



THE Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice-President's Office (Environment), Mr Ngosi Mwihiwa, poses with a book on climate change that was launched yesterday in Dar es Salaam. Looking on are Mr Stefan Reith (centre), Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Resident Representative and Mr Hans Koeppel (in glasses), Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. (Photo courtesy of KAS)

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Germany to continue helping in mitigating climate change effects

By BILHAM KIMATI

GERMANY has reaffirmed its commitment to help Tanzania mitigate effects of climate change, focusing on community awareness as the best approach to instill the concept of sustainable conservation of the environment.

Speaking at the launching of a book on climate change and its consequences on socio-economic development in Tanzania, Deputy Head of Mission of the German Embassy, Hans Koeppel, said climate change is a risk multiplier as extreme weather causes cyclones, drought, floods and food shortages.

"Some social conflicts and disruption of peace result from effects of climate change due to

loss of territory. Germany will continue working closely with the government and the people of Tanzania and the international community to address challenges of climate change," Koeppel said. Representatives from all Germany institutions working in the country, he added, meet to discuss how best to tackle the associated challenges of climate change.

The book has been published by the Civic Education Teachers' Association (CETA) in collaboration with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Tanzania.

The Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Vice-President's Office (Environment), Mr Ngosi Mwihawa, said involvement of students in efforts to stop deforestation was

a commendable approach to promote and sustain the culture of conservation of the environment.

"Well informed society can plan better through civic education. Control of factors contributing to climate change can be addressed better through change of mindsets. Informed students and other stakeholders can serve as reliable ambassadors to stop forces behind climate change," Mwihawa said.

Briefing on the content of the book, Salim Olotu, the Executive Director of CETA, Stefan Reith, Resident Representative of KAS Tanzania and Finias Magesa, consultant and expert on climate change said the young generation can play a leading role in fighting the consequences of climate change.

It is stated in the book that Tanzania already experiences impacts of climate change, including severe and recurring droughts with devastating effects to agricultural, transport, energy, business and socio-economic sectors.

Currently, more than 70 per cent of all natural disasters in the country are hydro-meteorological and are linked to prolonged drought and floods. During such periods, agriculture is paralyzed and thousands of livestock die due to starvation and lack of water.

"From time to time Tanzania suffers serious power crisis with severe social and economic implications. Floods for example were devastating to human life and property and destroyed infrastructure."