

# Uwezeshaji

**NEWSLETTER** 



A Newsletter of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC)

Issue No. June - October 2015

# NEEC LAUNCHES NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING FRAMEWORK



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### **Message from the Executive Secretary**



Executive Secretary of National Economic Empowerment Council, Mrs. Beng'i Issa.

Welcome dear readers to our third issue of Uwezeshaji Newsletter. The publication gives a quick review of activities undertaken by NEEC or in which NEEC participated during the year under review. Iam humbled to the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, for appointing me to lead this promising organization towards empowering Tanzanians economically. We are pleased to report of substantial achievements registered and major milestones reached in the course of implementing NEEC's legal mandate as stipulated by the National Economic **Economic Empowerment** Policy and National Empowerment Act, No 16 of 2004 in the financial year of 2015/16. We were able to discharge our responsibilities as

a coordinator, facilitator and supervisor of Economic Empowerment Initiatives with a view to play a catalytic role in the implementation of sectoral and multisectoral strategies for economic empowerment activities.

During this year under review NEEC was able to launch the National Entrepreneurship Training Framework which aims to provide guidelines on the delivery of entrepreneurship training from pre-primary to tertiary level engaging both in and out of school programs. The lead story has details on the historic efforts. NEEC covered in details its achievements and challenges in the implementation of National Economic Empowerment Policy through the Questions and Answers session between the Executive Secretary and the Media. We find this conversation worthy sharing with our readers! NEEC has continued to operationalize its Young Graduate Enterprenurship Clinic program through its partnership with Cambridge Development Institute (CDI). The program is attracting partnership from various stakeholders both locally and internationally due to its focus of empowering young graduates through enterprenurship training to inculcate entrepreneurship culture of starting up their own business and become job creators instead of job seekers. Join me to commend the CDI initiative through its two months DAR Enterprise Course! On its efforts to support economic groups which engage in economic activities such as VICOBA and SACCOS, NEEC through its Mwananchi Empowerment Fund has entered into MOU with Tanzania Postal Bank, to guarantee the groups to access credit at concessionary terms to start and expand their business.

In an effort to support the private sector to benefit from the inflows of Foreign Direct Investments in the country, NEEC has been directed by the President during the Tanzania National Business Council meeting to establish a local content unit. Amongst other things the

unit will provide a road map on how Tanzanians should benefit more from Foreign Direct Investments in various sectors of the economy. NEEC is glad to report that is now finalizing the establishment of the unit.

We have also carried News in picture depicting various events which NEEC took part.

NEEC is looking forward in empowering Tanzanians to manage the larger part of their economy through partnership with both public and private stakeholders in realizing this noble initiative.

I wish you an enjoyable reading of this third edition of online Uwezeshaji Newsletter.

# **NEEC** inaugurates National Entrepreneurship Training Framework



Ms. Marystella Wasena, Director for School Quality Assurance, Ministry of Education and Vocational Training officiating the launching of National Entrepreneurship Training Framework.

The National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has inaugurated the National Entrepreneurship Training Framework (NETF) that is intended to be applied in schools and colleges in a bid to strengthen entrepreneurship spirit among Tanzanians.

It is hoped that the move will make Tanzanian youths and citizens at large more productive in both private and public sectors.

Speaking during the event in Dar es Salaam, the Executive Secretary of NEEC, Ms Beng'i Issa said the training framework seeks to build a strong base of youths with quality entrepreneurial skills.

"This framework is important for both private and public sectors which have a vital role to play in achieving the National 2025 Vision," she noted.

She explained that research done by the Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship Development (IMED) and NEEC in 2012 showed that there was no comprehensive framework guiding entrepreneurship teaching in the country.

Explaining further, she said basically Tanzania was lagging behind other countries in the area and it is now high time the nation should embrace such trainings from lower education levels, secondary schools, universities and other groups.

Earlier, inaugurating the framework, the Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Dr Shukuru Kawambwa said the roadmap document will help the nation be competitive and hence achieve sustainable development.

"Education is a priority of the government in the ongoing Big Results Now (BRN)," the minister said in his speech read on his behalf by the director for schools quality assurance in the ministry, Marystela Wasena.

