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The government-appointed commission into the October 2025 post-election violence announces its findings on 23 April. The commission reports that at least 518 people were killed, but states that this was largely due to the protestors' violence, absolving the state of any responsibility. International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff and Tanzanian authorities reach a staff-level agreement on the final reviews of Tanzania's Extended Credit Facility (ECF) and Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF), which, pending IMF executive board approval, will allow for the disbursement of \$375.5m in funding. Kenya's President William Ruto (2021-present) arrives in Tanzania on 4 May for a state visit to co-host the Tanzania-Kenya Business Forum, address Tanzania's parliament, and hold talks with President Samia Suluhu Hassan (2021-present), with the goal of promoting economic cooperation between the two countries.

Commission announces findings into 2025 election violence

The government-appointed commission into October's post-election violence announced its findings on 23 April, including that at least 518 people were killed. The commission states that this was largely due to the protestors' violence, essentially absolving the state of any responsibility. Commission chairman **Mohamed Chande Othman** [added](#) that the death toll was likely higher, as some families buried their family members without taking them to a morgue first. Most deaths were attributed to gunshot wounds. Protests broke out following the 29 October election, in which the main opposition **Chadema** was excluded and several irregularities were reported (*see ARC Briefing Tanzania Nov 2025*).

The commission found that over 2,000 people were injured in the violence, including over 800 people with gunshot wounds. Othman recommended that further investigations take place, especially into the use of guns, as some witnesses told the commission their family members were shot while in their homes and not involved in the protests.

The commission rebuked human rights groups' allegations that mass graves were created to bury those killed before they were autopsied, accusing people of using AI to manipulate images. The commission [said](#) the causes of the violence included economic, political and social issues, such as demand for reforms, unemployment and a lack of patriotism. It added that the violence was organised, coordinated and funded with the goal of disrupting the elections. The commission recommended a national day of mourning for the victims, free medical care for those injured, and constitutional changes to be made by 2028. It also recommended a criminal inquiry, which is unlikely to go anywhere.

Notably, the government has not released the actual report, raising concerns over transparency of the process. **United Nations (UN)** experts [reported](#) in December that at least 700 people were estimated to have been killed extrajudicially in the post-election violence, but that other estimates were higher. **United States (US)**-headquartered non-governmental organisation (NGO) **Human Rights Watch** [called](#) the commission's recommendations positive, but the outcome a "missed opportunity to establish the full truth and lay the foundation for accountability". **United Kingdom**-headquartered NGO **Amnesty International** has demanded that the government release the commission's full report.

Despite President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** (2021-present) establishing the commission to try to show some accountability for the crackdown, the post-election violence remains a diplomatic issue. The

European Union (EU) Parliament's delegation that was planning to travel to Tanzania in late May to hold hearings on the post-election violence was [blocked](#) from entering the country. **Mounir Satouri**, a **French** politician who chairs the EU parliament's subcommittee on human rights, [noted](#) that Tanzanian authorities have continued to postpone the visit in such a manner that it amounts to a refusal of entry. The EU suspended a disbursement of approximately \$170m in funding after the elections, and this remains at risk (*see ARC Briefing Tanzania Dec 2025*). This is cause for concern as approximately 30% of Tanzania's budget relies on foreign aid and concessional loans. On 20 May, two members of the US Senate foreign relations committee also [submitted](#) a bipartisan bill, the **Reassessing the United States-Tanzania Bilateral Relationship Act**, which required a full review of US-Tanzania relations following the general election. The statement from the committee refers to the elections:

"...in which Tanzanian authorities reportedly brutally suppressed thousands of protestors, instituted a nationwide Internet shutdown, denied the wounded access to healthcare, arrested protestors from hospitals and collected bodies from mortuaries to obfuscate the scale of the repression."

Although this will place pressure on the government, the current administration is unlikely to pursue accountability for the violence and full justice for its victims.

IMF and Tanzania reach agreement for disbursement of \$375m

Finance minister **Khamis Mussa Omar** and **Bank of Tanzania** (central bank) governor **Emmanuel Tutuba**, alongside other senior Tanzanian officials, [reached](#) a staff-level agreement with **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** staff on 12 May on the final reviews of Tanzania's **Extended Credit Facility (ECF)** and **Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)**. Pending IMF executive board approval, this will allow for the disbursement of \$375.5m in funding. Total funding disbursed under the ECF will reach \$1.05 billion and \$568.3m under the RSF.

The IMF noted in its [announcement](#) that the two programmes' objectives had largely been achieved, allowing Tanzania to strengthen macroeconomic stability, build financial buffers and work on its approach/resilience to climate change – the focus of the RSF. The reviews were positive, with the IMF praising Tanzania's increased investment in education and healthcare as indications of better governance, but the mission cautioned against external shock factors including global conflicts and ripple effects thereof.

