

## AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

### Tanzania Monthly Briefing May 2020

---

#### Tanzania Summary 6 May 2020

*Tanzania's government attracts criticism both domestically and internationally for its lack of a coherent strategy to control the spread of the coronavirus Covid-19. Logistics networks within Tanzania and the broader East African region continue to be impacted by the spread of the coronavirus, with instances of infected Tanzanian truckdrivers importing cases into Uganda and Rwanda inflaming regional tensions. Concerns are rising that the government is harnessing the spread of the virus to further crack down on Tanzania's media sector and curtail civil liberties in an election year.*

---

#### President Magufuli bucks Covid-19 response trend ...

Although continuing to lag behind many of its neighbours, **Tanzania** implemented a number of initiatives to curb the spread of the coronavirus **Covid-19** throughout April. These measures included the suspension of all international flights in and out of the country on 14 April (excluding repatriation flights, which received special dispensation).<sup>1</sup> **Dar es Salaam** regional commissioner **Paul Makonda** announced on 19 April that all residents of the commercial capital must wear masks and adhere to social distancing when they leave their homes.<sup>2</sup> However, President **John Magufuli** (2015-present) announced on 22 April that the government would not implement the kind of large-scale lockdown measures that have been put in place in many neighbouring countries – including **Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya** and **South Africa** – in Dar es Salaam, the city that has recorded the highest number of cases, due to the significant financial implications of shutting down the country's commercial capital.<sup>3</sup>

Magufuli has received criticism both domestically and internationally for some of his recent statements regarding the coronavirus. The president has disputed the statistics coming out of the national community health laboratory, suspending its director, **Dr Nyambura Moremi**, and quality assurance manager, **Jacob Lusekelo** on 4 May. President Magufuli claims that his office sent samples from fruits and animals to be tested for coronavirus, and some came back testing positive,<sup>4</sup> leading the president to announce that “*the situation is not as bad as fear-mongers claim*”.<sup>5</sup> President Magufuli also replaced permanent secretary for health **Zainabu Chaula** with **Mabula Daude Mchembe** on 22 April. Mchembe previously acted as the president's advisor on health matters and will no doubt act as the president's eyes and ears within the ministry.<sup>6</sup>

President Magufuli also announced that he is sending an aircraft to **Madagascar** to pick up supplies of a herb-based treatment called **Covid-Organics** that reportedly cures the virus, although it is yet to be tested at scale and its effectiveness is therefore largely unknown.<sup>7</sup> Madagascar's President **Andry Rajoelina** (2019-present) launched the herbal cure – based on the anti-malarial plant artemisia – in late April as part of his government's measures to combat the disease and ease Madagascar's

---

<sup>1</sup> The Citizen, 14 Apr 2020

<sup>2</sup> Daily News, 19 Apr 2020

<sup>3</sup> The Citizen, 22 Apr 2020

<sup>4</sup> The Citizen, 4 May 2020

<sup>5</sup> Bloomberg, 3 May 2020

<sup>6</sup> Daily News, 22 Apr 2020

<sup>7</sup> The Citizen, 3 May 2020

lockdown.<sup>8</sup> The herbal remedy has also been purchased by the governments of **Equatorial Guinea** and **Guinea Bissau**.<sup>9</sup>

Covid-19 has affected every country on the **African** continent except **Lesotho**. Currently there are over 44,000 cases across Africa and close to 1,800 deaths.<sup>10</sup> Tanzania has 480 confirmed cases and 16 deaths at time of writing. As in many countries, a lack of testing and the often-mild symptoms of the virus mean that actual cases are likely to be significantly higher.

The full economic impact of the coronavirus will not be known for some time. The government has requested, but is yet to receive, multilateral assistance from the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** via its Rapid Financing Instrument that provides soft loans to help developing countries tackle the virus. President Magufuli has requested debt relief be considered as preferable to additional soft loans.<sup>11</sup>

