

Company Registration in Tanzania

The Complete Checklist & Cost Guide for Foreign Investors (2026)

Foreign ownership	Up to 100%	Authority	BRELA (ORS portal)
Timeline	~2-4 weeks end-to-end	Incorporation	3-14 business days
Corporate tax	30% (VAT 18%)	Min. paid-up capital	None for an LLC

1. Before you start

- ☐ Choose your structure: Private Limited Company suits most foreign investors
- ☐ Foreign firms: decide between a local subsidiary, a branch (foreign company), or a representative office
- ☐ Confirm directors and shareholders (an LLC needs min. 2 shareholders and 2 directors)
- ☐ Secure a registered physical office address in Tanzania
- ☐ Note: 100% foreign ownership is allowed; no minimum paid-up capital for an LLC
- ☐ Decide mainland (BRELA) vs. Zanzibar (own registry / ZIPA) depending on your target market

2. Reserve your company name

- ☐ Create and activate a user account on the BRELA Online Registration System (ORS)
- ☐ Run a name search and reserve an available name
- ☐ Ensure the name is unique and not offensive to religious or cultural sentiments
- ☐ A foreign branch normally operates under the parent company's registered name

3. Documents to prepare

- ☐ Memorandum & Articles of Association (objectives, rules, management structure)
- ☐ Form 14a (particulars of directors, shareholders, secretary and registered office)
- ☐ Form 14b (Declaration of Compliance) - signed by an advocate / notary public
- ☐ Certified passport / ID copies for all shareholders and directors
- ☐ Notarised & apostilled foreign documents, with certified English translations where needed
- ☐ Branch (extra): parent Certificate of Incorporation & M&AoA, audited accounts, Form 434 (notarised), Power of Attorney for the local representative

4. Register with BRELA (ORS)

- ☐ Upload the documents through the BRELA ORS portal
- ☐ Pay the government fees (calculated on authorised share capital)
- ☐ BRELA reviews and verifies the application
- ☐ Receive your Certificate of Incorporation (local) or Certificate of Compliance (foreign) in 3-14 business days

5. After registration

- ☐ Register with the TRA for a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) - issued free
- ☐ Register for VAT once turnover thresholds are met (TZS 200m/yr)
- ☐ Register employees with NSSF and the Workers' Compensation Fund (WCF); register with OSHA
- ☐ Obtain a business licence (BRELA or the local authority, by sector)
- ☐ Open a corporate bank account with your certificate and TIN
- ☐ File annual returns / audited accounts with BRELA

6. Foreign investors - don't forget

- ☐ 100% foreign ownership is allowed - no mandatory Tanzanian shareholder
- ☐ An LLC needs min. 2 shareholders and 2 directors; a branch needs a resident local representative
- ☐ No foreign-exchange controls - capital, profits and dividends can be repatriated freely
- ☐ TIC Certificate of Incentives (tax/duty relief + residence-permit quotas) for foreign investment ~USD 500,000+
- ☐ SEZ / EPZ investors can access up to a 10-year corporate-tax holiday and duty waivers
- ☐ Tanzania is a member of the EAC and SADC, with double-tax treaties with 20+ countries

Let Afrisetup register your Tanzanian company - remotely, from anywhere.

We handle name reservation, documents, BRELA filing, TIN, NSSF/WCF, local-representative & TIC support and compliance. Get your fixed all-in quote at afrisetup.com/tanzania/contact-us