

Interfaith Council members discuss environment

BY JACQUELINE SOMBE

The Inter-Religious Council for Peace Tanzania in collaboration with Konrad Adenauer Stiftung a political foundation registered and founded in Germany with the aim of promoting and protecting democracy, good governance and international relations held a workshop about their mission and responsibilities on integrity of creation and challenges of climatic changes yesterday in Dar es salaam.

The workshop further focused on how their religious leaders can fulfil their mission by helping their followers to un-

derstand the impacts of climatic changes and guide them in their response towards it. Speaking during the dialogy Dr. Bishop Stephen Munga of CCT Dodoma addressed

a total of about 50 representatives of the faith based organisations(FBO's) Dr Munga said that religious leaders have to accept that we have major problems as a country in our climate for instance the ice of mount Kilimanjaro is melting different from how it was in the 1970's.

He added that scientific researches indicate that the human is mostly involved in this challenge because we are the source of climatic changes.

During the workshop, speaker Dr. Aidan Msafiri, a senior lecturer at St. Augustine University Mtwara branch said "we as faith based organisations we have to use the faith that we stand on top bring habitual changes through our faith because it is power of example, character formation, integrity and a new mind so we have to impart these issues about environment to our follower".

Furthermore he added that as we need to create a culture to start growth and deep changes from individual level, then it will be able to flow easily at a communal level and national stage.

Dr. Msafiri also explained that as

religious leaders they have a role to play as role models by being pro active concerning the environmental factors in the nation by acting independently to keep the environment safe.

On the other hand the renewable energy expert "nishati associates" Mr. Finias Magessa who was another speaker of the workshop said that the effect of climatic changes that we experience now is the result of pollution that took place in the past 100 years.

Magessa further explained that there many sources of energy that can be used to create energy without destroying the environment of which many are not

emphasized in our country comparing to countries like Germany that generate a lot of energy.

The religious community leaders started this move after they had recently signed a jointly developed communique in which they committed themselves to create awareness among their faithfuls and encourage and promote actions renewal and protection of the environment.

Their influence on their followers allows them not only to impart knowledge on how to mitigate climatic changes but also will educate their followers on proper environment management.