

Samia's call as she receives Russian honorary doctorate

By Samuel Tindwa
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Moscow. President Samia Suluhu Hassan yesterday urged the world to ensure that education is guided by wisdom, character and a commitment to humanity, saying knowledge alone will not be enough to navigate the challenges of a rapidly changing world.

Speaking after receiving an honorary doctorate from the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) in Moscow, President Hassan said the recognition reflected not only her personal achievements but also the enduring friendship between Tanzania and Russia and a shared belief in the transformative power of education.

"I receive this honour with humility," she said. "It is not uniquely mine. It is a tribute to the people of Tanzania, whose confidence and trust have given me the privilege to serve."

The university awarded President Hassan Doctor *honoris causa* in recognition of her contribution to education, reconciliation, human development and the strengthening of relations between Tanzania and Russia.

In a speech her speech, she emphasised that education as a tool for national transformation and global solidarity, warning that while the world is becoming increasingly interconnected through technology, it remains in need of wisdom.

"The world is very much connected, but it needs deep wisdom," she said. "Education must prepare trailblazers who can solve the challenges of a world that is increasingly connected but still deeply in need of wisdom."

Addressing academics and university leaders, President Hassan described universities as institutions that must go beyond imparting professional skills and instead nurture international understanding, human liberation and public



President Samia Suluhu Hassan addresses staff and invited guests after receiving an honorary doctorate at the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, which is also known as RUDN University, in Moscow yesterday. PHOTO | STATE HOUSE

service.

She praised RUDN University's historic mission of bringing together students from different countries and cultures, saying knowledge should never be isolated from friendship.

"The very name of this university reminds us that knowledge must never be isolated from friendship, but rather serve as a cornerstone for international and intercultural understanding," she said.

The President also highlighted the historic role of education in Africa's liberation and development, noting the university's association with the late Congolese independence leader Patrice Lumumba.

She said education and freedom have often advanced together, helping newly independent nations build institutions, strengthen human capacity and pursue socio-economic progress.

President Hassan acknowledged Russia's historical support for anti-colonial movements in Africa

and praised the long-standing educational partnership between Tanzania and Russia.

According to her, more than 5,000 Tanzanians have studied in the former Soviet Union and the Russian Federation over the years, with about 1,100 graduating from RUDN University alone.

"They returned home as doctors, engineers, scientists, diplomats, teachers, administrators and public servants," she said. "This is the quiet power of education."

The President said Tanzania's own education journey demonstrates the impact of investing in human capital. At independence, access to higher education was limited, with the University of Dar es Salaam beginning with fewer than 20 students. Today, the country has 52 universities and university colleges enrolling more than 250,000 students annually.

However, she stressed that future demands require even greater investment in science, technology

and innovation.

"The question is not whether we shall participate in the knowledge economy, but how we shall prepare our young people to lead within the changing world," she said.

President Hassan linked that ambition to Tanzania's Development Vision 2050, which places science, technology, innovation and skills development at the centre of national transformation.

While infrastructure projects remain important, she said roads, ports, industries and digital systems alone cannot transform a country.

"Transformation requires people—skilled people, disciplined people, innovative people and mature people who understand that knowledge must serve the common good," she said.

The President also highlighted the government's scholarship programme launched in 2023 to support high-performing students, particularly in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and

medicine. The initiative has already supported more than 5,000 students, many from disadvantaged backgrounds.

She described the programme as an investment in future doctors, engineers, scientists, innovators and teachers who will drive Tanzania's development.

Turning to students from across the world, President Hassan delivered a direct message on leadership and responsibility.

"You are studying at a time of great uncertainties, but also with great possibilities," she said.

"The world you inherit will require more than skills and certificates. It will require character, discipline, curiosity, compassion and patriotism."

She urged young people to work across cultures, disciplines and borders and to view education not merely as a pathway to personal success but as a call to public service.

"Education will open doors for you, but what you do after passing through those doors is what will define your contribution to humanity," she said.

Drawing on the teachings of Tanzania's founding President, Julius Nyerere, President Hassan said development must always place human beings at its centre and that education should ultimately serve humanity.

She pledged to continue strengthening academic, cultural and people-to-people ties between Tanzania and Russia and to encourage more Tanzanian students and scholars to pursue opportunities at RUDN University.

As she accepted the award, President Hassan said the honour belonged not only to her but also to teachers, parents and young people whose aspirations continue to shape the future.

"It belongs to the teachers who shaped us, the parents who sacrificed for us and the young people whose dreams continue to remind us that leadership must always be about service," she said.

Earlier, Russia's Deputy Minister for Science and Higher Education, Mr Konstantin Mogilevsky said currently, there were a total of 250 Tanzanian students in Russia and that his country was determined to raise the number further.



Prof Oleg Alexandrovich Yastrebov, Rector of the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, bestows on President Samia Suluhu Hassan an Honorary Doctorate Degree (Honoris Causa) at a ceremony held in Moscow yesterday. It was in recognition of her contribution to reforms in Tanzania's education sector, her efforts to enhance Tanzania's diplomacy and her role in enhancing Tanzania's international standing, including through the promotion of the tourism sector. The event coincided with President Samia's three-day (June 3 to 5) State Visit to Russia. Photo: State House

Russian academician praises Samia for reforms, world-stage initiatives

By Guardian Reporter, Moscow

A RUSSIAN academician has praised President Samia Suluhu Hassan for outstanding contributions to educational reforms, human capital development and elevating Tanzania's international profile.

The president was awarded an

honorary doctorate (Honoris Causa) by the Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University (RUDN University) in the Russian capital, founded in 1960 and helping to educate several generations of African professionals, administrators and scientific personnel,

RUDN Rector Prof. Oleg Yastrebov

led the institution's academic leadership in recognition of key aspect of the leadership of the visiting Head of State, citing educational reforms, where RUDN University acknowledged state commitment to advancing the education sector and improving human resources.

Russian academician praises Samia for reforms, world-stage initiatives

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He similarly pointed at the historic state visit to Russia, bringing the president's diplomatic engagement and promotion of economic diplomacy to elevated levels of appreciation from the hosts.

The rector affirmed the president's international standing, explain that the honor recognizes her efforts to promote Tanzania globally and foster strategic co-operation in research and higher education.

In acceptance remarks, President Samia dedicated the degree to all Tanzanians, noting that the recognition reflects the country's shared commitment to progress and the advancement of humanity, with local analysts saying the latest conferment underscores Tanzania's expanding strategic visibility and reflects President Samia's increasingly assertive economic diplomacy on the global stage.

She said that the Doctor Honoris Causa award was not a personal accomplishment but a reflection of the trust and confidence Tanzanians have placed in her leadership.

The honour belongs to all citizens contributing to national progress she said, "When I received the news of this award, it became clear to me that it belongs to the people of Tanzania. It is a tribute to our teachers, parents and young people whose aspirations inspire national service."

She highlighted longstanding educational and diplomatic ties between Tanzania and Russia, with more than 5,000 Tanzanians having studied in the former Soviet Union and in the Russian Federation.

They returned home to serve in key professional fields including medicine, engineering, science, diplomacy, education and public administration. About 1,100 of these graduates studied at RUDN University, she remarked.

The Russian academician also commended Tanzania's improving investment climate and its growing appeal as a destination for trade, investment and tourism.

Academic citations presented at the ceremony highlighted President Samia's role in strengthening Tanzania's global engagement and positioning the country as a competitive hub for economic opportunity, with the event attended by senior officials from Tanzania and Russia, diplomats, academics and Tanzanians studying in Russia.

Officials said the award is expected to deepen academic co-operation, expand scholarships, and strengthen joint research and institutional partnerships between universities in Tanzania and Russia.

Speaking after receiving the award, President Samia said education must serve humanity, not only individual advancement, stressing discipline, character, empathy, and patriotism in a rapidly changing global environment. She invoked Mwalimu Julius Nyerere's philosophy that development must place people at the center, adding that education should ultimately benefit society.

