



## President Message

**D**uring the last four years, Zanzibar has transformed itself into a regional marine hub. The Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) strategic leadership helped realise this ambition. Innovation and modernization have enhanced our ports' prominence, ensuring worldwide competitiveness and economic prosperity.

ZPC's extensive infrastructure expansion has driven this shift. Expanded and modernized berths, new cargo handling equipment, and specialized terminals have increased our ports' ability to handle bigger boats and diversified business. These changes have strengthened Zanzibar's regional and international trading position while enhancing operational efficiency.

ZPC has digitally transformed operations utilising advanced port

management tools and practical improvements. These improvements have improved stakeholder communication, operational transparency, and vessel turnaround times, boosting our dependability and efficiency.

Sustainability guides our growth. ZPC's eco-friendly methods and worldwide marine safety and environmental standards demonstrate our commitment to responsible development. We protect Zanzibar's natural heritage and contribute to global ecological goals by encouraging green logistics and lowering our facilities' carbon impact.

Our human capital investment has transformed too. ZPC has implemented extensive training and leadership programs to equip our personnel for the modern marine business. We have strengthened our

knowledge via strategic relationships with foreign ports and organizations, making Zanzibar a nautical excellence center.

These efforts have strengthened regional trade linkages and expanded export-oriented sectors, boosting local economies and marine tourism and fisheries. This connection with our economic objectives has strengthened Zanzibar's role as a transshipment hub and blue economy driver.

ZPC's transformation has laid the groundwork for future development, as seen by record cargo quantities, vessel traffic, and investor confidence from 2020 to 2024. We will continue to innovate and succeed, ensuring that Zanzibar's ports will promote regional connectivity and prosperity for centuries.

**H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi**  
President of Zanzibar and Chairman  
of the Revolutionary Council



## Second Vice President Message

**T**he eighth phase of The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar ensures that our port infrastructure aligns with the highest global standards. From updating facilities to boosting operational efficiency, each enhancement is driven by making life easier for our residents while contributing to substantial revenue for national development. These advancements are not just government initiatives but invaluable assets for everyone to safeguard and maintain. By protecting these assets, we guarantee that future generations—the children and grandchildren of today—will receive a flourishing and sustainable infrastructure.

While we honor our ports, it is also crucial to acknowledge the significant

potential found in Zanzibar's blue economy. The ocean presents vast opportunities for economic growth across various sectors, including fisheries, transportation, and tourism. One potential opportunity is the investment in water taxis—a promising business venture that demands relatively low capital compared to larger maritime projects. A water taxi service offers an efficient, affordable, and eco-friendly means of transportation for locals and tourists alike, addressing Zanzibar's increasing need for mobility between its islands and coastal regions. This opportunity illustrates how Zanzibaris can engage with the blue economy, turning their entrepreneurial ideas into successful ventures while aiding in the overall

economic growth of our archipelago.

This magazine highlights Zanzibar Port Corporation's advancements while urging every Zanzibari to take action. Let us seize the opportunities surrounding us, foster innovation, and collaborate to build a brighter future. Our ports and blue economy serve as drivers of prosperity—let's utilize them wisely for the benefit of all.

**Hon. Hemed Suleiman Abdulla**

The Second Vice President of the Revolutionary  
Government of Zanzibar



## Minister Of Infrastructure, Transport And Communication

Looking back on the incredible strides made by the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communication, and Transport, especially with the groundbreaking work of the Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) from 2020 to 2024, fills me with enormous pleasure and a profound feeling of achievement. With the improvements to Unguja and Pemba's ports, our marine infrastructure is stronger than ever, and Zanzibar is now in a prime position to be the economic future of East Africa.

Malindi Port's recent modernization exemplifies Unguja's dedication to increasing port capacity and efficiency. The port's modernized berths and cutting-edge cargo handling technology allow it to welcome bigger ships, which improves Zanzibar's commercial competitiveness by easing the flow of products. Thanks to this effort, Zanzibar will maintain its position as the region's leading marine logistics hub.

Building the Mangapwani Multipurpose Port and welcoming the first container ship to Mkoani Port herald a new era of opportunity and wealth for the island of Pemba. These developments will significantly benefit the people and economy of Pemba by improving regional connections and providing new opportunities for commerce and investment. Our well-rounded approach to port development shows our dedication to fair expansion across the archipelago.

The results could not have been achieved without the steadfast backing and forward-thinking guidance of the presidents of Zanzibar and Tanzania, His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi and Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan. This historic advancement is mainly due to their direction and dedication to building a robust marine industry.

I profoundly appreciate and congratulate Akif Khamis, the Director

General of ZPC, and his hard-working management team. Your boundless energy, forward-thinking ideas, and unwavering commitment to perfection have played a crucial role in turning our ports into vibrant economic activity centers. Your leadership motivates the ZPC staff and the country as a whole.

Additionally, I would like to express my gratitude to our stakeholders, partners, and the ZPC staff for their unwavering dedication and perseverance, which have been instrumental in achieving these remarkable results. Our combined efforts have laid the groundwork for the marine industry of Zanzibar to continue growing sustainably and benefit future generations.

As we continue this change, our ports will play a vital role in driving economic development, improving regional connectivity, and fostering national pride. Let us continue to innovate and collaborate in the same spirit to secure Zanzibar's position as a prominent East African maritime center.

**Dr. Khalid Salum Mohamed**

Minister of Infrastructure, Communication and Transport



## Principal Secretary

It is with great pride that I contribute this note to The Spotlight, a magazine dedicated to showcasing the remarkable progress of Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC) over the past four years. The strides made in port development reflect not only ZPC's commitment to excellence but also its critical role in supporting Zanzibar's economic growth and positioning the country as a leader in the blue economy.

As a woman, I am especially proud of ZPC's dedication to fostering gender balance in the workplace. With women making up 36% of the workforce—spanning roles from the office to the field and even managerial positions—ZPC has set a powerful example of inclusivity and

empowerment. By ensuring opportunities for women at all levels, ZPC has demonstrated that diversity is a key driver of innovation, efficiency, and success.

I am particularly pleased to see this magazine include a special article highlighting the vital role women play at ZPC. Their contributions not only enrich the organization but also inspire future generations of young women to aim higher and achieve their dreams.

Let us continue to embrace this spirit of inclusivity and ensure that women are given the opportunities they deserve. Give a woman a chance, and you will witness miracles unfold.

**Dr. Habiba Hassan Omar**

Principal Secretary

Ministry of Infrastructure, Communications and Transportation





## Board Chairman

I am honored to be the Board's Chairman and part of the Zanzibar Ports Corporation's (ZPC) transformational path. In addition to being an infrastructural body, ZPC has fostered Zanzibar's socioeconomic development since its establishment under the Ports Corporation Act No. 1 of 1997. By administering five main ports, notably Malindi Port, which handles over 90% of Zanzibar's cargo, ZPC plays a critical role in trade facilitation and passenger services, significantly contributing to Zanzibar's GDP and economic stability.

Services focused on the needs of our customers, as well as modernization and sustainability, are key to our long-term goals. Initiatives like the cooperation between Malindi Port and Africa Global Logistics (AGL) and the collaboration between Mkoani Port and Fumba Ports Company are crucial in

making this goal a reality. Port congestion has decreased, and cargo handling has improved because of these public-private partnerships' impressive efficiency benefits. Our investments in infrastructure, state-of-the-art technology, and digital transformation initiatives such as E-Gates and Terminal Operating Systems show our dedication to running the port efficiently and environmentally friendly.

