

AFRICA RISK CONSULTING

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President Samia Suluhu Hassan (2021-current) replaces Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) commissioner general Alphayo Kidata on 2 July following criticism about the TRA's collection methods. Notably, ten foreign embassies send a letter on 26 June calling for government intervention over TRA's disruptive tax demands. Parliament on 24 June suspends Kisesa member of parliament (MP) Luhaga Mpina after he publicly accuses agriculture minister Hussein Bashe of misleading parliament about sugar importation data amidst an ongoing sugar shortage. The arrests of journalist Dinna Maningo and her colleagues, the abduction and torture of influencer Edgar Edson Mwakabela and the prosecution of artist Shadrack Chaula highlight an escalating crackdown on freedom of expression.

Hassan replaces TRA boss amid criticism and investor concerns

President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** (2021-current) replaced **Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)** commissioner general **Alphayo Kidata** on 2 July to control damage from multifaceted criticism over the country's tax collection methods. Hassan names **Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZARA)** commissioner general **Yusuph Juma Mwenda** as Kidata's replacement. Hassan transferred Kidata to an advisory position at **State House**. In addition to the TRA shuffle, Hassan moved industry and trade minister **Ashatu Kijaji** to minister of state in the vice president's office responsible for union and environment affairs, exchanging portfolios with **Selemani Jafo**.

This personnel shuffle was initially linked to the nationwide strike action by market traders between 24 and 27 June but was more likely prompted by a 26 June letter sent by ten foreign envoys formally requesting a meeting with foreign affairs minister **January Makamba** to address investor challenges with the TRA.¹

The following signed the letter:

- **United States (US)** ambassador **Michael Battle**;
- Outgoing **British** high commissioner **David Concar**;
- **Netherlands** ambassador **Wiebe de Boer**;
- **Irish** chargé d'affaires and deputy ambassador **Mags Gaynor**;
- **French** ambassador **Nabil Hajlaoui**;
- **Belgian** ambassador **Peter Huyghebaert**;
- **Canadian** high commissioner **Kyle Nunas**;
- **Korean** chargé d'affaires and deputy ambassador **Seungyun Lee**;
- **Swedish** ambassador **Charlotta Ozaki Macias** and;
- **German** ambassador **Thomas Terstegen**.

The letter also requested an audience with finance minister **Mwigulu Nchemba**, investment and planning minister **Kitila Mkumbo**, then-industry and trade minister Kijaji, and the Kidata.

Although the envoys noted that there had been a positive rise in the value of registered businesses from \$3 billion in 2022 to \$5.5 billion in 2023, they expressed concern that investors had increasingly encountered "*significant disruption*" due to unevidenced notices from TRA demanding payments and

¹ [The Citizen](#), 25 Jun 2024

account reconciliations backdating as much as 15 years.² The letter indicates investors reported the following:

*"TRA agents levy extraordinary tax bills not supported by Tanzanian law, threaten investors and Tanzanian partners when companies protest or appeal these practices, and freeze or seize bank accounts and company assets without notification nor timely legal recourse."*³

The letter referenced an example whereby one unnamed company was issued a TSh1.2 billion (\$455,400) tax notice requiring payment "*within three working days*" for discrepancies dating back 12 years or risk having its operational accounts frozen and funds withdrawn.⁴ The envoys further expressed concern over TRA's refusal to recognise certain tax concession agreements that investors entered with the **Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC)** due to them not being gazetted.

Makamba addressed the letter and advised the aggrieved investors to prepare reports outlining their issues and concerns before a formal meeting. He stated that the government would "*take very seriously any alleged transgression, by any public entity, which endangers the country's reputation as an investor-friendly destination*".⁵ He added that Tanzania was committed to ensuring an "*ironclad*" success of foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country.⁶

Shaping Tanzania as 'open for business' to the international community has been a cornerstone of Hassan's administration but the TRA's current practices do not foster a positive investment environment. Although the level of business of market traders and international investors are vastly different, their complaints about tax collection methods and TRA's disruptive policies go hand in hand.

Government needs to conduct a thorough assessment of the envoys' claims as they pose a significant business risk for local and international investors. A lack of follow-through will risk a decline in investor confidence in Tanzania as a destination for FDI.

