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The World Health Organisation (WHO) publicly criticises Tanzania for not sharing information about suspected cases of Ebola "despite several requests". The United States (US) and the United Kingdom issue travel advisories regarding possible unreported cases of Ebola in Tanzania. Ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) party former ideology secretary and member of parliament (MP) for Mtama, Nape Nnauye, apologises to President John Magufuli (2015-present) after allegedly being caught conspiring against him. President Magufuli dismisses Modestus Kipilimba as director-general of the Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service (TISS) after three years in the post in what appears to be a pre-election intelligence apparatus shake-up. The World Bank issues its first loan to Tanzania since funds were frozen in November 2018 due to restrictive government policies concerning female education and freedom of information.

Possible Ebola cover-up threatens the region

The **United Nations (UN)** health body, the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**, publicly criticised **Tanzania** on 22 September for not sharing information about suspected cases of **Ebola** "*despite several requests*".¹ Tanzania denies that it is withholding information from the WHO, saying it is not hiding any outbreak of the highly infectious and deadly disease in the country. Tanzania may be shooting itself – and its **East African** neighbours – in the foot if it is covering up Ebola cases. Failure to take pre-emptive measures to control the outbreak would be deadly and costly – particularly given the rate of urbanisation in **Dar es Salaam** and other parts of the region.²

The WHO states that it received unofficial reports of three cases of Ebola in Tanzania in September. The WHO said it became aware via unofficial reports on 10 September of a suspected Ebola-caused death in Dar es Salaam. Unofficial sources informed the WHO of a second case on 12 September concerning a 27-year-old patient in a hospital in Dar es Salaam. On September 14, Tanzania officially notified the WHO that no case of Ebola had been confirmed in the country, with the two suspected cases both testing negative. However, the WHO said Tanzania had not given it access to clinical data, results of investigations, possible contacts and potential laboratory results to assess the health risk. On 19 September, the WHO said it had received unofficial reports of a third presumptive case of Ebola.

Tanzania's health minister, **Ummu Mwalimu**, denies the WHO's allegations:

*"Ebola is known as a fast-spreading disease, whose impact can be felt globally. This is not a disease that the Tanzanian government can hide...Reports suggesting that Tanzania has not been transparent about suspected cases of Ebola and is not sharing information with the WHO are false and should be ignored."*³

Mwalimu said Tanzania had investigated some 28 suspected cases of Ebola over the past year, including two cases in September, but they all tested negative. Tanzania has never reported a case of Ebola.

¹ Reuters, 22 Sep 2019

² Source, analyst, London

³ Ummu Mwalimu quoted in Reuters, 3 Oct 2019

Sources say that some national governments have been trying to get the Tanzanian government to be more forthcoming with information and have used the **United Nations General Assembly** platform to push for transparency. The **United States (US) State Department's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** and the **United Kingdom's (UK) Foreign and Commonwealth Office** have subsequently issued alerts to their citizens to the possibility that there may be unreported Ebola cases in Tanzania. US Secretary of Health and Human Services **Alex Azar** has also criticised the Tanzanian government for not sharing information. Tanzania's heavy reliance on the tourism industry, which accounts for 25% of total government revenues and is the country's leading foreign currency earner, mean these criticisms are likely to ratchet up pressure on the Tanzanian government to comply with the international health organisation.⁴ **Johns Hopkins' Bloomberg School of Public Health** director **Tom Inglesby** also predicts that the government may begin to pay the price for stonewalling.⁵

*"It's pretty clear...that kind of uncertainty and lack of confidence that the government is revealing everything will have its own very negative impact on people's travel plans. It may not yet, but I can imagine it happening relatively soon if it's not cleared up."*⁶

Inglesby also suggested Tanzania's approach to the event has been illogical:

"If there are no Ebola cases, and you have proof of that, then it makes absolutely no sense to hold that information back. And if there are Ebola cases and the country is aware of that or suspects that but doesn't provide that information, then people will stop trusting what the government of Tanzania says about the matter. Their own people will stop trusting it and others will stop trusting it."

Under the **International Health Regulations**, a global treaty to which Tanzania is a signatory, countries are obliged to notify the WHO immediately when they have outbreaks of serious infectious diseases that could pose a risk to their neighbours and globally. In exchange for meeting the obligation to report, the treaty protects countries with disease outbreaks by instructing other nations not to take actions to restrict trade or travel.

Authorities in East and **Central Africa** have been on high alert for possible spillovers of Ebola from eastern **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**, where the disease has already infected nearly 3,000 people and killed approximately 2,000 since the recent outbreak was officially declared on August 2018. Endemic violence and mistrust of authorities have prevented authorities from bringing it under control in the DRC. In 2013-2014, the **West African** countries of **Guinea, Liberia** and **Sierra Leone** suffered the worst outbreak of the disease in history when more than 11,000 people died. Tanzanian authorities, without the impediments that the DRC face in controlling the disease, should comply with the WHO to protect its citizens, its neighbours and its economy.

Any challengers left?