As always, we base our business decisions on principles of environmental sustainability and community involvement. With a focus on green port activities, ZPC aims to lessen its ecological footprint while bolstering local communities via health, education, and business assistance programs. We want to make sure that society and the environment both benefit in the long run from our success; therefore, we're adopting eco-friendly

methods and building strong partnerships to make that happen.

Despite obstacles, including infrastructural degradation and increased competition from other ports, ZPC is committed to enhancing Zanzibar's marine sector. We want to solidify Zanzibar's status as an essential East African maritime center through ongoing innovation, wise investments, and improved service delivery. This will promote economic development and regional integration in the long run.

### Mr. Joseph Abdallah Meza

The Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC) Board  
Chairman



## Message From The Director General

**W**ith immense pride and gratitude, I present the inaugural edition of the Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) Magazine. This publication embodies the remarkable transformation of Zanzibar's port sector over the past four years. This magazine is not just a chronicle of our achievements but a testament to the collective dedication, resilience, and vision that have propelled ZPC into a new era of growth and opportunity. Since 2020, ZPC has embarked on a transformative journey driven by our strategic vision to modernize and enhance our ports, making them pivotal gateways to Zanzibar's economic prosperity. The modernization of

Malindi Port, the groundbreaking development of Mangapwani Multipurpose Port, and the historic first container vessel docking at Mkoani Port in Pemba are shining examples of our commitment to driving regional trade and connectivity.

Adopting innovative technologies, including the E-PORT system, has underpinned our relentless pursuit of operational excellence. This system has significantly reduced turnaround times and optimized port operations. These advancements have elevated our efficiency and solidified Zanzibar's position as a leading maritime hub in East Africa.

As you explore this magazine, I hope the progress, resilience, and opportunity

stories inspire you. From infrastructure milestones to community initiatives, each page reflects our shared journey toward creating a legacy of excellence for future generations.

Looking ahead, the future of ZPC and Zanzibar's maritime sector is brighter than ever. We remain steadfast in our commitment to advancing sustainable development, fostering investment, and empowering local communities. Together, we will continue to build a port system that drives economic growth and enriches the lives of all Zanzibaris.

Thank you for your continued support and trust in our vision. Let us move forward together, shaping a prosperous future for Zanzibar and beyond.

Warm regards,

**Akif Ali Khamis**

Director General,  
Zanzibar Ports Corporation

## Chapter One

# Dr. Mwinyi's Leadership (2020-2024): Pioneering Zanzibar's Maritime Renaissance And Regional Progress

Over the last four years, Zanzibar has taken bold steps to transform its ports into a key regional maritime hub. The Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) is central to this effort, whose visionary strategy has driven comprehensive modernization, infrastructure development, and capacity building, propelling Zanzibar onto the global stage of maritime commerce.

## Infrastructure Modernization

ZPC prioritized the expansion and modernization of port facilities, including upgraded berths to accommodate larger vessels, installation of advanced cargo handling equipment, and the creation of specialized terminals for diverse goods such as oil, gas, and containerized cargo. These enhancements aim to boost port efficiency and competitiveness.

## Digital Transformation

By embracing cutting-edge technology, ZPC has revolutionized port operations. Modern management systems and digitized processes have reduced cargo turnaround times, improved operational transparency, and streamlined communication with stakeholders, ensuring efficient service delivery.

## Environmental Sustainability

ZPC has committed to eco-friendly practices, aligning port operations with

international maritime standards. By reducing its carbon footprint and collaborating with stakeholders to promote green logistics, ZPC has prioritized sustainable development.

## Workforce Development

Investing in human capital, ZPC has implemented robust training programs to enhance staff expertise and cultivate future maritime leaders through strategic international partnerships.

## Regional Integration and Economic Growth

ZPC's strategy supports Zanzibar's broader economic goals by strengthening trade links, boosting export-driven industries, and fostering the blue economy through maritime tourism and fisheries.

## Achievements and Vision

Between 2020 and 2024, ZPC has achieved record cargo volumes, improved service quality, and bolstered investor confidence. With its unwavering commitment to excellence, Zanzibar is poised to lead as a regional maritime hub, driving connectivity and long-term economic prosperity.











## How Port Development Aligns With The Blue Economy

The Blue Economy centers on sustainably using marine resources to drive growth, improve livelihoods, and preserve ecosystems. Key areas include fisheries, tourism, transportation, renewable energy, and aquatic management. For coastal regions like Zanzibar, it offers immense potential to leverage marine assets for development.

Strategically located in the Indian Ocean, Zanzibar's rich marine resources position it to benefit from this model. Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, Zanzibar's 8th President, introduced the Blue Economy concept in 2020, highlighting the surrounding waters as untapped opportunities for tourism, fisheries, marine transportation, and energy. His vision emphasized sustainability and economic growth.

To implement this, Dr. Mwinyi established the Ministry of Blue Economy and Fisheries, which oversees marine resource management and fosters sustainable growth. One of his earliest initiatives was reforming port infrastructure—a cornerstone of the Blue

Economy. Ports, vital for trade and commerce, faced inefficiencies that hindered economic activity and revenue.

In his first 100 days, Dr. Mwinyi visited the Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC) to address these challenges. Following his intervention, port revenue surged from 1.4 billion to 2.1 billion Tanzanian shillings in one month, reflecting improved efficiency. Enhanced ports support trade, attract investment, and boost exports, benefiting fisheries, spices, and other industries while increasing Zanzibar's global competitiveness.

Ports also play a key role in tourism by improving ferry and cruise ship services, increasing tourist arrivals, and creating jobs in hospitality and transportation. Similarly, the fisheries sector benefits from modernized landing sites and storage facilities, enabling local fishermen to access larger markets while promoting sustainable practices.

Additionally, port development aligns

with renewable energy goals, supporting offshore projects like wind and tidal energy. Modern infrastructure facilitates the installation of sustainable energy systems, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and advancing Zanzibar's environmental objectives.

In summary, port modernization under Dr. Mwinyi's leadership exemplifies the Blue Economy in action. By addressing inefficiencies and enhancing infrastructure, Zanzibar has stimulated growth, boosted trade, supported fisheries, and expanded tourism. These initiatives not only increase revenue but also create opportunities across sectors, positioning Zanzibar as a leader in sustainable marine development.



## Chapter Three

# Development Of Pemba Ports

The Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC), established by Act No. 1 of 1997, plays a pivotal role in developing Zanzibar's ports under the Ministry of Infrastructure and Communication. Operating crucial ports in Unguja and Pemba, ZPC has been instrumental in transforming these maritime gateways into thriving economic hubs. Recent advancements at Mkoani, Shumba, and Wete Ports mark a new chapter in Pemba Island's growth, strengthening trade, tourism, and regional connectivity.

## The expansion of Mkoani Port

The expansion of Mkoani Port has positioned it as a central player in Pemba's trade ecosystem. A monumental

milestone was achieved when the first container vessel docked at Mkoani Port on September 30, 2024. This historic event allows cargo to arrive directly in Pemba, eliminating the need to transfer goods through Malindi Port. This upgrade, part of a \$3.5 million investment, will process up to thirty thousand TEUs annually, facilitating the export of



key products such as cloves, seaweed, and fish. Enhanced warehousing and cold storage facilities will ensure local industries transition toward value-added exports, reducing logistics costs and supporting Zanzibar's blue economy strategy.

