

Postal Bank launches debit card

'Our aim is to reach 1,000 service providers before the end of the year'

By Tawanda Tahwa

Tanzania Postal Bank yesterday launched its first smart-card, Uhuru Debit Card.

The card is set to provide flexible and easier banking facilities by allowing its holders to do away with cash transactions always.

Speaking at the launch, the bank's managing director, Alphonse Kihwele said that Uhuru will enable customers to make payments directly from their account at point of sale devices or Automatic Teller Machine (ATM).

In addition, it will allow an account holder to get his balance and mini statement through the ATM. A pin that restricts unauthorised usage will control the card.

Its use includes the purchase of mobile phones re-charge vouchers from the Uhuru Card service provider.

"You can use your Uhuru Card at any TanPay SpeedCash ATM located at Tanzania Postal banks or Federal

Bank of the Middle East (FBME) locations countrywide," he added.

Moreover, the card is also meant to reach out rural communities through the 115 offices the bank has established throughout the country.

To keep track of one's spending, the transactions will be printed on the card holder's bank statement.

The director stated that the bank has trained 400 people on how to provide the necessary service for this new service.

TPB has entered into agreement with 35 business dealers so that customers can enjoy a five per cent discount if they purchase at these business using the Uhuru Card.

"Our aim is to reach 1,000 service providers and put in place TanPay SpeedCash ATMs before the end of the year," he added.

In another development, the bank has also announced plans to launch the Dodoma branch while the Arusha and Millenium Towers branch will be renovated before the end of 2005.

The Mwanza branch will also be renovated like the Manzese one.