She pledged to further strengthen academic and cultural ties between Tanzania and RUDN University, encouraging more Tanzanian students to study there. She noted that more than 5,000 Tanzanians have benefited from higher education in Russia, with alumni serving across key national sectors, underscoring the transformative power of education in uplifting individuals, communities, and the nation.

In a broader recognition of her international profile, President Samia's latest accolade brings the total number of honorary doctorates she has received to seven, reflecting growing global acknowledgment of her governance and development agenda.

The Moscow award adds to previous honors conferred by institutions including the University of Dar es Salaam, the State University of Zanzibar, and Mzumbe University, as well as international recognitions from institutions in India, Turkey, and South Korea for leadership in education, regional integration, tourism development, and aviation modernization.

She highlighted longstanding educational and diplomatic ties between Tanzania and Russia, with more than 5,000 Tanzanians having studied in the former Soviet Union and in the Russian Federation.



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Samia aongeza rekodi kutambuliwa duniani

Dar es Salaam. Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan, ametunukiwa Shahada ya Heshima ya Uzami-vu na Chuo Kikuu cha Urafiki wa Watu wa Russia (RUDN University) jijini Moscow, nchini humo.

Tuzo aliyotunukiwa Rais Samia inaelezewa ni sehemu ya kutambua mchango wake katika uongozi na maendeleo ya sekta mbalimbali na inaongeza rekodi za kutambuliwa utendaji wake nchini na kimataifa tangu ali-poingia madarakani mwaka 2021.

Hafla ya kutunukiwa shahada hiyo imefanyika chuoni hapo jana, kwenye ziara yake ya kitai-fa nchini Russia ambapo Profesa Oleg Yastrebov, mhadhiri wa chuo hicho alisema: "Rais Samia amekuwa na mchango mkubwa katika uongozi, maendeleo ya kijamii, mageuzi ya sekta ya elimu, diplomasia ya kimataifa na kuimarisha ushirikiano kati ya mataifa yetu."

Shahada hiyo inafanya idadi ya shahada za heshima alizotunukiwa Rais Samia kufikia nane, kutoka vyuo vikuu mbalimbali vya ndani na nje ya Tanzania.

Uongozi wa chuo kikuu cha RUDN ulisema shahada hiyo imetolewa kutokana na mchango wake mkubwa katika kukuza maendeleo jumuishi, kuboresha upatikanaji wa huduma za kijamii na kuimarisha ushirikiano wa kimataifa, unaosaidia maendeleo ya elimu, afya na ustawi wa wananchi. Hafla hiyo imeongozwa na Rais wa Chuo hicho, Vladimir Filippov.

Akiwasilisha mada kuhusu ushirikiano kati ya Afrika na Russia, Profesa Oleg Yastrebov aliisifu Tanzania kwa hatua iliyopiga katika nyanja ya elimu, sayansi na teknolojia, huku akionyesha umuhimu wa heshima hiyo kati-



Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan akihutubia viongozi wa Chuo Kikuu cha Urafiki wa Watu wa Russia, wanafunzi na wageni mbalimbali baada ya kutunukiwa Shahada ya Udaktari wa Heshima jijini Moscow, jana. **Picha na Ikulu**

Naipokea kwa upole, kama Rais wa Tanzania, mtoto wa Afrika na rafiki wa Russia. Siipokei kwa ajili yangu, bali kwa ajili ya Watanzania."

Samia Suluhu Hassan

ka kuimarisha ushirikiano wa sekta ya elimu ya juu, sayansi, uwekezaji na teknolojia ya habari kati ya mataifa hayo mawili.

Safari ya shahada za heshima

Safari ya shahada za heshima kwa Rais Samia ilianza mwaka 2022 alipotunukiwa ya kwanza na Chuo Kikuu cha Dar es Salaam (UDSM) kwa mchango wake katika maendeleo ya Taifa.

Mwaka 2023, Rais Samia alitunukiwa shahada na Chuo Kikuu cha Jawaharlal Nehru cha India kutokana na juhudi zake za kuimarisha ushirikiano wa kimataifa na maendeleo ya kijamii.

Mwaka huo huo, Chuo Kikuu cha Zanzibar (Suza) kilimtunuku shahada kutokana na mchango wake katika usimamizi na masoko ya

utalii.

Ilipofika mwaka 2024, Chuo Kikuu cha Ankara cha Uturuki, kilimtunuku shahada nyingine katika fani ya uchumi, kikafuatia Chuo Kikuu cha Korea Aerospace kilichotambua mchango wake kwenye maendeleo ya sekta ya usafi wa anga. Mwaka huo huo, Chuo Kikuu cha Mzumbwe kilimtunuku Rais Samia shahada ya heshima katika uongozi.

Chuo Kikuu cha Nasarawa State pia mwaka huo, kimetunuku shahada nyingine kutokana na mchango wake katika uongozi na diplomasia barani Afrika, kabla ya heshima ya

RUDN University kumtunuku hii ya nane.

'Ni kwa ajili ya Watanzania'

Akipokea heshima hiyo leo, Rais Samia alisema shahada aliyotunukiwa haihusu mafanikio yake binafsi, bali ni utambuzi wa mchango wa Watanzania wote katika maendeleo ya taifa na ushirikiano wa kimataifa.

"Naipokea kwa upole, kama Rais wa Tanzania, mtoto wa Afrika na rafiki wa Russia. Siipokei kwa ajili yangu, bali kwa ajili ya Watanzania," alisema Rais Samia.

Alisema tuzo hiyo inakumbusha umuhimu wa elimu na maendeleo ya watu kama msingi wa uongozi bora.

Uongozi, nafasi ya Tanzania

Wachambuzi wa siasa, diplomasia na utawala bora wanasema kutolewa kwa mfululizo wa shahada za heshima kwa Rais Samia, kunathibitisha namna taasisi mbalimbali duniani zinavyotambua uongozi wake na nafasi ya Tanzania katika medani za kimataifa.

Mchambuzi wa masuala ya diplomasia, Hamduny Marcel, akizungumza na Mwananchi kwa simu alisema shahada hizo ni uthibitisho wa maendeleo yanayoonekana na mtindo wa uongozi unaolenga kusikiliza wananchi na kusukuma mbele maendeleo.

Kauli ya Marcel haikuwa mbali na maoni ya Mhadhiri wa Chuo Kikuu cha Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Sabatho Nyamsenda anayesema shahada za heshima hutoa utambuzi wa umahiri wa kipekee na zinapaswa kutolewa kwa kuzingatia falsafa ya uongozi na athari zake kwa jamii. Alisema kutunukiwa kwa heshima hii mpya kunahimiza uendelezaji wa diplomasia ya kimataifa ya Tanzania na kuendeleza historia ya jina la Rais Samia katika majukwaa ya elimu ya juu na diplomasia duniani.



Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan aki-hutubia viongozi wa Chuo Kikuu cha Urafiki wa Watu wa Russia, wanafunzi na wageni mbalimbali, baada ya kutunukiwa shahada hiyo jana. **PICHA: IKULU**

Samia: Hakuna namna, vijana jiandaeni na AI

Na Salome Kitomari,
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RAIS Samia Suluhu Hassan ametunukiwa Shahada ya Udaktari wa Heshima na Chuo Kikuu cha Urafiki wa Watu wa Russia (RUDN), katika hafla ya kihistoria iliyofanyika jijini Moscow jana.

Kiongozi huyo wa Tanzania ametumia jukwaa hilo kutoa wito kwa vijana duniani kutumia elimu kama nyanzo ya kuwatumikia watu na kujenga jamii bora.

Vilevile, Rais Samia amesema dunia inabadilika kwa kasi kubwa hivyo vijana wanapaswa kuendana na maendeleo ya teknolojia za kidijitali, Akili Unde (AI), sayansi ya data, roboti, bioteknolojia, mabadiliko ya nishati na ubunifu wa kukabiliana na changamoto za tabianchi.

