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Long-distance buses face shift to Magufuli Terminal amid doubts

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Dar es Salaam. Bus operators and transport experts have raised concerns over a directive that all long-distance buses operating in Dar es Salaam should park at the John Magufuli Bus Terminal, warning that the move could increase passengers' travel costs and create new pressure points in the city's transport network.

The concerns follow a directive by Dar es Salaam Regional Commissioner Albert Chalamila that all upcountry buses should operate from the Magufuli Terminal as part of efforts to ease congestion in the city centre and improve traffic management.

Currently, different bus companies have their respective stations where they operate from, before passing through the main terminal as they start the journey.

However, Mr Chalamila alleged that only six companies have the permit to do so, while majority are operating illegally.

While transport stakeholders

support efforts to improve urban mobility, they say the proposal could have unintended consequences if implemented before adequate connections to other parts of the city are established.

Tanzania Bus Owners Association (Taboa) secretary-general Priscus Joseph said operators were not opposed to the proposal but urged authorities to put passengers' interests first.

"We have received the proposal positively, but the challenge is whether the terminal and supporting transport services are ready to serve all passengers efficiently," he said.

Mr Joseph said thousands of passengers arrive in Dar es Salaam daily for education, business and employment, with many needing direct access to areas such as Kariakoo, Manzese, Kurasini and higher learning institutions across the city.

Requiring all buses to terminate at Magufuli Terminal would force some passengers to make additional journeys to reach their final destinations, increasing travel time and costs, he said.

He also questioned whether the

Bus operators and transport experts have raised concerns over a directive that all long-distance buses operating in Dar es Salaam should park at the John Magufuli Bus Terminal. PHOTO COURTESY

existing Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system was adequately equipped to handle passengers travelling with luggage.

"Our buses carry both passengers and their belongings. If passengers are required to transfer to another mode of transport, there must be a practical solution for handling luggage," he said.

Mr Joseph warned that additional transport costs could also affect traders who rely on public transport to move goods between Dar es Salaam and other regions.

"Every extra cost incurred during transport ultimately affects the price of goods. That burden is eventually passed on to consumers," he said.



than focusing only on where long-distance buses start or end their routes.

"If a passenger arrives from another region and still has to spend a significant amount of money to reach their destination within the city, then the transport system has not fully addressed their needs," he said.

Mr Mwingira called on the government and the Land Transport Regulatory Authority (Litra) to establish clear standards for bus terminals, covering sanitation, drainage, passenger facilities and parking.

He said improving existing facilities across the city could provide a more balanced approach while maintaining access to transport services.

Transport expert Prosper Nyaki said the proposal should be assessed not only in terms of traffic management but also its economic and social impact on passengers.

He warned that concentrating large numbers of passengers at one terminal could increase demand for feeder transport services around the facility, potentially creating new congestion hotspots.

"Reducing congestion in one part of the city should not result in greater congestion elsewhere," he said.

Mr Nyaki said improvements to public transport should precede any restrictions on long-distance bus operations.

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HABARI

SIASA>> Siyo uadu

TABOA yafunguka mabasi kuegeshwa Stendi Magufuli

Na EMMANUEL MOHAMED

BAADA ya Mkuu wa Mkoa wa Dar es Saalam, Albert Chalamila, kuwataka wamiliki wa mabasi yaendayo mikoani yasiyo na vibali vya kuegesha vituo vya Shekilango kuyahamishia Stendi Kuu ya Magufuli, wamiliki hao wameunga mkono hatua hiyo na kuomba wapewe muda zaidi.

Juzi, Chalamila alizipa wiki moja kampuni ambazo hazina vibali, kuyarejesha stendi ya Magufuli iliyopo Mbezi badala ya Shekilango.

Akizungumza na gazeti hili jana, Katibu Mkuu wa Chama Cha Wamiliki wa Mabasi Tanzania (TABOA), Priscus John alisema kuna haja ya kuyarudisha katika stendi hiyo mabasi yasiyo na vibali.

"Wengine ambao hawajafikisha vigezo vinavyohitajika ikiwemo milango miwili ya choo kwa jinsia ya kike na kiume, na kuwa na viti vya abiria 60 waondolewe," alisema.

Alisema kampuni zilizokidhi vigezo ziachwe ziendelee na shughuli zao na kuonesha masikitiko yake kwa TABOA kutoshirikishwa katika mchakato mzima wa kuyaondoa mabasi yasiyo na vibali eneo la Shekilango.

"Tuna mpango wa kumuona (Chalamila) kutokana na kuwa kuna haja ya ushirikishwaji baada ya muda uliotolewa hautoshi," alisema Priscus.

Aliongeza: "Mtu anaondolewa kwenye nyumba kwa kupewa noti ya siku 30, lakini hii noti imetushangaza, ila na sisi tunafanya uchambuzi kama kweli kuna watu wanaanza barabara."

Kwa mujibu wa katibu huyo wa TABOA, kampuni zenye vibali vya kupakia na kushusha abiria nje ya stendi ya Magufuli, zipo 11 na kudai hakuna inayoziba barabara.

"Hatuegesi mabasi bali tunatumia kupakia baadhi ya abiria na mizigo, kwa upande wetu tulitamani tupewe muda," aliongeza.

Priscus alisema kinachofanywa na TABOA



Tuna mpango wa kumuona (Chalamila) kutokana na kuwa kuna haja ya ushirikishwaji baada ya muda uliotolewa sababu hautoshi."

Katibu Mkuu wa TABOA, Priscus John.

ni kuwasaidia abiria kupunguza gharama za usafiri, akitolea mfano mtu anayetoka Morogoro kwa sh. 10,000 hadi Dar es Saalam akiwa na mizigo stendi ya Magufuli analazimika kulipia usafiri hadi nyumbani kwake jambo linamuongezea mizigo wa nuli mara mbili.

Hata hivyo, alisisitiza kampuni zisizo na vibali mabasi yake yanatakiwa kurejea Magufuli na yenye vibali yabaki Shekilango.

CHALAMILA

Mkuu huyo wa mkoa alisema taarifa alizopewa na Mamlaka ya Udhidhi Usafiri Ardhi (LATRA), kampuni sita tu ndiyo zenye vibali maalumu vya kutoa huduma nje ya stendi kuu.

Vibali hivyo vimeziruhusu kujenga stendi ndogo maeneo ya Manzese, ambapo Chalamila aliagiza hadi Jumamatu kampuni ambazo hazina vibali kurejea stendi hiyo ya Magufuli.