

President Samia earns kudos for conserving environment

From HECKTON CHUWA in Kilimanjaro

KILIMANJARO Regional Commissioner (RC) Nurdin Babu has said President Dr Samia Suluhu Hassan and her predecessors deserve big compliments due to the great efforts they have made in conserving natural resources and promoting the tourism sector in the country.

Mr Babu made the remarks recently during the launch of tree planting campaign in the areas surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro at Samanga Village, Rombo District, in Kilimanjaro Region. The occasion was part of the events organised to mark the 50th anniversary since the establishment of the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA).

"The Father of the Nation Mwalimu Julius Nyerere had a great vision on conservation of our resources and the idea to improve the tourism sector; his vision contributed to the establishment of the Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA) 50 years ago", he said.

He added: "Mount Kilimanjaro is currently one of the biggest sources of revenue through the tourism sector and is also one of the attractions that bring many tourists here in the country and in Africa in general every year, as far as the tourism sector is concerned."

The RC further said that the successors of Mwalimu Nyerere have continued the good work he started and that even when President Samia assumed presidential roles two years ago, she personally participated in the production of the Royal Tour Tanzania film which is now contributing significantly to the increase of tourists in the country.

Mr Babu congratulated the management of KINAPA for

the great contribution the park has made since its establishment to the health, education and the well-being of many residents.

RC Babu commended residents living in the areas surrounding the park for the cooperation they have been according to the management of KINAPA while carrying out their daily duties.

Mr Babu praised the management of KINAPA for coming up with the idea of planting trees as part of the activities to mark a golden jubilee since the establishment of the institution, which he said should be emulated by others.

Speaking during the event, KINAPA Chief Park Warden Mr Imani Kikoti said the institution had projected to plant 300,000 trees as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations since the establishment of KINAPA in March, 1973.

"In addition to the tree planting event, there will be also other activities which include a symposium aimed at providing education on the importance of planting trees, taking care of them and preserving the environment which will involve environmental stakeholders, conservationists and various tourism stakeholders", he said.

Commenting on the challenges facing KINAPA Mr Kikoti said it includes unscrupulous people invading areas around the park, causing damage which he said threatens the future of KINAPA.

"The destruction includes fires that have been a major challenge for the Kilimanjaro National Park since its establishment due to the fact that they destroy the environment of the park and ecosystem in the conserved areas. These living creatures are also part of the attractions for visitors who come to climb Mount Kilimanjaro," he said.



Speaker of the National Assembly, Dr Tulia Ackson, who is also the Chairperson of African Geopolitical Group of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), leads the meeting of SADC Geopolitical Group in IPU at Paddock 6 Hall, Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), Manama, Bahrain before the opening of 146th Assembly of the IPU and its related meetings yesterday. (Photo Courtesy of Bunge)

Govt chemists resolve to forge cooperation

By SUNDAY NEWS Reporter

ZANZIBAR Chief Government Chemist Dr Farid Mpatani has expressed commitment to strengthening cooperation with the office

of the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA) in Mainland.

Dr Mpatani expressed the commitment in Dar es Salaam yesterday, during his working tour of the office of GCLA in Dar es Salaam.

His visit aimed at familiarising himself with the GCLA activities, including strength-

ening collaboration between the two offices.

"The main reason of coming here is to learn various issues about operations, including forging working relations as well as strengthening cooperation. Basically, through this visit we have learnt many things," he stated after the tour.

After visiting seven different laboratories at the GCLA offices, Dr Mpatani said he acquired good skills that would help him while working at Zanzibar Chief Government Chemist Laboratory (CGCL) office.

"Our aim is to earn skills and strengthen our operations. We are pleased with

this visit and we promise that our cooperation will further grow," he insisted.

On his part, GCLA Director of Product and Environmental Analysis, Mr Sabanitho Mtega, who spoke on behalf of the Chief Government Chemist, said the visit by Zanzibar Chief Government Chemist was

another catalyst in strengthening relations between the two offices in Zanzibar and mainland.

"Through this visit I believe we will be more united to ensure that these institutions work more closely and share experiences in a quest to serve the public," he said.

Mchengerewa inaugurates information centre

From MUGINI JACOB in Serengeti

NA T U R A L Resources and Tourism Minister M o h a m e d Mchengerewa yesterday inaugurated a modern information centre in Serengeti National Park that is expected to help attract more tourists to visit the country.

The information centre has been constructed at Seronera, the headquarters of the world-famous park with the support of the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

Mr Mchengerewa welcomed the multimillion projects saying the ministry will further enhance its cooperation with South Korean government in areas of conservation and tourism.

The Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA) Conservation Commissioner (CC) Mr William Mwakilema said the information centre will provide a wider space for tourists to enjoy while in the country's second largest national park covering 14,763 square kilometres.

"More importantly, with the help of this information centre, we are expecting to increase average number of days spent by tourists in Serengeti from 1.9 day to 3 days," CC Mwakilema said in his remarks during the colourful event.

As a result, the tourism facility will both raise a number of tourists visiting the park as well as boosting the government revenue for the national development.

Besides enhancing visi-

tor's unique experience, the information centre will also help to promote Serengeti and all other national parks across the country.

It will also be enabling tourists to view the great wildebeest migration live among other attractions, according to Mwakilema.

Adding, he said already TANAPA had employed experts to run the centre effectively and ensure that it achieves the intended objectives.