With its transition from a general cargo and passenger port to a containerized facility, Mkoani Port will revolutionize local trade. Improved infrastructure will benefit producers in the agriculture and fishing industries, allowing exports of cloves, bananas, and processed seaweed to reach external markets more efficiently. This development reduces marginal costs for goods movement and accelerates growth for local industries. By prioritizing value-added exports, the port aligns with Zanzibar's vision to increase economic returns for its producers and foster sustainable development.

Upgraded ferry services and larger vessels at Mkoani Port have significantly enhanced connectivity between Pemba and Unguja. These developments not only facilitate smoother passenger movement but also streamline cargo operations. Strengthened regional integration enables local businesses to expand their markets and foster cross-island collaboration, further boosting economic activities on both islands.

## Shumba Port, situated in Micheweni

Shumba Port, situated in Micheweni, is undergoing a \$4–6 million upgrade to become a significant passenger terminal. This project aims to establish a key maritime border link between Tanzania and Kenya, offering a direct 90-minute ferry connection to Mombasa at an affordable fare of approximately \$50. The initiative will enhance regional connectivity, fostering economic growth through expanded trade and tourism.



The Shumba Passenger Terminal is set to transform Pemba into a gateway between Tanzania-Zanzibar and Kenya, strengthening cross-border ties. By facilitating quicker and cheaper access to markets, the terminal is expected to boost trade flows and create new opportunities for local businesses. It also opens doors for tourism, encouraging travelers to explore both nations seamlessly.

This affordable and efficient ferry service is designed to increase the movement of people, goods, and services, driving socio-economic growth. The project aligns with Zanzibar's development goals and will generate employment for Micheweni residents during construction and operation.

Beyond infrastructure, the terminal is a catalyst for regional development, connecting East Africa more effectively. With its potential to reshape the economic and social landscape, the Shumba Passenger Terminal promises a prosperous future for both Tanzania and Kenya.

## Wete Port

The ongoing port developments are set to spur economic growth, create jobs, and improve living standards for Pemba residents. Increased trade and tourism will provide new opportunities for local

businesses, while ZPC's commitment to training programs will equip locals with the skills required for emerging industries. This holistic approach fosters inclusive growth, ensuring that the benefits of modernization are widely shared.

The upgrades at Mkoani, Shumba, and Wete Ports align with Zanzibar's vision to establish itself as a regional maritime leader. Investments in infrastructure, such as cold storage, passenger terminals, and ferry services, strengthen Pemba's economic resilience. Improved connectivity to key markets, including Kenya, will further position Pemba Ports as a driver of economic transformation.





## Chapter Four



## Unguja's Maritime Modernization

Zanzibar relied heavily on the Malindi Port, which was established in 1925 as a small, lighter port; Malindi Port developed into Zanzibar's primary hub for passenger and cargo transport. The facility accommodates approximately 1.5 million passengers annually and manages between 140,000 and 160,000 tonnes of general cargo, encompassing petroleum products and edible oils. Despite its importance, Malindi Port encounters challenges such as delays in container clearance, insufficient space, and congestion. These issues frustrate traders and diminish government revenue, impacting Zanzibar's economy.

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar through Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC), has implemented various measures to address these challenges. The initiatives involve modernizing Malindi Port via collaborations with international firms and seeking Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to establish new ports throughout Unguja.

## Agreement For The Management Of Malindi Port

On May 18, 2023, Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) signed a five-year agreement with Africa Global Logistics (AGL) to manage the Malindi Port container facility. Zanzibar Multipurpose Terminal (ZMT), an AGL subsidiary, began operations on September 18, 2023, focusing on productivity, infrastructure maintenance, and operational modernization. ZMT handles containers, breakbulk, conventional vessels, and Dhows, connecting Zanzibar to the mainland and offering cargo handling and maritime services.

ZMT absorbed 400 former ZPC employees and provided training on quality and safety standards. Investments aim to modernize infrastructure to facilitate efficient imports and exports in accordance with global standards. Since AGL's takeover, revenue has increased by 15%, ship waiting times have dropped by 75%, and container offloading times have reduced from 40 to 10 days. The agreement allocates 30% of revenue to the Zanzibar government and 70% to AGL, covering operational costs. Monthly revenue previously ranged from 4.0 to 4.6bn/-.



## Inauguration Of The Inland Container Depot (Icd) In Maruhubi

On October 18, Zanzibar celebrated a historic milestone with the launch of the Zanzibar Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Maruhubi. This \$5 million initiative, a partnership between Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) and Africa Global Logistics (AGL), is set to transform freight handling and storage, enhancing trade efficiency and competitiveness. The government provided the land, while AGL oversaw construction and delivered advanced equipment, including two 45-ton Reachstackers, a 25-ton mobile crane, and a 550 kVA generator.

The ICD boasts extensive container yards, specialized storage facilities, digital systems for real-time freight monitoring, and automated customs clearance. It also prioritizes sustainability with energy-efficient systems and eco-friendly materials, establishing Zanzibar as a leading logistics and trade hub.



## Fumba Port: Privately Developed Port

In celebration of the 60th Revolution Anniversary, Zanzibar's revolutionary government partnered with Fumba Inland Container Depot Limited (FICDF) to establish Fumba Port, the island's first privately developed port under a public-private partnership. This milestone marks significant progress in enhancing Zanzibar's port infrastructure, boosting trade capacity, and driving economic growth.

During the inauguration, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi emphasized the importance of private-sector collaboration in national development, stating that relying solely on the public sector is insufficient. He noted that the government partnered with investors to address Malindi Port's overcapacity.

The Fumba Port project, valued at \$15 million, is being implemented in two phases. The first phase began in May 2023, following an agreement with the Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC). The second phase includes constructing a ship ramp, container yard, offices, and advanced technical systems. The port aims to reduce transportation costs and alleviate congestion at Malindi Port.





## Mangapwani Port: Prospects For Zanzibar's Trade

The Mangapwani Multipurpose Port stands as a transformative project poised to reshape Zanzibar's maritime industry. Strategically located on the northwest coast of Unguja Island, this cutting-edge facility is set to become a pivotal hub for trade and logistics across Eastern and Southern Africa. With an impressive capacity to handle 1 million TEUs, the port will enhance cargo operations, streamline the movement of goods, and reduce logistical delays, firmly establishing Zanzibar as a key transshipment center connecting regional and global markets.

Designed with versatility in mind, the port's multipurpose facilities go beyond cargo handling, potentially supporting

passenger services and diverse maritime operations. It includes deep-sea berths, modern terminals, oil and gas storage, ship repair facilities, and an industrial business complex. These features will not only support peripheral cities but also position Mangapwani Port as an industrial and logistical node of regional significance.

The project promises far-reaching economic benefits, generating thousands of jobs, fostering skills development, and stimulating agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism. As a symbol of Zanzibar's ambition to become a regional economic leader, the Mangapwani Port underscores a vision of sustainable growth, connectivity, and prosperity.







