

By DAILY NEWS
Reporter

THE Tanzania Railways Corporation (TRC) has announced that transporting goods via the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) offers substantial benefits to the country, including cost savings, improved efficiency and reduced road damage.

Speaking to Daily News on Monday, TRC's Head of Information and Communication, Mr Fredy Mwanjala, said the corporation has successfully been transporting cargo since the service was launched on June 27, 2025.

"We are currently transporting goods for large and medium-sized companies. These include Mikoani Traders (Azania Group of Companies), Mohamed Enterprises, Dangote and Twiga Cement

tors such as healthcare, education, and infrastructure," he added.

Currently, cargo is transported by truck from the Port of Dar es Salaam to the SGR station at Pugu, from where it is then moved by train to the SGR terminal in Ihumwa, Dodoma.

"At the moment, the old Meter Gauge Railway (MGR) still transports goods directly from the Port of Dar es Salaam to the Kwala dry port. However, the Port Link Project is ongoing, and once completed, SGR trains will also begin picking up cargo directly from the port and delivering it to Kwala," Mwanjala said.

Speaking to UTV, a television station under Azam Media, Mwanjala revealed that TRC is in the process of finalising procedures to allow private sector participation in passenger and cargo transport via the SGR.

"Once these procedures are in place, the government will invite private companies and institutions to offer SGR-based transport services," he said.

He added that the government has already amended the TRC Act to enable private sector involvement.

"The TRC Act No. 10 of 2017 was amended in 2023 to allow private entities to engage in modern railway transport. We are now finalising the necessary procedures to ensure a fair and competitive environment," Mwanjala explained.

He also noted that TRC has the infrastructure, locomotives, and wagons that can be utilised by private investors, and that regulations to facilitate such partnerships have already been established.

"Many privately owned companies have responded positively and have shown strong interest in using the SGR to transport their goods," he said.

Mwanjala said TRC has 264 wagons for cargo transportation, including 200 container wagons. The corporation is also preparing to deploy an additional 30 wagons capable of carrying up to 2,100 tons at a time.

Construction is also underway on a rail segment linking directly to the port, which will enable the SGR to transport cargo straight from the Port of Dar es Salaam. Mwanjala noted that this project is progressing well.

Commenting on the SGR's performance, Mwanjala said the freight service has been successful during its trial period, completing scheduled trips efficiently and without technical issues.

Transport Minister Professor Makame Mbarawa recently emphasized that the SGR will reduce port operational costs, prevent road damage, and create job opportunities for communities around the Kwala dry port.

He also noted the advantages in terms of reliability and reduced transport risks.

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companies, as well as the World Food Programme (WFP). The cargo includes construction materials and essential consumer goods," Mwanjala explained.

He noted that SGR freight services offer major advantages to clients by reducing both transportation time and costs.

"A truck journey from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma takes approximately 12 hours, whereas the same trip via SGR takes only four hours," he said.

Mr Mwanjala highlighted the economic impact of the SGR, stating that the modern railway helps save billions of shillings that the Tanzania National Roads Agency (TANROADS) would otherwise spend on repairing roads damaged by heavy trucks.

"These savings can be redirected to improve key sec-