MP suspended for alleging government mismanagement during sugar crisis

The recent suspension of **Kisesa** member of parliament (MP) **Luhaga Mpina** has raised issues about accountability and transparency in Tanzanian politics and has highlighted the challenges whistleblowers may face if they challenge the system. Parliament unanimously voted on 24 June to suspend Mpina for 15 parliamentary sittings (until November 2024) after finding him guilty of contempt and failing to substantiate his 4 June claims against agriculture minister **Hussein Bashe**.⁷

During the 4 June parliamentary meeting, Mpina accused Bashe of lying to parliament about the country's sugar importation laws and mismanaging financial resources which, he claimed, resulted in a reported loss of TSh 580 billion (\$217m). Mpina alleged that Bashe's information regarding the importation of 410,000 tonnes of sugar, authorised by the **National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA)** starting in January 2024, was grossly inflated and misrepresented the actual situation.⁸

Mpina further stated that the agriculture ministry failed to cooperate effectively with sugar processing companies which led to a dramatic surge in sugar prices, from TSh2,700 (\$1.00) per kilogramme in January to TSh 5,000 (\$1.86).⁹ After following through on speaker **Tulia Ackson's** directives to submit supporting evidence on 14 June, Mpina held a press conference in which he publicly disclosed the details of his 40-page document detailing the alleged deceptions.¹⁰ After videos of the conference went viral, Ackson deemed Mpina's actions a "*direct challenge to our procedures*"

² [The Citizen](#), 4 Jul 2024

³ [The Chanzo](#), 1 Jul 2024

⁴ [The East African](#), 3 Jul 2024

⁵ [The Citizen](#), 28 Jun 2024

⁶ [The Citizen](#), 28 Jun 2024

⁷ [The Citizen](#), 24 Jun 2024

⁸ [Pan African Visions](#), 28 Jun 2024

⁹ [The Citizen](#), 24 Jun 2024

¹⁰ [Mwananchi](#), 18 Jun 2024

and a violation of parliamentary protocol.¹¹ He was referred to the **Parliamentary Privileges, Ethics, and Powers Committee** which found him in contempt of Parliament on 24 June.¹²

Mpina defended his actions by asserting that his motivations were rooted in a commitment to transparency and accountability and argued that Bashe's alleged misinformation deserved public scrutiny and demanded answers.¹³ Mpina is a staunch member of the ruling **Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM)** but has been vocal in criticising the government on corruption issues, rare among politicians who tend to toe the line to preserve individual interests. Mpina has frequently clashed with different government officials including Nchemba about such issues as the procurement processes involved in the construction of the **Standard Gauge Railway (SGR)**.¹⁴ Mpina's anti-corruption stance has garnered significant public support, with many citizens viewing his actions as a courageous stand against governmental inefficiency.¹⁵

In response to the accusations, Bashe defended his statements and actions and the Parliamentary Privileges, Ethics, and Powers Committee subsequently concluded that he did not falsify information.¹⁶ The committee was satisfied that his statements and the ministry's actions adequately suited the emergency sugar shortage situation which has been exacerbated by adverse weather conditions harming domestic production.¹⁷ In response to the crisis, the government has attempted to stabilise the sugar supply and control prices by imposing regulations on sugar production, importation and domestic distribution. However, poor coordination created tension between the government, sugar producers, and businesses with each entity blaming the other for delayed permits, import interruptions, or other inefficiencies in adequately meeting market demand.¹⁸

Parliament passed a bill on 7 July to amend the **Sugar Industry Act 2001** that grants NFRA an exclusive mandate to import, store and distribute sugar for domestic consumption and give the **Sugar Board of Tanzania (SBT)** discretion in issuing import licences.¹⁹ Nchemba said that the amendments would help to control arbitrary shortages, hoarding and inflating of prices.²⁰ It is not clear whether the issues highlighted by Mpina had any impact on the government's commitment to increase efficiency and accountability in the sugar sector.