## Mpigaduri

On January 18, 2024, as Zanzibar prepared to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of its Revolution, Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) signed a concession agreement with the Dutch-led Zanzibar Ferry Development Company (ZF Devco) to develop a state-of-the-art passenger and RoRo ferry terminal. ZF Devco, part of an international consortium including Dutch and Tanzanian firms like Delta Marine Consultants and Kengo TZ, will oversee the \$350+ million project aimed at alleviating congestion at the aging Malindi port.

The project, set in Mpigaduri/Maruhubi on Bububu Road, just four kilometers from Stone Town's current ferry terminal, spans 34 hectares—15 hectares of existing land and 19 reclaimed through dredging. Construction will unfold in two phases over 36 months. Phase 1 (\$250 million) will focus on marine infrastructure and terminal facilities, while Phase 2 (\$100-\$150 million) will establish a special economic zone with hospitality, retail, logistics centers, offices, and an expo hall.

This ambitious development promises to enhance ferry services, address congestion and safety issues, and transform the region into a bustling economic hub. Construction is expected to take 2.5 years, significantly improving Zanzibar's maritime infrastructure and connectivity.



## Kizimkazi

The development of Kizimkazi Port represents a transformative step forward for Zanzibar's southern region, aligning with the government's vision to enhance economic growth and regional connectivity.

Kizimkazi's proximity to Dar es Salaam offers a unique advantage, enabling the establishment of a ferry route that could connect the two areas in under an hour. This rapid transit option will streamline travel, reduce logistical costs, and enhance trade, while fostering closer ties between Zanzibar and mainland Tanzania. Additionally, the new port will create a vital link between Unguja and the mainland through Kunduchi, opening doors for trade and business opportunities.

Beyond its logistical importance, Kizimkazi Port is set to boost the tourism sector by connecting visitors to emerging hotspots like Makunduchi and Paje. These areas, known for cultural festivals and water sports, are gaining popularity as prime destinations. This ambitious project positions Kizimkazi as a gateway to growth, promoting regional trade, tourism, and economic development.

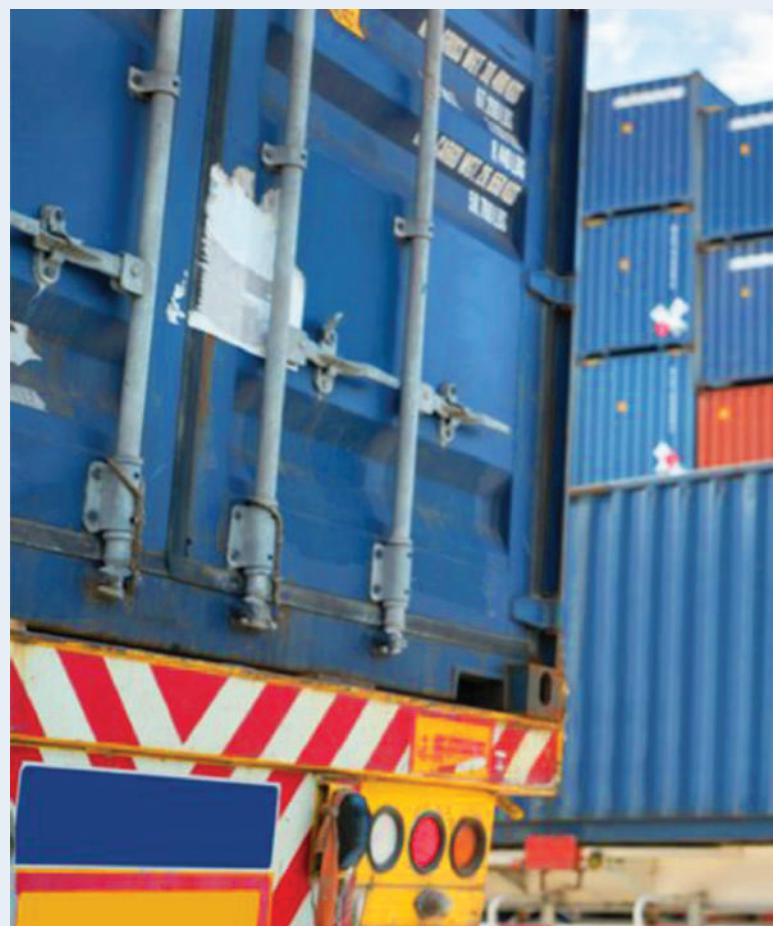
## Chapter Five

# Revolutionizing Port Operations With E-Port

The government of Zanzibar, through the Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC), has taken a transformative step by digitalizing port operations with the introduction of the Electronic Portal (E-PORT) system. This innovative platform marks a significant shift in maritime logistics, aimed at streamlining operations, improving efficiency, and enhancing customer satisfaction. The E-PORT system is a cornerstone of ZPC's efforts to modernize port management, aligning Zanzibar with global standards and positioning its ports as hubs of regional trade and logistics.

The E-PORT system is more than a technological upgrade; it is a strategic overhaul of Zanzibar's maritime operations. Fully operational at Malindi Port through collaboration with AGL/ZMT, E-PORT is redefining port logistics and administration. Its key advantages include:

Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) has significantly enhanced port operations through strategic digitalization efforts that bring efficiency, security, and improved stakeholder satisfaction. Reduced vessel turnaround times have been achieved by optimizing scheduling and cargo-handling processes, allowing vessels to spend less time docked and increasing overall port capacity. Streamlined logistics processes further minimize bottlenecks, enabling faster and more efficient cargo



movement for businesses and shipping agents. Advanced tracking and monitoring systems bolster security, ensuring the safety of vessels, cargo, and port facilities. Additionally, transparent and expedited procedures improve the customer experience, benefiting stakeholders across the supply chain.

Central to ZPC's digital transformation are four integrated components that redefine port operations. The Fleet Fuel Management System (FFMS) monitors fuel consumption across the port's fleet, promoting cost efficiency and environmental sustainability. The Terminal Operating System (TOS) optimizes cargo operations by streamlining container handling and terminal workflows.

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) provides a comprehensive solution for managing financial and human resources, ensuring accountability and operational efficiency. Lastly, the Vessel Traffic System (VTS), a radar-based module, enhances maritime safety by guiding vessels, monitoring traffic, and mitigating risks at sea. Together, these pillars position ZPC as a







regional leader in port modernization and maritime innovation.

Zanzibar's adoption of the E-PORT system is a bold step toward transforming its maritime sector into a competitive, technology-driven hub. Beyond enhancing port operations, the initiative is expected to increase revenue, strengthen trade connections with regional and international partners, and create an attractive logistics ecosystem for investors.

By integrating cutting-edge digital solutions, ZPC sets a new benchmark for maritime efficiency in East Africa, demonstrating that innovative technology is the foundation of future-ready economies. With a vision for boundless possibilities, Zanzibar's ports are paving the way for regional growth and innovation

“

With the E-PORT system, Zanzibar Ports are embracing digital transformation to streamline operations, boost efficiency, and position Zanzibar as a regional trade leader.”

— **Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC)**

## Chapter Six

# The Zanzibar Port Improvement Charter

On November 22, 2024, Dr. Hussein Mwinyi, President of Zanzibar, unveiled the Zanzibar Port Improvement Charter, a landmark initiative designed to revolutionize the island's maritime operations. Developed collaboratively by the government, private and public sector stakeholders, and the Tony Blair Institute (TBI), the Charter aims to modernize Zanzibar's ports, streamline operations, and position the island as a competitive regional trade hub.

