

USAFIRI

Safari Mwendokasi Mbagala kuanza Septemba mosi

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Dar es Salaam. Hatimaye kiu ya muda mrefu ya wakazi wa Mbagala inakwenda kupata ahueni baada ya Wakala wa Mabasi Yaendayo Haraka (Dart) kusema huduma ya mabasi ya 'Mwendokasi' kwa Barabara ya Kilwa itaanza siku kumi zijazo yaani Septemba mosi mwaka huu.

Mradi huo wa awamu ya pili wa Mabasi Yaendayo Haraka (BRT) unaanza kutoa huduma baada ya mabasi yaliyokuwa yakisubiriwa kuwasili chini ya mwekezaji mza-wa, Kampuni ya Mofat aliyepewa dhabuni ya kusimamia utoaji huduma hiyo.

Uzinduzi huo uliokuwa ukisubiriwa kwa muda mrefu unatarajiwa kuwa mkombozi kwa wakazi wa Mbagala na maeneo ya jirani ambao wamekuwa wakikabiliwa na changamoto za usafiri kwa miaka mingi na sasa wataona ahueni baada ya njia hiyo yenye urefu wa kilomita 20.3 kutoka katikati ya jiji kuanza kupata huduma hiyo.

Ujenzi wa awamu hiyo ulikamilika mwaka 2023, lakini utoaji wa huduma uliahirishwa mara kadhaa kutokana na kuchelewa kufikishwa kwa mabasi na miundombinu inayosaidia huduma hizo.

Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa Dart, Dk Athumani Kihamia aliliambia gazeti dada la The Citizen jana, kuwa mabasi 99 yanatarajiwa kukamilisha taratibu katika Bandari ya Dar es Salaam leo huku waendeshaji wakikamilisha taratibu za kodi ili kuruhusu usambazaji wa haraka.

"Tuna matarajio kwamba Kampuni ya Lake Energies itakabidhi kituo cha kujazia gesi asilia (CNG) kwa Dart wiki ijayo kwa ajili ya ukaguzi wa mwisho. Ujenzi unaendelea vizuri na huduma zitaanza kama ilivyopangwa," alisema wakati wa ziara ya ukaguzi katika Kituo cha Kivukoni, Depo ya Mbagala na bandari akiwa na bodi ya wakurugenzi ya Dart.

Dk Kihamia alibainisha hadi sasa kadi milioni moja za kielektroniki zimeagizwa kwa ajili ya abiria huku mageti ya kielektroniki ya tiketi yaliyoagizwa kutoka Uingereza na China yakitarajiwa kuwasili ndani ya mwezi huu.

Alisisitiza hata kama kutakuwa na ucheleweshaji wa vifaa vingine, huduma zitaanza

Tuna matarajio kwamba Kampuni ya Lake Energies itakabidhi kituo cha kujazia gesi asilia (CNG) kwa Dart wiki ijayo kwa ajili ya ukaguzi wa mwisho. Ujenzi unaendelea vizuri na huduma zitaanza kama ilivyopangwa."

Dk Athumani Kihamia

kama ilivyopangwa: "Changamoto pekee inayoweza kuchelewesha uzinduzi ni iwapo waendeshaji watashindwa kukamilisha taratibu za kupokea mabasi bandarini. Vinginevyo, tuko tayari."

Kuhusu nauli za mabasi, Dk Kihamia alisema ni jukumu la Mamlaka ya Udhambi wa Usafiri wa Nchi Kavu (Latra) kutangaza viwango rasmi vya nauli, kufuatia maagizo yaliyotolewa na Waziri Mkuu, Kassim Majaliwa.

Alitumia nafasi hiyo kuona ya taasisi na watu binafsi wanaoomba vibali vya kutumia njia za BRT, akisisitiza ni mabasi pekee yatakayopewa ruhusa: "Tumekuwa tukipokea maombi ya aina hiyo, lakini Dart haitatoa vibali. Dharura zinapaswa kushughulikiwa kwa mipango sahihi."

