

Wadau usafirishaji wapendekeza ongezeko nauli

Na Ikunda Erick

MAMLAKA ya Udhhibiti Usafiri Ardhini (LATRA) imepokea mapendekezo ya wadau wa sekta ya usafirishaji kuhusu kupandisha nauli.

Aidha, Latra imetoa siku 14 kwa wadau hao kuwasilisha maoni kuhusu hilo kama bado hawajafanya hivyo.

Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa Latra, Dk Habibu Suluo alisema hayo kwenye mkutano wa wadau hao na mamlaka hiyo kupokea maoni na mapendekezo baada ya kupanda bei ya mnafula.

Awali, Katibu Mkuu wa Chama cha Wamiliki wa Mabasi Tanzania (TABOA), Priscus Joseph alisema gharama za usafirishaji zimeongezeka baada ya kupanda bei ya mafuta, hivyo kuhatarisha mitaji yao.

Mwenyekiti wa Wamiliki wa Daladala, Sabri Mabrouk

alisema nauli wanazotoza ni za muda mrefu na kutokana na bei ya mafuta kupanda, wanashauri zipande ili waendeleo kutoa huduma.

"Kwa nini nauli zisiwe zinabadilika kila mwaka? Kwa nini iwe baada ya miaka mitatu, hivi ni vikwazo kwetu," alisema Mabrouk.

Umoja wa Wasafirishaji kwa Mabasi Dar es Salaam (UWAMADAR) waliomba kusitisha kutoa huduma hadi mapendekezo yao yatakapopata majibu.

Mwenyekiti wa Uwamadar, Kismat Jaffar alisema wanaomba kupumzika kidogo hadi serikali itakapotoa tamko kuhusu mapendekezo yao.

"Hatugomi ila tunaomba kupumzika kidogo hadi hapo majibu ya mapendekezo yetu yakitolewa, kwa sababu tunapata hasara, hatuwezi kuendelea tuta-filisika," alisema Jaffar.

Umoja wa Madereva wa

Malori Tanzania walishauri huduma ya usafiri na upanaji bei iwe huria ili soko liamue.

Pia, umoja huo ulipendekeza waagizaji mafuta wenye uwezo wapewe fursa hiyo na serikali iwe na kazi ya kudhibiti ubora na kukusanya kodi.

Mwenyekiti wa Wamiliki na Wasafirishaji Abiria, Mkoa wa Mwanza, Yusuph Lupilia alisema ni vyema serikali ikazingatia kilio chao kwa kuongeza nauli, vinginevyo hawataweza kuendelea kutoa huduma kwa viwango vya nauli za sasa.

Naibu Katibu Mkuu wa Jumuiya ya Wafanyabiashara, Mkoa wa Tanga, Ismail Masoud alishauri serikali iache nguvu ya soko iamue kiwango cha nauli ili kukuza uchumi wa nchi.

Mwenyekiti wa Wamiliki wa Malori Tanzania, Chuki Shaban alisema wanapendekeza kupunguza tozo za

mafuta ili bei ishuke.

Mwakilishi kutoka Baraza la Ushauri la Watumiaji wa Huduma za Usafiri Ardhini (LATRA-CCC), Daudi Daudi alisema chochote kinachoongezeka kwenye huduma za usafiri, mtumiaji ndie anayeumia.

Daudi alisema ni vyema kuendelea kutoa maoni yatakayozingatia upande wa mtoa huduma na mlaji.

Mkurugenzi wa Udhhibiti Uchumi wa Latra, Abdullah Mhagama alisema wamepokea maoni na akatoa mwito kwa wadau hao wawe wavumilivu wakati yanashugulikiwa.

Dk Suluo alisisitiza wadau wawape muda wa kuyafanyia kazi mapendekezo yao na mengine watakayowasilisha ndani ya siku 14.

"Tuwaahidi tutavifanyia kazi na kutatoa mrejesho, ila kwa leo (jana) siwezi kutoa tamko la kupanda nauli hadi tufanyie kazi," alisema.

Wamiliki vituo vya mafuta wataja suluhu ya kupanda bei za mafuta

Na Thobias Mwanakatwe, SINGIDA

WAMILIKI wa vituo vya kuuza mafuta pamoja na waendesha bodaboda na bajaji mkoani Singida wameitaka Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti wa Huduma za Nishati na Maji (EWURA) na Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti Usafiri Ardhini (LATRA) kukutana na kujadili athari za ongezeko la bei ya mafuta.