Shahada hiyo ya heshima ilitolewa na Baraza la Taaluma la Chuo Kikuu cha RUDN kwa kutambua mchango wa Rais Samia katika kuimarisha maridhiano, kukuza maendeleo ya elimu nchini Tanzania na kuendeleza uhusiano wa kirafiki kati ya Tanzania na Russia.

Akizungumza baada ya kutunukiwa shahada hiyo, Rais Samia alisema heshima hiyo si yake binafsi, bali ni ya Watananzania wote waliompa imani na nafasi ya kuwatumikia.

“Naipokea heshima hii kwa unyenyekevu mkubwa kama Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, kama binti wa Afrika, kama mtu anayeamini kwa dhati katika nguvu ya elimu na kama rafiki wa Chuo Kikuu cha RUDN na watu wa Russia,” alisema.

Rais Samia alisema tuzo hiyo ni heshima inayowahusu walimu wanaofundisha na kulea vizazi, wazazi wanaojitoa kwa ajili ya elimu ya watoto wao na vijana ambao

ndoto zao zinaendelea kuwakumbusha viongozi kwamba uongozi wa kweli ni huduma kwa watu, si kutafuta maslahi binafsi.

“Hii ni heshima inayowahusu walimu wanaotuelimisha, wazazi wanaofanya sadaka kubwa kwa ajili ya watoto wao na vijana ambao ndoto zao zinatukumbusha kila siku kuwa uongozi lazima uwe kuhusu kuwahudumia wengine,” alisema.

ELIMU ZAIDI YA VYETI

Katika hotuba yake iliyopokewa kwa shangwe na viongozi wa elimu, wahadhiri na wanafunzi kutoka mataifa mbalimbali, Rais Samia alisema dunia ya sasa imejaa changamoto na mabadiliko makubwa, lakini pia imefungua fursa nyingi ambazo hazijawahi kushuhudiwa katika historia ya binadamu.

Alisisitiza kuwa mafanikio ya kizazi cha sasa hayategemea vyeti vya kitaaluma pekee, bali pia tabia, maadili, nidhamu na uwezo wa kushirikiana na watu wa tamaduni na mataifa tofauti.

“Dunia ya leo haihitaji tu watu wenye ujuzi wa kitaaluma. Inahitaji watu wenye maadili, nidhamu, huruma, uzalendo na ari ya kutafuta maarifa mapya kila siku,” alisema.

Aliwataka wanafunzi kutambua kuwa elimu si njia ya kufikia mafanikio binafsi pekee bali ni wajibu wa kutumia maarifa yao kuleta maendeleo kwa jamii na kuchangia ustawi wa ubinadamu.

“Haijalishi unatoka Tanzania, Russia, Afrika, Asia, Amerika ya Kusini au Mashariki ya Kati. Kumbuka kuwa elimu ni wito wa kuwajibika kwa jamii na kuwasaidia wengine,” alisema.

Rais Samia alisema Baba wa Taifa, Hayati Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, aliwaachia Watananzania falsafa ya maendeleo inayomweka



Dunia ya leo haihitaji tu watu wenye ujuzi wa kitaaluma. Inahitaji watu wenye maadili, nidhamu, huruma, uzalendo na ari ya kutafuta maarifa mapya kila siku,”

mwanadamu katikati ya kila jambo na kwamba mafundisho hayo yanaendelea kuiongoza Tanzania katika safari yake ya maendeleo.

USHIRIKIANO WA RUSSIA

Rais Samia alisema historia ya uhusiano kati ya Tanzania na Russia imejengwa katika misingi ya urafiki, mshikamano na kuheshimiana kwa miongo mingi, huku sekta ya elimu ikiwa moja ya nguzo kuu za ushirikiano huo.

Alisema zaidi ya Watananzania 5,000 wamepata elimu ya juu katika iliyokuwa Umoja wa Kisoviet na baadaye Shirikisho, ambapo wengi wao walirejea nyumbani na kuwa madaktari, wahandisi, wanasayansi, walimu, wanadiplomasia, wataalamu wa ulinzi na viongozi wa sekta mbalimbali.

Kwa mujibu wa Rais Samia, kati ya wahitimu hao, zaidi ya 1,100 walipata elimu yao katika Chuo Kikuu cha RUDN.

“Huu ndio uwezo mkubwa wa elimu unaofanya kazi kimya kimya. Mwanafunzi huondoka nyumbani akiwa na ndoto, huvuka mipaka kutafuta maarifa na kurejea akiwa na ujuzi wa kujenga taifa lake,” alisema.

Aliongeza kuwa matokeo ya elimu hayaishii kwa mtu mmoja bali huleta mabadiliko katika familia, jamii na hatimaye taifa zima.

DIRA 2050

Rais Samia alisema Tanzania inaendelea kufanya uwekezaji mkubwa katika elimu kwa kutambua kuwa maarifa ndiyo msingi wa uchumi wa kisasa.

Alisema kwa sasa nchi ina vyuo vikuu na vyuo vikuu vishiriki 52 vinavyomilikiwa na sekta ya umma na binafsi, huku zaidi ya wanafunzi 250,000 wakijiunga na elimu ya juu kila mwaka.

Hata hivyo, alisema mafanikio hayo hayaondoi ukweli kwamba dunia inabadilika kwa kasi kubwa kutokana na maendeleo ya teknolojia za kidijitali, Akili Unde (AI), sayansi ya data, roboti, bioteknolojia, mabadiliko ya nishati na ubunifu wa kukabiliana na changamoto za tabianchi.

“Hakuna taifa linaloweza kubaki nyuma katika mapinduzi haya ya maarifa. Tanzania imeamua kuwa sehemu ya uchumi unaotegemea maarifa kwa kuwaandaa vijana wake kuwa w ashindani katika dunia ya sasa,” alisema.

Alieleza kuwa Dira ya Taifa ya Maendeleo 2050 imeweka sayansi, teknolojia, ubunifu na maarifa kuwa misingi wa mageuzi ya uchumi wa Tanzania.

“Barabara, bandari, reli, viwanda na miundombinu ya kidijitali ni muhimu. Lakini miundombinu pekee yake haiwezi kubadilisha taifa. Mageuzi ya kweli yanahitaji watu wenye maarifa, nidhamu, ubunifu na maadili,” alisema.

UDHAMINI VYUONI

Rais Samia alisema serikali imeanzisha Mpango wa Kitaifa wa Udhhamini wa Wanafunzi tangu mwaka 2023 ili kuwasaidia vijana wenye ufaulu wa juu katika masomo ya Sayansi, Teknolojia, Uhandisi, Hisabati na Tiba.

Alisema lengo la mpango huo ni

kuhakikisha hakuna kijana mwenye kipaji anayekosa elimu kwa sababu ya changamoto za kifedha au mazingira yanayomzuia kufikia ndoto zake.

“Tangu kuanzishwa kwa mpango huu, zaidi ya wanafunzi 5,000 wamefaidika. Huu ni uwekezaji kwa madaktari watakoooka maisha, wahandisi watakojenga miundombinu, wanasayansi watakatua changamoto za taifa na walimu watakaandaa vizazi vijavyo,” alisema.

Vilevile, alikaribisha Russia kupanua ushirikiano katika ufadhili wa masomo, utafiti wa pamoja, kubadilishana wanafunzi na wahadhiri pamoja na kuendeleza mitaala inayokidhi mahitaji ya maendeleo ya Tanzania.

AHADI YA RUSSIA

Awali, Naibu Waziri wa Sayansi na Elimu ya Juu wa Russia, Konstantin Mogilevsky, alisema kwa sasa kuna wanafunzi 250 wa Kitanzania wanaosoma nchini humo na kwamba serikali ya nchi hiyo imejipanga kuongeza idadi hiyo.

“Mwaka uliopita pekee tulitoa nafasi kwa wanafunzi 150 kutoka Tanzania na tutaendelea kuongeza fursa hizo,” alisema.

Mkuu wa Chuo Kikuu cha RUDN, Profesa Oleg Yastrebov, alisema Rais Samia amechaguliwa kupokea shahada hiyo kutokana na mchango wake katika kuendeleza misingi ya amani, maendeleo na ushirikiano wa kimataifa ambayo chuo hicho kimekuwa kikisimamia tangu kuanzishwa kwake mwaka 1960.