Former ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)** party ideology secretary and member of parliament (MP) for **Mtama, Nape Nnauye**, was made to publicly apologise to President **John Magufuli** (2015-present) on 10 September after being caught in July allegedly conspiring against the president. Public dissent and freedom of information have been all but quashed in Tanzania, which has had a devastating effect on everyone from the ruling CCM party to the WHO (see above). Adding to this, rising authoritarianism is hurting Tanzania by discouraging private sector investment. A leaked **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** report warned in April that *"unpredictable and interventionist"* policies were crimping growth, and the IMF lowered its growth forecast for 2019 and 2020 to around 4% (see *ARC Briefing Tanzania May 2019*).

Nnauye was allegedly involved in a leaked telephone conversation recording by the presidential communications team in which Nnauye and former CCM secretary general **Abdulrahman Kinana**

⁴ Source, analyst, London

⁵ Tom Inglesby quoted in Stat News, 27 Sep 2019

⁶ Tom Inglesby quoted in Stat News, 27 Sep 2019

insulted the president and said how dissatisfied they were with several national issues. Others involved in the scandal were former CCM union and environment minister **January Makamba**, his father **Yusuph**, and former energy and minerals minister **William Ngeleja**. The official recording has not yet been published, and no one expects it to be.

The president's punishment against dissent reaches far beyond his own political party. Detained journalist **Erick Kabendera**'s lead counsel **Jebra Kambole** on 1 October called on Magufuli to pardon Kabendera as a Dar es Salaam court postponed a hearing into his case for the sixth time.⁷ Kabendera's articles are often about Magufuli's abuses of power (see *ARC Briefing Tanzania August 2019*). In recent months he has published stories in a local news outlet, **The East African**, about internal divisions within the ruling CCM party in the lead up to a presidential election in 2020. He has also written for many other national and international publications, including UK-based **The Guardian**, **The Times** and **The Economist**. France-based **Reporters Sans Frontières** (Reporters Without Borders) on 12 September said Kabendera's health has deteriorated since his controversial arrest on 29 July.⁸ Magufuli is coming down harder not only on public voices of criticism but also on anyone he suspects might get in his way. Magufuli dismissed **Modestus Kipilimba** as director-general of the **Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service (TISS)** for unknown reasons on 12 September after three years in the post and replaced him with **Diwani Athuman Msuya**.⁹ The move indicates Magufuli's plans to shake-up the country's intelligence apparatus ahead of next year's election. The sacking of Kipilimba makes him the shortest-serving security chief since Tanzania's independence in 1961. Tanzanian law allows the TISS head to serve for five years, which is renewable. Msuya was previously head of the anti-corruption agency **Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB)** and director of criminal investigations in the **Tanzania Police Force**.

Magufuli and CCM would stand in good stead to win the 2020 election and cement control of office for another ten years if the **Host Government Agreement (HGA)** for a \$30 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in the southern region of **Lindi** is concluded in the coming months.¹⁰ Energy minister **Medard Kalemuni** told stakeholders at the third oil and gas congress in Dar es Salaam on 2 October that talks between the **Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation** and Norway-based **Equinor** and Netherlands-based **Royal Dutch Shell** on the HGA were at an advanced stage. Tanzanian authorities have been locked in talks with the international oil companies for the past five months to finalise the terms of developing the LNG project in Lindi. The latest analysis of the project from the US-based non-profit **Natural Resource Governance Institute** predicts a final investment decision in 2023. While revenues will only start flowing under Magufuli's successor, the potential rents during the investment phase will be significant.

World Bank begins to lend again

The **World Bank** on 13 September approved a \$450m loan to Tanzania's **Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN)** poverty-reduction programme, which aims to help around five million Tanzanians. The loan was the first since the World Bank froze funds to Tanzania in November 2018 due to the government's restrictive policies concerning female education and freedom of information.¹¹ As well as boosting social-economic development, the loan is a vote of confidence that could lead to more crucial foreign exchange injections by the country's biggest lender – that is, if the loan is well managed and promptly paid back.¹²

The World Bank in November 2018 withdrew on a decision to loan Tanzania \$300m, which is part of an overall \$1.7 billion in planned funding from the bank, due to significant concerns about some policies. The World Bank cited two policy concerns as reasons why it froze the loan:

⁷ Reuters, 1 Oct 2019

⁸ Aljazeera, 12 Sep 2019

⁹ The East African, 12 Sep 2019

¹⁰ Africa Confidential, 27 Sep 2019

¹¹ CNBC Africa, 13 Sep 2019

¹² Source, analyst, London

“The World Bank has been engaging with the government of Tanzania on a range of policy issues that led to a hold-up of financing since 2018. Approval of this project acknowledges efforts by the government of Tanzania to address the policy issues by amending the statistics law (2018) in line with international practice, as well as the government’s commitment to facilitate all girls to complete their education.”¹³

Tanzania has banned pregnant girls from attending state primary and secondary schools since 1961. Magufuli affirmed his commitment to the policy in 2017. However, following the World Bank’s disapproval in November 2018, Tanzanian authorities agreed to find ways for the girls to return to school. The **Statistics Act** made it a crime for Tanzanians to publish “*false official statistics*” or to disseminate information that would result in the “*distortion of facts*”. Police arrested opposition politician **Zitto Kabwe** in 2017 for violating the law. In June 2019, the government passed an amendment to the Statistics Act that removes the threat of prison for violators of the law.