Dr. Mwinyi emphasized the Charter's ambitious goal of reducing trade processing times at Zanzibar's main ports from 15 days to just three. This reduction is expected to lower costs for businesses and consumers, foster investment, and create jobs. "This initiative marks a significant step forward in our vision to enhance port efficiency, strengthen regional connectivity, and drive sustainable economic growth," he stated during the launch ceremony.

The Zanzibar Port Improvement Charter focuses on four main objectives: streamlining port operations, enhancing customer experience, driving economic growth, and promoting sustainability. Key strategies include implementing standardized procedures to minimize inefficiencies, fostering transparency, and adopting a customer-centric approach to meet the needs of traders and shipping lines.







The Charter also emphasizes the importance of environmentally responsible practices, aligning with international standards and integrating green technologies to minimize the ecological impact of port activities.

The Zanzibar Port Improvement Charter focuses on modernizing infrastructure to meet the demands of increasing trade volumes. This includes upgrading terminals, expanding berths, and improving cargo handling systems. Additionally, technological integration is a key priority, with digital solutions being implemented to automate operations, enhance data management, and optimize resource allocation for greater efficiency. These advancements aim to position Zanzibar's ports as regional leaders in operational excellence.

Workforce development and stakeholder collaboration are equally central to the Charter's vision. By providing

training and upskilling initiatives, the Charter equips port personnel with the expertise needed to thrive in a technology-driven environment. Moreover, fostering partnerships between government agencies, private sector stakeholders, and international organizations ensures that resources and efforts are aligned, creating a cohesive approach to achieving the Charter's ambitious goals. The Charter is poised to deliver significant benefits, including increased trade flows, job creation, and a boost to Zanzibar's local economy. By adopting global best practices, Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) aims to strengthen its position as a strategic maritime hub while pioneering sustainable port management through eco-friendly initiatives.

This bold step forward cements Zanzibar's commitment to innovation and sets the stage for a future defined by efficiency, competitiveness, and environmental stewardship.

# Experiences Shared by the Stakeholders

Port is a vital gateway that connects land and sea, facilitating the smooth transit of goods and people in a dynamic global trade environment. RGOZ has established ports as a premier maritime hub, equipped to handle diverse shipping activities, from containerization to bulk cargo. Port plays a crucial role in international trade, serving as a vital link in the supply chain for businesses around the world.

Zanzibar has historically relied on Zanzibar's ports. However, these lifelines faced severe obstacles for years. Before 2020, antiquated infrastructure, limited docking space, and governmental hurdles slowed operations. Clearing and forwarding agencies, businesses, and dealers complained about delays and inefficiencies, hindering their ability to satisfy customer expectations and stay competitive. Unfortunately, firms lost customers and chances to locations with better port infrastructures.

With the introduction of the Zanzibar Multipurpose Port, this changed. Revolutionary projects like Maruhubi, Fumba ports, and Pemba container docks ushered in a new age. These changes have resolved long-standing challenges and improved operations, making Zanzibar a burgeoning international commerce center. The following testimonies from Master Ocean Cargo and Fexmon Logistics & Freight Limited as well as Zanzibar Freight Forwarders Bureau, demonstrate the dramatic effect of these advancements and their hopeful outlook.



**Saleh Salim Mahdi**  
**Master Ocean Cargo**

"For years, the challenges we faced as clearing and forwarding agents in Zanzibar were immense. Before 2020, the inefficiencies at the ports often left us struggling to meet client expectations. Delays were commonplace due to a lack of proper infrastructure and cumbersome bureaucratic processes. The limited space at the old ports meant vessels often had to wait longer to dock, creating delays for businesses and traders. We constantly dealt with complaints, which sometimes led to losing clients to other regions with more efficient ports.

However, the transformation we've witnessed since the Zanzibar Maritime Authority (ZMT) took over is remarkable. The construction of the new ports at Maruhubi and Mangapwani has been a game-changer for us. These facilities are state-of-the-art, with ample space and modern systems that significantly reduce docking times. The introduction of container docking in Pemba has also opened up new opportunities, making the movement of goods more seamless and efficient. Bureaucratic processes have been streamlined, and the use of digital systems has made our work faster and more reliable. Today, we receive fewer complaints, and our clients are happier than ever.

Looking ahead, we are optimistic about the future. With the current momentum, we expect Zanzibar to become a hub for international trade in the next five years. We hope to see further digital advancements and increased connectivity with global ports, which will undoubtedly enhance our operations and cement Zanzibar's position as a leading trade destination."



**Yussuf Issa Ali**  
**Fexmon Logistics and Freight Limited**

"As a company with clients across the globe, working in Zanzibar's ports before 2020 was a significant challenge. The outdated infrastructure often left us frustrated, with unnecessary delays hampering the smooth flow of goods. Space constraints at the ports meant that vessels couldn't dock promptly, leading to a backlog of goods waiting to be cleared. Moreover, the layers of bureaucracy added an extra burden, often causing frustration for us and our clients. It was a constant battle to ensure that operations ran smoothly.







**Mr. Ahmed S. Nassoro**

### **Secretary General of the Zanzibar Freight Forwarders Bureau**

Zanzibar's ports have long served as critical lifelines for trade in East Africa. However, before 2020, the challenges at these ports created significant barriers for traders and clearing agents. The inefficiencies due to outdated infrastructure, limited docking space, and slow operations often resulted in prolonged ship stays—up to 14 days in some cases—causing traders to incur additional costs.

The situation improved drastically with the development of new port facilities and streamlined operations, reducing ship docking times from 14 days to just 5 days. This transformation is commendable and has greatly enhanced the overall efficiency of our ports. Initiatives like the construction of the Maruhubi and Fumba Ports the addition of Mkoani container docks are indeed a testament to the government's commitment to modernizing Zanzibar's maritime infrastructure. These efforts have positioned Zanzibar as a growing hub for international trade.

Nonetheless, a significant issue persists: recent advancements have not yet addressed our operational costs. The introduction of new management at Malindi Port and the establishment of the Zanzibar Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Maruhubi aim to minimise both time and costs effectively. As the Zanzibar Freight Forwarders Bureau, we promote the reduction of operating costs. With the opening of the ICD, we anticipated cost reductions resulting from shorter ship stays. However, expenses have risen, particularly regarding fees for ship presence and container handling, resulting in duplicate payments. Regrettably, the anticipated cost-saving advantages of the dry port have not been achieved.

We strongly support the government's initiatives to enhance port operations. However, we urge the authorities to address this issue as soon as possible. One solution could be restructuring the fee system to replace the costs previously incurred due to delays with a single, transparent charge for handling and transferring containers. This would alleviate the financial strain on traders and ensure that the improved efficiency translates to tangible economic benefits for all stakeholders.

“



## Investing In Zanzibar's Historic Lighthouses

Lighthouses, known locally as Mnara wa Taa, have long been vital beacons for maritime navigation, guiding sailors safely to Zanzibar's shores. Beyond their primary role as navigational aids, these timeless structures hold immense historical, cultural, and economic potential. Recognizing this, the Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) has launched an initiative to transform the island's eight iconic lighthouses into dual-purpose assets for navigation and tourism. Spread across Unguja and Pemba islands, these lighthouses not only illuminate the seas but also shine as monuments of Zanzibar's rich maritime legacy and untapped investment opportunities.