Alisema RUDN ni miongoni mwa vyuo vikuu vikubwa na vinavyoheshimika zaidi Russia, kikiwa na zaidi ya wanafunzi 46,000. Kati yao, 13,000 ni wa kimataifa kutoka zaidi ya nchi 160 duniani.

Profesa Yastrebov alisema Afrika ni eneo muhimu katika mkakati wa chuo hicho na kwamba lugha ya Kiswahili imepewa nafasi ya kipekee katika programu zake za masomo.

Shahada hiyo ya heshima ni ya nane kutunukiwa Rais Samia katika kipindi cha uongozi wake, jambo linaloendelea kuimarisha hadhi yake kimataifa kama mmoja wa viongozi wa Afrika wanaotambuliwa kwa mchango wao katika maendeleo, elimu na diplomasi ya kimataifa.

Samia courts Russian investors

By HILDA MHAGAMA

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan has invited Russian investors to expand their footprint in Tanzania, highlighting opportunities in mining, energy, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, transport and logistics as the two countries seek to deepen economic cooperation.

Addressing the Tanzania-Russia Business and Investment Forum held alongside the 29th St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF 2026), President Samia challenged business leaders from both countries to move beyond discussions and translate opportunities into concrete investments.

"Move from rhetoric to action. Talking alone won't bear fruits," President Samia said,

stressing that the forum was intended to create partnerships capable of delivering tangible economic benefits.

She said the gathering was not merely a platform for speeches but an opportunity for investors and entrepreneurs to exchange ideas, showcase products and establish ventures that would strengthen economic ties between Tanzania and Russia.

President Samia said that despite more than six decades of friendship and cooperation, trade between Tanzania and Russia remains below its potential, with Russia accounting for less than one per cent of Tanzania's total trade volume in 2024.

"This is not where we should be," she said, adding that the current level of economic engagement does not reflect the strong bilateral relations enjoyed by the two countries.

"It is precisely this gap between the potential investment and trading and our actual performance that brings us together in this room," she



Ongoing investments in the Port of Dar es Salaam and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) are strengthening Tanzania's position as a regional logistics hub.

Tanzania is committed to a diversified and low-carbon energy mix and is exploring long-term cooperation in small modular reactor technology, while Russian companies are also welcome to participate in oil and gas exploration activities.

added.

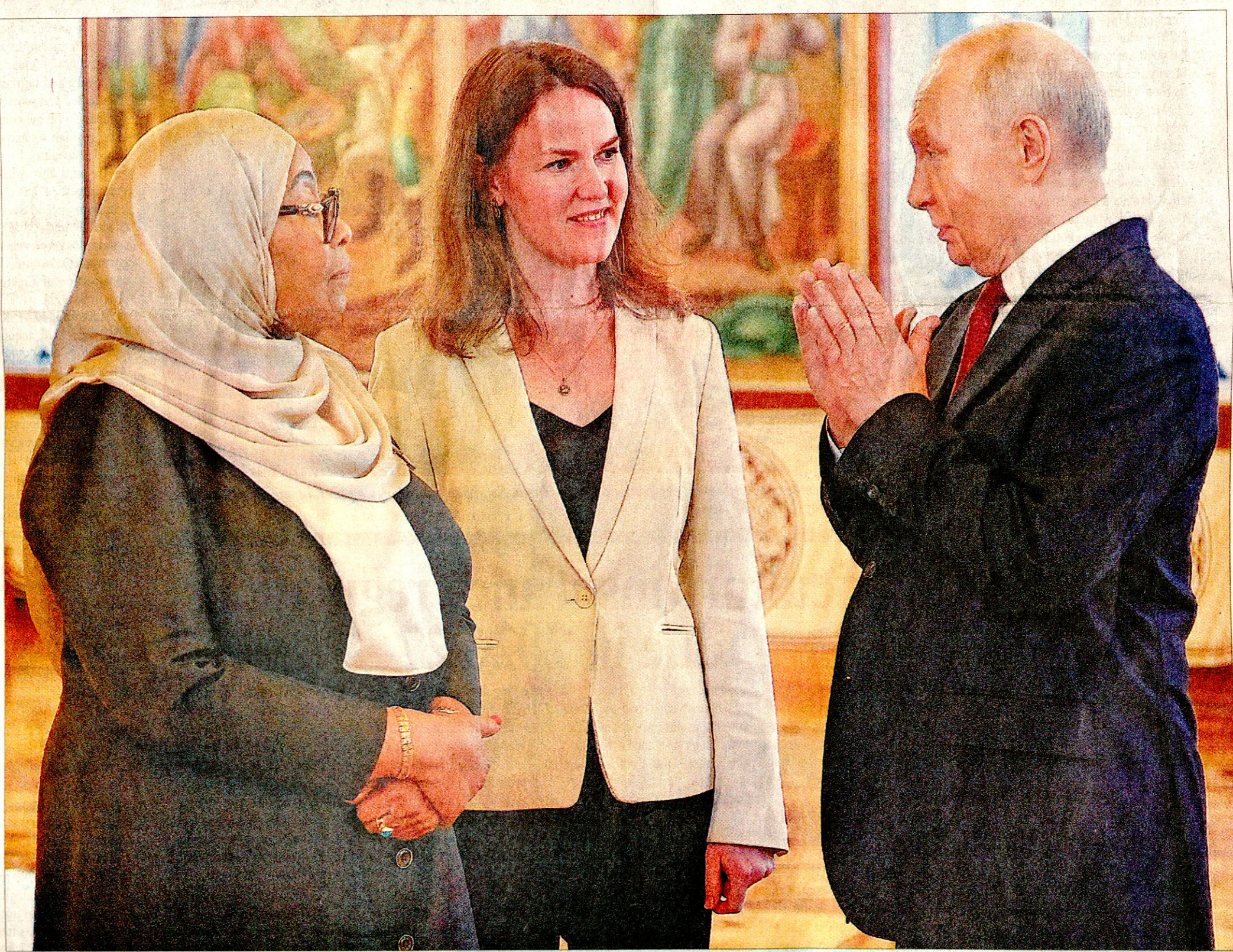
President Samia presented Tanzania as a strategic investment destination, citing its population of more than 61 million people, annual economic growth of about six per cent and ac-

cess to a regional market of more than 500 million consumers across Eastern and Southern Africa.

She said ongoing investments in the Port of Dar es Salaam and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) are strengthening Tanzania's position as a regional logistics hub.

President Samia identified mining as a key sector for cooperation, noting that Tanzania is endowed with gold, uranium, nickel, graphite and other critical minerals. She invited collaboration in geological surveys,

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Samia counts Russian investors

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mineral exploration and value addition through smelters and refineries.

On energy, she said Tanzania is committed to a diversified and low-carbon energy mix and is exploring long-term cooperation in small modular reactor technology, while Russian companies are also welcome to participate in oil and gas exploration activities.

The President further encouraged investment in fertiliser production, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and vaccine manufacturing, saying Tanzania aims to meet 60 per cent of its domestic health product needs through local production by 2030.

She also showcased opportunities in the Bagamoyo Port and Special Economic Zone, as well as the proposed Mangapwani transshipment port project in Zanzibar.

To improve connectivity, President Samia announced that Air Tanzania will launch direct flights linking Dar es Salaam, Moscow and Zanzibar on July 2, a move expected to boost trade, investment and tourism between the two countries.

Supporting the President's call, Russian Minister for Economic Development, Mr Maxim Reshetnikov said several joint projects are already progressing in Tanzania, including a uranium project that has advanced from a pilot mining plant to the next phase of production.

He also highlighted plans to establish a rapid disease-testing factory in Tanzania, which is expected to produce up to 20 million test kits annually, alongside expanded cooperation in agriculture, logistics, tourism and pharmaceuticals.

“Cooperation in agri-

culture could be broadened through increased supplies of grain, fertilisers and veterinary vaccines, while Russian research institutions are ready to support agricultural production through technology transfer and joint research programmes,” he said.