In a press conference on 29 June, Mpina expressed his dissatisfaction with the outcome of his investigations and stated he was unfairly punished by Ackson and would be submitting complaints to court.²¹ This incident highlights the significant challenges faced by politicians who expose potential governmental inefficiencies and corruption in pursuit of greater transparency and accountability. Although airing his grievances in public resulted in Mpina's suspension, the generated social awareness of the issues potentially provoked the government into action.

Police intensify crackdowns on free expression and digital rights

Recent incidents involving the arrest of journalist **Dinna Maningo** and her colleagues, the abduction and torture of **Edgar Edson Mwakabela** (known on social media as **Sativa**), and the arrest and prosecution of artist **Shadrack Chaula** illustrate an escalation of police crackdowns on freedoms of expression in Tanzania, particularly on individuals criticising current politics. Police detained Maningo on 13 June for allegedly divulging confidential investigation documents linked to a prominent sexual assault case on her blog **Dima Online**. A university student accused former **Simiyu** regional commissioner **Yahya Nawanda** of sexual assault and Maningo's investigative journalism

¹¹ [Pan African Visions](#), 28 Jun 2024

¹² [IPP Media](#), 26 Jun 2024

¹³ [Tanzania Digest](#), 28 Jun 2024

¹⁴ [Mwananchi](#), 10 May 2023

¹⁵ [Pan African Visions](#), 28 Jun 2024

¹⁶ [The Citizen](#), 25 Jun 2024

¹⁷ [The Citizen](#), 24 Jan 2024

¹⁸ [The Citizen](#), 5 Jul 2024

¹⁹ [The Citizen](#), 13 Jun 2024

²⁰ [The East African](#), 7 Jul 2024

²¹ [Uhondo TV](#), YouTube, 29 Jun 2024

initially contributed to Nawanda's arrest and removal from his position on 11 June.²² However, police arrested her for leaking confidential investigation documents after a letter was published on her blog detailing allegations about police mishandling of the case and alleged pressure of the victim to retract her statements.²³ Police also arrested Maningo's colleagues **Samweli Mwanga** and **Constantine Mathias** which drew significant criticism from press freedom advocates.²⁴ After a week of detention, Maningo, Mwanga, and Mathias were released on bail on 20 June.²⁵

In another incident, Sativa went missing on 23 June, sparking the viral **#WhereIsSativa** campaign on social media platforms **X** and **Facebook**.²⁶ Sativa was found tortured, shot in the head, and abandoned in **Katavi National Park** on 27 June and transferred to a hospital. While in hospital, Sativa revealed that he was taken to a location inside **Oysterbay** police station in **Dar es Salaam** where he was interrogated about his connection to opposition figures **Martin Maranja Masese** and **Boniface Jacob** before being transferred to the park where he was shot and left for dead.²⁷ Sativa's abduction and torture garnered attention from international human rights organisations and press freedom advocates. His reported abduction indicates a worrying practice of the government condoning the use of arrests and violence to intimidate opposition figures and activists from speaking out. It also has the potential to deter individuals from expressing support for opposition politicians or criticising the government.

In a third incident on 30 June, police arrested Chaula for making derogatory remarks against Hassan and burning her portrait in a performance captured on video and spread on social media platform **TikTok**.²⁸ Mbeya regional police commander **Benjamin Kuzaga** condemned Chaula's actions as contrary to cultural norms and called for decisive legal action.²⁹ Although public acts of disrespecting the president are not illegal, the prosecution argued that by distributing the video on social media, Chaula was disseminating false information, thus violating section 16 of the **Cybercrime Act**. A court sentenced Chaula on 4 July to two years in prison or a fine of TSh5m (\$1,861). Through a widespread social media campaign supporters had already raised TSh5.6m (\$2,109) by 5 July and Chaula's lawyers are preparing an appeal of the charges.³⁰

Adding to the increasing crackdowns on cyber freedoms there is currently a heated debate over whether the government should ban the social media platform X. The CCM's youth wing and influential religious leaders have argued that the platform disseminates content undermining Tanzanian cultural values, including the promotion of homosexuality and pornography.³¹ However, among political activists, X has become an important platform for political dialogue and engagement with many using it to criticise the government or individual politicians.³² X also played an important role in coordinating market traders' recent strike action against tax collection policies.