He said that the framework was a very important document in achieving various government goals such as citizens' empowerment, youth development, education and vocational training, increasing employment and strengthening small and medium enterprises in the country.

He noted that all the goals emphasise a need to have a vibrant entrepreneurial spirit and practice to improve people's welfare and attaining strong economy.

He explained that his ministry would continue to act as a link among education

stakeholders in making sure that it is smoothly implemented.

An official from the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Mkuku Louis said research showed that all countries that prioritise entrepreneurship achieve meaningful progress.

"With abundant resources Tanzania has, entrepreneurship skills among her people,

will bring this country to another level," he said.

He said ILO commends the step taken by the government to have the framework and promised to continue with cooperation.

The preparation of the NETF involved various local and international partners from private and public institutions and entrepreneurs and sponsored by the ILO and Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO).

Questions and Answers session between the Media and the Council's Executive Secretary, Ms Beng'i Issa on what the Council has done since it was established in 2005 by the Act of Parliament No. 16 of 2004.

**QUESTION:** Both your admirers and critics say the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) is a cocooned institution. If the NEEC were to be represented by some kind of physical infrastructure, they would have described it as a white elephant. How do you respond to this?

ANSWER: This is not true at all especially when you compare what is said with what the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has achieved in terms of implementation of National Economic Empowerment Policy. I appreciate criticism, more so constructive criticism.

Critics give us a wakeup call on the expectations of the public in relation to the government's economic or social policies for ultimate goal of these policies is to improve the welfare of the people.

Economic Empowerment in this country has a long history. One will appreciate that since independence the government deliberately took various economic interventions to empower our people. Quite serious

interventions started with the Arusha Declaration, then Decentralisation and then Privatisation of state enterprises.



These are just a few examples interventions I would highlight. Indeed, these initiatives were towards geared facilitation oflocal participation in the economic activities. Formulation **National** Economic of Empowerment Policy and establishment of National Economic Empowerment Council sought to improve and enhance participation of majority of Tanzanians in the modern economy.

I hope our admirers and our critics are now convinced that the NEEC is neither a cocooned institution nor a white elephant. I also hope they will enthusiastically join us in our national collective effort to empower our people and realise the goals set out in Vision 2025. The challenge I see facing us is how to widen the participation, ownership and management of Tanzania economy by Tanzanian themselves.

#### **QUESTION:** Critics argue that NEEC is an old ineffective institution

**ANSWER:** No. They are wrong! The NEEC was established in 2005 by the Act of Parliament No. 16. NEEC is the apex body, which works under the Prime Minister's Office.

It is charged with the responsibility of supervising, monitoring and coordinating all economic empowerment activities in Tanzania.

NEEC has been closely following- up implementation of the National Economic Empowerment Policy by various sectors in the country. Responsibility of implementing the Policy rests on various stakeholders including the government, private sector and the civil society organisations. NEEC has registered a lot of achievements

#### **QUESTION:** Can you give some?

**ANSWER:** Yes we have many achievements. The government created the NEEC in 2005 and its Secretariat was constituted in May 2007. Thereafter NEEC developed the National Multisectoral Strategic Framework for Economic Empowerment (NMSFEE). The Framework guides implementers in planning their sectoral activities and interventions and on how to address empowerment of people in Tanzania.

Then we realised we were faced with the entrepreneurship challenge. NEEC developed the National Entrepreneurship Training Framework (NETF), which harmonises and standardize entrepreneurship education and skill development at different stages of education - from preprimary to university levels. Entrepreneurship skills to graduates will enhance selfconfidence, innovation and motivation to work diligently.

The framework was launched on 26th June, 2015. The respective apex institutions responsible for quality assurance and curricular development will circulate the framework to their respective institutions for implementation. Establishment of NEEC came along with the establishment and operationalisation of the Mwananchi Empowerment Fund (MEF).

MEF has provided loan guarantees of over 10 billion shillings to SACCOS and SMEs borrowers through CRDB Bank. The guarantee support enabled 10,646 beneficiaries (6,712 men and 3,654 women) from various regions to meet education expenses for their children, increase crop acreage, diversify businesses, construct new and better houses, provide nutritious and sufficient food to families, purchase of different assets in transport and agricultural implements and so on.