The ZPC envisions integrating these lighthouses into Zanzibar's thriving tourism industry by developing them as cultural landmarks. These structures, some dating back to the 19th century, offer unique attractions for visitors—breathtaking panoramic views, historical narratives, and unparalleled photographic opportunities. Investing in these lighthouses presents significant opportunities for private and public sector players. Potential developments include cafes, museums, or even boutique accommodations around these historic sites, which would generate revenue while preserving Zanzibar's heritage. Additionally, their strategic locations along the coast align with Zanzibar's broader

push toward sustainable tourism, blending economic growth with environmental responsibility.

The six lighthouses in Unguja, such as the Tumbatu Lighthouse (1889) and Chumbe Lighthouse (1904), represent architectural marvels and hold deep historical significance. For example, Mangapwani Lighthouse is near the Mangapwani slave caves, offering a compelling cultural experience. Similarly, the two lighthouses in Pemba, including Ras Kigomasha (1904), boast unique features like cast iron construction and picturesque surroundings. Collectively, these lighthouses serve as a testament to Zanzibar's role as a historical maritime hub.

# Unguja's Six Historic Lighthouses

01



## Tumbatu Lighthouse (Mwana wa Mwana)

Built in 1889 and standing 23 meters tall, this six-stage stone tower is one of Zanzibar's oldest lighthouses. Located on Tumbatu Island, it offers breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean. The lighthouse's rich history makes it a prime site for boutique accommodations or historical tours.

02



## Nungwi Lighthouse (Hog Point)

The oldest lighthouse in Unguja, constructed in 1888, rises 14 meters at the northern tip of the island. Its striking white stone tower is a magnet for photographers. A café or viewing platform here could attract tourists flocking to Nungwi's pristine beaches.

03



## Mangapwani Lighthouse

Built in 1886, this 26-meter lighthouse is a black-and-white striped marvel near the historic Mangapwani slave caves. Its location connects tourism to Zanzibar's rich cultural heritage. An investment here could blend historical exhibitions with tourist facilities, such as museums or guided tours.

04



### **Makunduchi** **Lighthouse**

Erected in 1954, this 27-meter concrete tower is painted red and white and features 165 steps to the top. Situated near Makunduchi town, it offers an ideal location for eco-lodges or cultural tourism initiatives.

05



### **Pungume** **Lighthouse**

Originally built in 1919 and rebuilt in 1951, this 22.7-meter stone tower with solar power overlooks Stone Town's main channel. Investors could develop surrounding eco-friendly lodges, offering an immersive maritime experience.

06



### **Chumbe** **Lighthouse**

Built in 1904, this 34-meter coral-block tower retains its original light fixture. Situated on Chumbe Island, a protected marine park, it is a natural draw for tourists. Expanding the existing lodge or adding educational tours could create sustainable returns.



# Pemba's Two Iconic Lighthouses

01



## Kigomasha Lighthouse

This 38-meter cast iron marvel, built in 1904 by Birmingham's Chance Brothers Ltd., sits at the northwestern tip of Pemba. Its strategic location makes it a gem for luxury tourism or cultural retreats.

02



## Matumbe Makupa Lighthouse

Built in 1957 and standing 39 meters tall, this stone tower on Matumbi Makubwa Island provides stunning views of Pemba's southwestern coastline. Investors could create exclusive resort experiences, capitalizing on its secluded charm.

For investors, the potential extends beyond tourism. Restoring and modernizing these structures can attract global attention, positioning Zanzibar as a leader in coastal heritage tourism. Whether through eco-friendly renovations, building tourist-friendly facilities, or creating educational centers, the opportunities are vast. By investing in lighthouses managed by the ZPC, stakeholders can partake in a sustainable venture that promises cultural preservation, economic returns, and an enhanced tourist experience.

# Revolutionizing Zanzibar's Water Transport With Modern Water Taxis

Water taxis offer a unique way to connect people with waterways, providing scenic and efficient transportation. Globally recognized in cities like Venice, Amsterdam, London, and regionally in Kenya, Zambia, and Dar es Salaam, water taxis have become a vital part of modern transport systems. In Zanzibar, informal water taxi services link popular spots such as Tumbatu and Prison Island. However, the Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) is taking steps to transform this service into a modern, structured network, presenting a compelling investment opportunity.





## Why Zanzibar is Ideal for Water Taxis

Zanzibar's breathtaking coastline, with its turquoise waters, coral reefs, and rich historical sites, is a natural fit for water taxi operations. The islands' rapidly growing tourism sector and increasing demand for eco-friendly transportation create the perfect environment for this innovative project. By connecting bustling hubs like Stone Town with tranquil retreats such as Mnemba Atoll, water taxis will serve both locals and visitors, enhancing their ability to explore Zanzibar's unique natural and cultural heritage.

## Key Water Taxi Hubs in Zanzibar



### Stone Town (Malindi Port and Forodhani Gardens)

As Zanzibar's tourism hub, Stone Town serves as the central connection point for visitors heading to iconic destinations like Nakupenda Beach and Prison Island. Its cultural and historical significance ensures a consistent flow of travelers throughout the year.





## Fumba Peninsula

Located near the Menai Bay Conservation Area, this hub is perfect for eco-tourism enthusiasts. It offers access to activities such as snorkeling, dolphin tours, and sustainable marine exploration.



## Nungwi and Kendwa (North Coast)

These luxury hotspots cater to high-end travelers, offering exquisite experiences like sunset cruises and exclusive trips to Mnemba Atoll, a renowned marine sanctuary.



## Michamvi Peninsula (East Coast)

A tranquil retreat for nature lovers, Michamvi provides access to pristine sandbanks and day trips to nearby untouched islands, making it ideal for serene escapes.



## Kizimkazi (South)

Known for its thriving dolphin tours and rich cultural experiences, Kizimkazi is a prime location for eco-conscious water taxi services that highlight marine biodiversity and local heritage.



### **Paje and Jambiani (Southeast Coast)**

These vibrant coastal towns are popular among adventure seekers, particularly kite surfers. They also serve as launch points for secluded beach visits, appealing to thrill-seekers and beach lovers alike.



### **Mangapwani (Northwest Coast)**

A quieter, more exclusive area, Mangapwani combines historical exploration with cultural tourism. It is an excellent choice for visitors seeking a more relaxed and insightful experience of Zanzibar.

## **Be Part of Zanzibar's Transportation Revolution**

Each of these strategically selected hubs offers unique advantages, collectively enhancing Zanzibar's connectivity while promoting sustainable tourism and investment opportunities.

Water taxis have the potential to completely transform Zanzibar's transportation system under ZPC's inspiring leadership. Beyond only transporting people, this project aims to promote sustainable development and provide life-changing experiences.



"Zanzibar's structured water taxi network will transform island transport, creating scenic, efficient connections and unlocking new investment opportunities."

**— Zanzibar Ports Corporation  
(ZPC)**

# Breaking Barriers at Malindi Port

**W**omen's empowerment in Zanzibar is gaining momentum as more women break traditional barriers and excel in fields historically dominated by men. At Malindi Port, three trailblazing women, Sumaiya Ali Abdallah, Halima Mohamed Nahoda, and Farashuu Taymour Saleh, are redefining gender roles and proving that determination knows no bounds. Their contributions to the Zanzibar Port Corporation (ZPC) symbolize resilience, strength, and the limitless potential of women in the workforce.



