Tanzania President Samia Suluhu Hassan has acknowledged that last month's contested elections have tarnished Tanzania's long-standing reputation for stability. Speaking during the swearing-in of her new cabinet on Monday, she warned that the unrest could have lasting consequences for the nation's political and economic standing.

"We largely rely on loans from international creditors, but recent events have undermined our credibility on the global stage," said the 65-year-old president.

Samia, declared the winner of the October presidential election with 98% of the vote, faced criticism after the main opposition parties were barred from contesting. The opposition described the poll as a "mockery of democracy."

In the wake of the vote, protests erupted across the country. Opposition groups allege that hundreds of demonstrators were killed as security forces moved to suppress unrest during a five-day internet blackout following the 29 October elections. Authorities have not released an official death toll. Graphic images and videos circulating online show the aftermath of violent clashes, including the deaths of several protesters.

The events marked a stark departure from Tanzania's image as a nation known for political calm and social order over the past six decades. At least 240 individuals have been charged with treason in connection with the protests, according to official reports.

In response, President Samia has ordered an official investigation into the unrest and encouraged prosecutors to consider reducing or dropping charges against those who were not directly involved.

Since assuming office in 2021 following the death of President John Magufuli, Samia initially gained praise for loosening political restrictions. However, critics say the political space has narrowed in recent years. On Tuesday, the president warned that her next term could face economic hurdles, particularly in securing international financing.

"In our first term, international loans were easier to obtain due to our stability and progress. But the recent turmoil could complicate that," Samia said. She urged her ministers to prioritize mobilizing domestic resources and leveraging the country's natural endowments.

The new 27-member cabinet includes her daughter, Wanu Hafidh Ameir, appointed as deputy education minister. Wanu’s husband, Mohamed Mchengerwa, continues to serve as health minister. Seven ministers from the previous cabinet were replaced.

Efforts toward reconciliation are underway, with former Malawian President Lazarus Chakwera arriving in Tanzania as the Commonwealth envoy. During his four-day mission, Chakwera is scheduled to meet government officials, political parties, civil society representatives, religious and traditional leaders, and diplomats to promote dialogue and national healing, Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchwey confirmed.