



## Biteko to grace economic, investment conference

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

DEPUTY Prime Minister and Minister for Energy, Dr Dotto Biteko, is expected to grace the fourth conference on the participation of Tanzanians in the Economy and Investment in Dar es Salaam at the end of the week.

The meeting dubbed 'local content' is organized by the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC).

The NEEC Executive Secretary, Ms Beng'I Issa said the conference that focuses on assessing investment performance in the country takes place every after two years.

"Every two years, we assess investment performance indicators, as well as examine the challenges and existing opportunities that can be tapped by local investors, while setting up a national vision to foster social and economic growth," said Ms Issa.

She added that the conference is expected to be attended by approximately 500 participants from various sectors such as the private sector, public in-

stitutions, business people, and local and foreign investors.

Ms Issa further explained that the conference is expected to bring together investors, businessmen, engineers, leaders of public institutions, government officials, team leaders of strategic government projects, economists, policy makers, and all development stakeholders in the country.

"As you are all aware of the several strategic government projects such as the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP), Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project (JNHPP) and the ongoing expansion and construction of roads carried out by the Tanzania National Road Agency (Tanroads) across the country," noted Ms Issa.

The NEEC boss emphasized that the conference will also recognize public institutions and investors who have demonstrated excellent performance in the sector by giving them awards as part of their contribution to the social well-being of the people and the country at large.

## Barrick, NVeP support Ecopeace Women Initiative

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

BARRICK Gold Corporation in collaboration with Nos Vies en Partage (NVeP) has donated 10,000 US dollars to Ecopeace Women Initiative in Shinyanga Region to address various climate challenges affecting women and children.

The NVeP was established by Barrick President and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Mark Bristow, to support special groups of women, children and others who are benefitting less from Africa's economic growth.

The acting Bulyanhulu General Manager, Mr Victor Lule said NVeP will continue to support non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in serving various communities to bring about impactful investment.

"It is encouraging to note that the funds released by Barrick and NVeP bring about socio-economic changes in the community. We hope that Ecopeace Women Initiative financing will impact positively in the society," he said.

Women are more vulnerable to the health impacts of climate change such as food insecurity and lack of access to safe and clean water as well as sanitation services.

Climate change is not gender neutral rather it amplifies already existing gender inequalities with the most marginalised communities experiencing the greatest impacts.

NVeP has provided support to over 15 non-governmental organisations working in various parts of the country that deal directly with special groups.

"To date, we have been able to assist 15 non-governmental organisations through NVeP and today we are here to donate 10,000 US dollars to Ecopeace Women Initiative," he said.

The Ecopeace Women Initiative representative Anastasia Magembe thanked Barrick and NVeP for the financing that will help to improve services to various needy groups as well as environmental conservation programme.

*SOME delegates follow proceedings of the 38th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Local Authorities of Tanzania in Zanzibar, recently. (Photo by Martin Kabemba)*

## Exhibitors book 50pc of Dar trade fair

By DATIVA MINJA

INTERNATIONAL and local exhibitors have booked almost 50 per cent of the space for the coming Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair (DITF) two months ahead of the event.

The success, according to Tanzania Trade Development Authority (Tantrade), is mainly attributed to the country's high commissions and embassies efforts to woo exhibitors to the fair.

Tantrade Director General Ms Latifa Khamis said yesterday that exhibitors have booked 2100 of the spaces, estimated as 47 per

cent of the entire area by last Saturday for the coming 48th DITF slated to start late June.

"The target is to make sure the spaces are booked well ahead of the time to enable us carry out some rehabilitation and renovation.

"The idea is to finish each and everything before the fair starts...not to continue doing some works when the event starts," Ms Khamis said.

Tantrade planned to finalise space booking by the end of next month and allocate the spaces to exhibitors to enable them renovate the pavilions ahead of the opening day.

"This year we don't want to work under pressure and complete the preparation by mid-June and judges to start evaluating the exhibitors from day one of the fair," she said.

The DG said the response is good and going well as planned since would-be-exhibitors are booking space online.

One of the notable achievements for this year's effort to attract international exhibitors will be showcased by China presenting them from three provinces up from one of last year.

China's Shandong Prov-

ince participated last year with over 150 exhibitors.

"Our embassies and high commissions are doing great job and the response from exhibitors is great," said Ms Khamis.

Tantrade also banked on recently President Samia Suluhu Hassan foreign tours to bring more exhibitors, especially the immediate one to Türkiye.

"Recently, during the President's visit to Türkiye, she motivated investors to participate in the Dar fair," said Ms Khamis.

So far seven countries with more than 180 companies have confirmed par-

ticipation in the exhibition—also known as Sabasaba fair.

The countries are Algeria, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Türkiye, Korea and Japan.

The DG said this year's exhibition will have a different look and activities by having corporate days as well as national days.

Ms Khamis said Tantrade is looking for an exclusive agency who can mobilise companies from abroad to participate in the exhibitions.

DITF is a two-week annual event organised by Tantrade and normally runs between 28th June to 13th July.

