

Ministry honoured for promoting Kiswahili

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation has been awarded for outstanding excellence in marketing and promoting the Kiswahili language on the international stage during the national celebrations of World Kiswahili Day.

The award was officially presented to the ministry and received by the Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Said Shaib Mussa, on behalf of

the Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Ambassador Mahmoud Thabit Kombo, during celebrations held in Zanzibar.

The ministry was honoured for its leadership in engaging with various centres for teaching the Kiswahili language globally through its diplomatic missions abroad, while also promoting the use of Kiswahili in international and regional forums.

Being observed on July 7 every year since its inception by the United Nations Educa-

tional, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2021, the 4th celebration was held in different parts of the world including, Zanzibar, Rwanda and Paris in France with different activities including dialogues.

In its efforts, the ministry has made Kiswahili interpreters available at international forums, greatly enhancing the status and usage of the language.

The award was presented and handed over to Ambassador Mussa by the Second

Vice-President of Zanzibar Hemed Suleiman Abdulla in an event attended by top and senior government officials from both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

The celebration was preceded by the International Kiswahili Marathon held on June 28, 2025, in Arusha, followed by the “Mwanamke Hazina” event on July 5, 2025, in Zanzibar, where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation participated in both events.

Through its revised Foreign Policy launched recently by President Samia Suluhu Hassan in Dar es Salaam, among the thematic areas stressed is the use of Kiswahili as an instrument of diplomacy and mobilising international resources for national development.

Tanzania has also led the initiative to institutionalise Kiswahili as the fourth working language of regional blocs, officially recognising it as the Fourth Official Working Language of the

Southern African Development Community (SADC) during the 39th Summit of Heads of State and Government in August 2019.

The East African Community (EAC) also designated Kiswahili as its official language during the 21st Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State in February 2021 and it was also recognised as an official language of the African Union during the 35th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly in February 2022.

Through the 41st session of its General Conference in 2021, the UNESCO adopted resolution 41C/61, which acknowledged the contribution of Kiswahili language to the promotion of cultural diversity, awareness-raising and intercultural dialogue.

The resolution declared July 7th as the World Kiswahili Language Day.

While deeply rooted in Tanzania, Kiswahili has grown into a pan-African language, fostering unity, identity and dialogue across

linguistic and cultural borders and is the first African language to receive such recognition from the United Nations.

The celebration of Kiswahili day began at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, on July 4, this year, where the Permanent Delegations of East African Member States to UNESCO, in collaboration with the UNESCO Secretariat, prepared a panel discussion to celebrate the 4th World Kiswahili Language Day.

Why e-Mrejesho continues to win global awards

By BERNARD LUGONGO

THE e-Government Authority (e-GA) has attributed the consistent international recognition of the e-Mrejesho system to its innovative use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in improving public service delivery, enhancing transparency and promoting citizen engagement.

The system’s most recent accolade was awarded at the 2025 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Awards, where it was honoured under the e-Government category for its significant contribution to sustainable development and inclusive governance.

The award was received in Geneva by the Minister for Communication and Information Technology, Mr Jerry Silaa, who represented President Samia Suluhu Hassan at the high-level WSIS+20 Summit.

This marks yet another milestone for the system, which last year also secured the United Nations Public Service Innovation Award, further establishing Tanzania as a regional leader in digital governance.

Speaking to ‘Daily News’ yesterday via telephone, e-GA Communications Manager, Ms Subira Kaswaga, attributed the system’s success to its alignment with global digital governance goals.

“The system aligns with Action Line C7 on e-Government and supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by increasing access to and efficiency of public services for many Tanzanians,” she said.

Ms Kaswaga explained that e-Mrejesho allows citizens to submit feedback, suggestions or complaints regarding government services. This feedback is then processed efficiently using AI, enabling institutions to respond quickly and make data-driven improvements. “This not only strengthens transparency but also

enhances accountability within public institutions,” she added.

The e-Mrejesho platform, developed under the oversight of e-GA, has become a vital bridge between citizens and the government. By providing real-time feedback on service quality, it empowers users while helping public agencies monitor performance and identify service delivery gaps.

