

From *Daladala* to *Mwendokasi*: A Post-colonial History of Commuter Bus Services in Dar es Salaam, ca 1960-2010

by

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Abstract

Dar es Salaam is one of the largest urban centres in East Africa. Enjoying its own vibrancy, Dar es Salaam has increasingly become the most densely populated cities in the region. The rapid population growth towards the end of the second millennium, along with diverse city land use pertains has significantly increased the demand for public transport. On the other hand, the gradual deterioration of Daladala (Commuter Bus Services) and increased private car ownership has created acute and intolerable traffic congestion. In this context, Mwendokasi (Bus Rapid Transit) is seen as the most effective solution to the challenges of commuter Bus services because of its improved transport services. Mwendokasi is believed to be a mode of public transport with high capacity, low construction and operation costs. Despite these expectations of introducing Mwendokasi in Dar es Salaam and other cities in Africa, BRT has been facing some operational challenges like high occupancy, high operational fleet size, small headway and priority in intersection and sign control. Hence, majority of the existing literature on public transport in Dar es Salaam focuses on the problems and operation challenges of commuter bus services. Therefore, we know less on the changing trends and continuities on the history of public transport in Dar es Salaam. This paper is an attempt to examine a postcolonial history of commuter bus services in Dar es Salaam from the 1960s to 2010s. therefore, it is important in reconstructing a history of public transport in Dar es Salaam and Tanzania in general.

Keywords: *Daladala, Mwendokasi* and public transport.

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