The virus has also hit Tanzania's parliament. Three members of parliament (MPs) have died in the past month, and although the deaths were not attributed to coronavirus, there is suspicion that this may be the case. Parliament was briefly suspended on 20 April when an MP tested positive for the virus after travelling to Dar es Salaam and was suspended again following the death on 29 April of ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)** party MP for **Sumve**, 61-year-old **Richard Ndassa**.<sup>12</sup> CCM member of parliament and bishop **Gertrude Rwakatare** died on 20 April,<sup>13</sup> while the high-profile constitutional and legal affairs minister and former foreign minister, **Augustine Mahiga**, passed away in **Dodoma** on 1 May aged 74.<sup>14</sup> Mahiga was subsequently replaced by former minister for home affairs **Mwigulu Nchemba**. Rumours continue to circulate that additional MPs are unwell and showing symptoms of the coronavirus. Three deaths in quick succession resulted in opposition party **Chadema** calling on its members to boycott parliament on 3 May.<sup>15</sup> Most but not all Chadema MPs have adhered to this edict.<sup>16</sup> Any further deaths and subsequent suspensions of parliament will risk delays to the national budget, which is still officially scheduled to be voted on in June in advance of the October general election.

### ... navigating logistics during Covid-19 ...

The spread of the coronavirus in **East Africa** has significantly impacted logistics corridors, both domestic and regional. Tanzania's decision to stop all international flights on 14 April, flights that are traditionally used to transport cargo as well as passengers, has created a significant disruption to the country's supply chains. Domestically state-owned **Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL)** and **Precision Airways** have repurposed many of their aircraft to carry cargo in what would normally be passenger areas.<sup>17</sup> Internationally, state-owned **Ethiopian Airlines** has provided a lifeline to Tanzania's horticulture sector, exporting perishable produce from **Kilimanjaro Airport** twice a week.<sup>18</sup>

Regionally, Tanzania has chosen to leave its borders open for transit cargo to assist its landlocked neighbours to receive goods that come through the port of Dar es Salaam. However, this decision, when combined with Tanzania's relatively soft approach to curbing the virus, is causing friction with neighbouring countries. Landlocked countries that have imposed strict lockdown measures such as Uganda and Rwanda have voiced concerns over Tanzanian, and also Kenyan, truck drivers importing

<sup>8</sup> L'Express, 20 Apr 2020

<sup>9</sup> Al Jazeera, 5 May 2020

<sup>10</sup> John Hopkins, 4 May 2020

<sup>11</sup> Daily News, 23 Apr 2020

<sup>12</sup> Daily Monitor, 30 Apr 2020

<sup>13</sup> Tanzania Daily News, 20 Apr 2020

<sup>14</sup> The Citizen, 1 May 2020

<sup>15</sup> The Citizen, 3 May 2020

<sup>16</sup> The Citizen, 3 May 2020

<sup>17</sup> The Citizen, 29 Apr 2020

<sup>18</sup> IPP Media, 14 Apr 2020

the virus.<sup>19</sup> Over 1,000 trucks enter Uganda each day – mainly from Tanzania and Kenya, both countries with higher coronavirus case numbers than Uganda, which to date has put in place comprehensive lockdown measures and has not recorded a single death from coronavirus.<sup>20</sup> Uganda recorded 11 new cases of coronavirus on 24 April, six of whom were Tanzanian truck drivers and five Kenyan drivers, with no cases among Ugandans registered that day.<sup>21</sup> Uganda is reported to have deported foreign nationals who test positive for coronavirus, a practice that is contrary to **World Health Organization (WHO)** guidelines and likely to raise regional tensions.<sup>22</sup> Although testing levels are likely to be higher at the border posts, there is still a real cause for concern as to the impact these imported cases may have on the country as it continues its lockdown.

With tensions rising, Uganda and Rwanda announced on 24 April a new strategy whereby local drivers will replace foreign drivers at the border and take the goods to their final destination.<sup>23</sup> However, this approach leads to double handling, loss of efficiencies, and therefore an increase in the price of the goods being transported. It also raises questions about insurance premiums and who will be responsible should an accident occur or goods go missing. The challenge is yet to be resolved but is likely to continue pitting Tanzania and Kenya, countries with ports and higher cases of the virus, against their reliant and landlocked neighbours. Without cost-effective alternatives to receive goods, a combination of increased testing of truck drivers, forced quarantine measures and possibly on-going driver changes when lorries pass through different jurisdictions may be the only viable options for the short term.