NEEC in collaboration with the Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC) carried out Economic Empowerment Dialogue in all the regions and districts of Tanzania Mainland and finally organised a national economic empowerment dialogue that was chaired by President Jakaya Kikwete.

The dialogues enabled the regions to identify their own potential economic empowerment opportunities and prioritised them accordingly. Furthermore, roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder were defined and timeframe for implementation worked out. The exercise led to prioritisation of 'Kilimo Kwanza' in the regional development programmes. NEEC is currently facilitating Young Graduate Training Programme.

In order to effectively prepare graduates to address the unemployment challenge, NEEC partnered with the University of Dar es Salaam Entrepreneurship Centre (UDEC) and the Cambridge Development International to conduct the Young Graduate Entrepreneurship Clinic (YGEC), that aims to empower young graduates with relevant knowledge, information; skills and capabilities so as to enable them identify available entrepreneurship opportunities and utilise them. Young graduates who participate in the training and business plans development aregiven startup capitals and others are linked to financial institutions for the loans.

Businesses of these graduates are doing well and have managed to employ other youth and raise income. NEEC in collaboration with other stakeholders sensitised and encouraged the establishment of SACCOS as an alternative way for small entrepreneurs to access loan on concessionary terms.

The initiative enabled to increase the number of SACCOS' from 1,875 in 2005 to the present 5,468. NEEC in collaboration with TPSF and COSTECH championed the establishment of Tanzania Entrepreneurship Competitiveness Centre (TECC) as provided in the National Economic Empowerment Policy.

TECC is currently implementing a 'Kijana Jiajiri programme' for under-privileged youth aged between 18 and 35 in Mtwara and Lindi. The programme is planned to cover the whole country in the next 5 years.

In collaboration with its stakeholders, NEEC has designed the Eastern, Central and Western Tanzania Asali (Honey) Corridor Programme which is geared towards sustainable beekeeping and supply of quality honey both for the domestic and international markets. Regions included in the pilot programme include Coast, Tanga, Morogoro, Iringa, Singida, Manyara, Dodoma, Tabora, Kigoma and Katavi.

**QUESTION:** Do you believe in the last eight years of your existence you have done enough to ensure the informed public is conversant with the corporate information of the NEEC?

ANSWER: Believe me we have done our best. The mandate and scope of the NEEC is very wide. It is not easy to achieve everything we would wish to achieve in eight years. Tanzania is a poor country; therefore it needs good strategies, time and resources to achieve the required milestones.

The main challenge we are facing as an organisation is to publicize the many achievements made by the government in the economic empowerment. This is a good start. Indeed in the last eight years we have

deployed information, education and communication interventions to publicize NEEC and its activities especially using print and electronic media, meetings, forums, exhibitions and symposia.

I have indicated earlier that NEEC in collaboration with TNBC conducted National Economic **Empowerment** Dialogue engaging all Mainland regions and hopefully. regions all identified economic empowerment potential and I believe all regions benefited from this effort. We have

also taken advantage of local exhibitions to inform and educate the public about the NEEC's role in the economic empowerment process.

You might wish to know that we were the overall winner in 2012 of Dar es Salaam International Trade Fair because of our exemplary performance.

Communication of organization's corporate information to the general public requires consistence and adequate resources and this is part of the challenges we are facing.

**QUESTION:** Your name carries the words: "Economic empowerment". And in some of your literature one reads that the NEEC is responsible for facilitating, designing, planning, supervising, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating all economic empowerment activities. A huge task bestowed on you, is it not?

**ANSWER:** Absolutely! This is a huge task but manageable. I am glad people appreciate that this is a huge task. The Act establishing the council mandates NEEC to play a catalytic role in facilitating, designing, planning, supervising, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating all economic empowerment activities through coordinating sectoral and multisectoral players both public and private.

To achieve this goal, NEEC developed a National Multsectoral Strategic Framework for Economic Empowerment (NMSFEE), which provides for implementation arrangement of the policy by engaging all the players.

The framework was developed in a participatory approach involving all the Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Development partners and Private organisations. The framework has identified and it guides the role of each sector and institutions in the implementation of the economic empowerment.

