

111217 The Guardian pg. 4

Govt for effective application of renewable energy – expert

appropriate

11/2/17 - The Go
By Sylvester Domasa

IN a bid to get the country out of energy crisis, the government is finalising a draft national climate change strategy and action plan to allow effective application of renewable energy in the country.

Briefing reporters in Dar es Salaam on Thursday, ahead of the new dependence and challenges of climate change conference beyond 50 years of independence, Eng Ladislaus Kyaruzi, who is the environmental manager officer in the Vice President's Office (Environment) said strategies were

underway and the drafted document would be soon handed over to stakeholders for evaluation.

He said: "I can't assure you at the moment on the exact date the plan will be unveiled but currently the document has already been drafted which describes areas for adaptation and mitigation for protecting the environment," he said.

Kyaruzi believes that the climatic change is the development issue and only adaptation needs to be prioritised.

He said after the Durban climatic change conference held recently in South Africa the government and non-state actors would have to elaborate and

implement nationally appropriate mitigation strategies as well as national adaption plans.

Kyaruzi expressed that the establishment of a national climate change steering committee was important despite the government having started forming the committee at district level.

Grace Matui, assistant programme officer at Tanzania Council for Social Development (Tacosode) challenged a system adopted by the government, stressing more strategies were needed in facilitating techniques and environmental education to local

government leaders who were implementers to meet the challenges at the grassroots.

"The government needs to review the system...changes start at the grassroots however much is needed to be done at family level. The government has to raise public awareness starting at the grassroots and not generalising as it is often doing," she claimed.

In his contribution, Fordia executive director and national coordinator Bubelwa Kaiza said: "Since the Rio de Janeiro of 1992 followed by the Kyoto Protocol in 1997, Bali action plan, 2007, the Copenhagen Accord, 2009 and the

Cancun Agreement of 2010 and finally the recent Durban conference, nothing has changed the greenhouse effect. We need a suitable elaboration of this agreement in response to our demand, which is not related to others' point of view," he explained.

Earlier, Kyaruzi said the government would be setting up the climatic change environment website that would be used to link and provide information of the environment and climatic change but the idea was also challenged by contributors who said only 13 per cent of Tanzanians had access to the internet. "Using websites as a means of creating

awareness will be not a suitable solution as the majority of people have no access to the internet," one contributor said.

The engineer pointed out that lack of technical capacity at national level had provided dependency on international consultants, which was a great challenge.

Other challenges include lack of upfront financing, lack of transparency, complicated international governance and land issues where land has to benefit the community and not foreign investors only.

"Developing countries do not like to lose economic and political powers," said Kyaruzi.