

# TGT trains members of 6,000 SMEs

By George Michael

AN local institution, Tanzania Gatsby Trust (TGT), has trained members of 6,000 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) on technology, business management loans and on improving the quality of their products.

The TGT General Manager, Olive Luena, has said that TGT, in collaboration with technical colleges, has helped SMEs get working tools such as machines so as to improve practical

training for students. This will build the capacity of students to employ themselves when they complete their training.

"TGT connects SMEs to technology which is available at the University of Dar es Salaam in order to solve the problem of lack of up-to-date technology. In collaboration with University of Dar es Salaam, TGT has established a project to assist SMEs benefit from technology which is available at the Faculty of Engineering and Technology and through Technology Transfer and Development Centre (TDTC) and University of Dar es

Salaam Entrepreneurship Centre (UDEC)," she said.

The project aimed at linking students of Engineering Faculty with Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) so as to enable them know the problems they faced and to provide education on the preparation of feasibility studies on business of SMEs.

"Lack of proper premises for doing business is one of the major problems facing small producers and small businessmen. Recognising this problem, TGT has used about 30m/- to rehabilitate the former slave market in Mtwara so that members

of SMEs can use it," she said.

TGT also contributed to the establishment of community banks so as to provide financial services to SMEs easily. TGT has bought shares amounting to 20m/- in Mwanga Community Bank (MCB).

The institution had also sponsored research of formation of community banks in Tandahimba, Masasi and Iringa Rural districts, she said.