Wamesema hatua hiyo itasaidia kuweka utaratibu utakaolinda maslahi ya watoa huduma na wananchi.

Wito huo umetolewa sambamba na kuunga mkono tamko la Katibu wa Itikadi, Uenezi na Mafunzo CCM, Kenan Kihongosi aliyesisitiza umuhimu wa mamlaka husika kushirikiana ili kudhibiti athari za kupanda kwa bei ya mafuta kwa sekta ya usafiri na uchumi wa wananchi.

Wakizungumza kwa nyakati tofauti jana mjini Singida, walisema ongezeko la bei ya mafuta linaongeza gharama

za uendeshaji wa biashara zao, kuanzia usafirishaji wa mafuta hadi gharama za uendeshaji wa vituo, hali ambayo inaweza kuwalazimu kupandisha bei au kupunguza huduma.

Mmoja wa wamiliki hao, Elly Mrecha alisema gharama za kusafirisha mafuta kutoka Dar es Salaam hadi Singida zinaongezeka kila mara bei inapopanda, hivyo ni muhimu kwa EWURA na LATRA kupanga mikakati ya pamoja.

Kwa upande wao, waendesha bodaboda walisema kupanda kwa bei ya mafuta kunapunguza faida zao kwa kuwa wanashindwa kuongeza nauli kwa haraka kutokana na uwezo mdogo wa abiria.

Walisema hali hiyo inaweza kusababisha baadhi yao kushindwa kuendesha shughuli zao kwa ufanisi.

Dereva bodaboda, Juma Abdallah, alisema; "Tunapounua mafuta kwa bei ya juu, mapato yetu yanapun-

gua. Kama hatutaweka nauli mpya kwa wakati, tutakuwa tunafanya kazi bila faida. Tunaiomba serikali kupitia EWURA na LATRA itoe mwongozo."

Baadhi ya waendesha bajaji walieleza kuwa wanakabiliwa na changamoto kama hiyo, wakiongeza kuwa wananchi wengi wanategemea usafiri wao kwa safari za kila siku, hivyo mabadiliko ya ghafla ya nauli bila mwongozo yanaweza kusababisha migogoro.

Walisisitiza kuwa ushirikiano wa mamlaka husika utasaidia kuweka uwiano kati ya gharama za mafuta, nauli za usafiri na uwezo wa wananchi, jambo ambalo litachangia kulinda uchumi wa watu wa kipato cha chini.

Kadhalika, walisisitiza kuunga mkono tamko la Kihongosi wakiamini kuwa hatua ya mamlaka kukaa pamoja itasaidia kupunguza athari za kupanda kwa bei ya mafuta kwa sekta ya usafiri na maisha ya wananchi kwa ujumla.

Kwa upande wao, waendesha bodaboda walisema kupanda kwa bei ya mafuta kunapunguza faida zao kwa kuwa wanashindwa kuongeza nauli kwa haraka kutokana na uwezo mdogo wa abiria.

USAFIRISHAJI



Wadau wa usafirishaji ardhini wakimsikiliza Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa LATRA, Dk. Habibu Suluo (kulia), walipokutana Dar es Salaam, jana. Picha: ELIZABETH ZAYA

Mvutano wa nauli watikisa, wakitishia kusitisha huduma

Na Elizabeth Zaya,
KIBAHA

MVUTANO mkali umeibuka kati ya wadau wa usafirishaji na Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti Usafiri Ardhini (LATRA) kufuatia kupanda kwa bei ya mafuta.

Hali hiyo ilisababisha kikao cha dharura kilichofanyika jana jijini Dar es Salaam kugeuka uwanja wa malalamiko, shirikizo na vitisho vya kusitisha huduma.

Kikao hicho kilichodumu kwa zaidi ya saa saba, kiliwakanisha watoa huduma za usafiri wa mijini na masafa marefu, wote wakitaka hatua za haraka kuchukuliwa ili kunusuru biashara zao zinazodaiwa kuyumba kutokana na gharama kubwa za uendeshaji.

