

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
DIRECTORATE OF PRESIDENTIAL COMMUNICATIONS, STATE HOUSE



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PUBLIC STATEMENT
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**PRESIDENT SAMIA AWARDED HONORARY DOCTORATE, CALLS FOR
EDUCATION GROUNDED IN KNOWLEDGE, DISCIPLINE AND PATRIOTISM**

Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, has called on higher education students to prepare for a world that demands more than academic certificates, emphasizing the importance of knowledge, discipline, patriotism, humanity, curiosity, and the ability to collaborate across cultural, professional, and national boundaries.

President Samia made the remarks today in Moscow after being conferred an Honorary Doctorate by the Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University), in recognition of her contributions to education, international cooperation, and friendship among nations.

The President also described the honour as recognition of the role of education in social and economic development, as well as the longstanding relations between Tanzania and Russia, which have helped nurture generations of professionals who have contributed to the development of both countries.

"In a rapidly changing world, our responsibility is to prepare young people with the knowledge, skills, and capacity to lead in the knowledge economy," President Samia said.

She further noted that Tanzania has placed education, science, technology, and innovation at the centre of the National Development Vision 2050, while the Samia Scholarship Programme continues to expand educational opportunities for talented young Tanzanians in strategic fields.



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The programme, launched in 2023, has already benefited more than 5,000 students and is now focused on areas including data science, artificial intelligence, medicine, engineering, oil and gas, and environmental technologies.

Speaking at the event, the President of the University, Professor Vladimir Mikhaylovich Filippov, said the Honorary Doctorate awarded to President Samia is conferred only on rare occasions to leaders who make significant contributions to strengthening peace, friendship, and cooperation among nations.

“The decision of the University Council is recognition of the President’s outstanding contribution to strengthening relations between Tanzania and Russia and advancing friendship between the peoples of our nations,” Professor Filippov said.

He added that Tanzania is one of RUDN’s key partners in Africa and that the decision to confer the Honorary Doctorate upon President Samia Suluhu Hassan was approved unanimously by the University Council through a secret ballot held on March 16, 2026.

The Rector of the University, Professor Oleg Yastrebov, said Tanzania occupies a special place in the institution’s history and cooperation efforts in Africa.

“Cooperation between RUDN and Tanzanian universities is entering a new phase with even greater opportunities for education, research, and innovation,” Professor Yastrebov said.

He further noted that Tanzanians have been studying at RUDN since the University’s establishment in 1960, and that current cooperation between Tanzania and the institution continues to expand through joint research initiatives and human capital development programmes.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Tanzania and Russia signed three cooperation agreements in higher education, as well as two joint degree programmes between the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) and RUDN University in Data Science, Aerospace Systems, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning.

EDITOR’S NOTE

The Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia (RUDN University) was established in 1960. The University has more than 46,000 students from over 160 countries and offers more than 800 academic programmes.

Tanzania and RUDN have enjoyed over 65 years of cooperation. To date, 1,132 Tanzanians have graduated from RUDN, placing Tanzania second in Africa in terms of the number of graduates from the University, after Nigeria. Currently, 72 of the 200 Tanzanians studying in Russia are enrolled at RUDN University.

Other African leaders who have been awarded Honorary Doctorates (Honoris Causa) by the Peoples’ Friendship University of Russia (RUDN) include the late Sam Nujoma, President of the Republic of Namibia, who was awarded in 1998; José Eduardo dos Santos,

President of the Republic of Angola, awarded in 1998; Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, awarded in 1998; Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, awarded in 2001; Alpha Condé, President of the Republic of Guinea, awarded in 2016; and Hery Rajaonarimampianina, President of the Republic of Madagascar, awarded in 2018.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials 'BSM'.

Bakari S. Machumu

Director of Presidential Communications, State House