

Government boosts ICT throughout Tanzania

By Mgeta Mganga

THE government of Tanzania has made concerted efforts to give a push to the spread of Information Communication Technology (ICT) countrywide as a key vehicle towards achievement of the Tanzanian Development Vision 2025.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Communication and Transport, Salim Msoma, said this in Dar es Salaam recently.

"The true source of power is not money in the hands of a few but information in the hands of the majority," he said.

The speed, sophistication and convenience which IT technology provided had changed the world.

Msoma said through ICT empowerment, people's lives

and business transactions were becoming even more efficient and effective.

"ICT is not a neutral player as it seeks to reward those who embrace it and stagnate those who disregard it," he explained.

Therefore, the government had taken many steps aimed at reaping benefits from this global reality.

He mentioned the steps as creating a conducive environment for investing in the ICT industry, and formation of a national policy, which addressed key areas, that needed attention in order to realise ICT for all.

Others were having adequate and well skilled personnel in ICT, to avoid becoming just recipients of inappropriate technologies, Msoma said that Tanzanians

should realize that to be a competitive leader in the dynamic and rapidly changing world of financial technology, a bank must develop and execute a strategic technology plan that supported its overall business goals and dynamics.

"Due to the speed at which technological changes occur, many of the developments bypass the majority of businessmen, and the population in general, and hence the so called digital divide phenomena where we have the information haves and have nots," he said.

He concluded by reminding his listeners that the banking and financial services sector was one of the crucial sectors of the national economy.