucks within the Temeke District.
3. Implementation of educational programs to improve driver awareness of traffic regulations and safety protocols.

The District Commissioner acknowledged the TATOA's concerns and committed to addressing the issues in a constructive manner.

"We recognize the vital role the trucking industry plays in Temeke's economy," said the Commissioner. "At the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure safety and order on our roads. However, the current approach has clearly caused more problems than it has solved."

The Commissioner agreed to work with the TATOA to map out appropriate parking zones for trucks, as well as develop training initiatives to enhance driver knowledge and compliance.

Mr Lukumay expressed cautious optimism following the meeting, stating: "We are encouraged by the District Commissioner's willingness to find a balanced solution. With open communication and good faith efforts on both sides, I'm confident we can restore a healthy working relationship for the benefit of all."

The TATOA and Temeke District authorities have agreed to reconvene in the coming weeks to finalize an action plan and implementation timeline.



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NEWS HEADLINES

THE CITIZEN
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BUDGET 2024/25
Private hospitals want NHIF debts cleared

Approved SGR fares draw mixed views

Some analysts said the government should ensure that bus operators remain in business and hence complement SGR services instead of the bus modes of transport being engaged in cut-throat competition

STORY ON PAGE 2

Expectations, challenges as elections approach

Tanzania Commission for Elections has highlighted hopes and challenges following the adoption of three electoral laws ahead of the presidential and general elections in 2025

STORY ON PAGE 2

What closer scrutiny of parastatal heads means

STORY ON PAGE 2

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THE CITIZEN
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Tanzania's Ramada Resort responds to LGBTQ allegations

Revealed: East Africa's most profitable banks

Tanzania and Kenya are the big winners at East Africa's banking industry continues to record impressive performance figures, with the latest results for the first quarter of 2024 pointing to a recent year

STORY ON PAGE 2

'How we freed ourselves from the clutches of compulsive gambling'

Two bar on Sokoine University campus have been transformed into a community center, summarizing the courage to kick the habit. **SPECIAL REPORT ON PAGE 4**

Importers turn to euro to beat dollar crunch

STORY ON PAGE 2

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Why gambling looks set to take root amid mounting concerns

NATIONAL CRIME
Suspects arrested as killings rock Morogoro Region

Debt servicing to gobble up Sh13tr

The allocation, which has risen by Sh2.7 trillion, forms the bulk of the Finance ministry's Sh18.3 trillion budget for the 2024/25 financial year

DOLLAR APPRECIATION: The increase accounted for virtually all of the 25.6% rise in which most international transactions are made

MPUNGWE'S key role in struggle to free S.Africa

Mr Amri Mpongo has told The Citizen in an exclusive interview that his experience as Tanzania's first High Commissioner to post-apartheid South Africa was the cornerstone of his long involvement in the liberation struggle in southern Africa

REBRANDED Selcom Microfinance Bank eyes capital growth

STORY ON PAGE 2

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Tanzania, S.Korea strengthen ties with new agreements

NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS
How to increase internet penetration in Tanzania

What it means as two global giants now operate Dar port

Economists and industry experts have voiced their optimism about the future performance of Dar es Salaam Port, whose operations are now under two global logistics giants

STORY ON PAGE 2

HIV infections among girls aged 15-24 double in 7 years

Women among girls in this age group have increased from 14 percent during 2016/17 to 30 percent in 2023/24, according to the Tanzania Commission for HIV. **STORY ON PAGE 2**

Tanzanian engineer appointed head of continental body

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