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SPORT Govt says preparations on track PAGE 20

The credibility of Kenya's IPO market has been undermined by political interference in the country's capital markets

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

KIHAERU Member of Parliament Mr Ndindi Nyoro has once again informed the international community that the Kenyan stock market has been influenced by politics, a development detrimental to investment undermining the market's reputation as well as that of the nation as a whole.

His perspective indicates that the political decision to enter the Kenyan stock market reveals a substantial vulnerability in the investment industry that has not yet been realised.

In my opinion, the MPs comments have reignited a critical dialogue about the integrity of Kenya's capital markets and the integration of politics into matters that require prudent decision-making.

In reference to the events that transpired in the wake of an Initial Public

Full Story on Page 8

ONE NATION SHARED DESTINY

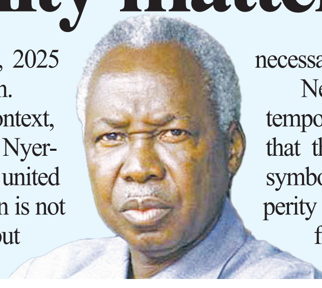
Why Nyerere's call for unity matters more than ever

By WILSON MALIMA

IF Mwalimu Julius Nyerere (pictured) were alive today, he would have turned 104 years old yesterday.

As Tanzania commemorates the birth of its founding father, his physical absence does little to diminish the enduring relevance of his ideas, particularly his unwavering call for unity, peace and national cohesion.

The commemoration comes at a critical moment, as the country continues to navigate the aftermath of the October 29, 2025 General Election.



In such a context, reflecting on Nyerere's vision of a united and stable nation is not only timely, but necessary.

Neither his family nor contemporaries could have foreseen that their son would become a symbol of peace, unity and prosperity not only for Tanzania, but for Africa as a whole.

Born on April 13, 1922, in Butiama, Mara Region, Mwalimu, as he was fondly known, served the nation from independence until his voluntary retirement. Since his passing on

Full Story on Page 7

MPs seek loan overhaul

From HILDA MHAGAMA in Dodoma

MEMBERS of Parliament have called for sweeping reforms to the 10 per cent interest-free loans for women, youth and people with disabilities in the country, citing limited access and poor repayment as key challenges.

Contributing to the 2026/27 Prime Minister's Office budget estimates in the National Assembly yesterday, legislators said while more than 130bn/- has been disbursed under the scheme, structural challenges continue to limit its effectiveness, particularly among rural beneficiaries and small entrepreneurs.

Prime Minister Dr Mwigulu Nchemba tabled the budget estimates for his ministry on April 1, 2026, and since then MPs have been contributing to the proposals. The debate of the Prime Minister's Office budget is expected to conclude on Wednesday.

The estimates cover the PMO, institutions under it and the Parliamentary Fund for the 2026/27 financial year.

Lupembe MP (CCM), Mr Edwin Swalle said one of the key weaknesses lies in the current model which prioritises group lending, arguing that it has contributed to poor repayment rates.

"One of the major reasons for failure to repay these loans is this system of issuing loans to groups only, which is not productive," he said. "If you lend to an individual entrepreneur, it becomes easier to manage and ensure repayment."

He added: "I advise that the law governing these loans be brought to Parliament so that we can make amendments to allow individuals to benefit."

Special Seats MP (CCM), Ms Rebecca Sanga said accessibility remains a major concern, particularly for rural women.

"The system of accessing these loans is still a challenge for many women, especially those in rural areas," she said. "They are required to prepare formal proposals, which limits their chances."

She added that support systems are needed: "There is a need to use extension officers to guide applicants on how to access these loans."

The concerns raised in the august house come amid ongoing government efforts to reform the scheme following longstanding challenges in its management and performance.

In 2023, the government suspended disbursement of the loans after an audit revealed widespread weaknesses, including poor recovery and mismanagement, before introducing reforms to improve accountability.

Under the new approach, a pilot programme is being implemented in

Continues on Page 3

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PRESIDENT Samia Suluhu Hassan talks to Secretary –General of the East African Community (EAC) Amb Stephen Patrick Mbundi at Chamwino State House in Dodoma, yesterday. (Photo by State House)

DCEA seizes tonnes of narcotics, dismantles emerging drug networks

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has seized nearly two tonnes of illicit drugs and arrested 77 suspects in a nationwide crackdown conducted in March this year, as authorities intensify efforts to dismantle emerging trafficking networks, particularly those involving khat.

Speaking during a press briefing in Dar es Salaam yesterday, DCEA Commissioner General Aretas Lyimo said the authority confiscated a total of 1,983.31 kilogrammes of various narcotic drugs during the operations.

In addition, authorities intercepted 3,012.5 kilogrammes and 17,960 litres of precursor chemicals, alongside 286 tablets and 1,001 bottles of controlled medicinal drugs with addictive properties.

Mr Lyimo noted that enforcement teams also destroyed 55.5 acres of cannabis farms, while seizing nine motor vehicles, 12 motorcycles and one three-wheeler (bajaji) linked to drug trafficking activities.

Analysis of the seizures indicates a sharp increase in the trafficking of khat, with 1,267.12 kilogrammes confiscated, equivalent to 64 per cent of all drugs seized in March.

"This trend reflects our strategic shift towards combating rural-based drug networks, following significant progress in curbing industrial-scale narcotics operations," Commissioner General Lyimo explained.

He said traffickers are increasingly adopting new methods to evade detection, prompting the authority to expand surveillance and intelligence-led operations across

Continues on Page 3

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Collective schemes enhance financial inclusion growth

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE Capital markets are increasingly emerging as a key channel for inclusive wealth building in the country, as ongoing economic reforms open up space for private-sector innovation and wider public participation in formal financial systems.

What was once a niche segment, is now evolving into a more accessible platform for mobilising domestic savings and channelling them into productive investment.

Collective investment schemes sit at the centre of this shift. With a combined Net Asset Value (NAV) of approximately 5.0tri/-, the sector is drawing in households that were previously excluded from capital markets, offering structured savings options backed by professional fund management and regulatory oversight.

Zan Securities Chief Executive Officer Raphael Masumbuko said the expansion reflects a broader transition in how Tanzanians engage with financial assets.

"This growth directly aligns with Vision 2050, which emphasises building a strong, inclusive and competitive economy through diversified financing channels," he told the Daily News.

The national development agenda increasingly recognises that long-term growth cannot rely solely on public borrowing and bank lending. Instead, it requires mobilising household savings into capital markets, where funds can be deployed across government securities, corporate debt and other income-generating instruments.

Policy reforms have sought to reinforce this trajectory. Tanzania's Financial Sector Development agenda, alongside market reforms led by the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA), has positioned collective investment schemes as a vehicle for broadening access to financial products, promoting a savings culture, protecting retail investors and channeling long-term capital into both public and private sector investments.

One illustration of this trend is the Timiza Fund, managed by Zan Securities. The fund is set to distribute 10/- per unit to its unit holders today, a modest payout that nonetheless underscores the mechanics of pooled investment and return generation.

For many first-time investors, such distributions provide tangible evidence that disciplined saving through regulated vehicles can yield consistent returns.

"It demonstrates that ordinary citizens can access returns from a diversified portfolio," Mr Masumbuko said.

"This includes treasury bonds, listed corporate debt,

Continues on Page 3

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