He also pointed to progress in transport and logistics, citing the launch of a new container shipping line between Novorossiysk and Dar es Salaam last month.

Tourism was identified as another area of growing cooperation. According to Mr Reshetnikov, trips by Russian tourists to Tanzania increased by nearly 40 per cent last year.

Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation Minister Mahmoud Thabit Kombo said the focus has now shifted from signing agreements to implementing them.

He said that Tanzania is eyeing expanded access to the

Russian market after visiting a major supermarket chain that already stocks Tanzanian products, including cashew nuts, coffee, tea and tobacco.

According to the minister, the retailer operates about 35,000 outlets across Russia,

creating a significant opportunity for Tanzanian exporters.

“This is a unique opportunity that not many countries in Africa get,” he said, calling on the private sector to position itself to benefit from the growing partnership.

**Why Russia visit reflects independent
diplomacy, economic ambition**

PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan's recent visit to Russia has sparked lively debate both within Tanzania and internationally, with some critics questioning the strategic value of closer engagement with Moscow at a time of heightened global geopolitical tensions.

Such scrutiny is neither unusual nor unhealthy. Foreign policy decisions, particularly those involving major global powers, inevitably attract competing interpretations shaped by political, economic and ideological perspectives.

Yet reducing the visit to geopolitical gamble risks overlooking the broader context of Tanzania's foreign policy tradition and the economic realities shaping today's international order.

Rather than signalling a diplomatic shift away from longstanding partners, the visit reflects Tanzania's enduring commitment to independent, non-aligned and interest-driven diplomacy, an approach rooted in the country's post-independence history and increasingly relevant in a multipolar world.

At its core, President Samia's engagement with Russia appears less about geopolitical positioning and more about economic pragmatism. The discussions centred largely on trade, mining, energy, transport, agriculture, logistics and industrial cooperation, sectors that remain central to Tanzania's ambitions for economic transformation and regional competitiveness.

For a country seeking to industrialise, expand infrastructure and create jobs for a rapidly growing population, broadening international partnerships is not simply a diplomatic exercise; it is an economic necessity.

The visit also reflects a wider reality confronting many African nations today: development opportunities are no longer confined to traditional Western partnerships alone. Emerging economies, BRICS countries and Gulf states are increasingly becoming important sources of investment, technology, trade and infrastructure financing.

In that context, Tanzania's outreach to Russia can be seen as part of a broader strategy aimed at diversifying economic relationships while preserving the country's strategic autonomy.

Far from abandoning existing alliances, the approach suggests a presidency seeking to navigate a changing global landscape with flexibility, balance and a clear focus on national development priorities.

For decades, Tanzania has pursued a foreign policy grounded in sovereign decision-making, strategic independence and constructive engagement with nations

across the world, regardless of ideological or geopolitical differences.

Closely associated with the vision of the country's founding father, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, this approach was never intended to isolate Tanzania from global powers or align it permanently with any particular bloc. Instead, it sought to preserve the country's freedom to engage internationally on the basis of national interest, mutual respect and shared development goals.

That philosophy remains highly relevant in today's changing global landscape.

The international economy is becoming increasingly multipolar, with emerging economies, BRICS countries, Gulf States and Asian powers playing a growing role in shaping global trade, finance, technology and energy systems. In such an environment, developing countries like Tanzania are increasingly seeking diversified partnerships capable of supporting economic transformation, industrial growth and long-term resilience.

The issue facing Tanzania, therefore, is not whether it should cooperate with the West or with countries such as Russia, China or India. Rather, it is how the country can engage constructively with all major centres of global economic influence while safeguarding its sovereignty and advancing its national development priorities.

This broader outlook appears central to President Samia Suluhu Hassan's approach to diplomacy.

Some critics of the Russia visit have pointed to the relatively modest trade volumes

between Tanzania and Russia compared to Western economies. While those figures may be accurate, they do not fully capture how international economic partnerships are built and expanded over time.

Trade and investment relationships rarely emerge overnight. In most cases, they develop gradually through sustained political engagement, strategic dialogue, investor confidence and long-term cooperation frameworks.

Many of Tanzania's strongest international partnerships today were themselves shaped through years of diplomatic engagement, state visits and continued economic cooperation.

Viewed from that perspective, President Samia's visit to Russia reflects an effort to open new economic opportunities, deepen strategic cooperation and broaden Tanzania's global partnerships in line with the country's wider economic diplomacy agenda.

President Samia's visit to Russia should therefore be viewed not only through the lens of current trade figures, but also in terms of the broader economic opportunities it seeks to unlock for Tanzania in the years ahead.

Among the most significant areas of potential cooperation is the mining sector. Tanzania is endowed with strategic minerals such as graphite, nickel, uranium and rare earth elements resources that are increasingly critical to the global shift towards clean energy, electric vehicles, battery storage technologies and advanced manufacturing industries.

As demand for these minerals continues to rise

globally, Tanzania is seeking not only to expand extraction activities but also to strengthen local processing, value addition and industrial capacity. Russia's longstanding experience in geological exploration, mining technologies, mineral processing and nuclear energy development could provide valuable technical cooperation capable of supporting these ambitions.

The discussions surrounding uranium development are particularly significant. With many countries reconsidering nuclear energy as part of long-term clean energy strategies, uranium is regaining importance within the global energy transition.

Tanzania's uranium reserves therefore represent not only a commercial opportunity, but also a strategic national asset with the potential to contribute to future industrial growth and export earnings.

Cooperation in agriculture and fertiliser production could also carry substantial

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Rather than signalling a diplomatic shift away from longstanding partners, the visit reflects Tanzania's enduring commitment to independent, non-aligned and interest-driven diplomacy, an approach rooted in the country's post-independence history and increasingly relevant in a multipolar world.
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President Samia Suluhu Hassan and Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin take notes during the St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF '26) at the Expo Forum Convention Centre on the outskirts of St Petersburg in Russia, on Friday. (Photo by State House)

Equally, expanding maritime links between Russian ports and Dar es Salaam could reinforce Tanzania's growing role as a regional logistics and trade hub serving East and Central Africa. As the country continues investing in ports, railways and transport corridors, diversified international trade partnerships are becoming increasingly important to Tanzania's broader economic transformation agenda.

Tourism is another sector with considerable growth potential. Tanzania continues to attract increasing numbers of international visitors drawn by its globally renowned wildlife, pristine beaches, rich cultural heritage and world-class tourist destinations such as Serengeti, Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar.

Expanding engagement with Russia could help diversify tourism markets, strengthen people-to-people exchanges and broaden Tanzania's reach within emerging travel markets at a time when the country is seeking to grow its tourism industry further.

Beyond the economic dimension, the visit also carries important diplomatic significance.

For decades, Tanzania has earned international respect for its balanced, independent and principled diplomacy, rooted in peaceful engagement, mutual respect and constructive cooperation with nations across the world.

President Samia Suluhu Hassan's engagement with Russia reflects that enduring foreign policy tradition one that places dialogue, partnership and national development at the centre of interna-

tional relations.

At the same time, Tanzania continues to maintain strong and productive relations with the United States, the European Union and other longstanding international partners in areas such as health, education, infrastructure, trade and development cooperation. These partnerships remain important and continue to make valuable contributions to Tanzania's economic growth and social progress.

Viewed within this broader context, Tanzania's engagement with Russia should not be interpreted as a shift away from existing partners, but rather as part of a wider strategy aimed at expanding international cooperation, diversifying economic opportunities and strengthening the country's strategic position in an evolving global economy.

In today's evolving global landscape, diplomacy is increasingly defined by cooperation across multiple regions and economic blocs rather than rigid or exclusive alignments.

Countries across Africa, Asia and the Middle East are expanding partnerships with different global powers simultaneously in order to attract investment, strengthen economic resilience and advance their national development priorities.

