

PRESIDENT MAGUFULI INAUGURATES DART SYSTEM

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli on January 25, 2017 inaugurated the infrastructure and bus operations of the Dar Rapid Transit (DART) system phase 1 at Gerezani Terminal.

The DART project phase 1 covers 20.9km of Morogoro Road from Kimara to Kivukoni; Kawawa Road from Magomeni to Morocco; and Msimbazi Street from Fire to Gerezani Kariakoo.

The inaugurations ceremony took place at Gerezani Kariakoo and attended by government dignitaries and a delegate from the World Bank led by Vice President Africa Region, Mr. Makhtar Diop.

In his speech, the President has called upon all residents of Dar es Salaam to protect the DART infrastructure from any damage as the government of Tanzania has already spend hell lot of many to construct it.

He said: “It would be unwise at any standard to let this infrastructure be misused while knowing that all Tanzanians are to pay the debt through taxes. May I therefore direct all institutions that are responsible for managing the DART system to be more serious in curbing all tendencies of unscrupulous road users to vandalize the infrastructure that is meant to improve traffic mobility in the city”.

He reiterated that it was high time now for the traffic police and other institutions which have been give mandate to safeguard the infrastructure to take stern measures against anyone who is found guilty of misusing the DART infrastructure.

The Guest of Honour also warned all drivers not to violate any traffic rule as it may even necessitate confiscation of their vehicles, if not imprisoning them.

Referring to the viability of DART system, he said he would not like to hear that the bus operator is doing business at a loss as this means the project is not viable and thus not worth implementing it.

The President congratulated the World Bank for financing the DART project Phase 1 while imploring them also to give no objections for other projects that they have shown interest to finance.

The projects that the World Bank is expected to fund include DART project Phases 3 and 4 on Nyerere and Bagamoyo roads, respectively; and flyover at the road junction of Ubungo.

The President pinpointed the Ubungo road junctions as one of the bottlenecks that affects the performance of BRT in Dar es Salaam as it slows traffic mobility in the DART corridor.

Towards the end of the ceremony, the President inaugurated the BRT infrastructure by unveiling a plaque and launching of bus operations by cutting a ribbon. The launch of BRT was followed by tree planting that was done tree beside the inauguration stone.

The President finally drove one of the buses to demonstrate bus operations that started on May 10, 2016 with 140 buses.