

Jumaa Desemba 5, 2025 Pg 4

# LATRA yatoa leseni maalum mabasi mwisho wa mwaka

Na Elizabeth Zaya

MAMLAKA ya Udhhibiti Usafiri Ardhini (LATRA) imefungua milango kwa wamiliki wa mabasi kuomba leseni za muda mfupi, hatua inayolenga kuongeza idadi ya vyombo vya usafiri katika njia zenye msongamano mkubwa wa abiria kipindi hiki cha sikukuu za mwisho wa mwaka.

Kwa mujibu wa taarifa ya LATRA iliyotolewa jana kwa vyombo vya habari na Mkuu wa Kitengo cha Uhusiano na Mawasiliano, Salum Pazy, utoaji leseni hizo ulianza Desemba 3, ikiwa ni sehemu ya mikakati ya mamlaka hiyo kuhakikisha upatikanaji huduma bora na ya uhakika kwa wasafiri wanaosafiri kwenda maeneo mbalimbali nchini.

Pazy alisema leseni hizo zitaolewa kwa mabasi yenye uwezo wa kubeba abiria wasiopungua 40 au mabasi yenye leseni ya huduma maalum, mradi yakidhi matakwa yote ya kiusalama na kiutendaji.

Ali-bainisha kuwa masharti ya kupata leseni hizo ni pamoja

**Vilevile, basi linapaswa kuwa na leseni hai ya LATRA, huku dereva wake akitakiwa kuwa ametambuliwa kupitia kitufe cha utambuzi (i-button) kilichosajiliwa na LATRA na kuunganishwa kwenye mfumo wa Tiketi Mtandao.**

na basi kuwa limeunganishwa kwenye Mfumo wa Kufuatilia Mwenendo wa Magari (VTS), kuwa na bima inayotambulika pamoja na hati ya ukaguzi wa usalama barabarani (VIR) iliyotolewa na Jeshi la Polisi.

Vilevile, basi linapaswa kuwa na leseni hai ya LATRA, huku dereva wake akitakiwa kuwa ametambuliwa kupitia kitufe cha utambuzi (i-button) kilichosajiliwa na LATRA na kuunganishwa kwenye mfumo wa Tiketi Mtandao.

Hatua hii ya LATRA inatarajiwa kupunguza msongamano wa

abiria na changamoto za usafiri zinazojitokeza mara kwa mara kila msimu wa sikukuu, sambamba na kuongeza ufanisi na usalama katika sekta ya usafiri wa barabara.





*The Guardian December 5, 2025 Pg 4*

# Seasonal travel boom driving LATRA to push for more buses

By Getrude Mbago

THE Land Transport Regulatory Authority (LATRA) has urged bus owners to apply for short-term operating licences, a measure aimed at easing anticipated pressure on passenger transport as thousands of travellers head to upcountry regions for Christmas and New Year extended festive holidays.

Salum Pazy, the head of public relations and communications, said in a statement yesterday that LATRA was issuing temporary permits to ensure adequate, safe and reliable transport services during the busiest travel period of the year.

Demand for long-distance and inter-regional travel traditionally spikes during

**“The buses must be linked to the national e-ticketing system to ensure transparency, proper fare management and monitoring of service delivery during the high-traffic season**

mid-December as families return to home regions, holidaymakers travel for leisure and students head home from schools and colleges, he said.

The temporary licenses are therefore intended to expand fleet capacity on routes where passenger volumes significantly exceed normal levels, with eligible applicants listed as including bus operators with vehicles capable of carrying at least 40 passengers or those with valid special-category bus permits.

However, strict compliance criteria have been retained to ensure that safety and quality are not compromised despite the seasonal rush, he explained, noting that any bus operator applying for a temporary permit must be fully connected to the vehicle tracking system (VTS), have valid insurance and possess an up-to-date vehicle inspection re-



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FROM PAGE 1

port (VIR) issued by the police force. Buses lined up for permits must also have a current LATRA operating license, with driver requirements stressed on the need for each driver to have been registered with an approved electronic identification button (i-button).

The buses must be linked to the national e-ticketing system to ensure transparency, proper fare management and monitoring of service delivery during the high-traffic season, he said.

The short-term permits are part of a broader strategy to curb overcrowding, reduce the risk of illegal operators exploiting the festive period travel demand, along with ensuring passengers travel in safe, regulated and properly monitored vehicles, he added.