Wadau hao waliweka bayana msimamo wao kwamba ama nauli zipandishwe mara moja au serikali ichukue hatua za kushusha bei ya mafuta. Waliieleza kuwa kuendelea kusubiri bila uamuzi wa haraka ni sawa na kuwaumiza zaidi kiuchumi.

Hata hivyo, kabla ya kupokea maoni yao, Mkurugenzi Mkuu wa LATRA, Dk. Habibu Suluo, alitangaza kuwa mamlaka hiyo itachukua muda wa wiki mbili kukusanya na kuchakata maoni ya wadau kabla ya kutoa uamuzi kuhusu nauli mpya, huku ikiendelea kufuatilia mwenendo wa bei za mafuta katika soko la dunia.

Kauli hiyo ilionekana kurufurahisha wadau hao, ambao wengi wao walikuwa wamefika wakitarajia tanga- zo la moja kwa moja la nauli mpya. Badala ya kye, waliona uamuzi wa kuendelea kusub-

iri ni mzigo mwingine usiovu- milika.

Mwenyekiti wa Wamiliki na Wasafirishaji Mkoa wa Mwanza, Yusuph Lupilya, alisema kutumia taratibu za kisheria katika mazingira ya dharura ni kuwaonea hasa wadau wadogo wasio na uelewa wa kina wa mifumo hiyo.

"Wengi tulikuja hapa tukitarajia nafuu, lakini tunaongezwa muda wa kusubiri. Hatuwezi kuendelea hivyo. Kama hakuna mabadiliko ya nauli, ni bora kusitisha huduma," alisema.

Malalamiko hayo yaliungwa mkono na viongozi wengine wa vyama vya usafirishaji, akiwamo Katibu Mkuu wa Chama cha Wamiliki wa Mabasi Tanzania (TABOA), Joseph Priscus, aliyesisitiza umuhimu wa kulinda mitaji ya wawekezaji katika sekta ya uchukuzi ili kuepusha kufilisika.

Mwenyekiti wa Umoja wa Wamiliki wa Daladala Dar es Salaam (UWADAR), Kismat Dhalia, alisema tangu kupanda kwa bei ya mafuta Aprili Mosi, waendeshaji wamekuwa wakipata hasara wakisubiri uamuzi wa LATRA.

"Hatuwezi kuendelea kubeba hasara. Kama hakuna suluhisho la haraka, tutalazimika kusitisha huduma hadi hali itakapotengemaa," alionya.

Wadau wa sekta ya nishati walioshiriki kikao hicho, waliongeza uzito wa hoja hiyo. Mwenyekiti wa Chama cha Wamiliki wa Vituo vya Mafuta Tanzania (TAPSOA), Abel Vegula, alisema bei ya mafuta imeongezeka kwa zaidi ya asilimia 30 katika miezi ya karibuni bila kuakisiwa kwenye gharama za usafirishaji

Altonya kuwa hali hiyo imeanza kuathiri ufanisi wa huduma, kuchelewesha usafirishaji na kusababisha baadhi ya waendeshaji kushindwa kuendelea na biashara, jambo linaloweza hata kuvuruga mnyororo wa usambazaji mafuta nchini.

Kutokana na hali hiyo, alipendekeza marekebisho ya haraka ya viwango vya usafirishaji kwa asilimia 30 hadi 35 na kuanzishwa kwa mfumo wa kurekebisha nauli kiotomatiki kulingana na bei za mafuta zinazotangazwa na Mamlaka ya Udhhibiti wa Nishati na Maji (EWURA) kila mwezi.

Wakati huo huo, Mwenyekiti wa Chama cha Wamiliki wa Malori ya Kati na Madogo Tanzania (TAMSTOA), Chuki Shabani, alitaka LATRA kuwasilisha serikalini kilio cha wadau kuhusu mzigo wa kodi na tozo kwenye mafuta, akisema ndizo zinazochangia kwa kiasi kikubwa kupanda kwa bei.

Baada ya majadiliano hayo marefu, LATRA iliwaomba wadau kuvumilia zaidi wakati ikichakata maoni yao kwa mujibu wa sheria, ikiahidi kutoa tamko rasmi baada ya mchakato huo kukamilika.