The IMF highlighted some key economic figures, including growth forecast to be 5.9% in 2026 and to average 6.3% over the medium term. Despite inflationary pressures from the outbreak of the conflict in the **Middle East**, inflation is forecast to remain largely contained, averaging 4.7% in 2026, within the central bank target range of 3-5%. The current account deficit is expected to widen this year to 2.9% of GDP, driven by higher global prices for oil and fertilisers, but the high gold price will help offset this slightly. The IMF expects that the current account deficit will remain under 3% over the medium term.

The IMF encouraged Tanzanian authorities to continue to focus on structural reforms and improving climate resilience, as this will help the government's **Development Vision 2050**. Hassan [launched](#) Development Vision 2050 in 2025, at the conclusion of **Development Vision 2025**. Development Vision 2050 outlines government's goal to build a \$1-trillion economy, with an average GDP per capita of \$7,000, meaning the country will be classified as an upper-middle-income country. Tanzania has not indicated if it will negotiate a new plan with the IMF but with its current economic position, it may not feel this is necessary.

Ruto visits Kenya to promote stronger ties, regional refinery plans

Kenya's President **William Ruto** (2021-present) arrived in Tanzania on 4 May for a state visit to co-host the **Tanzania-Kenya Business Forum**, address Tanzania's parliament, and hold talks with Hassan, with the goal of promoting economic cooperation between the two countries. Several

[agreements](#) were signed during the forum, including between the **Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)** and **Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)**, **Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI)**, **Zanzibar National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC)** and the **Tanzania National Chamber of Commerce**, to strengthen cooperation and cross-border investment. Hassan commented during the forum that the two countries had agreed to prioritise trade and investment cooperation and confirmed plans to eliminate non-tariff barriers.

Another key agreement signed was the proposal for a natural gas pipeline connecting Dar es Salaam and **Mombasa** (Kenya). Officials [said](#) the study will assess the project's technical, economic and environmental viability with the pipeline potentially supplying Tanzanian gas to Kenyan industrial hubs and supporting cross-border electricity trading.

However, during the visit, Hassan brought up the announcement of **Nigeria**-headquartered **Dangote Refinery's** owner, **Aliko Dangote**, of his plans to build a major oil refinery in **East Africa**, possibly in Tanzania. Dangote made the [announcement](#) during the **Africa We Build Summit** on 23 April in Nairobi, alongside Ruto and **Uganda's** President **Yoweri Museveni** (1986-present). Ruto had announced that the planned refinery could be located in **Tanga** (Tanzania) and connect to Mombasa via a pipeline. The refinery will get its oil from regional producers and will help to supply refined oil to the region. However, during Ruto's visit, Hassan expressed [concern](#) that she had not been informed or invited to discussions around the planned refinery. She was also not in attendance at the Africa We Build Summit.

While the exchange was diplomatically contained, it exposed the structural competition beneath Tanzania and Kenya's cooperation agenda with leaders positioning their countries as the region's main commercial, financial and transport anchor for East African trade. Dangote [told](#) the UK's **Financial Times** on 10 May that he was "*leaning more towards Mombasa*" for the new 650,000-barrel-per-day refinery, citing Kenya's deeper port and larger market, adding that "*the ball is in the hands of President Ruto ... Whatever President Ruto says is what I'll do.*"

The two countries have a competitive history but are also key to each other's growth. **Invest Kenya** CEO **John Mwendwa** confirmed that bilateral trade between the two [should](#) reach \$1 billion in 2026; Ruto confirmed it had [reached](#) \$860m in 2025. Together the two countries [account](#) for approximately 40% of intra-**East Africa Community (EAC)** trade. However, **Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS)** [data](#) show Kenyan exports to Tanzania fell from \$516.6m in 2024 to \$489m in 2025, while imports from Tanzania declined from \$451m to \$388m. At the business forum, Ruto [said](#) both governments would create a joint technical mechanism to eliminate trade barriers, publish a time-bound resolution plan, and ensure new barriers are addressed "*swiftly and conclusively*".

Tanzania Investments and Special Economic Zones Authority (TISEZA) executive director **Gilead Teri** [noted](#) in his presentation that Tanzania aims to become the largest economy in East Africa by 2030, a title Kenya currently holds, once again showcasing the competitive nature of the relationship. Tanzania's efforts are paying off, with the economic relationship becoming more balanced. Kenyan firms have \$1.7 billion [invested](#) in Tanzania while Tanzanian investment in Kenya has steadily increased, reaching approximately \$336m. Ruto [said](#) in his address to Tanzania's parliament on 5 May that Tanzanian capital inflows into Kenya are expected to double by the end of 2026.

