

Tanzanian Vice President Mpango welcomes the UEM General Assembly at international opening service in Dar es Salaam

Tanzanian government paves the way for construction of regional office in Africa

Dar es Salaam/Wuppertal, September 15, 2025 – On September 14, 2025, the Moderator of the United Evangelical Mission (UEM), Bishop Dr. Abednego Keshomshara, opened the 11th General Assembly of the UEM in an international worship service in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). Representatives of the 39 members from Africa, Asia, and Germany, as well as around 1,000 other visitors, attended the service in the Mbezi Beach congregation, which was held under the motto from Matthew 7:3: “The beam in our eye. Discrimination in the church and social welfare work.”

In his sermon, the Tanzanian theologian called on those present to become an inclusive community “that accepts and welcomes all people equally.” He thanked Bishop Dr. Alex Malasusa, head of the host East Coast Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT-ECD), for the invitation to the East African coastal metropolis, which is known for its peaceful religious coexistence.

Surprise gift from the Tanzanian government to the UEM

Vice President Dr. Philip Mpango conveyed greetings from President Samia Suluhu Hassan, who was unable to attend due to the campaign ahead of the presidential elections in October. In his speech, the professing Catholic emphasized the immense spiritual and social significance of the ELCT-ECD for Tanzania. He said that the church makes indispensable contributions, particularly in the areas of social welfare, health, and education, which the government recognizes and will continue to support. Mpango was also impressed by UEM's mission statement, which clearly identifies the challenges of a world marked by crises. “Faith-based organizations must face the challenges of a changing world by shining the light of the Gospel with its message of love, hope, and care amid global inequality and moral decline,” Mpango said.

As a special surprise, the Vice President presented the certificate officially transferring the land in Kigamboni (Dar es Salaam) to the UEM for the construction of its new regional office in Africa. The project, which is already in the planning stage, can now be implemented.

The vice-moderator of UEM, Mrs. Annette Salomo from the Evangelical Church of Westphalia, thanked both the host church and the Tanzanian government on behalf of the international community for the invitation and the warm welcome given to all participants.

The 69 delegates of UEM will continue their deliberations until September 19. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the UEM and meets every three years.

About „UEM“

The United Evangelical Mission (UEM) with offices in Wuppertal (Germany), Indonesia and Tanzania is an international, equal communion of 39 members, including 32 Protestant churches in Africa and Asia as well as six Protestant churches and the v. Bodelschwingh Foundation Bethel in Germany. The UEM consistently pursues a holistic understanding of mission. This includes improving the living conditions of suffering and disadvantaged people while respecting their personal dignity and taking their cultural context into account.