

National News

Ten-year sewage crisis endangers residents in Mbeya's Forest Ward

By Guardian Correspondent, Mbeya

RESIDENTS of Kadege Street in Forest Ward, Mbeya City, are decrying a persistent sewage leakage crisis that has plagued the community for nearly a decade. The ongoing environmental hazard, characterised by overflowing manholes and raw effluent, has raised urgent fears of a cholera outbreak and other waterborne diseases among the local population.

The affected areas, where sewage mixed with human waste frequently flows openly, include Igale Road, Check Point, and the stretch from Meta-Sinde toward Meta Secondary School and the Nzovwe River. Local residents expressed their frustration last weekend, noting that despite repeated reports to the Mbeya Water Supply and Sanitation Authority (Mbeya UWSA) via street leaders, a permanent solution remains elusive.

Nelson Majwanga, a local resident, explained that the problem appears to stem from outdated, small-diameter pipes that cannot handle the increased volume of waste from a growing population, leading to frequent bursts. He noted that a trench near the TAG Forest Church overflows every three days, sending waste toward his home and nearby food vendors. Although Majwanga is not personally connected to the central sewer line, the runoff from his neighbors' chambers frequently floods his compound before heading toward the Mbalizi road river.

Other residents shared similarly harrowing accounts. Rehema Ali, a local businesswoman, stated that the sewage floods her

business premises, threatening her livelihood. Elizabeth Mwaifwani highlighted the danger to children, recounting a recent incident where her son fell into a sewage-filled trench while trying to retrieve money. She questioned how the community could ever be free from cholera when children are exposed to such filth in their daily environment.

Street ambassador Sarah Mwansumbule confirmed that the issue has been a recurring agenda item in community meetings for over ten years without success. She often has to personally pay local youths to clear debris and stones from the trenches so that pedestrians can pass. Mwansumbule criticised Mbeya UWSA for acknowledging that the pipes are too small but failing to replace them with adequate infrastructure. She expressed concern for food vendors who risk being shut down by health officers due to the unsanitary environment caused by the utility's failure.

Responding to these grievances, Forest Ward Councillor Yasin Ngonyani acknowledged that the infrastructure is obsolete and technologically outdated. He stated that during a recent Council meeting, a budget was approved for the upcoming fiscal year to address infrastructure challenges in the Maghorofani, Forest, and Mzombe streets. Ngonyani promised that the old four-inch pipes would be replaced with eight-inch pipes to accommodate the current demand. He pledged to visit the site immediately and coordinate with street chairpersons and Mbeya UWSA to resolve the crisis as a matter of urgency.



Dr Festo Dugange (L, in suit), Deputy Minister in of State in the Vice President's Office (Union and the Environment) visits a vocational education and training college at Burugo in Bukoba District yesterday while on an ongoing "clean energy popularisation" tour of public institutions in Kagera Region. Photo: VPO

Govt pledges support for eco-friendly packaging and carbon credit projects

By Guardian Correspondent, Missenyi

THE government has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting investors in alternative bag production and high-standard packaging, a move aimed at helping society transition away from prohibited plastic bags.

Dr Festo Dugange, deputy Minister in the Vice President's Office (Union and Environment), made the remarks over the weekend during an inspection tour of the L & N Standard Packaging Solutions Ltd factory in Bunazi, Missenyi District, Kagera Region. After witnessing the production processes, Dr Dugange expressed satisfaction, noting that investors in biodegradable alternative bags play a vital role in environmental conservation as their products decompose naturally without polluting the ecosystem.

Dr Dugange reminded the public that the government banned the production and use of non-standard plastic bags and packaging to control environmental pollution and

protect public health. He warned that plastic waste, when burned or broken down into microplastics in water sources, can cause serious health issues, including cancer, and can lead to the death of livestock if ingested.

"When plastic bags are disposed of haphazardly, they cause immense damage. We support factories like this because they provide a safe, sustainable solution," he stated. He added that the Vice President's Office, alongside the Ministries of Investment and Industry, would ensure these investors receive the necessary cooperation to make their production sustainable.

During his visit, the deputy Minister also directed the National Environment Management Council (NEMC) to continue assisting investors in meeting the criteria for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) certificates.

In a related development, Dr Dugange visited a large-scale nursery project in Kashaba, Missenyi. He urged citizens to plant and care for trees to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as irregular rainfall, floods,

and desertification. He explained that the government's strategy is to make Tanzania "green" by promoting tree planting across all regions.

The director of L&N, Leonard Faustine, revealed that the factory currently employs over 40 workers, with plans to expand to 200 permanent and seasonal staff to meet growing demand. He thanked the government for creating a conducive investment climate, particularly regarding the importation of industrial machinery and the support received from NEMC.

Faustine also highlighted a significant carbon credit project associated with the nursery, which has registered over 136,000 smallholder farmers. The nursery, established in 2022, currently holds over one million seedlings, including shade trees, spices, and fruit trees. The project aims to enable farmers to participate in the carbon trade—where they can earn income by sequestering carbon dioxide—while simultaneously providing them with fruit for food security and income.

Digital skills drive underway at Ting secondary school

By Correspondent James Kandoya

OVER 360 pupils at Ting Secondary School in Nyasa District, Ruvuma Region, are set to gain digital skills through a newly launched Information Communication Technology (ICT) initiative aimed at transforming education in public schools.

The 30m/- facility, officially unveiled over the weekend includes 26 desktop computers, a projector, maintenance tools, a whiteboard, a smart TV and supporting laboratory infrastructure.

Speaking at the launching of the computer lab, Nyasa District education officer, Paschal Berege, commended the company for its five-year sponsorship support to several schools in the district, including Ting Secondary School.

He said the investment would significantly improve teaching and learning, particularly in ICT.

"Technology has advanced rapidly, and such facilities are essential in equipping students with digital skills needed in today's world," he said, urging the school management to ensure proper supervision and maintenance of the equipment to guarantee sustainability.

Helios Towers Tanzania Supply director, Baraka Andrew, said the initiative forms part of the company's efforts to give back to the community and bridge the digital skills gap among young people.

The project was also part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme aimed at strengthening digital education in public schools. "This project will enhance students' understanding of technology and prepare them for opportunities in the digital economy," he said.

The project is being implemented and supervised by Camara Education Tanzania in collaboration with school leaders and district education authorities.

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ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIFTH COUPON INTEREST PAYMENT ON AZANIA BANK PLC CORPORATE BOND TRANCHE 1 (BONDI YANGU)

APPROVED BY THE CAPITAL MARKETS AND SECURITIES AUTHORITY (CMSA)



Azania Bank Plc is announcing its fifth coupon interest payment on the first tranche of its Medium Term Note Programme (MTN). Pursuant to the interest payment declaration, the noteholders register details shall remain as follows;

- Closure of Noteholders Register: **Tuesday, 10th March, 2026**
- Trading of Bondi Yangu Cum Interest: **Thursday, 26th February, 2026 to Monday, 09th March, 2026**
- Trading of Bondi Yangu Ex Interest: **Wednesday, 11th March, 2026**
- Interest Payment Date: **Monday, 16th March, 2026**

Interest will be paid directly to the noteholder's bank account. For those who don't have bank accounts are advised to open them and update their details by visiting any nearest Azania Bank Plc branch. Noteholders shall be required to produce identity cards and certified copies of their Azania Bank Plc Bondi Yangu CSD receipts or statement of holding issued by the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

Imetolewa Na:

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**BONDI
YANGU**
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