

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Tanzania Monthly Briefing August 2025

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#### Tanzania Summary 11 August 2025

*President Samia Suluhu Hassan (2021-present) collects her presidential nomination form from the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) headquarters on 9 August, alongside her running mate, Emmanuel Nchimbi, marking the start of her preparations for the October general election. Party tensions have risen over the past month following primary elections and the resignation of ambassador to Cuba, Humphrey Polepole. Hassan inaugurates a \$400m pilot uranium processing facility, backed by Russia's Rosatom, which will gather data before construction of the main processing plant begins in 2026. Government publishes new regulations banning non-citizens from engaging in 15 business activities, sparking regional backlash.*

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#### Hassan launches bid for second term amid CCM tensions

President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** (2021-present) collected her presidential nomination form from the ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)** headquarters on 9 August, alongside her running mate, **Emmanuel Nchimbi**, marking the start of her preparations for the October general election. Hassan used the opportunity to urge for unity among CCM members. Tensions have heightened over the past month following the CCM's primaries and the resignation of ambassador to **Cuba, Humphrey Polepole**, who was becoming increasingly critical of the party.

Polepole wrote a letter to Hassan on 13 July confirming his decision to resign from his position as ambassador. In his letter, he stated that he was "[losing peace of heart and faith in the current administration](#)", a rare criticism of the CCM and Hassan. Polepole accused the administration of being authoritarian and failing to safeguard human rights, and alleged that the CCM was violating its constitution, especially in the selection of party leaders. After his resignation, Polepole began a [campaign](#) against Hassan, holding weekly press briefings during which he alleged that she has enabled state capture and corruption, and secured her presidential nomination unconstitutionally.

The incident has once again highlighted the factionalism within the CCM. Polepole is loyal to former president **John Magufuli's** (2015-2021) faction within the CCM, while Hassan is aligned to former president **Jakaya Kikwete** (2005-2015), former prime minister **Edward Lowassa**, Nchimbi and prominent businessman **Rostam Aziz**. Lowassa and Kikwete have fallen out, but Hassan remains closely aligned to Kikwete's faction. In his 5 August press conference, Polepole stated:

*"The [country](#) remembers vividly the members of the powerful and dangerous faction, involving Kikwete, Nchimbi and Rostam Aziz. They are responsible of the high-profile cases of corruption in the country. President Samia has no clue she has surrounded herself with hooligans."*

Hassan responded by revoking Polepole's diplomatic status. Aziz gave an [interview](#) on 3 August during which he dismissed Polepole's reports and defended Hassan and her leadership. However, this has not been the only test for the CCM. The party held its parliamentary, Zanzibar House of Representatives and councillor primaries on 4 August, after a week-long campaign, which saw [over 40](#) current members of parliament (MPs) and seven deputy ministers losing favour. Local media has reported that many popular CCM members were excluded after clashing with party leadership. [For example](#), former foreign affairs minister and rumoured presidential candidate **January Makamba** was excluded, an expected move as it is believed that his presidential ambitions clashed with Hassan's. **Luhaga Mpina**, a popular MP, was also excluded, reportedly as fall-out from his clash with the CCM chairperson in June.

Other results have once again shown what critics have called dynastic politics. Kikwete's son and wife – **Ridhiwani Kikwete** and **Salma Kikwete** – both ran unopposed for their respective constituencies, while several family members of former president **Ali Hassan Mwinyi** (1985-1995), whose son, **Hussein Mwinyi** is the current president of Zanzibar (2020-present), also made it through the campaign. President Hassan was born in Zanzibar and began her political career there. The CCM's **Central Committee** of the **National Executive Council (NEC)** is still to approve the results and nominated candidates in its 20 August sitting.

Meanwhile the [clampdown](#) on the opposition has continued. Opposition **Chadema** leader **Tundu Lissu**'s treason trial was adjourned again on 15 July, its tenth postponement, until 30 July. The case is undergoing committal proceedings but Lissu maintains that the treason charges are politically motivated. The postponements have meant that Lissu has been unable to participate in any election preparations and it remains unclear when he will be released from custody. In addition, police [arrested](#) two senior Chadema officials – spokesperson **Brenda Rupia** and resource mobilisation and investment specialist **Leonard Joseph Magere** – on 12 July as they were trying to leave the country on party business. Several Chadema officials have been blocked from leaving Tanzania since the start of 2025, indicative of the restraints facing the opposition.

