

Kigoda wants more support for SMEs

THE government yesterday called for increased financial support to the informal sector to lift millions of Tanzanians out of poverty.

"Over 70 per cent of the private sector in Tanzania is at present part and parcel of the informal sector," Minister of State (Planning and Privatisation), Dr Abdallah Kigoda said in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

"The government approved SME Development Policy in 2003.

"We are currently negotiating with the World Bank for a major facility to enable us to implement the policy," Dr Kigoda said while officiating at Eurafrikan Bank Business Empowerment

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Programme.

"It is envisaged that this facility will enable us to implement the SME policy," he added.

He commended the Eurafrikan Bank for introducing Business Empowerment Programme, saying it was a sign of the private sector's awareness and acceptance of the need for proactive private public partnership in economic transformation.

He also said the cornerstone of the transformation process remains the creation of a

competitive private sector as the engine of growth.

The minister further added that in the spirit of free market, the government continues to establish an enabling environment and leave the private sector to respond on its own.

The Bank's Chairman, Mr Fulgence Kazaura, said the programme was aimed at enhancing the capacities of local enterprises to grow and effectively compete in global economy.

"This forum motivates participants in their business endeavours by giving them tools to deal with hurdles and help them sustain their entrepreneurial drive," Mr Kazaura said.