

PRESS RELEASE

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Bunge Lenye Meno

A Parliament with Teeth, for Tanzania

By Samuel Sitta MP, Willibrod Slaa MP, John Cheyo MP and Mark Ashurst

Africa Research Institute is pleased to announce publication of ***Bunge Lenye Meno***, an insiders' account of the changing relationship between the Tanzanian parliament in Dodoma, the government in Dar es Salaam, and the implications for development.

For most of Tanzania's post-independence history, ethnic and religious tolerance has been underpinned by the dominant governing party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). East Africa's most populous nation has been a beacon of political stability in a troubled region, but an unyielding machine politics has resisted attempts to wrest influence from the ruling elite – until now.

In this candid and balanced report, a cross-party group of activist parliamentarians describe their part in asserting their constitutional role: the 'oversight' of government business, and the 'challenge function' of standing up to executive power. The unfolding contest to transform ***Bunge***, Tanzania's National Assembly, is changing political life in ways which even the leading protagonists hardly believed possible.

Their achievements include launching the first parliamentary committee of enquiry, establishing regular Prime Minister's Questions, and fresh scrutiny of the foreign donors who contribute more than 40% of the government budget. In the struggle to create vigilant and accountable public institutions in Africa, Tanzania has set an important example.

AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 27TH

The following eminent Tanzanians will be in London for the launch of ***Bunge Lenye Meno***, and available for interview on Thursday November 27th only:

Ludovick S.L. Utouh

Controller and Auditor General

Dr Harrison G. Mwakyembe MP

Chairman of the Richmond Enquiry

Freeman Mbowe

Leader of the opposition CHADEMA

Iddi Simba

Former Minister of Trade, CCM

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