The WSIS Awards, organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)—a specialised agency of the United Nations—aim to recognise and promote digital innovations that support sustainable development.

The 2025 edition attracted more than 1,000 project submissions worldwide, with only 360 making it past the initial screening. Among them was Tanzania’s e-Mrejesho V2, which was shortlisted under the competitive e-Government category.

According to Ms Kaswaga, the platform’s integration of AI technology has significantly enhanced its effectiveness.

“The use of AI to process and analyse citizen feedback makes the system fast, accurate and highly responsive. It allows institutions to track public satisfaction in real time and adjust their services accordingly,” she said.

She further noted that winning the WSIS Award is a matter of national pride, as it reflects Tanzania’s commitment to innovation in public administration.

“These awards are some of the most respected globally in the ICT sector. Our success with e-Mrejesho is a clear indication that Tanzania is moving in the right direction in terms of digital transformation,” she said.

The system also plays a crucial role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to good governance, innovation and inclusive institutions.



DEPUTY Minister for Community Development, Gender, Women and Special Groups, Ms Mwanaidi Ali Khamis (left) greets Ms Asha Dachi, the Managing Director for the Tanzania Standard Newspapers (TSN) Limited during the Zanzibar Day Forum at 49th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair in the city yesterday. (Photos by Mohamed Mambo)

TZ, Gambia to deepen ties in education sector

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

TANZANIA and Gambia have agreed to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the education sector, with a particular focus on the exchange of students and instructors, especially in the area of vocational training.

Minister for Education, Science and Technology, Prof Adolf Mkenda, said the move follows far-reaching reforms implemented by the Tanzanian government in the education sector, which have continued to attract interest from other countries eager to learn from Tanzania’s experience.

Prof Mkenda made the remarks recently in Dar es Salaam after holding talks with

a delegation from Gambia, led by the Minister for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, Prof Pierre Gomez.

“The delegation is in the country to learn about Tanzania’s education reforms, particularly in technical and vocational training and how these reforms have influenced the review of the Education and Training Policy,” Prof Mkenda said.

For his part, Prof Gomez said the visit was aimed at gaining deeper insights into Tanzania’s higher education ecosystem and the strategies in place to enhance the provision of quality education.

“I am very pleased to see that Tanzania serves as a model from which we can learn especially in terms of

the linkages between academia and industry,” Prof Gomez noted.

Tanzania has undergone significant reforms in the education sector over the past four years under the leadership of President Samia Suluhu Hassan marked by key policy decisions.

These transformative changes have strengthened the national education system and enhanced the overall wellbeing of citizens.

According to Prof Mkenda, a series of reforms driven by the revised 2014 Education and Training Policy, which was updated in 2023 include a major milestone is the extension of compulsory education to 10 years under the new 1+6+4+2/3+3+ structure.

“This policy shift is designed to equip students with practical skills by integrating a vocational education stream beginning at the secondary school level,” he said.

He explained that the curriculum for pre-primary, primary and secondary education has been restructured to feature two streams, a general stream and a vocational stream.

Students enrolled in the vocational stream will graduate Form Four with two certificates: The Ordinary Level Certificate and a Skills Certificate issued by the National Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (NACTVET).

Prof Mkenda explained that in line with the revised Education and Training Pol-

icy, significant curriculum reforms have been implemented across pre-primary, primary and secondary education levels.

Among the key changes is the introduction of dual streams at the secondary level, a general education stream and a vocational stream within a more flexible education system.

Upon completing Form Four, students in the vocational stream will receive both the Form Four certificate and the NACTVET-issued skills certificate. Those who choose to continue into technical education will progress into a three-year high school programme focused on practical training, effectively reviving the former polytechnic model.

Cleric urges priests to embrace God’s love

From MEDDY MULISA in Bukoba

BUKOKA Catholic Diocesan Bishop, Jovithus Mwijage, has called on priests to be guided by God’s boundless love and to reject all forms of division and hatred.

He made the remarks recently during the ordination ceremony of four new priests held at the Mater Misericordiae Cathedral in Bukoba Municipality.

The newly ordained priests, along with their respective parishes, are Fr Aivan Rugabera Rwekamwa (Bukoba), Fr Auxibius Rugabamu Kasumbe (Kashozi), Fr Evodius Timanywa Kailembo (Kibeta) and Fr Verianus Rutatinisibwa Kaizirege (Mutukula).