## Airtel, TADB to support youth in agriculture

By FLORIAN JAMAX

TANZANIA Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) and Airtel Tanzania have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at elevating and transforming the agricultural sector.

The Airtel Tanzania Managing Director Mr Dinesh Balsingh said the partnership is focused on facilitating financial inclusion in the agriculture sector by targeting the small-scale farmers, and rural microenterprises which include women and the youths.

"Our partnership with the TADB aims at realising benefits by addressing challenges faced by farmers through the use of several digital products and agri-fintech innovations that will unfold new markets for farmers in both urban and rural areas and enhance their in-

come," said Mr Balsingh at the signing ceremony on Tuesday.

"We are highly committed to support through innovations in the telecommunications sector, as country's technology is advancing such that farmers deserve to be among the beneficiaries."

TADB's Managing Director, Mr Frank Nyabundege said that the collaboration with the telecommunication and mobile money services company will open doors for untapped potentials in the agricultural sector.

He said that the partnership will provide a platform for farmers to resolve issues about their daily activities putting ends to different challenges.

"The partnership aims to drive sustainable growth within the agricultural sector and the joint will be a game changer for farmers across the country" said Mr Nyabundege.

From DAILY NEWS Reporter in Zanzibar

NMB yesterday said its agriculture financing has climbed to 1.6trn/- as of last year as it seeks to make the sector more sustainable and enhance its contribution to economic growth.

The lender's Chief Executive Officer, Ms Ruth Zaipuna, was speaking at the three-day Association of Local Authorities Tanzania 38th annual meeting, outlining the bank's catalytic financing to key economic sectors like agriculture to support the government efforts in driving up the socio-economic development agenda.

"Our significant successes in agriculture financing have been the continuous investment in sector knowledge, products and key partnerships with key stakeholders," she said.

Ms Zaipuna said 400bn/- out of 1.6trn/- total agriculture loans were extended to farmers at a single digit interest rate of

9.0 per cent. The 1.6trn/- was dished out in over two years ago.

She told over 500 ALAT delegates that the lender has been bankrolling sectoral growth, funding social welfare, supporting the government's fiscal initiatives and participating in advancing inclusive finance.

The seasoned banker said the monumental contribution to bettering lives and aiding wealth generation would have been impossible without government endorsement which NMB works closely with in many development facets at all levels.

Ms Zaipuna said the lender's constructive engagements in national development also include the huge corporate social investments it makes to support communities, citing the 8.0bn/- set aside for this year.

Out of that, she explained, 2.5bn/- will be used to build a special secondary school in

Dodoma and the remaining amount will be invested in the priority sectors of the bank's corporate giving policy, notably education, health and entrepreneurship.

The bank's other recent major corporate philanthropy undertaking has been the Nuru Yangu Scholarship and Mentorship Programme which to date has provided scholarships to 130 bright college students hailing from poor families.

On the financial inclusion front, Ms Zaipuna said, NMB continues relentlessly to include Tanzanians, especially those living upcountry into the formal financial sector and has recently debuted a special village banking strategy for them.

"NMB continues to take its services closer to the people and this year we launched a grand village banking scheme targeting to cover more than 1,000 villages without access to formal financial services, which initially will be served

by agents," she noted in her remarks.

Implementation of the strategy has included the use of the revolutionary NMB Pesa Account service where an opening amount is 1,000/-

The other major merit of the account is its instant connection to NMB Mkononi which enables customers to access up to 500,000/- unsecured Mshiko Fasta digital loans without visiting an NMB branch.

"Since we officially launched it about two months ago, we have been able to open over 100,000 NMB Pesa accounts and the target is to open over 1.5 million new accounts by the end of this year," Ms Zaipuna pointed out.

Attainment of the goal and accomplishing the noble village banking mission, she explained, is pegged on increasing the number of agents who have now increased to 34,000 across the country compared to only 10,000 in 2021.

## Exim to empower 600,000 in four years

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

EXIM Bank through its Women Empowerment Programme (WEP) has provided comprehensive business training to women entrepreneurs to enhance inclusive participation and promote gender equality for women across Africa.

Exim Head of Marketing, Mr Stanley Kafu, said yesterday at the training's graduation ceremony that the programme will continue for five years with the goal of reaching over 600,000 women by 2028.

"Exim Bank firmly believes that women's empowerment and entrepreneurship are essential components of development plans in Tanzania and Africa as a whole.

"This belief is underscored by the increasing number of women assuming leadership positions

across various sectors, including politics, social services, and the economy," he said.

The initiative targets countries where EXIM has branches, including Tanzania, Comoros, Djibouti, and Uganda.

Under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme known as 'Exim Cares', Exim launched and continued to implement the WEP.

In this year's first phase, three winners were selected and awarded cash prizes namely Beatrice Msaftiri emerged as the first winner with 8.0m/-, Catherine Assenga with 5.0m/- and Rukia Mohamed with 3.0m/-.

Mr Kafu further stressed that the WEP forms part of a comprehensive strategy aimed at creating an enabling environment for women to excel and prosper, particularly in the economic sphere.