

## SBL calls for level tax regime on beer



**Dar es Salaam, Tanzania — Nov 4, 2024.** Serengeti Breweries Limited (SBL) has called for the creation of a more favorable tax and policy environment to optimize government revenue generation and ensure the sustainability of businesses. The brewer made this appeal over the weekend at a meeting with the Parliamentary Committee for Industries, Trade and Environment.

Only one player currently enjoys the lower excise tax on beer made from local malt leaving two other beer producers with smaller production capacities – SBL and East African Spirits Limited – in the disadvantaged position of paying the higher 918/- excise tax band. “Our small beer volume does not justify investment into a malting facility at the moment,” Obinna said urging for the creation of an intermediate excise band of 680/- per litre on beer made with 75% local content.

SBL warned that the additional taxes could not only hinder this revenue increase but also lead to unintended consequences in the alcohol industry, such as potential price hikes and a spike in illicit beer production. The company emphasized that fostering local sourcing and agricultural support, rather than imposing higher taxes, would yield sustainable revenue growth at 71.8 billion TZS while safeguarding the industry and consumer affordability.