Detailed guidelines for different sectors were developed, which essentially instruct each sector to establish a desk and a mechanism of implementation and monitoring of economic empowerment interventions in the sector's plans.

The multisectoral guidelines for economic empowerment have indicated how sectors and Local Government Authorities will facilitate and implement different activities of the economic empowerment for the benefit of the people in their localities. The NEEC will continue to develop detailed specific sector guidelines showing how each sector will contribute to the economic development, involvement of people through sectoral participation.

The established system of coordination is also involving monitoring and evaluating trends of the economic development of the people. The framework and other guidelines to be developed, if implemented properly, will remove most of the obstacles to development by Tanzanians.

Let me mention here that we have developed and are still planning specific programmes to empower and provide employment opportunities to Tanzanians. I will give a few examples without going into details: We have 'Kijana Jiajiri programme' focusing on Mtwara and Lindi regions. But will soon be implemented in Dar es Salaam.

Young Graduate programme designed for fresh graduates who are about to complete university or equivalent courses. Bodaboda SACCOS. There are about 1,000,000 young people in this business. We shall work with them focusing on savings, business management and cooperative law.

NEEC is planning to establish empowerment centers in each LGA. We have on drawing boards aJKT programme for JKT youth. Together with the National Services are planning to start entrepreneurship training for the youth right accommodate by the JKT.

VICOBA has been in Tanzania for the over 10 years. The government has resolved to strengthen VICOBA and this is job we are going to do. NEEC in collaborations with the COSTECH will facilitate introduction of incubators labs at every university in Tanzania to back up government efforts towards offering specialized training in project design, implementation and management at institutions of higher learning.

#### QUESTION: How do you define 'economic empowerment'?

#### ANSWER: Empowerment is quite a big

topic. But suffice it to say that empowerment refers to increasing the economic, political, social and educational power of entities and people. There are different types of empowerments. Sociological empowerment, for example, often addresses members of groups that social discrimination processes have excluded from decision making processes through discrimination based on disability, race, ethnicity, religion, or gender. Empowerment is the process of obtaining basic opportunities for marginalized people, either directly by those people, or through the help of non-marginalised entities who share their own access to these opportunities. It also includes actively thwarting attempts to deny those opportunities.

Empowerment also includes encouraging, and developing the skills for, self-sufficiency, with a focus on eliminating the future need for charity or welfare in the individuals of the group.

One empowerment strategy is to assist marginalised people to create their own nonprofit organisation, using the rationale that only the marginalized people, themselves, can tell what their own people need most, and that control of the organisation by outsiders can actually help to further entrench marginalisation.

Charitable organisations led from outside of the community, for example, can disempower the community by entrenching a dependence charity or welfare. A nonprofit organization can target strategies that cause structural changes, reducing the need for ongoing dependence.

A nonprofit composed of the indigenous people, however, could ensure their own organisation does have such authority and could set their own agendas, make their own plans, seek the needed resources, do as much of the work that has to be done, and take responsibility - and credit - for the success of their projects (or the consequences, should they fail).

**QUESTION:** If what has been said in the foregoing paragraph is anything to go by, how have you fared in discharging the seven responsibilities to justify your existence?

**ANSWER:** NEEC has developed a multi-sectoral strategy for economic empowerment. The strategy guides all sectors how they can participate in the economic empowerment as per their sectoral mandates. The establishment of the Empowerment Committees at different levels of the central and local government will operationalized the strategy.

These committees will be facilitating improvement of economic empowerment of the sectors and the decentralized level of the government. Establishment of the committees will enhance and facilitate regular planning and implementation economic empowerment of activities according to the sectoral mandates.

Local Government Authorities will have dedicated technical staff who will deal with training of project design and appraisal for citizens of Tanzania in their respective areas; NEEC has been monitoring and following-up all empowerment funds established by the Government.

Popularisation and strengthening of people's grassroots organisations including cooperatives, VICOBA and other types of economic groups as tools for empowerment has been the main achievement of NEEC. NEEC in collaboration with other stakeholders has been sensitising and encouraging the establishment of SACCOS as an alternative way for small entrepreneurs to access loan through concessionary terms.

