

**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
DIRECTORATE OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS, STATE HOUSE**



Unguja
18th August, 2026

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PUBLIC STATEMENT

TANZANIA, DRC TO ACCELERATE TRANSPORT AND TRADE PROJECTS

Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have agreed to accelerate the implementation of transport projects connecting the two countries to reduce the time and cost of moving goods, while expanding trade and investment for mutual benefit.

The agreement was reached today, 18th August, 2026, at the Zanzibar State Lodge during talks between the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, and the President of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, H.E. Félix Tshisekedi, who is visiting the country at the invitation of President Samia.

During the talks, President Samia stressed the importance of strengthening rail and road networks, port services and water transport linking the Port of Dar es Salaam with production areas in the DRC through Lake Tanganyika.

“Our goal is to make it easier to transport goods between Tanzania and the DRC by improving transport infrastructure and services, reducing time and costs, and in turn increasing trade and investment between our two countries,” President Samia said.

The DRC is one of the largest users of Tanzanian ports, with approximately 7.2 million tonnes of cargo handled in 2023.

President Samia welcomed the DRC’s construction of the 450-kilometre road from Manono to the Port of Kalemie, alongside improvements to the port, saying the projects will help strengthen trade and investment through the Central Corridor.

She said Tanzania is continuing to improve its ports on Lake Tanganyika, increase the number of vessels and expand the railway network westwards to make it easier to transport goods to the DRC and other neighbouring countries.



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The two leaders also discussed expanding cooperation in communications, energy and mining. President Samia called on the two countries to work together in mineral extraction, value addition, research and marketing to increase the benefits from their mineral resources.

President Samia also invited the DRC to join the African Minerals and Geosciences Centre (AMGC), based in Tanzania, to collaborate on research, exchange expertise and promote productive investment in the mining sector.

Tanzania also expressed its readiness to expand trade with the DRC in agricultural, livestock and fisheries products, as well as to provide specialised medical services and conduct medical camps in the DRC.

On peace and security, President Samia said Tanzania will continue to support the DRC's efforts to restore peace and stability in the eastern part of the country.

For his part, President Tshisekedi said the DRC has started preparations to build a dry port in Dar es Salaam to facilitate the handling and transportation of DRC cargo passing through the Port of Dar es Salaam.

The dry port is expected to provide customs services, maritime cargo handling, mineral certification and quality control services.

"We want to make trade between our countries easier. The construction of a dry port in Dar es Salaam will help improve the handling and transportation of DRC cargo passing through Tanzania," President Tshisekedi said.

President Tshisekedi also said the DRC is considering expanding Air Tanzania flights to the country, a move aimed at increasing travel, tourism, trade and people-to-people exchanges between Tanzania and the DRC.

He further stressed the importance of Africa processing its minerals and other resources within the continent to add value, build production value chains and create jobs for young people.

"Africa should add value to its resources within the continent. This will enable us to build production value chains, increase the benefits from our resources and create more jobs for our young people," President Tshisekedi said.

The visit has given fresh momentum to the use of the Central Corridor and Lake Tanganyika as key routes for trade, investment and stronger economic ties between Tanzania and the DRC.

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have longstanding diplomatic, economic and social relations.

Both countries are members of the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), providing a strong platform for deeper economic and regional cooperation.

Tanzania's geographical position makes it a strategic gateway connecting the DRC to the Indian Ocean and international markets, while the DRC is an important market for Tanzanian goods, services and investment.

With a population of more than 100 million people and significant natural resources, the DRC is one of the major markets in East and Central Africa.



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