

TBS insists on quality certificates for products

By Judica Tarimo

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has asked small and medium scale producers to secure quality certificates to attract local and international markets for their products.

The TBS Director, Daimon Mwakyembe, said this in an educative forum for SMEs on standardisation, processing and packaging of local products last week.

About 60 SMEs from Morogoro, Lindi, Mtwara, Coast and Dar es Salaam Regions attended the seminar TBS organised.

Mwakyembe said that low quality products could hardly secure reliable source of markets. Quality and certified

products by TBS would add value to their products.

"That's why we have organised such forums to educate you (SMEs) on how to produce best and standard products", said Mwakyembe. Locally produced products that met the standards could survive competition posed by local and imported ones.

The TBS director told the SMEs to effectively the skills and knowledge acquired from the seminar in their production activities to meet standards as specified by TBS.

The government, in cooperation with TBS had launched a new project aimed to educate and help SMEs produce products that were accepted nationally and internationally.

Under a broader and countrywide poverty reduction strategy (Mkukuta) the government was financing the long-term SMEs empowering project.

Mwakyembe said that the focus was to make goods manufactured by local SMEs more competitive, and thus contributed to the country's economic growth and increase national income.

"We intend to expand markets for our SMEs," said the director.

In the project implementation, TBS educated the SMEs on different forms of standards, screen and certify their products and issue licences and certificates free of charge.

"I appeal to SMEs to submit

their products to TBS for verification and subsequently receive standards licenses and certificates," Mwakyembe said.

TBS would soon conduct an intensive inspection in SMEs production premises in a bid to uncover SMEs that sold products which had not been certified by TBS.

The crack down, to be jointly carried out by TBS and Small Industries Development Organization (SIDO), intended to ensure production of quality goods, enhance consumption of locally produced products and increase government revenue.

"Such operations will be done regularly to make sure SMEs maintain the standards all the time," said Mwakyembe.