Hata hivyo, wadau walitoa msimamo mkali kuwa iki- fika Aprili 12 bila kutolewa tangazo la nauli mpya, watachukua hatua ya kusitisha huduma, hatua ambayo inaweza kuathiri kwa kiasi kikubwa usafiri wa umma na shughuli za kiuchumi nchini.

Kwa mujibu wa sheria, LATRA ina wajibu wa kupitia na kupanga nauli kwa kuzingatia maslahi ya watoa huduma na watumaji.

NISHATI

Mjadala wa mafuta wakolea

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Dar/Dodoma. Wakati mjadala wa kupanda kwa bei za mafuta ukiendelea kushika kasi nchini, Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan ametangaza kupunguza msururu wa magari katika misafara yake, ikiwa ni hatua ya kukabili matumizi ya nishati hiyo.

Katika utekelezaji wa hatua hiyo, Rais Samia alisema wakuu wa idara mbalimbali wanaoongozana naye katika misafara wakawa na magari yao, wote watakuwa wanapanda kwenye basi moja.

Mbali na uamuzi huo, wadau wa mafuta kutoka sekta mbalimbali wametoa mapendekezo mengine mbadala ya kuikabili hali hiyo, likiwamo la kuanzisha vituo vya uhifadhi wa gesi asilia katika mikoa yote nchini.

Wengine, wamependekea Serikali iangalie namna ya kupunguza kodi na tozo kwenye bidhaa ya mafuta na kuweka ruzuku ili bei ya nishati hiyo ipungue.

Wakati wadau wakitoka mapendekezo hayo, bei hizo za mafuta zimesababisha mtikisiko katika sekta ya usafirishaji, wamiliki daladala wakitishia kugoma kutoa huduma wakidai, nauli wanazotoza ni ndogo ukilinganisha na gharama za uendeshaji, hasa kutokana na ongezeko la bei za mafuta.

Hata hivyo, Mamlaka ya Udhidi- ti Usafiri Ardhini (Latra), ikiongeza wiki mbili zaidi za kupokea maoni kutoka kwa wadau wa usafirishaji kuhusu mapitio ya nauli baada ya kupanda kwa bei ya nishati hiyo.

Bei ya mafuta imepanda nchini na duniani kwa ujumla, baada ya kuzuka kwa vita Mashariki ya Kati, vinavyohusisha mataifa ya Marekani na Israel dhidi ya Iran, vilivyoathiri mnyororo wa ugavi wa nishati hiyo.

Kutokana na vita hivyo, Iran ilifunga mlango wa Bahari wa

Hormuz, unaotumika kupitisha takriban asilimia 20 ya mafuta yanayosafirishwa kwenye mataifa mbalimbali duniani.

Licha ya yote hayo, kuna matumaini ya kushuka kwa bei ya nishati hiyo baada ya ahadi ya kufunguliwa kwa mlango wa Hormuz, kunakosababishwa na makubaliano ya kusitishwa mapigano kwa wiki mbili.

Misafara ya Rais kupungua

Jana, akihutubia Ikulu ya Chamwino jijini Dodoma, baada ya kuwaapisha viongozi aliwateua, Rais Samia alisema anatambua serikalini kuna matumizi makubwa ya mafuta kwa kuwa kuna magari mengi na safari ni nyingi.

Aliwataka maafisa ndani ya Serikali kuanzia sasa kupunguza matumizi ya mafuta, akisisitiza hilo litaanzia katika ofisi yake kwa kupunguza magari ya maafisa anaofuatana nao kwenye misafara yake, ambao kwa sasa watapada basi moja.

"Msafara utakuwa gari yangu, escort yangu ya polisi na gari ya akiba nyuma, waliobakia wote nawaingiza kwenye basi tupunguze matumizi ya mafuta," alisema.

Aliwataka watumishi wengine kwenye ofisi zao wahakikishe wanapunguza matumizi ya nishati hiyo.

Katika hotuba yake hiyo, alisema kinachoendelea Mashariki ya Kati ndicho kilicholeta athari kwa ulimwengu wote na wiki iliyopita alitumiwa bei za mafuta katika mataifa mbalimbali duniani.

"Kuna nchi ambazo tayari zimeshawapa watu wao ruhusa ya kufanya kazi nyumbani kusiywa na safari za magari kwenda ofisini na kurudi. Kuna nchi zimepunguza matumizi ya mafuta na wana upungufu wa mafuta.