In a statement on 3 July, the **Internet Governance Working Group (IGTWG)** condemned the proposed ban and highlighted that it would negatively impact citizens' freedom of expression, and access to information, and obstruct Tanzania's socio-economic development.³³ When combined these incidents reflect a potentially troubling trend in which online freedom of speech is closely monitored and citizens' access to information is policed. The government's complicity in arresting individuals who have criticised the current leadership creates an environment whereby supporters of opposition

²² [The Citizen](#), 13 Jun 2024

²³ [Pan African Visions](#), 15 Jun 2024

²⁴ [Coalition for Women in Journalism](#), 13 Jun 2024

²⁵ [The Citizen](#), 20 Jun 2024

²⁶ [#WhereIsSativa](#), Facebook

²⁷ [The Chanzo](#), 29 Jun 2024

²⁸ [BBC News](#), 5 Jul 2024

²⁹ [The Citizen](#), 2 Jul 2024

³⁰ [The Citizen](#), 5 Jul 2024

³¹ [The Citizen](#), 6 Jul 2024

³² [The Chanzo](#), 11 Jun 2024

³³ [The Citizen](#), 6 Jul 2024

parties may feel threatened for voicing contrary political opinions. This raises further questions about the government's commitment to multiparty politics in the upcoming elections.

Planner

10-11 Jul 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) Centre for Effective Global Action (CEGA) 12th Africa Evidence Summit**

11- 12 Sep 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) Tanzania Energy Congress**

12-13 Sep 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) East African Investment Forum (EAIF) 2024**

12-14 Sep 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) 8th Minexpo Africa**

Dec 2024 **(Tanzania) Local elections;**

2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) Tanzania Mining and Investment Forum**

5-7 Mar 2025 **(Tanzania) 11th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2025 (EAPCE'25)**

Oct 2025 **(Tanzania) General elections**

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

Chronology

7 Jul 2024 **Zanzibar (Tanzania) Citizen Digital.** Foreign affairs minister **January Makamba** hosts a meeting of foreign and **East African Community (EAC)** ministers to discuss regional peace, security, and EAC integration;

4 Jul 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) CNBC Africa.** Bank of Tanzania (central bank) leaves the key interest rate unchanged at 6%, confirming that inflation expectations are well below its target of 5%, reaching 3.1% in May;

7 Jul 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) The Citizen.** The **European Union (EU)** announces funding of €15m (\$16.25m) to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) activities in Tanzania;

5 Jul 2024 **Zanzibar (Tanzania) IPP Media.** **Zanzibar** tourism ministry and the **Zanzibar Tourism Commission** introduce new regulations for non-hotel tourist accommodations, such as **Airbnb**, requiring owners to register with the commission and ensure they meet required standards;

2 Jul 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) Battery Metals Africa.** The maiden shipment of graphite concentrates from **Australian** company **Walkabout Resources' Lindi Jumbo** graphite mine is set to depart for **Europe** in July, marking the emergence of a new global graphite mining jurisdiction;

2 Jul 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) The Chanzo.** **European Investment Bank (EIB)** vice president **Thomas Ostros** leads a delegation to Tanzania to assess EIB-supported projects, focusing on the green private sector, public infrastructure, gender-lens investing, and boosting the blue economy;

1 Jul 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) Club of Mozambique.** **Mozambique** President **Filipe Nyusi** arrives in **Tanzania** for a four-day visit at the invitation of his counterpart, **Samia Suluhu Hassan**;

29 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) The Citizen.** Tanzania confirms it will sell 650,000 tonnes of corn to **Zambia**, which is facing a severe **El-Nino** induced drought;

26 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) The Citizen.** Market trader's strikes against the tax regime and the **Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)** spreads to **Mbeya, Arusha, Dodoma, Mwanza, Songwe, Mtwara, Geita, and Iringa**;

26 Jun 2024 **Dodoma (Tanzania) The Chanzo.** Parliament approves the government budget of TSh 49.35 trillion (\$18.37 billion) for the 2024/2025 fiscal year but the **Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC)** claims that the budget does not address the needs of the citizens;