### Rosatom-backed uranium plant opened

President Hassan inaugurated a \$400m pilot uranium processing facility on 30 July, located on the **Mkuju River** in **Ruvuma Region** and operated by **Mantra Tanzania**, a subsidiary of **Uranium One Group**, owned by **Russia's** state-owned nuclear corporation **Rosatom**. The [facility](#) will gather data before construction of the main processing plant begins in 2026. The plant will have capacity of up to 3,000 tonnes of uranium per annum and is expected to begin production in 2029.

The plant is just one part of a greater \$1.2-billion uranium project that aims to extract 300,000 tonnes of uranium over 20 years. Rosatom officials noted that once the project is underway, it is expected to create 4,000 direct jobs and contribute to regional infrastructure. The minerals ministry also [confirmed](#) that the government has a 20% stake in the project and expects to earn \$40m per year in dividends and \$373m in royalties. Once operational, Tanzania will become one of the top ten uranium producing countries worldwide.

The Mkuju River [reserves](#) were initially discovered in 2009 and acquired by Uranium One in 2011. Despite the government granting environmental clearance in 2012, the project has been delayed due to concerns over its location within the **Selous Game Reserve** – a **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site** – and fluctuating uranium prices. According to [Hassan](#), a key goal of this project is to bolster Tanzania's nuclear energy generation amid government's push to increase power generation from approximately 3.400MW currently to close to 6,000MW by 2030.

Tanzania stands to benefit from uranium exports but will have to [navigate](#) the challenges facing Rosatom and Russian uranium supply chains. The **United States (US)** in May 2024 enacted the **Prohibiting Russian Uranium Imports Act**, which bans Russian uranium imports, while the **European Union (EU)** has urged sanctions or limits on cooperation with Rosatom. These currently have no direct bearing on the Tanzania project, but should sanctions intensify against Russia, there could be repercussions in the future.

### Tanzania bans non-citizens from operating certain businesses

The government [published](#) the **Business Licensing (Prohibition of Business Activities for Non-Citizens) Order, 2025** on 28 July, establishing new regulations that ban non-citizens from engaging in 15 business activities. Government has justified the move as needing to strengthen local job creation and income protection for Tanzanians.

The order [specifies](#) the following business activities as prohibited:

- The business of sale of goods on a wholesale and retail basis, excluding supermarkets, specialised product outlets, and wholesale centres for local producers;
- Mobile money transfers;
- Repair of mobile phones and electronic devices;
- Salon business, unless operating in a hotel or for tourism purposes;
- Home, office and environmental cleanliness;
- Small-scale mining;
- Postal activities and parcel delivery within Tanzania;
- Tour guiding within Tanzania;
- Establishment and operation of radio and television (TV);
- Operation of museum or curio shops;
- Brokerage or agency in businesses and real estate;
- Clearing and forwarding;
- On-farm crop purchasing operations;
- Ownership or operation of gambling machines or devices, except within a casino;
- Ownership and operation of micro and small industries.

A non-citizen found engaging in any of the above activities can face a fine of up to TSh 10m (\$3,976), a six month prison sentence, revocation of their visa or residence permit, and forfeiture of business assets. Any Tanzanians found helping a non-citizen to run such businesses can also face a fine of TSh 5m (\$1,987) and a prison sentence of up to three months.

Tanzanians have [welcomed](#) the new regulations, as there is concern that foreign business owners are starting to dominate, especially in the informal sector. However, regionally the move has sparked backlash. Tanzania is a member of the **East African Community (EAC)** and a signatory to agreements that allow for free movement of people and trade among member countries. **Kenya's** trade minister, **Lee Kinyanjui**, called for the order to be removed while Kenya's **National Assembly Trade Committee** chairman **Bernard Shinali** warned that Kenya could implement its own restrictions on Tanzanians working in Kenya.

On 31 July, Kenya's permanent secretary for East African Community Affairs, **Caroline Karugu**, confirmed she had officially written to the EAC secretariat, asking it to request that Tanzania review the new order. Approximately 250,000 Kenyans live, work or do business in Tanzania. The EAC secretariat released a [statement](#) on 31 July, not explicitly referring to Tanzania's order, but instead warning member states against introducing guidelines that violate freedoms and trade, which are enshrined under the **EAC Common Market Protocol**. It is unclear how much more the EAC can do to pressure Tanzania, and any retaliation would come bilaterally.