India, for example, maintains close relations with both Russia and the United States, while Gulf nations continue deepening cooperation with China alongside longstanding partnerships with Western economies. Across Africa, governments are similarly pursuing diversified trade and investment relationships as

part of broader efforts to reduce economic vulnerability and create new growth opportunities.

Tanzania is pursuing that same pragmatic and forward-looking approach.

Within this context, President Samia Suluhu Hassan's recent visit to Russia should be viewed as part of Tanzania's wider economic diplomacy agenda, one aimed at expanding strategic partnerships, attracting investment and accelerating socio-economic transformation.

The visit created opportunities for deeper cooperation in key sectors including mining, energy, transport, agriculture, logistics, tourism and industrial development, all of which remain central to Tanzania's long-term growth ambitions.

Discussions surrounding strategic minerals, fertiliser production, transport connectivity and industrial cooperation carry significant potential for job creation, technology transfer, value addition and expanded trade.

Equally important, the engagements reinforced Tanzania's longstanding commitment to constructive international cooperation and mutually beneficial partnerships with countries across the world.

For decades, Tanzania has maintained a foreign policy grounded in independence, mutual respect and non-alignment while continuing to engage positively with both traditional and emerging global partners in pursuit of national development goals.

The country continues to enjoy strong relations with the United States, European nations, China, India, Gulf countries and other international partners, reflecting its enduring belief in cooperation based on sovereign equality and shared interests.

In an increasingly competitive global economy, strategic diversification of partnerships has become essential for developing nations seeking investment, technology, industrial growth and access to new markets.

President Samia's engagement with Russia reflects that broader reality.

Ultimately, the significance of the visit will be judged by the practical benefits it delivers to Tanzanians, including increased investment, expanded economic opportunities, stronger infrastructure, industrial growth and employment creation.

If the partnerships initiated during the visit translate into tangible economic gains and deeper development cooperation, the engagement will likely stand as another important step in Tanzania's ongoing efforts to strengthen its economy, expand its global partnerships and uphold its long-standing foreign policy principle of friendship with all and alignment to none.

Samia aamika 'mano' ziara ya Urusi

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RAIS Samia Suluhu Hassan ameeleza manufaa ambayo Tanzania 'itavuna' kutokana na ziara yake nchini Urusi aliyohitimisha juzi kabla ya kurejea nchini jana.

Akizungumza katika mahojiano na waandishi wa habari kuhusu ziara hiyo, alisema ni mwanzo wa ushirikiano utakaosaidia kukuza biashara na kuzalisha ajira kwa vijana nchini.

Aidha, amesema Tanzania inaelekea katika uzalishaji wa umeme wa nyuklia kwa kushirikiana na Urusi.

Ajira vijana

Alisema asilimia 60 ya idadi ya Watanzania ni vijana, hivyo mambo mengi waliyozungumza katika ziara hiyo ni kwa ajili ya kundi hilo nchini.

Alisema ipo fursa kubwa kwenye kilimo na tayari wameingia kwenye kilimo cha uzalishaji wa ndizi ambazo zina soko kubwa Urusi.

"Warusi tumewapa kama hekta 6,000 kule Morogoro na wanaangalia nyingine ili wapande ndizi. Vijana wetu watakata ajira na kutakuwa na biashara kubwa," alisema.

Alisema ajira nyingine zitatokana na uwekezaji wa viwanda, kwenye kuongeza thamani ya mazao ya kilimo

na viwanda vitakavyozalisha dawa, chanjo kwa ajili ya watu na Wanyama. "Ajira ni kwa watoto wetu," alisema Rais Samia.

Ajira mradi urani

Pia, alisema mradi wa urani wa Mkuju utaajiri vijana 20,000 katika fani mbalimbali na ufadhili wa masomo kwa wanafunzi wa Tanzania nchini Urusi unatarajiwa kuongezeka.

"Tunapata ufadhili nafasi 150 kwa mwaka lakini tumeomba katika mazungumzo yetu na Rais Putin (Vladimir) ametukubalia atatuongeze nafasi zaidi, watakaokuja kusoma hapa ni vijana wa Tanzania," alisema.

Alisema, "kati yao kuna wanaosomesha na Serikali ya Urusi na wengine ambao wapo kwenye masomo ya sayansi ya nyuklia wanalipwa na Kampuni ya Mantra au Rosatom na serikali inajazia."

Alisisitiza, "Biashara za vijana, tumesema tuna fedha kwa ajili ya vijana, ATCL inaanza safari kuja Urusi. Hii ndege itajaa, kuja itajaa kurudi, itaenda na watalii itarudi na watalii, itaenda na wafanyabiashara itarudi nao, ni vijana wa Kitanzania watakaofanya hiyo biashara."

Kwa mujibu wa Rais Samia, mazungumzo yaliyofanyika baina ya jumuiya

ya wafanyabiashara wa Tanzania na Urusi, sehemu kubwa ya mambo watakayokubaliana ni vijana wa Tanzania watakaofanya biashara, watakaopata ajira

katika biashara.

Alisema Tanzania ni kati ya nchi tatu Afrika zenye uwapo mkubwa wa urani ambayo hutoa nishati ya nyukliana huzalisha bidhaa

nyingi ukiwemo umeme.

Alisema kwamba wameingia mkataba na Kampuni ya Rosatom ambayo imefanya majaribio ya awali ya kuchimba urani.

“Wanasema teknolojia waliyotumia kwenye majaribio imeleta faida lakini haikufikia ufanisi; wamepungukiwa kwa asilimia 25, walichofanya wameongeza teknolojia ili wafidie upungufu wa asilimia 25 wapate matokeo makubwa zaidi, watakapokuwa wanazalisha hiyo uranium kuna uranium ambayo wataichukua wataendeleza, madini mengine watasafirisha kwa matumizi yao huku mengine watazalishia umeme,” aliongeza.

Umeme nyuklia

Alisema, mazungumzo yote wanayofanya na wawekezaji hao yanapaswa kufuata masharti ya Wakala wa Kimataifa wa Nishati ya Atomiki na watakapokubaliana ndipo yafanyike mazungumzo ya kuingia mikataba.

“Wao wanasema ikifika 2029 kinu cha mwanzo cha uzalishaji wa umeme wa nyuklia kitakuwa tayari, kwa hiyo tunakwenda huko lakini tuna kazi kubwa ya kuwafundisha Watanzania kuwaeleza kwamba umeme huu hauna hatari, ni umeme

kama mwingine na unakwenda kutuongezea umeme wetu na kufanya Tanzania kuwa kituo kikubwa cha biashara," alisema.

Nchi kutofungamana

Aidha, alisema Tanzania inafuata kanuni ya kutofungamana na upande wowote na kwamba kila anayetaka kufanya kazi nayo itafanya naye kazi.

Alisema pia katika suala la diplomasia ya uchumi, kila inapokuja fursa ya kukuza uchumi fursa hiyo itatumika.

"Tunaposema kutofungamana na upande wowote, pamoja na kwamba Urusi muda mrefu hapa hapakuwa na mambo yanayoendelea kutokana na sababu kadhaa, lakini tumekuwa tukifanya kazi na wengine," alifafanua.

Ziara ya kihistoria

Alisema Urusi ni mshirika mkubwa wa Tanzania tangu miaka ya 1960. Alisema tangu Baba wa Taifa, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere alipofanya ziara 1969 nchini humo, hakuna kiongozi mwingine mkubwa wa nchi ambaye amefanya isipokuwa yeye ikiwa ni baada ya miaka 57.

Aliongeza kuwa lengo la ziara ya Urusi ni kuwahakikishia kwamba Tanzania bado inawahitaji na ina mengi ya kufanya nao kwa maendeleo yao na nchini.

"Kuwahakikishia kwamba Tanzania tumefungua milango na unapofungua milango wa kwanza kumshika mkono mwende pamoja kwenye maendeleo ni ndugu yako, huyu ni ndugu yetu ambaye alitushika mkono siku nyingi pamoja na wengine," alisema.

Aliendelea, "Kwa hiyo tumekuja kuwahakikishia kwamba Tanzania tupo pamoja nao tumefungua milango, tuna maeneo kadhaa ya ushirikiano waje tufanye kazi pamoja".

