

Americans provide Sh7bn for Tanga-Horohoro road project

By Beatus Kagashe

The American people are supporting the upgrading of the 65km Tanga-Horohoro road. The project is being implemented through the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA-Tanzania).

The road will be covered with bitumen.

The work on the Tanga - Horohoro road is the first of six different road segments that will be rehabilitated and upgraded under the Mainland Trunk Roads project, which is part of the \$698.136 million MCC Compact.

According to the press release by the US Embassy, representatives

from the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), regional and local officials and representatives from the Tanzania Roads Authority (Tanroads) visited the site.

Last December, Sinohydro won the tender for construction works contract after an open international competition. The total value of the contract award was nearly Sh69.9 billion (\$ 53.8 million).

The work will be conducted under the overall supervision of MCA-Tanzania and Tanroads, assisted by personnel from the International Consultants and Technocrats Pvt (ICT).

ICT was awarded its construction supervision contract by MCA-Tanza-

nia in September 2009.

Other roads being financed under the Compact includes Tunduma to Laela; Laela to Sumbawanga; Peramiho Junction to Mbinga; and Songea to Namtumbo.

Construction contracts for all these roads are in place and the procurement process for the remaining work contracts is now well underway.

"Top quality firms from around the world have already passed the first procurement phase and been pre-qualified for the second and final bidding stage," the statement read.

MCC and MCA-Tanzania expect to award the five remaining works contracts for the Mainland Trunk Roads project over the next few months.

The Mainland Trunk Roads project is only one of several important transport sector activities underway under the MCC Compact between the United States of America and the United Republic of Tanzania that went into effect in September 2008.

Other projects in the transport sector include an upgrading of up to 36 km of rural roads in Pemba and the improvements to Mafia island airport. The MCC Compact also includes major components that will provide significant assistance in the energy and water sectors.

The American people will provide a total of \$698.1 million in US assistance under the Compact through September 2013.

Motorcycles top the list of accidents during 2009

By Faraja Jube, Dodoma

More than 3,500 road accidents which occurred last year involved motor-cycles and tricycles known as Bajaj, the Parliament was told in Dodoma yesterday.

The minister for Infrastructure Development, Dr Shukuru Kawambwa, said the motorcycles and tricycles were involved in 3,945 accidents in 2009.

He said the statistics show that the number of accidents involving motorcycles and Bajajs represented 13.8 per cent of the total 30,836 road accidents in 2009.

Dr Kawambwa said his ministry was preparing regulations to govern the use of motorcycles and Bajajs as the means of public transport.

He said his ministry through Surface and Marine Transport Authority (Sumatra) and the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local government would identify areas in which motorcycles and Bajajs would operate.

Currently, there are no specific identified areas in which motorcycles and Bajaj could park.

However, he said motorcycles and Bajajs would continue to operate under the 1973 Road Traffic Act.

He said all motorcycles and Bajajs should be registered.

The operators should pay licence fees as well as income tax and have Sumatra transportation licence through municipal councils.

Dr Kawambwa was responding to a question by Special Seat MP Ania Chaurembo who wanted to know specific areas in which motorcycles and Bajajs are allowed to operate and types of revenue paid.

Meanwhile, the government has said there is no plan in place for upgrading Likware (Nyoni)-Langiro road to tarmac level.

The minister for Infrastructure Development, Dr Shukuru Kawambwa told the Parliament that due to financial deficit, the upgrading of the road would be done periodically to tarmac level.

Responding to another question by Mbinga East MP Gaudence Kayombo, Dr Kawambwa said 10 construction companies had pre-qualified in a tender process for the upgrading of a 78km Peramiho-Mbinga road to tarmac level.

New child health project launched

By Citizen Reporter

African Medical Research Foundation (AMREF) and the European Union yesterday launched a campaign in Dar es Salaam to cut maternal and child deaths.

Mr Raimondo Bussi, who spoke in behalf of the Head of the EU delegation, Ambassador Tim Clarke, said although Tanzania had achieved incredible improvement in child care and the rate of child mortality had dropped by 30 per cent in the last decade, statistics on maternal mortality were frightening.

"We had decided to offer our help because researchers tell us that 70 up to 80 per cent of these deaths are avoidable," said Mr Bussi.

He added that what was needed was funding to achieve the goal because the world had the science, the medicine and the technology to prevent the deaths.

"Now each life lost is a tragedy, but the death of a mother is an exponential tragedy, it leaves an orphan, a crippled family a crippled community and a crippled country," clarified Bussi.

The chief medical officer in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Deo Mtasiwa, said the project would help reduce maternal death rate, which ranges at 578 per 100,000 women gone for deliveries.

"As the project is going to work hand in hand with the Primary Health Sector plan towards improving delivery services," said Dr Mtasiwa.

Under the programme, he said communities would be empowered to actively participate in health services access.

The AMREF head of women and Children health for Africa Zone, Dr John Ndubu said the rate of maternal and child deaths in Tanzania exceeded the number of deaths caused by accidents.

"Try to look at your watch, every minute one woman dies for delivering problems caused by unsafe deliveries, every year more than half a million women die because of this."

Dr Ndubu urged the government to invest in health to alleviate this problem, no organisation will deal with this problem.

Mtwara Regional Medical Officer, Dr John William Burisha, said the programme would cover Mtwara and Tandahimba in Tanzania, Kenya and Southern Sudan because they had high mortality rates.

"I think they decided to choose these regions because they have high death rate," said Dr Burisha while thanking AMREF for choosing his region to start with the programme.



Dr Gilbert Mliga (left) of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and Mr Raimondo Bussi of the European Union display a poster on a campaign of reducing maternal and child deaths in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

PHOTO/FIDELIS FELIX

Turks: We'll establish cultural ties with Z'bar

By Florence Mugarula, Konya in Turkey

Turkey's cultural and tourism experts have shown interest to establish relations between cities of Konya and Zanzibar.

Konya is one of major tourist attractions in Turkey. Two million people visit it a year.

The deputy director of the Konya culture and tourism directorate, Mr Mehmet Yunden, said yesterday here

that it would be good if the two sides will agree and see the importance of sharing experience on preserving historical areas in Zanzibar.

He said his department will table the proposal to the government on the possibility of launching a project that will create a relationship between Konya and Zanzibar in terms of maintaining and preserving historic sites.

The culture and tourist boss added that Turkey was earning billions of US dollars from culture and tourism sector

and that the same thing could be done in Zanzibar. "Zanzibar is a very potential area, I am quite sure the sector can play a great role to uplift Tanzanian economy," said Mr Yunden.

He added that the study conducted shows that Zanzibar has everything to attract tourists and the only thing it should do is to promote the business and make it popular to the entire world.

"Konya is a very important historic city in Turkey, the area carries the histo-

ry of Maulana Celaleddin Rumi, many people from different parts of the world come here from time to time to pray and tour the place where he lived," he said.

According to The Citizen observation in Konya city, it has been established that there were many tourists regardless the cold climate on which the temperature is now ranging on five degrees centigrade.

Many tourists were coming from China, Japan, Saud Arabia, Germany and other Western countries.

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