"Leo tumeamka na neno la faraja, kwamba angalau pale Har- mors ukiongea nao vizuri wale



Wananchi wakiwa wamejipanga barabarani kuupokea msafara wa Rais. Eneo hilo ni mojawapo lililotangazwa kupunguza magari ili kubana matumizi ya mafuta. Picha na Maktaba

jamaa, vimeli vinapitapa kwa hiyo inatupa matumaini kwamba meli itapita. Na ile kuruhusu tu meli za Japan, Ufaransa kidogo nimeona bei ya mafuta imeshuka kidogo," alisema.

Alisema hiyo inatoa matumaini lakini vivyo hivyo haijulikani wataamkaje, namna wanavyoamka na ndivyo bei ya nishati hiyo itakavyocheza pia.

Bei za bidhaa

Kwa kuwa upandaji wa bei ya mafuta unaambatana na kupanda kwa bei ya bidhaa, Rais Samia amewataka wafanyabiashara kuhakikisha bidhaa zilizonunuliwa kabla ya msukosuko huo, waangalie namna ya kuweka bei stahiki.

"Isitumike fursa ya kupanda kwa mafuta na kuweka bei za bidhaa kubwa kuliko zinavyopaswa kuwa. Wananchi, kuna bidhaa ambazo zinaingia kipindi hiki ambazo zimekumbana na msukosuko huu zitapanda bei," alisema.

Alisema iwapo hali itaendelea kuwa tulivu kama ilivyotangazwa leo, huenda hata Tanzania bei ya mafuta ikashuka kwa tangazo la mwezi ujao, ukilinganisha na iliyopo sasa.

ATHARI >

Bei za mafuta zinavyong'ata

Ongezeko la bei ya mafuta nchini Tanzania limeendelea kuleta athari kubwa katika sekta mbalimbali za uchumi na malsha ya kila siku ya wananchi. Kupanda kwa gharama za petroli na dizeli kumesababisha kuongezeka kwa nauli za usafiri wa umma, hall inayowaumiza zaidi wananchi wa kipato cha chini wanaotegemea daladala na bodaboda kufika kazini na kwenye shughuli zao za kila siku.

Aidha, gharama za uzalishaji zimeongezeka kwa wafanyabiashara na viwanda, kutokana na matumizi makubwa ya nishati hiyo katika usafirishaji wa bidhaa na uendeshaji wa mitambo. Hali hii inachochea kupanda kwa bei za bidhaa muhimu kama vyakula, vifaa vya ujenzi na huduma mbalimbali.

Tishio mgomo wa daladala

Katikati ya hatua hizo, wamiliki wa daladala wametishia kuesha magari wakidai nauli wanazotoza haziendani na gharama za uendeshaji.

Vilevile, Chama cha Wamiliki wa Mabasi Tanzania (Taboa) kimeonekana kinaunga mkono kiaina msimamo wa wamiliki wa daladala, huku wakiwasilisha mahesabu kwa Mamlaka ya Udhidiri wa Usafiri Ardhini (Latra),

yanayoonyesha namna wanavyopata hasara.

Katikati ya sekeseke hilo, wamiliki hao walisema kitisho cha mamlaka za Serikali kutishia kuzifutia leseni daladala au mabasi yatakayogoma si suluhisho la hali iliyopo; badala yale wamemtahadhalisha bosi wa Latra, Dk Habibu Suluo kuwa asipokuwa makini suala hilo linaweza kumwondoa kwenye nafasi yake.

Kwa mujibu wa wamiliki hao, bei ya mafuta imepanda lakini Latra, imewataka kuendelea kutoza nauli zilele za zamani, jambo ambalo linawasababisha hasara.

Wakati huohuo, Mwenyekiti wa Umoja wa Wasafirishaji Abiria Mkoa wa Mwanza, Yusuph Lupilia amelalamikia kitendo cha usafiri wa bajaji kufanya kazi sawa na daladala katika vituo vyote.

Hayo yameelezwa wakati Latra ikikutana na wadau hao wa usafirishaji kilicho hitimishwa kwa kutoa wiki mbili za kupokea maoni yao hadi Aprili 26, 2026.