24 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. Shares of **Australia**-headquartered exploration and mining company **Gladiator Resources** increase nearly 12% after the explorer reveals it has uncovered two “*highly mineralised*” intervals during drilling at its **Mkuju Project** in the **Ruvuma**;

22 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The **Kariakoo Traders Association** announces an indefinite strike at **Dar es Salaam** market from 24 June and urges all Kariakoo vendors to halt business activities in protest against alleged harassment by **Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA)** agents;

21 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Counter Terror Business*. The **United Kingdom (UK) Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** updates its travel advisory and advises against all but essential travel to within 20km of the Tanzanian border with **Cabo Delgado Province** in **Mozambique**;

21 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *IPP Media*. **Guinea-Bissau’s** President **Umaro Mokhtar Sissoco Embaló** arrives for a two-day working visit and is scheduled to hold formal talks with counterpart **Samia Suluhu Hassan**;

20 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Reuters*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** executive board approves a total of \$935.6m in funding for Tanzania;

19 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Daily News*. Livestock and fisheries ministry director of aquaculture **Nazael Madala** reports that fish exports increased by 41% between April 2023 and April 2024, compared to 2022/23 due to increased seaweed farming and strengthening of the management for sea products exports and processing factories;

19 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **United States (US)**-based **William & Mary’s Global Research Institute** reports that the US has delivered an estimated \$2.8 billion per year to Tanzania between 2012-2022;

18 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *British International Investment*. **British International Investment (BII)** signs an agreement to provide \$15m to **Rift Valley Energy (RVE)**, owned by **France**-based **Meridiam**, to support the financing and installation of new wind and hydropower projects with a combined capacity of 7.6 MW;

17 Jun 2024 **London (United Kingdom)** *The Independent*. The **London Bullion Market Association (LBMA)** drops a jurisdictional challenge in a case which claims it wrongly classified gold from **North Mara Gold Mine** as responsibly sourced, despite allegations of human rights abuse;

17 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Tanzania Investment Centre*. **Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC)** signs a \$576m agreement with **Egypt**-based **The Food Platform**, **China**-based **Longping Agriscience Limited**, and a consortium of **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**-based **Eagle Hills Properties**, **Egyptian Sugar** and **India’s Global Cane Sugar** to develop **Mkulazi Agriculture Investment City**, located in the **Morogoro** region;

15 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The East African*. **European Union (EU)** joins the **World Bank** in cutting funding for Tanzania’s wildlife conservation programmes over human rights violations allegations;

13 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *CNBC Africa*. Minister of state in the president’s office for planning and investment **Kitila Mkumbo** tells parliament that Tanzania’s economy is set to grow by 5.4% this year;

12 Jun 2024 **Moscow (Russia)** *Interfax*. **Russia’s** deputy transport minister **Vladimir Poteshkin** and Tanzania’s ambassador to Russia **Fredrick Ibrahim Kibuta** sign an air transport agreement that seeks to launch direct flights from Russia to Tanzania by the end of 2024;

12 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *IPP Media*. Vice president **Philip Mpango** announces that the **United Nations (UN)** has begun plans to remove Tanzania from the list of least developed countries (LDCs);

11 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Biometric Update*. **Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)** announces that a biometric voter registration process will be conducted in **Zanzibar** from 1 July;

11 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *IPP Media*. The **National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)** reveals that the annual headline inflation rate for May stagnated at 3.1%, the same level recorded in April;

10 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Punch*. **Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC)** board chairman Dr **Binilith Mahenge** calls on **Nigerian** investors to explore business opportunities in Tanzania;

9 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The East African*. **Kenya** and Tanzania sign a power-sharing deal to co-chair the **African Group of Negotiators (AGN)** for two years as they lead **African** climate negotiations. Kenya will lead the AGN in 2024-2025 during **COP29** in **Baku (Azerbaijan)** later this year, and Tanzania take over for the 2025-2026 period;

7 Jun 2024 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *United Nations Human Rights*. The **United Nations (UN) Office of Human Rights** condemns the violent attack against transgender woman and activist **Mauzinde** and calls for action to combat discrimination against **LGBTIQ+** individuals.

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