### ... as attacks on media continue

President Magufuli's administration appears to be using the coronavirus outbreak as a pretext for further crackdown on media freedoms and dissenting voices in Tanzania. During President Magufuli's time in office, the **Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)** has taken multiple steps to clamp down on media freedoms, largely via the **Media Services Act**, the **Statistics Act** and the **Cyber Crimes Act**. Marking global Press Freedom Day on 3 May, **Tanzania Human Rights Defenders Coalition (THRDC)** coordinator **Onesmo Olengurumwa** noted that a THRDC survey found that reported case of harassment of journalists in Tanzania increased from 26 in 2018 to 36 in 2019.<sup>24</sup> Olengurumwa said Tanzania's media is "engulfed in fear",

*"... there has been excessive editorial censorship in order to keep the media alive, not to be banned ... We have seen private media users get arrested."*<sup>25</sup>

The government has targeted multiple media houses over their reporting of coronavirus as it becomes increasingly sensitive around reporting on the number of cases in Tanzania that contradict the official statistics. On 20 April the TCRA suspended journalist **Talib Ussi Hamad** of **Daima Newspaper** for six months for his reporting on the coronavirus on 20 April.<sup>26</sup> The TCRA has also suspended leading Swahili newspaper **Mwananchi's** online content for six months and fined the paper TSh5m (approximately \$2,100), allegedly for publishing pictures of the president shopping in his hometown of **Chato** and not adhering to social distancing rules.<sup>27</sup> The length of the suspension means Mwananchi's online service will resume just weeks before the scheduled October general election. The TCRA has also made numerous journalists from other publications apologise for their reporting of the virus. **Amnesty International's** director for East and Southern Africa, **Deprose Muchena**, noted that:

<sup>19</sup> The Citizen, 26 Apr 2020

<sup>20</sup> Uganda Ministry of Health, Covid-19 Information Portal, accessed 6 May 2020

<sup>21</sup> The East African, 26 Apr 2020

<sup>22</sup> The East African, 26 Apr 2020

<sup>23</sup> The East African, 28 Apr 2020

<sup>24</sup> The Citizen, 3 May 2020

<sup>25</sup> The Citizen, 3 May 2020

<sup>26</sup> Amnesty International, 21 Apr 2020

<sup>27</sup> The Citizen, 17 Apr 2020

*“Access to information is an essential part of the fight against COVID-19, yet the Tanzanian government is choosing to censor journalists and media outlets who report on the disease. These recent reprisals are clearly politically motivated – the Tanzanian government’s sensitivity to criticism is costing journalists their rights and livelihoods.”<sup>28</sup>*

Increased government sensitivity is also impacting the law fraternity. **Arusha**-based advocate **Albert Msando** was arraigned to appear in court regarding comments he made on the spread of the coronavirus in the tourist hotspot of Arusha, after he apparently encouraged journalists to report the actual numbers, not the government-sanctioned numbers of cases in the area.<sup>29</sup> Further crackdowns will only further tarnish Tanzania’s image internationally and is cause for concern that the trend may continue throughout the year, particularly in the lead-up to the general election.

### Planner

7 Jul 2020 (**Tanzania**) Saba Saba Day (national holiday);  
 8 Aug 2020 (**Tanzania**) Nane Nane Day (national holiday);  
 14 Oct 2020 (**Tanzania**) Nyerere Day (National Holiday); and  
 October 2020 (**Tanzania**) General elections.

### Chronology

4 May 2020 **London (United Kingdom)** *BBC*. President **John Magufuli** announces that the country will import herbal medicine **Covid-Organic** from **Madagascar** to help treat victims of **coronavirus**;

3 May 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Member of parliament for **Iramba West** and former minister for home affairs **Mwigulu Nchemba** replaces **Augustine Mahiga** as minister for constitutional and legal affairs;

3 May 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Opposition party **Chadema** orders its members to boycott parliament, following the death of a third member of parliament amid the spread of the **coronavirus**;

1 May 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Constitutional and legal affairs minister **Augustine Mahinga** dies in **Dodoma** aged 74 after a short illness;

30 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily Monitor*. **National Assembly** speaker **Job Ndugai** suspends parliament after the death of **Sumve** MP **Richard Ndassa** in **Dodoma**;

29 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Confirmed cases of **coronavirus** in Tanzania have reached 480, including 16 deaths;

29 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. State-owned **Air Tanzania Company Limited (ACTL)** will embark on routes with cargo in the cabin area to try and help maintain supply chains in Tanzania and provide revenue for the airline after domestic travel has decreased sharply due to coronavirus;

