



SME DEVELOPMENT FORUM

20 July 2026
Morogoro, Tanzania

The role of hubs and clusters in
small and medium enterprise
development

Media Advisory

INVITATION FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

What: The Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development (UONGOZI Institute) in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade will convene **a national forum on “The role of hubs and clusters in small and medium enterprise (SME) development”**. The forum draws upon UONGOZI Institute’s recent research study on innovation hubs, clusters and inclusive SME development in Tanzania. It will mainly look at four factors: contribution, inclusivity, systemic barriers, and sustainability.

When: 20 July 2026.

Where: Morogoro.

Who: The guest of honour will be **Hon. Dennis Londo (MP)**, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade. The keynote address will be delivered by **Dr. Hezron Makundi**, Senior Lecturer, University of Dar es Salaam. Delegates of the forum will include business and political leaders, academics, and development partners from across the country.

How: The forum will combine plenary and panel discussions, expert presentations, and an exhibition to promote a deeper and meaningful knowledge regarding the subject matter.

Objective: The forum seeks to provide a space to discuss effective ways of strengthening innovation hubs and clusters as tool for inclusive SME growth and industrialisation. The key objectives are to:

- i. Discuss the role of hubs and clusters in SME growth, formalisation, innovation, market access, job creation and the value chain;
- ii. Identify policy, financing, governance and coordination barriers that constrain hubs and clusters from supporting SME scaling;
- iii. Share experience on effective enterprise incubation and cluster development; and
- iv. Offer practical recommendations to enhance policy coordination, sustainable financing, private-sector engagement, inclusive access, market linkages, and outcome-based monitoring in the SME ecosystem.

Journalists are invited to cover the opening plenary session **from 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM**.



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About UONGOZI Institute: The Institute of African Leadership for Sustainable Development, commonly known as UONGOZI Institute, is a regional leadership development hub operating under the Office of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. Established in 2010 by the Governments of Tanzania and Finland, the Institute is dedicated to inspiring and equipping African leaders to deliver inclusive and sustainable solutions for their nations and the wider continent.

It applies a holistic and mutually reinforcing approach to capacity development which recognises that leadership competencies are developed through a continuous, lifelong learning process. Its two strategic pillars – leadership and sustainable development – are addressed through four main areas: executive education, policy dialogues, action-oriented research, and technical support. Its clientele includes organisations as well as individuals from the public sector, private sector, and civil society.

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