The initiative enabled to increase the number of SACCOS from 1,875 in 2005 to 5,468 by December 2013; Promotion of entrepreneurship spirit and skills in selected clusters notably the wood works/carpentry cluster which has been able to supply some of its products to mainstream markets; NEEC facilitated the cooperation between Dar es Salaam carpentry association and the furniture centre.

This cooperation has facilitated for the quality improvement by the Tanzanian carpenters and ease access to market. We have established and strengthened collaboration with institutions and organisations dealing with empowerment issues like the National Development Cooperation (NDC), the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE), International Labour Organisations (ILO), National Microfinance Bank (NMB), Foundation for Agricultural Development, GS 1 Tanzania National Limited, National Beekeeping Supplies Limited and so on.

The NEEC reviewed the National Economic Empowerment Act to identify areas that need modification in order to make the Act responsive to the economic empowerment policy. First draft of the reviewed Act has been prepared and a meeting with stakeholders from Attorney General's Chamber and from the Prime Minister's Office was held to deliberate on the draft; NEEC has designed a project with KUHN International; a company from Austria.

KUHN was then linked with the Vocational Training Authority (VETA), and Arusha Technical College (ATC). KUHN has confirmed that they will start supporting ATC for a project worth Euro 6 million to cover for workshop equipments and training of trainers.

The National Economic Empowerment Act gives the Council the mandate to register institutions and organisations engaged in economic activities. The aim of the registration is to know the types of economic activities conducted in the country and their number.

Registration certificates were issued to 44 institutions/ organisations as recognition for their participation in various trade fairs supported by NEEC; 4 SACCOS were from Singida, 9 from Lindi, 13 from Mtwara and 3 from Manyara region. About 155 institutions including SACCOS and other economic groups have been registered into NEEC data base.

NEEC acquired 200 acres of land for the development of empowerment park in Kurui village in Kisarawe district. This park will be a model park among the parks that will be established in every LGA.

KIJANA JIAJIRI is a new project supported by the Tanzania LNG Consortium (a joint venture between British Gas, Statoil, ExxonMobil, Ophir Energy and Pavilion Energy), Youth Business International and NEEC to expand and enhance support of underserved young entrepreneurs (18 - 35 years) in Tanzania, in order for them to start robust businesses, fulfil themselves and create jobs and stronger communities.

The programme has started in Mtwara and Lindi, Dar es Salaam will join them later this year and in 2016 Dodoma, Coast and Mwanza will also join the three regions.

NEEC, I repeat, participates in Sabasaba, Nanenane and Utumishi exhibitions in order to disseminate the Economic Empowerment Policy and its Act to the people. NEEC emerged winner of the category, "Small Scale Industries Support" and also the overall winner of the 36th Dar es Salaam Trade Fair in 2012.

### **NEEC supports enterprising young graduates**

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has awarded US\$ 6,000 to be used as a capital to university students for their entrepreneurial ideas.

The students, in the two tracks during the just ended Dare to Change Dar Enterprise from Ardhi University and the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) were part of a two months training run by Cambridge Development Initiative (CDI).

The initiative is aimed at strengthening entrepreneurship skills among students in institutions of higher learning in Tanzania. CDI is run by University of Cambridge students.



The Executive Secretary of the National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) Mrs. Beng'i Issa (middle) giving the award to the winner of the two months Entrepreneurship training run by Cambridge Development Initiative (CDI).

Talking during the awards presentation ceremony at the end of a second annual CDI's DAREnterprises course in Dar es Salaam, NEEC Executive Secretary, Ms Beng'i Issa congratulated the students for their well thought ideas. "We will continue supporting Tanzanian youth," she said.

The cash will be used by students as a seed capital to implement their ideas. Thirty-six students from various universities took part in the two-month DAR Enterprisers course at the University of Dar es Salaam Entrepreneurship Centre (UDEC). Each track won USD 3,000.

Students who won are Mr Moses Mtei and Mr Joel Kissava from Ardhi University and Ms Bhoke Nyaisaba from UDSM.

According to Ms Beng'i, NEEC will strive to connect other students with financial institutions to help them get capital to start implementing their ideas.