Hata hivyo, Dk Suluo alisema taarifa za Aprili 8, mwaka huu zinaonyesha bei ya mafuta duniani imeshuka, hivyo baada ya mchakato wa kupokea maoni kukamilika, watapata picha ya hali inavyokwenda.

Alisema leo Aprili 9, 2026, kutakuwa na kikao cha juu cha Serikali kitakachofanyika jijini Dodoma, kitakachoaangalia nini kifanyike ili huduma ziendelee.

"Leo hatuna majibu, tunawasikiliza, maana ninyi ndio mpo kwenye uwanja wa kazi ili biashara zenu zisife. Ni lazima tupokee maoni yenu na tuangalie mchakato utakuwa vipi, hustusan kwa wamiliki wa vyombo vya usafiri na wafanyakazi katika sekta hii," alisema.

Dk Suluo alisema: "Nipe ni haki niliyo nayo. leo siwezi kutoa kauli. Kwa bei ya mafuta haijapanda sana kwa mujibu wa



DISCOURSE Fuel prices dominated discussions, even as global oil markets showed early signs of easing following a two-week ceasefire in the US-Israeli war on Iran

Fuel debate rages as global supply shocks hit Tanzania

Responding to sharp price increases, President Samia Suluhu Hassan called for immediate measures to reduce fuel use by the government

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Dar es Salaam. Fuel prices dominated discussions across Tanzania yesterday, even as global oil markets showed early signs of easing following a two-week ceasefire in the US-Israel war on Iran.

Brent crude fell roughly 15 percent to between \$90 and \$94 per barrel yesterday, reversing some of the more than 50 percent gains seen since the US-Israel invasion of Iran on 28 February. The temporary truce eased fears of major supply disruptions through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical oil shipping route.

Despite the slight decline in global prices, domestic fuel costs remain high. Petrol now sells at Sh3,820 per litre in Dar es Salaam, up from Sh2,864 in March, while diesel has risen to Sh3,806 from Sh2,858. Kerosene prices have climbed to Sh3,684, compared with Sh2,932 last month.

President directs fuel reduction

The sharp increase sparked discussions on multiple platforms, prompting President Samia Suluhu Hassan to call for immediate reductions in government fuel use. Speaking during a swearing-in ceremony at State House, she stressed that global supply shocks continue to create volatility and push up costs.

"Countries around the world are adopting strict energy-saving measures, with some allowing remote work to reduce travel and others already facing shortages," she said. "We woke up to encouraging news that some vessels are beginning to pass through, giving hope that shipments will continue. Fuel prices have slightly declined, but uncertainty remains."

President Hassan ordered her office to reduce convoy sizes immediately. "My convoy will include only my vehicle, the police escort and a backup vehicle. Other officials will travel together in buses to save fuel," she explained. She called on all public institutions to implement similar measures.

The President also warned traders against exploiting the situation to raise prices on existing stock. "Some price increases are unavoidable due to imported goods affected by global disruptions, but citizens should remain calm. Tanzania has sufficient fuel reserves to withstand short-term shocks," she added, noting three months of national stockpiles.



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Transport stakeholders meet regulator

Meanwhile, a contentious meeting convened by the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Latra) yesterday drew operators from both urban and long-distance transport sectors. Discussions focused on fare adjustments in response to soaring fuel costs.

Latra Director General Habibu Suluo said stakeholders would have two weeks, until April 21, to submit their views on proposed fare changes. The consultation will run alongside monitoring global fuel price trends.

"Fuel prices have started to fall, but uncertainty remains due to the ongoing conflict," he said. "We need input from those on the ground to ensure transport services remain viable."

Mr Suluo explained that, as of yesterday, no formal fare adjustment requests had been submitted. He added that a high-level government meeting in Dodoma today would determine the best course of action to sustain transport operations.

Under Section 19 of the Land Transport Regulatory Authority Act (Cap 413), Latra must review regulated charges, including public transport fares, balancing the interests of both passengers and service providers.

The 2020 Tariff Regulations outline procedures for operators to propose fare changes or for the regulator to initiate a review.

Operators seek more flexibility

Darcoboa chairman Sabri Mabrouk criticised the current three-year fare review interval. "Student fares of Sh200 have remained unchanged for ten years. Operators who invested in daladala services a decade ago have gone out of business. The government should adopt a flexible approach during emergencies such as fuel price surges," he said.

