Tanzanian President Suluhu Hassan says the vision of Akinwunmi Adesina, outgoing President of the African Development Bank, has brought significant socio-economic change to Tanzania and across Africa.

The Tanzanian President said this during a tour of Bank-funded transport projects in Dodoma with Bank Group President, Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, with his wife Grace Adesina, on 14 June 2025.

The African Development Bank Group has invested $9 billion in Tanzania since it started its operations in the country in 1971. Total financial support over the last 10 years under Adesina's leadership stands at $4.73 billion, equivalent to 53% of the Bank's lending to Tanzania over the past 54 years.

“On behalf of the people of Tanzania, I express our gratitude to the African Development Bank for being a dependable partner of our country's development journey,” the Tanzanian President said.

Earlier, Adesina surprised the crowd when he delivered a lengthy portion of his speech in Kiswahili, the national language of Tanzania, which is widely spoken in East and Central Africa. After recognizing all dignitaries in Kiswahili, he went on to thank President Suluhu Hassan for the warm and generous hospitality accorded to him, first in the City of Peace, Dar es Salaam, and in the attractive city of Dodoma.

“Mheshimiwa Rais Samia Suluhu Hassan, ningependa kukushukuru kwa mapokezi yako ya upendo na ukarimu tuliopewa jana katika jiji la amani, Dar es Salaam na hapa pia katika jiji lenye mvuto la Dodoma. Nimefurahi sana kuwa hapa Dodoma,” Adesina said as the crowd cheered him on.

So far, the African Development Bank Group has established a syndication strategy to mobilize $1.2 billion in conjunction with Deutsche Bank, Société Générale, and other partners for the 651-kilometre extension of the electrified Standard Gauge Railway that will connect Tanzania to Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The project financing, signed during the 2024 Africa Investment Forum Market Days and includes more than $85 million from the Bank's concessional financing window, the African Development Fund, a mix of Partial Credit Guarantees totaling $994.3 million across some sections of the railway, complemented by $247 million from the Government of Tanzania in counterpart financing. Initial disbursement from the

African Development Fund and partner, the OPEC Fund, is expected by July 2025.

Adesina said, “This railway line is a cornerstone of East Africa’s regional integration vision, aimed at delivering a modern, cost-effective, and high-capacity transport system anchored on the port of Dar es Salaam and linking landlocked nations.”

“Our shift from traditional road systems to integrated transport solutions is helping position Tanzania as a key logistics and trade hub in the region,” he added.