Awamu ya Pili ya BRT imepangwa kuendesha kwa kutumia jumla ya mabasi 755, ambayo yatawasili kwa awamu. Mbali na mabasi 99 yaliyopo bandarini sasa, mengine 51 yanatarajiwa kuwasili kati ya Agosti 25 na 27.

Mwenyekiti wa Bodi ya Dart, Dk Florence Turuka alionesha kuridhishwa kwake na maendeleo yaliyofikiwa hadi sasa.

"Tumevutiwa na kile tulichoki-ona mabasi bandarini, ujenzi wa kituo cha Kivukoni na maendeleo ya kituo cha kujazia gesi cha Mbagala. Ujumbe wetu ni mmoja, huduma lazima zianze Septemba Mosi na kila kitu kiwe tayari," alisema Dk Turuka.

Mapema mwezi huu, Serikali ilitibitisha kupokea sehemu ya kwanza ya mabasi ya BRT 99 yaliyotengenezwa na Kampuni ya

Golden Dragon nchini China, huku mengine 101 yakitarajiwa kufikishwa ifikapo katikati ya Agosti.

Mabasi hayo yenye urefu wa mita 18 yanatarajiwa kupunguza msongamano na muda wa kusafiri kutoka katikati ya Jiji la Dar es Salaam kwenda maeneo ya Mbagala.

Katika maandalizi ya uzinduzi, Kampuni ya Mofat Company Limited, moja ya waendeshaji waliopewa kandarasi imetangaza ajira.

Ofisa Mkuu wa Uendeshaji wa kampuni hiyo, Mabrouk Masasi aliambia The Citizen Juni, 2025 kuwa nafasi zaidi ya 423 zilitangazwa ikiwa ni pamoja na madereva 255 na wasaidizi wa vituo 158.

"Hii ni mwanzo tu. Mara mabasi yatakapowasili ajira zaidi zitatangazwa, jumla ya wafanyakazi wanaohitajika watafikia takribani 1,100," alisema.

Haya yanaelezwa ikiwa ni siku chache tangu, Waziri Mkuu, Kassim Majaliwa kutembelea na kukagua miundombinu ya mradi huo Agosti 13, 2025 na kuagiza kazi iliyosalia ikamilishwe ili huduma hiyo ianze kutolewa mwezi huu.

Akiwa katika ziara yake, Majaliwa aliwaagiza waendeshaji wa awamu ya pili ya mradi wa Mabasi Yaendayo Haraka (BRT-2) kuhakikisha wanafanya watafikia takribani mchana ili kukamilisha maeneo yaliyobaki yatakayowezesha mradi huo kuanza kutoa huduma ndani ya muda mfupi.

"Tunataka mradi huu uanze kutoa huduma kwa Watanzania hasa wakazi wa Dar es Salaam, mradi huu utaongeza ufanisi wa usafiri wa umma katika jijini la Dar es Salaam na kutoa huduma ya kisa-sa, salama na ya haraka kwa wananchi," alisema.

Majaliwa pia alimwagiza Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa kampuni ya utoaji huduma ya Usafiri ya Mofat, Mohammad Kassim kuhakikisha anakamilisha haraka taratibu za utoaji wa mabasi 99 yaliyopo bandarini ili kuwezesha huduma hiyo kuanza kwa wakati.

Majaliwa alisema Serikali inataka kuona katika awamu ya pili ya mradi wa BRT, tiketi za usafiri kupitia mabasi hayo zinakuwa za kielektroniki badala ya tiketi za karatasi kama ilivyokuwa awali. "Tukifanya hivi itatusaidia kumonitor kiasi cha fedha kinachokusanywa."



2 NATIONAL NEWS

TRANSPORT Agency says operations will commence despite logistical or infrastructural issues



Operations on the second phase of the bus rapid transit system in Dar es Salaam are scheduled to commence on September 1. PHOTO | FILE

Dart vows BRT launch will go ahead on Sept 1

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Dar es Salaam. The Dar es Salaam Rapid Transit Agency (Dart) has reaffirmed that operations on the second phase of the bus rapid transit (BRT) system will begin on September 1, regardless of pending logistical or infrastructural issues.