Bishop Mwijage urged the new priests to carry out their sacred duties with humility, compassion and unwavering faith, guided by the spirit of unity and service.

In his homily, Mwijage urged the newly ordained priests to remain close to their congregations and to serve all people with dedication, impartiality and compassion.

“You must give freely your time and energy to everyone, without reserve and without partiality,” he said.

“Let us bring peace of the risen Lord to our world, with the freedom born of the knowledge that we have been loved, chosen and sent by the Father. Reconciled with one another, united and transformed by the love that flows abundantly from the Heart of Jesus Christ, let us walk together humbly and resolutely in His footsteps firm in faith and open to all in charity,” he added.

He further said: “What I have to say is simple. Love God and your brothers and sisters and give yourselves to them generously. Be fervent in your celebration of the sacraments, in prayer especially in adoration before the Eucharist and in your ministry. The Sacred Heart of Jesus is entrusted in a special way to us, so that we can make it present in our world.”

Bishop Mwijage also used the occasion to call for peace and unity as the country prepares for the upcoming General Election slated for October this year.

“As the nation prepares for the General Election, I urge all Tanzanians to uphold the peace and mutual harmony that we enjoy, because we are all sons and daughters of one God,” he emphasised.

He urged parents to allow their children to join various congregations to shape them to be God-fearing citizens.

Bukoba Catholic Diocese was founded in 1892 by the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers), with its first roots at Kashozi parish, some 15 kms from Bukoba town.

Bukoba Diocese comprises of 46 parishes with 178 active diocesan priests.

REA vows to drive national shift to clean cooking energy

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

RURAL Energy Agency (REA) Director General Engineer Hassan Saidy has reaffirmed the agency’s commitment to ensuring that 80 per cent of Tanzanians use clean cooking energy by 2034, in line with the National Strategy for the Adoption of Clean Cooking Energy.

Eng Saidy expressed the determination on Monday at the ongoing 49th Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) at the REA pavilion.

“REA has the mandate to ensure all rural areas have ac-

cess to all types of clean energy used in the country, including electricity, clean cooking energy and petroleum and diesel products. This is being implemented through various projects, some of which are complete while others are in different stages of execution,” Eng Saidy said.

He noted that the National Strategy for Clean Cooking Energy Use directs that by 2034, at least 80 per cent of Tanzanians should be using clean cooking energy and REA is among the key institutions tasked with achieving this goal.

Eng Saidy said currently,

approximately 96 per cent of rural residents rely on firewood and charcoal for cooking, adding that the primary task is to transition these communities to safer and more sustainable energy alternatives.

He outlined several ongoing initiatives by REA, including public awareness and education campaigns to inform citizens about the health and environmental risks associated with using unsafe energy sources, as well as promoting the benefits of clean cooking energy, saying efforts also involve improving access to clean energy

products in rural areas and supporting clean energy technologies.

“There is a common perception that clean cooking energy is more expensive than other forms of energy, which is not entirely true. With improved technologies that minimise energy loss during cooking, the cost to users has significantly reduced,” Eng Saidy explained.

He also pointed out that many people overlook indirect costs such as the time and risks involved in collecting firewood.

Eng Saidy also expressed gratitude to President Dr

Samia Suluhu Hassan for empowering REA to implement its mandate of expanding access to clean cooking energy and her leadership in championing clean energy initiatives.

Among the achievements of the National Strategy’s implementation, he mentioned the 50 per cent subsidy provided for 6kg LPG cylinders and accessories which has enabled many rural households to switch to clean cooking energy.

“The government under President Samia provided a 50 per cent subsidy on approximately 452,000 cooking

gas cylinders that are currently being distributed across mainland Tanzania. In addition, 110,000 cylinders were distributed through Members of Parliament in their respective constituencies two years ago,” he added.

Moreover, he highlighted that REA has facilitated a complete transition from unsafe energy sources in all 129 prison facilities nationwide, saying REA has introduced a programme to enable prison officers and their families to also access clean cooking energy.

“As you may recall, President Dr Samia Suluhu