The regulations have been welcomed by Tanzanians and would help to drum up support for the government ahead of the October general elections, meaning that regardless of the regional backlash, they have had the intended effect.

## Planner

13 Aug 2025 **Zanzibar (Tanzania)** Zanzibar's President **Hussein Mwinyi** to dissolve parliament

29 Oct 2025 **(Tanzania)** General elections

Dec 2025 **(Tanzania)** **Labour Mobility Dialogue** between **African Union (AU)** and **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)**

2025 **(Tanzania and Uganda)** Completion of **East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)**

## Chronology

7 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Bank of Tanzania** (central bank) launches a new initiative aimed at promoting responsible practices within the microfinance sector;

6 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Experts are urging for targeted policy interventions and infrastructure investments to reduce the pronounced economic disparities between developed areas like Dar es Salaam and underserved regions such as **Simiyu**;

6 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Tanzania Invest*. **United Kingdom**-headquartered **Orca Energy** files arbitration proceedings against the government and state-owned **Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC)** over the **Songo Songo Gas-to-Electricity Project**, claiming there has been breaches of the production sharing agreement, gas agreement, and investment treaty, including licence delays and forced subsidised gas supply;

5 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Fuel prices fall for the third consecutive month, with petrol now sold at TSh 2,843 per litre (\$1.11), diesel at TSh 2,777(\$1.08), and kerosene at TSh 2,768 (\$1.08), providing relief to consumers at the pump;

4 Aug 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Prime minister **Kassim Majaliwa** warns that corruption remains a significant threat to development across **Southern African Development Community** countries and emphasises the need for stronger regional cooperation and institutional reforms to combat graft effectively;

29 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Local business associations welcome government's new directive banning foreign nationals from owning and operating small and medium-sized businesses in 15 sectors;

28 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)** is set to shortlist contenders for upcoming local general elections, with President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** chairing the central committee meeting;

26 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The **Independent National Electoral Commission** sets the election day for 29 October;

24 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)** dismisses claims that President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** refused to leave a meeting during which the nomination process for presidential candidates took place, labelling the reports as baseless and malicious propaganda;

22 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Some members of the ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)** party express disagreement with the party leadership, its policies and direction, particularly in anticipation of the 2030 presidential election;

21 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Reuters*. **Australia**-headquartered **BHP** sells its interest in the \$942m **Kabanga** nickel project to its partner, **Lifezone Metals**, for approximately \$83m;

19 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Development partners sign a \$55.6m agreement to boost Tanzania's **Health Basket Fund** for the 2025/26 fiscal year, aimed at strengthening the healthcare system;

17 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Tanzania launches its **Development Vision 2050** in **Dodoma**, with development partners pledging support for its implementation and **United Nations** resident coordinator **Susan Ngongi Namondo** praising the government's inclusive and consultative approach in crafting the long-term plan;

16 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Tanzania's **5G** network rollout reaches 26%, coinciding with a significant increase in internet usage across the country;

15 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Somalia's** ambassador to Tanzania, **Ilyas Ali Hassan**, says that ties between the two countries are continuing to grow following the re-opening of Somalia's embassy in Dar es Salaam and the signing of nine new bilateral agreements;

Opposition parties **Chadema** and the **Alliance for Change and Transparency** are targeting former members and rejected aspirants of the ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)** party to weaken CCM's internal unity, attract disaffected politicians, and boost their own chances ahead of Tanzania's upcoming nomination deadline;

14 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Tanzania's ambassador to **Cuba**, **Humphrey Polepole**, resigns from his post, citing concerns over the ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi's (CCM)** leadership direction;

12 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Tanzania Investment and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA)** director general, **Gilead Teri**, reveals that **India-Tanzania** trade reached \$8.6 billion in the 2024/25 financial year;

10 Jul 2025 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Deputy prime minister **Doto Biteko** inspects the **Kinyerezi Power Complex** in Dar es Salaam as part of Tanzania's efforts to revive the Kinyerezi III power project and boost electricity generation capacity;

### About Africa Risk Consulting:

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