The long-awaited launch will bring major relief to residents of Mbagala and neighbouring areas, who have endured years of transport challenges while waiting for the 20.3-kilometre corridor—stretching from the Central Business District (CBD) to Mbagala via Kilwa Road—to become operational.

Construction of the corridor was completed in 2023, but service rollout was delayed due to late delivery of buses and supporting facilities.

Dart chief executive Athuman Kihamia, told *The Citizen* yesterday that 99 buses are set to be cleared at the Dar es Salaam port today (Thursday), with operators finalising tax procedures to pave the way for their immediate deployment.

"We expect Lake Energies to hand over the CNG (compressed natural gas) filling station to Dart next week for final inspection. Construction is progressing well and operations will start as planned," he said during an inspection tour of the Kivukoni Terminal, Mbagala Depot and the port with Dart's board of directors.

Dr Kihamia disclosed that one million smart cards have been ordered in readiness for commuters, while electronic ticketing gates sourced from the United Kingdom and China are expected to arrive within the month.

He stressed that even if there are delays in the delivery of some equipment, services will commence as scheduled. "The only issue that might affect the timing would be if the operator fails to clear the buses at the port.

Otherwise, we are ready," he noted.

On bus fares, Dr Kihamia said that the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Latra) is responsible for announcing official tariffs, following directives issued by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. He further cautioned institutions and individuals against requesting special permits to access the BRT lanes, insisting that only buses will be allowed. "We have been receiving such requests, but Dart will not issue permits. Emergencies must be managed through proper planning," he said.

The second phase of the BRT is designed to operate with 755 buses, arriving in consignments. Following the 99 buses already at the port, an additional 51 are expected between August 25 and 27.

Dart board chairman Florence Turuka, expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved so far. "We are encouraged by what we have seen. The buses at the port, construction of the Kivukoni terminal and the development of the CNG filling station at Mbagala. Our message is clear: operations must begin on 1 September and all systems should be ready," he said.

He added that the installation of gas systems at Mbagala Depot is scheduled for completion this week, enabling efficient bus fuelling before the launch.

Earlier this month, the government confirmed receiving the first

consignment of 99 BRT buses manufactured by Golden Dragon in China, with 101 more set to be transported by mid-August. The 18-metre-long buses are expected to ease congestion and cut commuting time between the CBD and Dar es Salaam's southern suburbs.

In anticipation of operations, Mofat Company Limited, one of the contracted operators, has launched a major recruitment exercise. The firm's chief operations officer Mabrouk Masasi told *The Citizen* in June that more than 423 vacancies had been advertised, including 255 drivers and 158 station assistants. "This is just the beginning. Once the buses arrive, additional recruitment will follow, with total staff requirements reaching approximately 1,100 employees," he said.

He said that installation of electronic ticket validation gates, driver training, bus transportation and the finalisation of fare collection systems remain the top priorities before the launch. "All the buses will be stationed at the Mbagala terminal once they arrive. We have also learnt from the first phase that automated systems are crucial to ensure efficiency and reliability," he added.

Phase Two of the BRT is expected to transform urban mobility along the Kilwa Road corridor, drastically cutting travel time, reducing congestion and lowering transport costs for commuters. The project also includes construction of depots, stations and support infrastructure, making it a central pillar of Dar es Salaam's long-term transport strategy.

With preparations nearly complete and firm assurances from both Dart and the operators, residents of Mbagala and surrounding areas are now counting down the days to the launch of a service long promised but often delayed. This time, however, officials insist that the start date is non-negotiable.

The only issue that might affect the timing would be if the operator fails to clear the buses at the port

DR KIHAMIA | DART CEO

HABARI KITAIFA



Dereva wa bajaji akiwa amezidisha mizigo katika eneo la Kimara Korogwe, Manispaa ya Ubungo, Dar es Salaam jana, kitendo ambacho ni hatari kwa usalama barabarani. **PICHA: SABATO KASIKA**

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HOME NEWS



A TRUCK carrying sand overturned at Kunduchi area along New Bagamoyo Road in Dar es Salaam on Tuesday after colliding with another truck, causing major traffic disruption. (Photo by Mohamed Mambo)