

... reduced the number of patients referred to India for further medical treatment by 97 percent, encouraging

Under the partnership, Apollo will provide healthcare services with advanced cancer care treatments.

Hanang' district commissioner Janeth Mayanja busies herself doing some weeding in an onion farm at Endesh in Ishponga ward while on an inspection tour of an irrigation scheme at the weekend. Photo: Correspondent Gift Thadey

By Guardian Reporter

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Page 4

Collaborate with TADB in issuing loans to fishermen - minister

MINISTER for Livestock and Fisheries, Mashimba Ndaki has asked the ministry to collaborate with the Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank (TADB) to quickly implement the distribution of loans to fishermen in the country.

Ndaki gave the order yesterday at the signing ceremony of the contract for the implementation of the project for the purchase of fishing boats and fish cages held at the prison hall in Dodoma.

The area has been allocated an amount of 60bn/- for the financial year 2022/2023, for fishermen through

cooperatives, groups of fishermen, groups of aquatic life promoters, private groups, and fishing companies.

He said the loan has no interest, so it is a unique opportunity for fish producers to increase production through the loans which will involve modern fishing tools including boats, nets, fish fry, engines, cages and inputs for seaweed farmers.

Ndaki said that the situation will help to increase the production of fish from the 497,567 tonnes produced per year in the country which does not

meet the needs in industries and food consumption. He said that fishermen and aquatic life growers should be excited about the opportunity that has been given by President Samia Suluhu Hassan, in order to take advantage of it.

The minister also asked the councils to encourage citizens to participate in large numbers and be honest in repaying loans.

Livestock and Fisheries Deputy Minister Abdallah Ulega said that the ministry will ensure that it supervises the lending of small and medium

fishermen and help young people become self-employed through fish farming and increase production so that the intended beneficiaries can get the loans.

He said, the government has given an amount of 100bn/- to the ministry of Livestock, of which 60bn/- is for fisheries and 40bn/- is for livestock.

"TADB has a big task to ensure that the loans go to the beneficiaries because many people have been complaining about the long chain of getting the loans, so the banks should be creative

to match the speed of reaching the people," he said.

Dr Christine Ishengoma, chairperson of the Standing Committee of the Parliament on Agriculture, Livestock and Water said the committee through the loans and fishing tools will help to increase the availability of fish in abundance for fishermen to increase their income.

She said the committee will continue to emphasize the availability of more loans for fishermen from TADB and monitor the implementation and

availability of funds in these projects.

TADB managing director, Frank Nyabundege said some of the bank's goals include contributing to food sufficiency and sustainable food security in the country and supporting the agricultural revolution from subsistence agriculture to commercial agriculture. "The bank is focused on all three sectors, namely agriculture, animal husbandry and fishing, so it has invested 5.3bn/- in cage fish farming to ensure a large investment in fishing in the country," he said.