

TAHARIRI

Kikao cha LATRA kije na matokeo mema

MWALIKO wa Mamlaka ya Udhibiti wa Usafiri Ardhi (LATRA), kwa wadau kujadili athari hasi za ongezeko la nishati ya mafuta jamii ya petroli na kupata namna bora ya kukabiliana na hali hiyo, unatoa afueni ya kiuchumi.

Afueni hiyo inakuja kwa matumaini, kwamba kikao hicho kitalenga kupata njia bora ya kupata bei itakayosaidia kupunguza maumivu ya kiuchumi yanayowakabili wananchi, tangu bei mpya ya mafuta hayo kupanda.

Bei hiyo iliyotangazwa mwanzoni mwa mwezi huu, imekuwa kubwa kulinganisha na zilizokuwa zikitangazwa miezi kadhaa iliyopita, wakati huu sababu ikiwa ni vita vinavyoendelea Mashariki ya Kati, ambako mafuta hayo hutoka.

Kikao hicho ni kwa mujibu wa kifungu cha 19 cha Sheria ya LATRA sura ya 43 kinachoipa Mamlaka hiyo, uwezo wa kufanya mapitio ya tozo zikiwamo nauli za usafiri wa umma, kwa maana ya mabasi ya abiria wa kawaida na wanafunzi.

Ni imani yetu, kuwa kikao hicho kitakuja na matokeo mazuri yatakayogusa maeneo yote ya wamiliki wa vyombo vya usafiri lakini pia abiria wanaotumia vyombo hivyo, hasa kutokana na kinachoendelea sasa.

Kwa sasa wenye mabasi ya abiria mijini, maarufu kama daladala, wamekuwa wakitumia njia fiche kuhakikisha wanafidia maumivu yao, huku wakiumiza abiria kwa ama kutoza nauli kubwa au kukatiza njia.

Lakini pia shuleni wazazi wametakiwa kuongeza malipo ya nauli za watoto wao kama njia ya kufidia bei hiyo ya mafuta, hivyo wenye shule kupata afueni huku wazazi wakiumia zaidi kwa kulipa kiwango cha juu.

Inatarajiwa kuwa tozo zitatazamwa na kuona kama zinaweza kupungua ili kupunguza maumivu na kuhakikisha kuwa changamoto za ongezeko la takriban Sh 950 kwa lita zinapungua kama si kukoma.

Lakini pia tunaomba LATRA isijikite tu kwenye nauli, lakini pia langalie mabasi hususan daladala, yanavyoendeshwa na kuhudumia wananchi, kwa kuzingatia unadhifu wa vyombo hivyo pamoja na watumishi wao kwa maana ya madereva na makondakta.

Hivi sasa kumeibuka mtindo wa madereva na makondakta kuachia vijana wasio na ajira wala leseni, maarufu kama madeiwaka, kuwafanyia kazi hizo, huku wao wakipumzika au kupata chakula.

Si hivyo tu, lakini pia usafi wa mwonekano na hata wa kauli zao kwa abiria, nalo ni tatizo sugu linalohitaji kufanyiwa kazi, ili kupanda daladala isiwe adhabu kwa abiria kutoiana na uchafu wa kondakta na hata dereva, asiyevaa sare kisheria.

Baada ya kukamilika kikao na kuja na mwafaka, ni matumaini yetu kuwa kuanzia sasa LATRA itafuatilia vyombo hivyo vya moto, ili kuhakikisha vinaendeshwa kwa staha, hasa ikizingatiwa mwakani kutakuwa na ugeni mkubwa kimichezo.

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The Citizen April 8, 2026

Latra to establish regional hub for train crew training

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Kibaha. The Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Latra) is considering to establish a specialised training facility for railway personnel in a move aimed at strengthening safety standards and professionalism in the country's expanding rail transport sector.

The proposed facility, to be known as the Railway Critical Workers Competency Testing Centre (RCWTC), is expected to serve as a regional hub for training and certifying locomotive drivers and other railway crew.

Preliminary estimates place the cost of the project at about \$800 million, although a detailed feasibility study is yet to be conducted.

Latra Acting Director of Railway Transport Regulation, Moses Nyoni, said the initiative is anchored in Regulation 4(I) and Regulation 17 of the Latra (Certification of Train Drivers and Registration of Train Crew) Regulations, Government Notice No. 80 of 2020, which require train drivers and crew to be certified before operating trains.

Mr Nyoni was speaking during a Latra workshop for journalists in Kibaha, where he presented on railway and cable transport regulation.

"The proposed centre will help improve drivers' competence, reduce railway accidents linked to human factors, strengthen compliance with regulatory standards and enhance overall safety in railway transport services," he said.

He added that the facility would also support Tanzania's commitments under regional integration frameworks, particularly the East African Railway Interconnectivity Project.

"We have already met regional requirements under the East African framework. The protocol requires member states planning to develop railway systems to also establish training infrastructure for personnel," he said.

Mr Nyoni noted that Tanzania's role in the Central Corridor, as well as its links to the Southern African railway network through the Southern African Railways Association, especially along the Tanzania-Zambia Railway Authority route, makes harmonised railway standards essential to avoid operational challenges across borders.

He also cited limited public awareness about railway transport as a challenge, noting that many Tanzanians previously had little exposure to train travel.

However, he said the introduction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) has significantly boosted public awareness and interest in rail services.

Mr Nyoni further observed that the sector faces a shortage of skilled personnel, as many experienced professionals approach retirement while the number of young specialists remains limited.

He encouraged young people to pursue careers in railway engineering and related technical fields to support the country's growing rail industry.

He also commended the government's open access policy in the railway sector, saying it has created opportunities for increased private sector participation in service delivery and infrastructure development.

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MOSES NYONI | LATRA ACTING DIRECTOR OF RAILWAY TRANSPORT REGULATION