**Sumaiya Ali Abdallah:**  
Mastering the Mobile  
Harbour Crane

Sumaiya Ali Abdallah has become a symbol of perseverance and skill as she operates the Mobile Harbour Crane at Malindi Port. A job that demands precision, focus, and technical expertise, Sumaiya handles it with unmatched proficiency. Despite societal perceptions that such roles are suited for men, she took on the challenge and emerged victorious. Her dedication has not only improved the efficiency of port operations but also inspired young women in Zanzibar to aim higher. Sumaiya's journey reflects the transformative power of self-belief and hard work, proving that women can excel in any field they set their minds to.



**Halima Mohamed Nahoda:**  
Championing the Reach  
Stacker

Halima Mohamed Nahoda is another pioneer at Malindi Port, excelling as an operator of the Reach Stacker. This heavy-duty equipment requires immense technical know-how and coordination, yet Halima handles it with grace and competence. Her ability to maneuver the machine effortlessly has made her a critical asset to the port's operations. Halima's success is a testament to the fact that women, when given equal opportunities, can thrive in challenging roles traditionally reserved for men. She often shares her experience to encourage other women to step into unconventional career paths, ensuring a ripple effect of empowerment within her community.





**Farashuu Taymour Saleh:**  
**Leading with Vision and**  
**Expertise**

With over 20 years of experience at the Zanzibar Port Corporation, Farashuu Taymour Saleh serves as the Technical Director, overseeing all construction, civil infrastructure, and projects under ZPC. Her role demands strategic vision, technical acumen, and unwavering commitment, and Farashuu excels on all fronts. Her leadership has been instrumental in modernizing the port's infrastructure, ensuring its growth and sustainability. Farashuu's journey highlights the importance of persistence and breaking stereotypes, as she has carved a path for other women to follow in leadership roles. She embodies the message that women can not only participate but also lead in industries often perceived as male-dominated.

## **A Brighter Future for** **Women in Zanzibar**

The stories of Sumaiya, Halima, and Farashuu demonstrate that women in Zanzibar are breaking barriers and redefining societal norms. Their contributions to the Zanzibar Port Corporation showcase the incredible potential of women when given the opportunity to shine. As these trailblazers inspire others, they pave the way for a future where gender equality is not just an ideal but a reality in every sector of society.

# Our Partners

## Spotlight on Maritime Innovation (Zanzibar multipurpose Terminal ZMT)

Introducing the Zanzibar Multipurpose Terminal (ZMT), an essential engine of growth in Zanzibar's marine industry. Established to modernize port operations, ZMT collaborates with Zanzibar Port Corporation to manage a wide range of activities, including container and breakbulk handling, conventional vessels, and the iconic Dhow, which supports vital trade connections between Zanzibar and the mainland. ZMT's commitment to constant development has resulted in innovations such as fully operable mobile harbor cranes, which provide round-the-clock efficiency.

ZMT has adopted revolutionary initiatives, such as substantial personnel training, optimized yard operations, and establishing an Inland Container Depot to simplify cargo handling procedures. These developments have resulted in much shorter vessel turnaround times and lower operating costs, boosting growth in critical industries like agriculture and construction. By aligning with Zanzibar's ambitious development objectives, ZMT increases trade efficiency and positions the area as a crucial center for global marine commerce.





# Zanzibar's Blue Economy Renaissance (ZF DEVCO)

Presenting ZF Devco, devoted to boosting Zanzibar's long-term development and developing the Blue Economy. ZF Devco is now leading the development of a new passenger and RoRo terminal in Maruhubi. This enormous project, carried out in a public-private partnership (PPP) with the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar, demonstrates ZF Devco's commitment to promoting sustainable development while preserving Zanzibar's natural beauty, biodiversity, and cultural legacy.

ZF Devco's accomplishment in obtaining a Concessions Agreement for the ferry port project demonstrates its proficiency in PPP transactions. The effort is consistent with the seven UN Sustainable Development Goals emphasizing sustainability, environmental stewardship, and equitable economic development. By improving ferry infrastructure, ZF Devco boosts economic activity, promotes equitable

opportunity, and increases community services. As a catalyst for innovation and advancement, the company aims to support more extensive programs such as Silicon Zanzibar, which promotes technical and industrial diversification to empower local populations and secure Zanzibar's long-term success.



# Fumba Port

**W**elcome to Fumba Ports Limited, Zanzibar's first privately owned port and a game changer in Tanzania's infrastructural environment.

Fumba Ports, founded to reduce congestion at the government-owned Malindi Port, uses cutting-edge technology and automation to improve operational efficiency and reimagine client experiences. The firm is licensed under Tanzania's public-private partnership (PPP) framework and shows seamless coordination between the government and the private sector. Fumba Ports, which focuses on efficient logistics, now handles 600 to 700 TEUs, clearing containers in an astounding 24 hours and establishing new standards for efficiency and service quality.

Fumba Ports, led by its Projects Director, tackles existing difficulties while mapping a course for future expansion. The firm hopes to grow into a full-fledged port capable of lowering transshipment costs and permitting direct freight movement, benefiting Zanzibar and Tanzania's economies. Fumba Ports, dedicated to promoting local and regional development, emphasizes Tanzania's attractiveness as a top investment location, thanks to a government that actively encourages economic endeavors. Fumba Ports is a financial accelerator and a symbol of Tanzania's global trade preparedness by combining experience, innovation, and strategic relationships.

"Fumba Ports is revolutionizing logistics in Zanzibar"





# ORYX Tanzania



Oryx Tanzania Limited has been utilizing the Mangapwani Multipurpose Port since its official inauguration in 2023, which has initiated a new chapter in Zanzibar's transition to a more sustainable energy system. In Zanzibar, the name Oryx is highly regarded and recognized. It is the industry champion in distributing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) and is recognized for its commitment to advancing sustainable energy solutions and dependability.

Since 1999, Oryx has been providing LPG to the residents of Zanzibari. This enables the swiftly expanding tourist industry, restaurants, and residences to access a pure and secure source of culinary energy. Oryx has implemented an extensive distribution network encompassing over 350 resellers to guarantee that electricity is accessible to

all. This network enables Oryx to access the most remote districts of Pemba and Unguja. The Mangapwani LPG Terminal, a state-of-the-art facility capable of storing 1,300 metric tonnes, has significantly altered the LPG supply chain in Zanzibar. His Excellency Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi, the President of Zanzibar, inaugurated this modern terminal, a noteworthy accomplishment for the archipelago.

The shared objective of bolstering energy security and supporting Zanzibar's economic and environmental goals is underscored by the collaboration between Oryx Gas Zanzibar Limited and TP Company Limited. The terminal simplifies the administration of LPG, thereby reducing costs and guaranteeing

uninterrupted supply. Oryx's commitment to fostering local relationships and offering environmentally responsible energy solutions is illustrated by its collaboration with regional organizations like the Vigour Group.

Oryx Tanzania Limited remains at the vanguard of the movement, empowering individuals and constructing a cleaner and greener future for the islands, as the Mangapwani facility establishes Zanzibar as a regional hub for sustainable energy.