Mwanza Transport Association chairman Yusuf Lupilya noted that fares alone do not sustain operations. Dar es Salaam Commuter Bus Owners Association (Darcoboa) representative Kisimati Dhalla warned that buses may be forced off the road if fare reviews are delayed.

"Fuel prices remain high. We cannot operate sustainably without clear guidance on fares," he said. "It is unrealistic to treat all transport modes the same. We expected a quicker process, not a two-week consultation period."

Stakeholders emphasised the financial pressures they face. Each Yutong bus costs around Sh510 million and has a lifespan of five years. Operators must cover insurance, two drivers and maintenance, including tyres.

Tanzania Medium and Small Truck Owners Association (Tamtsoa) chairman Chuki Shabani urged Latra to communicate stakeholders' concerns about taxes and levies on fuel to the government. A representative of the Tanzania

Truck Owners Association (Taboa) noted that while fuel costs continue rising, transport charges often remain unchanged, reducing operators' earnings.

Assistant Director of Roads in the Ministry of Transport Andrew Magombana said the government is committed to analysing stakeholders' views to reach decisions that protect service providers, users and the economy.

Parliament debates urgent measures

In Parliament, lawmakers called for immediate steps to shield the economy from fuel shocks. Singida West MP Elibariki Kingu proposed cutting non-essential allowances for public servants, advocating a four-month austerity plan to redirect funds toward cushioning the impact of rising fuel prices.

"I request the Prime Minister and his government to halt all recurrent expenditures until July, so the funds can address fuel shocks," he said and highlighted that Tanzania narrowly avoided major supply disruptions when some fuel shipments were almost diverted abroad before government intervention.

He also suggested investing in strategic fuel storage infrastructure to make Tanzania a regional distribution hub. "Why shouldn't we sell fuel to neighbours like Zambia and Mozambique? Enhanced storage will secure domestic supply and create economic opportunities," he said.

Hai MP Saashisha Mafuwe recommended tapping into the country's gold reserves to subsidise fuel prices, easing the burden on citizens.

Analysts caution patience

Experts warn it may take time for the global market to stabilise. Raphael Mgaya, Executive Director of the Tanzania Association of Oil Marketing Companies (TAOMAC), said the rise in domestic prices reflects delayed fuel shipments and disrupted supply chains.

"Some fuel consignments were halted mid-transit or could not depart refineries due to the conflict. Alternative supplies had to be sourced from India," he said.

Tanzania Petrol Retailers Owners Association (Tapsoa) Secretary General Augustine Mmasi said current supplies cover three months, lasting until July. "We may see prices fall around then, but they could also remain high," he noted.

A representative of the Tapsoa at a meeting with Latra yesterday, Mr Abel Vegula, said the key issue affecting their business was the cost of transporting fuel across the country, noting that current transport rates no longer reflect actual operating costs.

He explained that diesel accounts for 40 to 50 percent of total tanker operating costs and is the most volatile component. However, while fuel prices have risen by more than 30 percent in recent months, transport rates have remained unchanged. He stressed that, in principle, any increase in fuel prices should be matched by a proportional adjustment in transport charges. Mr Vegula warned that the lack of adjustment has led to reduced trip frequency, delayed vehicle maintenance, increased financial pressure on operators and in some cases, business closures—developments that threaten the reliability of fuel supply nationwide.

Tapsoa is therefore urging therefore urge Latra to approve an interim increase of 30 to 35 percent in transport rates. It also proposes a long-term solution through an automatic indexation system linked to monthly fuel prices published by the Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority, to ensure timely, transparent and sustainable adjustments.

However, following those deliberations which lasted for more than seven hours Mr Suluo once again urged the stakeholders to remain patient while it reviews their submissions before issuing an official statement.

"As you have endured since the rise in fuel prices, I kindly ask for your continued patience while I process your views in accordance with the law. I cannot set fares without duly considering these submissions and the law does not permit me to do so. Moreover, as you are aware, the meeting itself was convened on an urgent basis," he said.

Reported by Hellen Nachilongo, Julius Maricha and Rosemary Mironde in Dar es Salaam and Katara Mbashiru in Dodoma