Dira 2050

Alisema katika ziara yake wameenda na maombi maalumu ambayo yote yamepokewa.

Rais Samia alisema waliwakuta wamesoma Dira ya Taifa ya Maendeleo ya 2050 na wameibua maeneo tisa na Tanzania ilienda na mambo manane ambayo wamejadili kuanza kuyafanyia kazi.

Aliongeza kuwa miradi wanayopanga kutekeleza inaibuliwa kutokana na vipaumbele vya kwenye dira hiyo.

Ziara ya Rais Samia Urusi yaonesha Diplomasia Huru na Dira ya Maendeleo

Na Mwandishi Wetu

ZIARA ya hivi karibuni ya Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan nchini Urusi imezua mjadala mpana ndani na nje ya Tanzania, huku baadhi ya wakosoaji wakihoji umuhimu wa kimkakati wa kuimarisha ushirikiano na Urusi wakati ambao dunia inakabiliwa na mvutano mkubwa wa kisiasa na kijeshi.

Mijadala ya aina hii si jambo la kushangaza wala si baya. Uamuzi wa sera za kigeni, hasa yale yanayohusisha mataifa makubwa duniani, mara nyingi huvutia tafsiri tofauti zinazotokana na mitazamo ya kisiasa, kiuchumi na kiitikadi.

Hata hivyo, kuichukulia ziara hiyo kama hatari ya kisiasa pekee kunapuuza muktadha mpana wa utamaduni wa sera ya mambo ya nje ya Tanzania pamoja na hali halisi ya uchumi wa kimataifa wa sasa.

Badala ya kuashiria mabadiliko ya kidiplomasia yanayoitenga Tanzania na washirika wake wa muda mrefu, ziara hiyo inaonesha dhamira ya kudumu ya Tanzania ya kuendesha diplomasia huru, isiyo-fungamana na upande wowote na inayozingatia maslahi ya taifa.

Huu ni mtazamo uliojengwa tangu baada ya uhuru wa nchi na ambao unaendelea kuwa muhimu katika dunia yenye nguvu nyingi za kiuchumi na kisiasa.

Kwa msingi wake, ushiriki wa Rais Samia na Urusi unaonekana kuwa zaidi kuhusu programu ya kiuchumi kuliko kujipanga kisiasa katika kambi fulani za kimataifa.

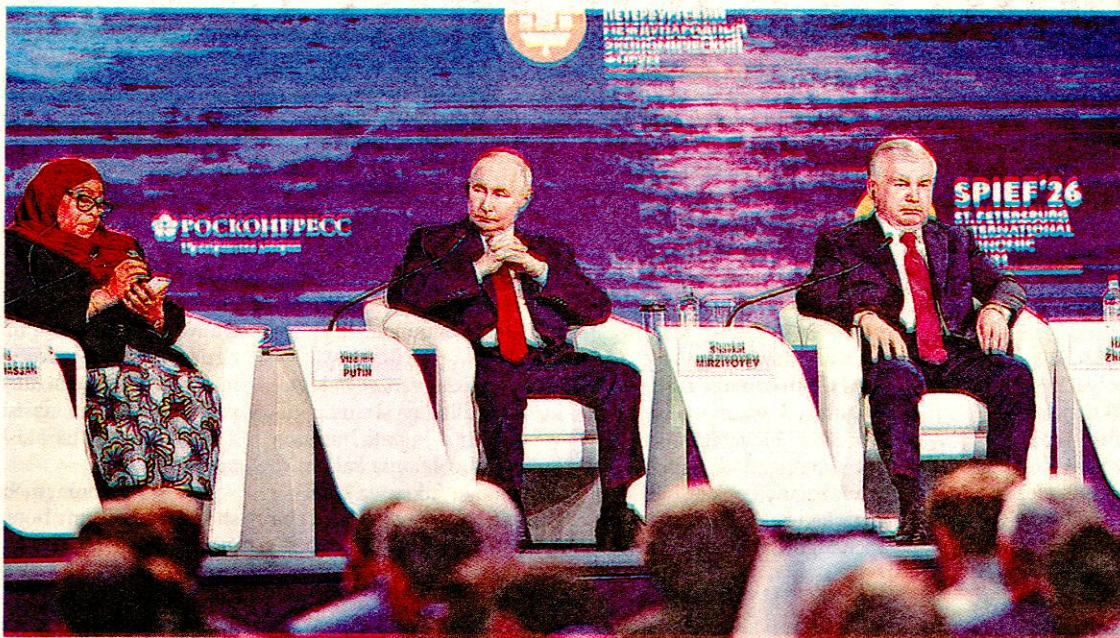
Mazungumzo yalijikita katika biashara, madini, nishati, usafirishaji, kilimo, vifaa vya usafirishaji na ushirikiano wa viwanda, sekta ambazo ni muhimu kwa malengo ya Tanzania ya kubadilisha uchumi wake na kuongeza ushindani wa kikanda.

Kwa taifa linalolenga kuendeleza viwanda, kupanua miundombinu na kutengeneza ajira kwa idadi ya watu inayooongezeka kwa kasi, kupanua ushirikiano wa kimataifa si suala la diplomasia pekee, bali ni hitaji la kiuchumi.

Ziara hiyo pia inaakisi hali inayozikabili nchi nyingi za Afrika leo: fursa za maendeleo hazipatikani tena kupitia ushirikiano wa jadi na mataifa ya Magharibi pekee. Uchumi unaochipukia, nchi za BRICS na mataifa ya Ghuba yanazidi kuwa vyanzo muhimu vya uwekezaji, teknolojia, biashara na ufadhili wa miundombinu.

Katika muktadha huo, hatua ya Tanzania kuimarisha uhusiano na Urusi inaweza kuonekana kama sehemu ya mkakati mpana wa kupanua uhusiano wa kiuchumi huku ikidumisha uhuru wake wa kimkakati.

Badala ya kuacha ushirikiano uliopo, mbinu hii inaonesha uongozi unaotafuta kuendesha diplomasia kwa usawa, kubadilika kulingana na mazingira ya dunia yanayobadilika na kuweka mbele vipaumbele vya maendeleo ya taifa.



Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan na Rais wa Shirikisho la Urusi, Vladimir Putin wakifuatilia Kongamano la Kimataifa la Uchumi la St. Petersburg (SPIEF'26) lililofanyika kwenye Ukumbi wa Kituo cha Mikutano cha ExpoForum nje ya Jiji la St. Petersburg nchini Urusi juzi. (Picha na Ikulu).

Kwa miongo kadhaa, Tanzania imeendesha sera ya mambo ya nje inayojengwa juu ya uhuru wa kufanya maamuzi, kujitegemea kimkakati na kushirikiana kwa njia chanya na mataifa mbalimbali duniani bila kujali tofauti za kiitikadi au kisiasa.

Mtazamo huu, unaohusishwa kwa karibu na maono ya Baba wa Taifa, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, haukulenga kuitenga Tanzania na mataifa makubwa au kuifungamani-sha na kambi yoyote maalumu.

Badala yake, ulikuwa na lengo la kuhifadhi uhuru wa taifa kushirikiana kimataifa kwa kuzingatia maslahi ya taifa, heshima ya pande zote na malengo ya pamoja ya maendeleo.

Falsafa hiyo inaendelea kuwa muhimu katika mazingira ya sasa ya dunia.

Uchumi wa kimataifa unazidi kuwa wa pande nyingi, huku mataifa yanayoibukia, nchi za BRICS, mataifa ya Ghuba na nchi za Asia zikichukua nafasi kubwa zaidi katika biashara, fedha, teknolojia na mifumo ya nishati duniani.

Katika mazingira hayo, nchi zinazoendelea kama Tanzania zina- tafuta ushirikiano mpana unaoweza kusaidia mageuzi ya kiuchumi, ukuaji wa viwanda na uimara wa muda mrefu.