The objective of the PSSN project is to provide poor households with income-earning opportunities and socio-economic services while enhancing and protecting the human capital of their children. Participants in the public works programme are projected to increase from around 250,000 in 2019/20 to more than 830,000 in 2022/23, while the livelihood enhancement programme will be scaled up from the current pilot stage to reach over 200,000 households by the end of the project.

World Bank country director **Bella Bird** said:

“Tanzania’s earlier social safety net programme helped beneficiaries to save more money and obtain more assets. As a result, many had more food and access to better education and health care. Still, this new support will be critical to improve the lives of many more people in need and overall raise the country’s human capital index, which is still very low at 0.40. We will continue to work with the government and engage with citizens and other stakeholders on the complex set of development issues facing the country and its people.”¹⁴

The **Tanzania Social Action Fund (TASAF)** will implement the loan. The Tanzanian government is financing the PSSN programme, along with:

- World Bank **International Development Assistance (IDA)**;
- UK **Department for International Development (DFID)**;
- US **Agency for International Development (USAID)**;
- **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**;
- **Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria**;
- **International Fund for Agriculture Development**;
- **Government of Norway**;
- **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency**; and,
- **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development**.

Planner

14 Oct 2019 (**Tanzania**) Mwalimu Nyerere Day (national holiday);

7-9 Nov 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** Power & Energy Africa;

10 Nov 2019 (**Tanzania**) Maulid Day (national holiday);

9 Dec 2019 (**Tanzania**) Independence Day (national holiday);

25 Dec 2019 (**Tanzania**) Christmas Day (national holiday);

26 Dec 2019 (**Tanzania**) Boxing Day (national holiday);

¹³ World Bank, 13 Sep 2019

¹⁴ CGTN, 2 Oct 2019

2020 (Tanzania) *Africanews*. General elections;

Chronology

7 Oct 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority** says **Smart Telecoms** has officially closed its business in Tanzania;

3 Oct 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *Aljazeera*. **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees** says nearly 600 **Burundian** refugees have left Tanzania to return to their home country in the first batch of a mass repatriation process of hundreds of thousands of Burundian political refugees;

2 Oct 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *CGTN*. The **Tanzania Revenue Authority** collects 1.7 trillion Tanzanian shillings (\$742.1m) in September, a 29% month-on-month increase and a new record;

1 Oct 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *Reuters*. Detained journalist **Erick Kabendera's** lead counsel **Jebra Kambole** calls on President **John Magufuli** to pardon Kabendera as a court postpones a hearing into his case for a sixth time;

30 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *EWN*. President **John Magufuli** extends an economic crimes amnesty after 467 people applied for amnesty and were willing to pay \$46m to the government;

27 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *CNN*. **United States State Department** warns its citizens to take extra care when visiting Tanzania amid concerns over Ebola;

25 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. A government report says that mobile phone subscriptions rose to 43.67 million by June 2019, a 4.7% year-on-year increase;

24 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Aljazeera*. The government summons the **World Health Organisation** representative after claims the government is not sharing data on Ebola cases;

23 Sep 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Tanzania Government Flight Agency** CEO **Benjamin Ndimila** signs a contract with **Netherlands-based Airbus** to supply two **A220-300** passenger aircraft as part of the revival of the national airline, **Air Tanzania**;

23 Sep 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *The East African*. The **Bank of Tanzania** (central bank) fines five commercial banks over \$800,000 total for breaching anti-money laundering rules;

22 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The East African*. President **John Magufuli** suggests offering amnesty to people held on financial crimes charges if they confess and return the money;

22 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *CNN*. The **World Health Organisation** says that **Tanzania** is not sharing detailed information on suspected **Ebola** cases in-country;

21 Sep 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Agriculture minister **Japhet Hasunga** says that cashew nut production will increase 33.5% in 2019/2020 due to favourable weather and increased plantings;

16 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Engineering News*. **Evaline Rweikiza**, an official at state-owned **Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation**, says the government will extend a natural gas pipeline for 30 kilometres from **Dar es Salaam** to **Bagamoyo** to provide cheaper energy;

16 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The **Tanzania Ports Authority** director-general, **Deusedith Kakoko**, says the ports can now handle 600,000 vehicles per year after a

port expansion;

13 Sep 2019 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *CNBC Africa*. The **World Bank** approves a \$450m loan to **Tanzania**, the first loan since funds were frozen in 2018 due to concern over government policies;

12 Sep 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *The East African*. President **John Magufuli** dismisses **Modestus Kipilimba** as director-general of the **Tanzania Intelligence and Security Service** for unknown reasons;

12 Sep 2019 **Arusha (Tanzania)** *Aljazeera*. France-based **Reporters Sans Frontières** (Reporters Without Borders) says the health of detained journalist **Erick Kabendera** has deteriorated since his arrest on 29 July;

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