# United Petroleum



United Petroleum, founded in 2006 in Mtoni, has developed to become the market leader in Zanzibar's petroleum business. In 2023, the firm moved to Mwangapwani, making it the first petroleum company to establish a depot in this important location. The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar chose Mwangapwani as an excellent site for ports and petroleum bunkers, ensuring that depots are remote from residential areas.

United Petroleum's cutting-edge depot, built at a cost of \$10 million, can provide Zanzibar's energy requirements for up to 45 days. The facility has tanks for 8 million litres of petrol, 8 million litres of diesel, 4 million litres of jet fuel and 1 million litres of kerosene. Advanced safety measures include automated fire systems with sensors and three specialised fire pumps,

which provide the highest levels of operating security.

United Petroleum is committed to quality and innovation, supplying petrol, diesel, kerosene and jet fuel while providing flawless service execution. The firm has Zanzibar's biggest depot and a Lloyds-class tanker that is available for charter.

United Petroleum, which now operates 20 retail stations in Zanzibar, aims to expand into mainland Tanzania by opening seven more stations every year. The firm continues to provide energy solutions that are safer, greener, and more efficient for the onshore bunkering, commercial, and retail sectors.



Chapter **Nine**

# A 5-Year Transformation

According to the statistics provided by the Zanzibar Bureau of Statistics, the Zanzibar Port Corporation has shown amazing growth and development between the years 2019 and 2023. These enhancements highlight the crucial importance that the port plays in propelling Zanzibar's change in terms of both its economy and its logistics.

There has been a consistent increase in the number of passengers, which is projected to rise from 2.56 million in 2019 to 2.88 million in 2023. This 12.6% increase

is a reflection of the port's increased ability to accommodate travellers from both the United States and other countries overseas. Similarly, the number of voyages entering and departing Zanzibar increased from 9,712 in 2019 to an astonishing 10,779 in 2023, indicating a rise in marine activity. This represented a significant increase.

It is a credit to the enhanced port infrastructure and operating efficiency that the cargo throughput saw

tremendous growth, increasing from only 391,000 tonnes in 2019 to over 2.17 million tonnes in 2023. There was also a significant increase in the amount of container handling, which saw 81,501 TEUs handled in 2023, compared to 70,461 TEUs processed in 2021.

During the year 2023, there were 125 vessels reported, which is a little increase from the number of 124 vessels that were recorded in 2019. For the year 2019, there were 124 boats.

| DESCRIPTION           | UNIT       | 2023   | 2022   | 2021   | 2020   | 2019   |
|-----------------------|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Trip Enter/exit       | Number     | 10,779 | 14,728 | 14,683 | 10,691 | 9,712  |
| Passenger             | Numbe(000) | 2883   | 2824   | 2680   | 2210   | 2560   |
| Cargo                 | Tons(000)  | 2,176  | 2370   | 1,112  | 587    | 391    |
| Container             | TEUS       | 81,501 | 75,185 | 70,461 | 68,707 | 82,637 |
| Foreign Going Vessels | Number     | 125    | 116    | 126    | 140    | 124    |

**Source-** Zanzibar Bureau of Statistics







## Visit Zanzibar

Tourism has become one of the most significant pillars of Zanzibar's blue economy, alongside the fisheries and maritime sectors as a vital contributor to the island's sustainable development. Since the 1990s, Zanzibar has relied heavily on tourism to drive its economic growth, and today, the sector accounts for approximately 32% of the country's GDP. With its pristine beaches, rich cultural heritage, and strategic position in the Indian Ocean, Zanzibar has cemented its reputation as a global tourism hotspot.

The Zanzibar Ports Corporation (ZPC) is pivotal in supporting the tourism sector. As the entry point for international visitors arriving by sea, ZPC manages maritime logistics and fosters the growth of cruise and ferry tourism. From 2020 to 2023, ZPC demonstrated its ability to adapt to challenges and seize opportunities, ultimately contributing to Zanzibar's post-pandemic recovery and tourism industry growth.



## Ship Arrivals (2020-2023)

The COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted global travel, including cruise tourism. Zanzibar's ports saw a dramatic decline in arrivals, with only seven cruise ships docking in 2019 compared to 28 in 2018. Passenger numbers fell by over 75%, and stringent health protocols were implemented to ensure safety.





## 2021: Gradual Recovery

As international vaccination campaigns progressed, cruise operations cautiously resumed. ZPC reopened its ports with enhanced health measures, welcoming 15 cruise ships and approximately 10,000 passengers. Partnerships with local operators and the introduction of themed cruises began to rebuild momentum.

## 2022: Accelerated Growth

With relaxed travel restrictions and strategic marketing campaigns, Zanzibar experienced a sharp increase in cruise arrivals. ZPC recorded 38 ships carrying 28,000 passengers, a 153% rise from the previous year.



## 2023: A Record-Breaking Year

Investments in port infrastructure and streamlined immigration processes led to an all-time high of 52 cruise ships and over 40,000 passengers.

The cruise tourism boom has had a profound impact on Zanzibar's economy. Direct spending by passengers and crew generated over USD 15 million from 2020 to 2023, fueling demand for local goods, souvenirs, and excursions. Jobs in sectors such as hospitality, artisanal crafts, and tour guiding expanded, supported by training programs to enhance local skills.

By leveraging digital platforms, strengthening international partnerships, and involving local communities, ZPC and the tourism sector can unlock new opportunities, ensuring the sustainable growth of Zanzibar's blue economy.

The partnership between Zanzibar Ports Corporation and the tourism sector is a cornerstone of the island's economic strategy. From enabling cruise tourism to fostering cultural preservation and sustainable development, ZPC's role has been instrumental in driving growth. As Zanzibar recovers and evolves, this symbiotic relationship will remain essential for shaping a prosperous and sustainable future.





## Editor's Note

**A**s we approach the conclusion of this magazine, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to its success.

This publication would not have been possible without the dedication and collaboration of numerous stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to advance Zanzibar's blue economy.

We sincerely thank all stakeholders whose steadfast support has been instrumental in shaping this remarkable journey. Special acknowledgment is due to government organizations, including the Ministry of Infrastructure, Communication, and Transport (MOICT), the President's Office, the Attorney General's Office, the Zanzibar Revenue Authority (ZRA), and the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA). Your guidance and commitment have been invaluable.

We also recognize the critical roles played by the Zanzibar Marine Authority (ZMA), the PPP Department, and the Tanzania Port Authority (TPA) in this success story.

The private sector has also played a vital part in this journey. Stakeholders like SHIPCO, Azam Marine, Zan Fast Ferry, and United Traders have demonstrated unwavering dedication. Companies such as Evergreen Ltd, Gago Store, Bombay Bazar, and Bopar have enriched this process with their consistent quality. Financial institutions like PBZ Bank, CRDB Bank, NMB Bank, NBC Bank, and TIB Bank have provided indispensable support.

Finally, to our partners in logistics, shipping, and commerce—CMA CGM, Maersk, Emirates Shipping Lines, ZNCC, ZMS, Ushirika wa Majahazi, and many local businesses—your collaboration

has laid the foundation for a thriving blue economy in Zanzibar.

Thanks to my editorial team—Sarah Said Issa, Hakim Ali Kimara, and Juma Hamis Rajab—for their hard work and dedication. This collective effort demonstrates the incredible achievements we can realize when we work together.

Thank you all!

**Hassan Juma Amour**

Public Relations Manager- Zanzibar  
Ports Corporation

