

> DAR ES SALAAM

Solving greenhouse gases concerns 'costly for poor'

Addressing greenhouse gases emissions concerns is a very costly affair and could cost the country's development if the exercise was to be fully met by the government's own budget, it has been warned.

Dr Ladislaus Kyaruzi of the Vice President's Office, Division of Environment, told a climate change dialogue forum in Dar es Salaam on Friday that development partners must assist the process in poor countries whose budgets could not even sustain other basic needs. The forum was organised by the Tanzania Development Initiative Programme (TDIP) in collaboration with the German Konrad Adenauer organisation.

Dr Kyaruzi said addressing greenhouse gases emission needed huge financing and should the burden be left only to the government, other projects would stagnate.

"We have to make sure that efforts to address greenhouse emission should not affect general development. We have to look on how and where to get funds specifically to address the problem," said Dr Kyaruzi.

He said following the Durban Conference on Climate Change, Tanzania has resolved to finalise the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan.

The government also plans to implement the National Adaptation Plans from next June. Participants of the dialogue criticised the government for not adequately sensitising the people at local level to combat climate change. The University of Dar es Salaam tutorial assistant, Mr Mruta Julius, said the government should introduce environment councils at local level. Mr Finias Magessa of UNDP said if the country opts to use efficient energy, it would reduce greenhouse gases emission. Improper use of energy, particularly, biomass has resulted in unreliable rainfall that had impacted on the existence of natural forests. **(Bernard Lugongo)**