Minister Mchengerewa commended TANAPA's efficiency and asked all key stakeholders to aggressively help in promoting the country's tourists attractions.

"It is time to publicise the country's tourist destinations. Let me ask everyone to advertise Tanzania. It is time now,"

the new minister for natural resources and tourism repeatedly.

On his part, the South Korean Ambassador to Tanzania, Mr Kim Sun Pyo said the information centre will play a vital role in promoting tourism in the world-famous park.

"We are very happy to cooperate with TANAPA and the government of Tanzania in promoting tourism. Tourism is very important and more tourists will visit Serengeti," Ambassador Kim said.

Speaking during the same event, the Permanent Secretary (PS) in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Dr Hassan Abbas said the ministry will make good use of the information centre in order to raise the number of tourists in the country.

'Children with Spina bifida, Hydrocephalus can be cured'

By NANCY MAWOLE

PARENTS and guardians with children who suffer from Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus conditions have been urged to take them to the hospital for treatment.

According to experts, Spina bifida is a condition that affects the spine and is usually apparent at birth while Hydrocephalus is the buildup of fluid in the cavities (ventricles) deep within the brain.

This was revealed recently by Kibamba Division Officer Beatrice Mbwala who represented the Ubungo District Commissioner Hashim Komba during the launch of the House of Hope, a centre under the Association for Spina Bifida

and Hydrocephalus Tanzania (ASBAHT) in Dar es Salaam.

The centre supports parents with children who suffer from the complications.

She advised women not to give up when they give birth to children with such conditions and instead they should attend clinic to enable their children get better health services.

Ms Mbwala urged men not to abandon their children born with such conditions because they are human beings like others.

On her part, the centre's Acting Managing Director, Suma Mwaipopo said the centre has managed to help more than 100 parents with children with such conditions.

She added that the centre has helped children and

parents from various regions including Shinyanga, Mwanza and others.

Parents with the children who suffer from the conditions are provided with services such as transport, food as well as helping them to acquire health insurance cover.

"This centre has been helping parents with children suffering from the disabilities by providing them with various services such as transport. When they come to the hospital we provide them with food, as well as helping them to get health insurance cover," she added.

On his part, the guardian of the centre, Mr Nobert Kyando asked the government to allocate an area at Kimara in Dar es Salaam for parents so that they carry out entrepre-

neurial activities to meet their personal needs.

He said the women are carrying out various activities such as poultry, including cultivating vegetables that have served the centre for about six months.

He added that to provide further support to women with children who have the conditions, the centre is working on a plan to start tailoring project which would require five sewing machines.

On her part, a patient Lilian Patrick called on parents to make sure that children with such condition are taken to the hospital for treatment.

She said that she was also born with Spina Bifida but she got treatment and now she is healthier and now lives a normal life.

Govt pushes for women's participation in economy

By SUSAN MMARY

THE government and private sector have vowed to continue encouraging women's participation in economic activities in promoting sustainable development.

The commitment was expressed on Wednesday during the 6th 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' event at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE).

The event is normally held every year during the commemoration of International Women's Day. This year the event was organised by DSE, UN Global Compact, UN Women and IFC, with support from Stanbic Bank and TTCL.

DSE Chief Executive Officer Ms Mary Mniwasa said the event brought together nearly 60 stock exchanges across the world to hold and ring bells for the women who are ready for

changes.

"Every year, we join nearly 60 stock exchanges across the world to hold Ring the Bell events for women who are ready for a change and support them in every way possible for them to achieve their intended goals," she said.

Ms Mniwasa said "this is a key in the financial sector, where despite progress; women are significantly under-represented in senior roles".

She said women hold only 21 per cent of senior and executive leadership positions, and in the case of the DSE, the proportion of women is only 14 per cent.

In her keynote address delivered on behalf of the Minister for Investment, Industry and Trade, the Director General of Tan Trade, Ms Latifa Hamis highlighted the critical need for interventions in ensuring that technology pushes the progress of

gender equality.

"This requires closing the digital gender gap, and ensuring women and girls have equal access to, and are supported to gain digital skills and knowledge," said Ms Hamis.

She emphasised the important role of education for girls and women to equally benefit from the opportunities provided by technology and reiterated the government's commitment to drive results in these areas.

"I appreciate that these efforts by themselves may not be enough to address the gender equality gap, but there is really a need to build awareness and the tools that can be used to improve gender equity."

UN Resident Coordinator, Mr Zlatan Milisic, said that a paradigm shift is required to bridge the digital gender gap, improve safer and affordable access to digital tools, and guarantee women's full participation.

"This shift requires human rights, gender equality, inclusion and innovation to be placed at the centre of the design, skills development and utilisation of digital tools and services."

Development stakeholders at the meeting further emphasised the collective responsibility to work towards ensuring technology and innovation effectively benefits women and girls.

Digital inclusion is the responsibility of all of us, said Frank Ajilore, IFC Resident Representative for Tanzania.

"IFC is committed to working with partners to promote innovation and technology for gender equality," he added.

Ms Suzan Ndomba from UN Global Compact in Tanzania said there is potential to transform the way we live, work and interact. Women have a great chance to bring sustainable change in society.



Graduates of Cohort 8 of the Female Future Programme, Grace Temu (right) and Willa Haonga leading fellow graduates to display their certificates during the graduation ceremony of Association of Tanzania Employers (ATE)'s 5th Annual Leadership Conference (ALC 2023) in Dar es Salaam over the weekend. (Photo by Venance Nestory)