Prior to Ruto's visit, Hassan [hosted](#) **Rwanda's** President **Paul Kagame** (2000-present) on 3 May to discuss areas of cooperation. During the visit, Hassan highlighted that 70% of Rwanda's cargo travels through Tanzanian ports, with bilateral trade between the two reaching TSh 644 billion (\$245.37m) in 2025. This highlights the key role Tanzania plays in the region, specifically its port infrastructure. Tanzania has over the last several years sought to expand its port infrastructure to rival Kenya's and to help it facilitate greater movement of goods, and thus, increase earning potential.

While Ruto's visit to Tanzania was a success for both countries, the underlying competitiveness of their relationship requires a delicate balance between improving relations – as they are key to each

other's growth – but also keeping ahead of each other. This tension could play a role in the implementation of various agreements, and the outcomes remain to be seen.

Planner

Oct 2026 **(Tanzania and Uganda)** Exports of oil via the **East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP)**
 19-21 Nov 2026 **(Tanzania)** 7th **Tanzania Mining and Investment Conference**
 2026 **(Tanzania)** **Ntorya Gas Project** to begin operations
 19 Jun – 17 Jul 2027 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** Tanzania, **Uganda** and **Kenya** to co-host the **Africa Cup of Nations 2027 (AFCON)**

Chronology

18 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Maritime Executive*. **Russia**-based container line **FESCO** launches a new connection in Tanzania;

18 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Health minister **Mohamed Mchengerwa** meets with **United States (US)** global health official **Brad Smith** in **Geneva (Switzerland)** to discuss a new health pact aimed at boosting local drug production;

16 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL)** is set to launch direct flights connecting Dar es Salaam and **Zanzibar** to **Moscow (Russia)** via **Seychelles** later this year under a newly established bilateral agreement;

15 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Deputy minister in the president's office for planning and investment, Dr **Pius Chaya**, addresses the **Tanzania-Russia Business and Investment Forum**, appealing to **Russian** investors to partner with the Tanzanian private sector in preparing for the **2027 African Cup of Nations (AFCON)**;

14 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Following a mission to Dar es Salaam, **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** mission chief **Nicolas Blancher** highlights Tanzania's recent stability gains while emphasising the urgent need to support SMEs and prioritise job creation;

13 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** projects that Tanzania's economy will grow by 5.9% in 2026, demonstrating resilience despite potential economic spillovers from conflicts in the **Middle East**;

12 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Tanzania and **Kenya** are intensifying their competition to become the primary hub for oil refining in **East Africa** as regional energy demands shift, highlighting a broader push for infrastructure dominance within the **East African Community (EAC)**;

11 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The **Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE)** partners with fintech platform **Mixx** to digitise stock trading, a move that has already helped drive digital investment uptake to TSh 7 billion (\$2.67m);

8 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Tanzania Invest*. **Bank of Tanzania** (central bank) releases its **Monetary Policy Report**, keeping the central bank rate at 5.75% in quarter two;

5 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Businessman and former politician **Rostam Azizi** calls for deeper economic integration between Tanzania and **Kenya** to unlock regional growth and streamline trade;

4 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Business leaders from Tanzania and **Kenya** attending the **Tanzania-Kenya Investment Forum**, held alongside the state visit of Kenya's President **William Ruto**, advocate for a unified market to unlock regional economic growth and streamline cross-border trade;

3 May 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. President **Samia Suluhu Hassan** and **Rwanda's** President **Paul Kagame** meet at **State House** in Dar es Salaam to reaffirm their commitment to strengthening trade and infrastructure ties between Tanzania and Rwanda;

29 Apr 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Planning and investment minister **Kitila Mkumbo** and **Belarus'** foreign affairs minister, **Maxim Ryzhenkov**, sign a strategic investment cooperation agreement in Dar es Salaam aimed at enhancing trade and economic ties between the two nations;

28 Apr 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. An investigation into post-election violence in Tanzania reveals that the unrest was fuelled by 16 coordinated tactics, including reports that individuals were paid to incite conflict;

28 Apr 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *Reuters*. **Standard Chartered Bank** arranges a \$2.33 billion syndicated financing facility for the 1,219km **Standard Gauge Railway** project in Tanzania;

27 Apr 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Energy minister **Deogratius Ndejemi** announces that Tanzania is prioritising the development of its natural gas sector to navigate global fuel price volatility and reshape its position in the energy market;

23 Apr 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Retired justice **Mohamed Chande Othman** presents a commission report revealing that 518 people were killed in violence related to the October 2025 general election;

21 Apr 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Finance minister **Khamis Mussa Omar** calls on the **World Bank** to implement a transformative development model, inspired by the **Marshall Plan**, to significantly **boost Africa's** private sector;

20 Apr 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. Finance minister **Khamis Mussa Omar** meets with **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** president **Zou Jiayi** to secure increased funding for its national infrastructure project and strengthen their partnership;

19 Apr 2026 **Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)** *The Citizen*. The tourism sector reaches a significant milestone with annual arrivals hitting 5.9 million, moving the country closer to its strategic goal of eight million visitors by 2030;

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