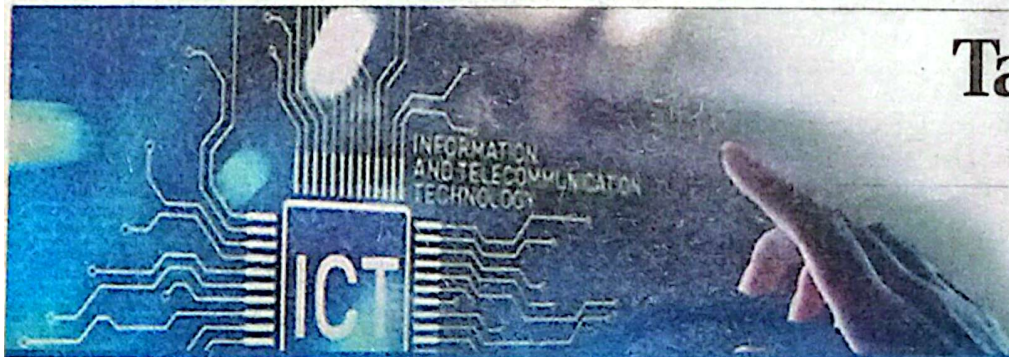
# Authorities act to ease shortage of buses amid surge in ticket scalping

*The Chosen Friday, December 9, 2025*  
**STORY ON PAGE 2**



## Tanzania launches new ICT system to enforce digital accountability

**STORY ON PAGE 3**





## 2 NATIONAL NEWS

# Authorities act to ease bus shortages amid surge in ticket scalping

By The Citizen Reporters  
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**Dar es Salaam.** Authorities have moved swiftly to balance the supply and demand of upcountry passenger buses as holiday travel surges, prompting fare hikes and exposing ticketing loopholes.

The Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Latra) announced on December 3, 2025 that bus operators can now apply for short-term licences to operate additional services on high-demand routes. The move aims to ease congestion during the festive season and boost the availability of buses for travellers heading upcountry.

According to Latra, applicants must meet strict requirements to ensure safety and reliability, including a minimum carrying capacity of 40 passengers, a valid Special Hire Bus licence, connection to the Vehicle Tracking System (VTS), valid insurance, and an up-to-date Vehicle Inspection Report (VIR). All buses must hold a valid operational licence, and drivers are required to have a registered Identification Button (i-button) and sell tickets through the official online platform, Tiki Mtandao, to reduce fraud.

"All applications must be submit-

ted through the Licensing System with the required attachments," Latra said, stressing that adherence to these standards is crucial to safeguard passengers during periods of high demand. Passengers and operators are encouraged to contact Latra for guidance via the toll-free lines 0800 110 019 and 0800 110 020 or at its offices at Magufuli Bus Terminal.

The decision comes as the surge in passengers has revealed ticket scalping, where some individuals purchase tickets only to resell them at inflated prices. Fares from Dar es Salaam to Njombe have jumped from Sh48,000 to Sh65,000; Dar-Iringa from Sh35,000 to Sh55,000; and Dar-Mtwara from Sh40,000 to Sh55,000.

Speaking anonymously, one young reseller admitted the practice is driven by high demand. "It's coordinated by bus owners. I sell tickets to Njombe at Sh65,000 instead of

**Amount of fare in thousands of shillings from Dar to Njombe, up from Sh48,000**

**65**



Travellers gather at Magufuli Stand in Dar es Salaam yesterday, eager to purchase tickets for their journeys back to their home regions. PHOTO | TUZO MAPUNDA

Sh48,000. I keep Sh10,000, and the bus owner takes the rest," he said, adding that passengers who cannot pay the higher fare are left behind.

Tanzania Bus Owners Association (Taboa) director Mustapha Mwalongo acknowledged the problem but said passengers also contribute. "These practices happen discreetly, but passengers insist on travelling even when buses are full. That is the source of the issue," he said, advising passengers to avoid buying from unknown sellers.

The Officer-in-Charge at Latra's Magufuli Terminal, Ms Rukia Kibwana, said authorities monitor offenders and refer them to the police. She also encouraged passengers to book tickets online and be

patient if buses are full. To manage demand, Latra has issued short-term permits to operators serving Iringa, Dodoma, Tanga, and Morogoro, with more than a dozen permits granted since 1 December.

Passengers report that despite online systems showing sold-out services, young resellers at terminals continue to sell tickets for cash. Ms Sabina Milinga, travelling to Njombe, paid Sh65,000 for a ticket officially priced at Sh48,000. Mr Helman Gelrad, going to Iringa, paid Sh55,000 for a ticket costing Sh35,000, while Mr Meshack Mbangula had to postpone his trip to Tanga after failing to pay the inflated fare.

Ms Kibwana advised passengers

heading north to consider rail transport, with trains departing Mondays and Fridays to ease bus congestion.

### Travelling to Zanzibar

At Zanzibar, large crowds were reported at ticket offices and waiting areas. Ms Jasmine Hashimu said students and workers are rushing to visit relatives during the holidays. "Many schools have closed, so students are returning home while others visit family and friends," she said.

Mr Khalfan Ahmad, returning to Dar es Salaam, noted that universities reopened last week, prompting increased travel. Another passenger said early school closures meant the holiday travel rush began sooner than usual.