27 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Upstream*. The government grants **London Stock Exchange**-listed **Aminex** a one-year extension to its onshore **Mtwara** exploration licence;

26 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Truck drivers from **Tanzania** and **Kenya** are being blamed for carrying the **coronavirus** over state borders, with **Uganda** reporting multiple cases from infected delivery drivers;

24 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The government has placed a cap on the price of sugar, to try to offset the price increases due in part to large-scale hoarding of the

<sup>28</sup> Amnesty International, 21 Apr 2020

<sup>29</sup> The Citizen, 30 Apr 2020

commodity;

23 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. President **John Magufuli** requests debt relief from multilateral institutions to help the government fight the coronavirus pandemic;

22 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. President **John Magufuli** confirms that there will be no lockdown of the commercial capital of **Dar es Salaam**, with the city responsible for 80% of the country's revenue;

22 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. President **John Magufuli** appoints **Mabula Daude Mchembe** as permanent secretary for health, replacing **Zainabu Chaula**;

20 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Parliament in **Dodoma** is suspended for one day after a member of parliament tests positive for coronavirus after travelling to **Dar es Salaam**;

19 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. Masks are now compulsory for residents leaving home in **Dar es Salaam** due to **coronavirus**;

17 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The **Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA)** has suspended the online service of Swahili language newspaper **Mwananchi** for six months and fined it TSh5m (\$2,100) for violating the **Electronic and Postal (Online Content) Regulations, 2018**;

15 Apr 2020 **Kibaha (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. A bus crash in **Mkuranga District, Coast Region** leaves 21 people dead;

14 Apr 2020 **Kibaha (Tanzania)** *The East African*. Tanzania will now allow pregnant schoolgirls to return to school under the **Secondary Education Quality Improvement Project (Seqip)** supported by the recently released **World Bank** funding;

14 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Tanzania stops all international flights due to the **coronavirus**;

12 Apr 2020 **Kibaha (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. Tanzania has kept its main ports and borders open to allow for landlocked countries to continue to import and export goods;

10 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Health minister **Ummu Mwalimu** urges people not to travel to villages during the Easter break to protect rural communities from the **coronavirus**;

8 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The East African*. The **United States (US)** publicly states that it does not agree with the **World Bank's** decision to release \$500m to fund education projects in **Tanzania**;

7 Apr 2020 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Controller and auditor general (CAG) **Charles Kichere** highlights flaws in government expenditure including overpayments and payments without contracts in place in his annual audit, which was also tabled in parliament.

### About Africa Risk Consulting:

**Africa Risk Consulting (ARC)** is a pan-African consulting company that provides timely, relevant information and advice that enables its clients to take informed investment decisions and to safeguard their reputations.

ARC's core consulting services include integrity due diligence and corporate investigations, political advisory and country assessments, opportunity monitoring and reputation risk management. Most relevant to private equity firms is ARC's integrity due diligence and corporate investigations capability. Specifically, ARC offers pre-deal integrity checks to highlight red flags before negotiations start; full detailed multi-jurisdictional reputation due diligence; and supplier and senior hire vetting and repeat due diligence for compliance programmes. ARC is unique in that it offers a 10-day delivery for a routine integrity due diligence. ARC also offers a suite of corporate investigations services from immediate investigation, evidence gathering, e-discovery, forensic accounting and whistleblower support on one end to crisis media management and regular monitoring on the other.

[www.africariskconsulting.com](http://www.africariskconsulting.com)

### About ARC Briefing:

**ARC Briefing** is ARC's essential business information service.

Companies at any stage in their Africa expansion, whether building or communicating an Africa strategy, investing directly, expanding current operations, financing other investors, doing the legal leg-work or researching the Africa growth trend, need ARC Briefing.

**ARC Briefing** is an information service keeping you:

- Up to date with Country Chronologies of business-critical events
- In the know via Country Briefings on political, economic, business and operating trends. Written in-country, ARC experts analyse and comment
- Ahead with Country Planner which details future elections, budgets, regulatory changes etc.

[www.africariskconsulting.com](http://www.africariskconsulting.com)

### Getting in touch

Please contact us by email [info@africariskconsulting.com](mailto:info@africariskconsulting.com) or call + 44 (0) 20 7078 4080

Follow us on Twitter: [@ARCBriefing](https://twitter.com/ARCBriefing)