In Tanzania, CDI partners with NEEC, Dar Tecknohama Business Incubator, Buni Hub and Small Industries Development Organisation (SIDO)

## NEEC signed MOU with Tanzania Postal Bank to supports VICOBA and SACCOS

THE National Economic Empowerment Council (NEEC) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Tanzania Postal Bank (TPB) worth Tshs 700m as guarantee for loans to be extended by the bank to entrepreneurs.

The arrangement is under the government's 'Mwananchi Empowerment Fund' under NEEC. Among other duties, the fund seeks to assist individuals and groups access soft loans by direct lending or guarantee system. The money will be deposited at a bank's special fixed deposit.

That will enable the bank to lend soft loans using its own funds three times of the guaranteed money given by NEEC. There will be a flat interest rate of 11 per cent.

NEEC Executive Secretary, Mrs Beng'i Issa, told a news conference in Dar es Salaam that the agreement seeks to solve serious unemployment problem in the country. "The fund we are extending will keep on being raised as we will work with other banks," she noted.

NEEC boss said the arrangement sought to help SACCOS, especially those run by



Executive Secretary of National Economic Empowerment Council, Mrs Bengi Issa (left), exchanging MOU with Managing Director of Tanzania Postal Bank, Mr Sabasaba Moshingi (Right). Looking on at the centre Hon. Devotha Likokola, Champion of Vicoba Tanzania.

women and youth dealing with 'bodaboda' business and VICOBA groups.

TPB Chief Executive Officer, Mr Sabasaba Moshingi, said the agreement would solve problems of capital among SMEs.

"This development will greatly bring relief to the country's SMEs," he said, adding that empowering entrepreneurs would have economic impact among Tanzanians.

He urged citizens not in the financial systems to do so because it was difficult fighting poverty without financial inclusion.

#### LOCAL CONTENT UNIT COMING SOON

The Unit seeks to empower Tanzanians to become part and parcel of economic building endeavors arising from domestic and foreign investment.

The decision to establish the unit is the implementation of the directives of President Jakaya Kikwete during the eight Tanzania National Business Council (TNBC). During the meeting, President Kikwete directed the NEEC, to ensure the unit is established before the end of this year.



"The decision is very important and highly placed...this is the Council that is responsible for economic welfare of Tanzanians," NEEC Executive Secretary Beng'i Issa said.

She explained that the unit at NEEC will be established to provide leadership and guidance for priority sectors that will be decided by stakeholders. "This unit will guide us on how to involve more Tanzanians in various economic development as a result of foreign direct investment," she noted.

One of the main focuses of the unit includes workforce development through creation of local jobs and training in areas for specific works. The unit also focuses on supplier development.

This will deal with matters related to purchasing of local goods and services, transferring knowledge and skills and increase suppliers capability to meet international standards.

Another focus will be strategic community investments where communities will be helped to improve living standards and capacity through community investments. She said the unit will need staff with different skills including private sector professionals.

"Staff should be skilled in dealing with multi nationals, construction companies, interface with various ministries and training of local companies," she said. The unit will be the face of the government on negotiations of local content issues, she said, noting that NEEC will need to prioritise sectors and identify which sectors to start with.

"We will possibly form partnership with different stakeholders to gain experience and get required experience," said Ms Beng'i. The Unit will initially focus on private sector development to enable the sector to effectively participate in the FDIs coming to Tanzania.

She said the development of the private sector will have multiplier effects to the economy in terms of sector growth, employment and general growth of the economy.

#### **NEWS IN PICTURES.**



Launching of Entrerpreneurship Training



Participants of the NETF Launching



NEEC and TPB signs the agreement to Empower VICOBA and other groups



Launching of Informal Group Account by Tanzania Postal Bank



Closing Ceremony of the two months Entrepreneurship training run by Cambridge Development Initiative (CDI) and NEEC



NEEC staff in a group photo with the Minister Of State, Prime Minister's Office, Hon Eng Christopher Chiza, during his visit to NEEC

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#### **Uwezeshaji Newsletter**. June – October 2015



New energy investment Forum



New Energy Investment Forum Participants



Agreement signing ceremony between NEEC and NSSF to support the Implementation of NSSF BodaBoda program



Group photo taken during the launch of Kijana Jiajiri program for Dar es salaam Region