Kwa hiyo, kwa Tanzania si kama inapaswa kushirikiana na nchi za Magharibi au na mataifa kama Urusi, China na India. Badala yake, ni jinsi gani inaweza kushirikiana kwa njia yenye manufaa na vituo vyote vikuu vya nguvu za kiuchumi duniani huku ikilinda uhuru wake na kusukuma mbele ajenda yake ya maendeleo.

Mtazamo huo mpana unaonekana kuwa sehemu muhimu ya diplomasia ya Rais Samia.

Baadhi ya wakosoaji wa ziara ya Urusi wameelekeza kwenye kiwango kidogo cha biashara kati ya Tanzania na Urusi ikilinganishwa na

mataifa ya Magharibi.

Ingawa takwimu hizo zinaweza kuwa sahihi, hazioneshi kikamilifu namna uhusiano wa biashara na uwekezaji unavyojengwa na kukua kwa muda.

Uhusiano wa biashara na uwekezaji mara chache huibuka ghafla. Mara nyingi hujengwa hatua kwa hatua kupitia mawasiliano ya kisiasa ya kudumu, mazungumzo ya kimkakati, kuaminika kwa mazingira ya uwekezaji na mifumo ya ushirikiano wa muda mrefu.

Ushirikiano mwingi imara ambao Tanzania inao leo ulijengwa kupitia miaka ya ushirikiano wa kidiplomasia, ziara za viongozi na ushirikiano wa kiuchumi unaoendelea. Kwa mtazamo huo, ziara ya Rais Samia nchini Urusi inaonesha jitihada za kufungua fursa mpya za kiuchumi, kuimarisha ushirikiano wa kimkakati na kupanua mahusiano ya Tanzania duniani kwa mujibu wa ajenda yake ya diplomasia ya uchumi.

Ziara hiyo inapaswa kutazamwa si kwa kuzingatia tu kiwango cha sasa cha biashara, bali pia kwa kuangalia fursa pana za kiuchumi ambazo inaweza kufungua kwa Tanzania katika miaka ijayo.

Mojawapo ya maeneo muhimu ya ushirikiano ni sekta ya madini. Tanzania imejaliwa kuwa na madini ya kimkakati kama grafiti, nikeli, urani na madini adimu ya ardhini ambayo ni muhimu katika mpito wa dunia kuelekea nishati safi, magari ya umeme, teknolojia za kuhifadhi nishati na viwanda vya kisasa.

Kadiri mahitaji ya madini hayo yanavyoongezeka duniani, Tanzania inalenga si tu kuongeza uchimbaji wake, bali pia kuimarisha uchakataji wa ndani, kuongeza thamani na kukuza uwezo wa viwanda.

Uzoefu wa Urusi katika utafiti wa jiolojia, teknolojia za madini, uchakataji wa madini na maendeleo ya nishati ya nyuklia unaweza ku-

saidia kufanikisha malengo hayo.

Mazungumzo kuhusu maendeleo ya sekta ya urani yana umuhimu wa pekee. Wakati mataifa mengi yanapozingatia tena nishati ya nyuklia kama sehemu ya mikakati ya muda mrefu ya nishati safi, urani inazidi kupata umuhimu katika mabadiliko ya mfumo wa nishati duniani.

Ushirikiano katika kilimo na uzalishaji wa mbolea pia unaweza kuleta manufaa makubwa ya muda mrefu.

Matatizo ya hivi karibuni katika minyororo ya usambazaji duniani yalionesha udhaifu wa nchi nyingi zinazoendelea kutokana na kupanda kwa bei za mbolea na kutokuwa na uhakika wa masoko ya pembejeo za kilimo.

Kuimarisha ushirikiano na uzalishaji wakubwa wa mbolea kama Urusi kunaweza kusaidia kuongeza tija ya kilimo, kuimarisha usalama wa chakula na kupunguza athari za mishtuko ya usambazaji katika siku zijazo.

Usafirishaji na huduma za vifaa vya usafiri pia zilikuwa maeneo muhimu ya mazungumzo.

Kuanzishwa kwa safari za moja kwa moja za Shirika la Ndege Tanzania (ATCL) kati ya Dar es Salaam, Moscow na Zanzibar ni zaidi ya hatua ya kidiplomasia ya mfano. Muunganisho bora wa anga unaweza kuchochea utalii, kurahisisha safari za biashara, kuimarisha usafirishaji wa mizigo na kuongeza biashara kati ya Afrika Mashariki na masoko ya Eurasia.

Vilevile, kuimarisha usafiri wa baharini kati ya bandari za Urusi na Dar es Salaam kunaweza kuimarisha nafasi ya Tanzania kama kitovu cha biashara na usafirishaji kwa Afrika Mashariki na Kati.

Wakati nchi inaendelea kuwekeza katika bandari, reli na korido za usafiri, ushirikiano mpana wa biashara unakuwa muhimu zaidi kwa mageuzi yake ya kiuchumi.

Utalii ni sekta nyingine yenye uwezo mkubwa wa ukuaji. Tanzania inaendelea kuvutia watalii wengi kutoka duniani kote kutokana na wanyamapori wake maarufu, fukwe safi, urithi wa kitamaduni na vivutio vya kimataifa kama Serengeti, Kilimanjaro na Zanzibar.

Mbali na masuala ya kiuchumi, ziara hiyo pia ina umuhimu mkubwa wa kidiplomasia.

Kwa miongo kadhaa, Tanzania imeheshimiwa kimataifa kwa diplomasia yake ya usawa, uhuru na misingi ya kuheshimiana, mazungumzo ya amani na ushirikiano wa kujenga.

Ushirikiano wa Rais Samia na Urusi unaendeleza utamaduni huo wa muda mrefu wa sera ya mambo ya nje unaoweza mazungumzo, ushirikiano na maendeleo ya taifa katika kiini cha mahusiano ya kimataifa.

Wakati huohuo, Tanzania inaendelea kuwa na mahusiano imara na yenye tija na Marekani, Umoja wa Ulaya na washirika wengine wa muda mrefu katika sekta za afya, elimu, miundombinu, biashara na maendeleo. Ushirikiano huu unaendelea kuwa muhimu kwa ukuaji wa uchumi na maendeleo ya kijamii nchini.

Kwa mtazamo huu mpana, ushirikiano wa Tanzania na Urusi haupaswi kutafsiriwa kama kuachana na washirika waliopo, bali kama sehemu ya mkakati wa kupanua ushirikiano wa kimataifa, kuongeza fursa za kiuchumi na kuimarisha nafasi ya taifa katika uchumi wa dunia unaobadilika.

Katika mazingira ya sasa ya dunia, diplomasia inazidi kutawaliwa na ushirikiano na maeneo mbalimbali ya dunia badala ya kufungamana na upande mmoja pekee.

Mataifa ya Afrika, Asia na Mashariki ya Kati yanapanua uhusiano wao na nguvu mbalimbali za dunia kwa wakati mmoja ili kuvutia uwekezaji, kuimarisha uchumi na kufanikisha malengo yao ya maendeleo.

Kwa mfano, India ina uhusiano mzuri na Urusi pamoja na Marekani, huku mataifa ya Ghuba yakiendelea kuimarisha ushirikiano na China sambamba na ushirikiano wao wa muda mrefu na nchi za Magharibi. Afrika pia inashuhudia serikali nyingi zikipanua mahusiano ya biashara na uwekezaji ili kupunguza utegemezi wa upande mmoja na kuunda fursa mpya za ukuaji.

Tanzania nayo inafuata mkondo huo wa kimkakati na wa kuangalia mbele. Muhimu pia, mazungumzo hayo yameimarisha dhamira ya Tanzania ya kuendelea kushirikiana kwa njia yenye manufaa na mataifa mbalimbali duniani.

Kwa miongo kadhaa, Tanzania imeendelea kuendesha sera ya mambo ya nje inayojengwa juu ya uhuru, kuheshimiana na kutofungamana na upande wowote huku ikishirikiana kwa karibu na washirika wa jadi na wale wanaoibukia kwa ajili ya maendeleo ya taifa.