

Coffee Board SACCOS: its ten years of success

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MOSHI—THE Savings and Credit Cooperative Society of the Tanzania Coffee Board (TCB-Saccos) has provided loans to its members amounting to Tsh984.580 million since it was established ten years ago.

This was said by the Society's chairman, Elias Temu, when addressing the tenth TCB-Saccos Annual General Meeting, (AGM), which was held in Moshi, Kilimanjaro region, recently.

"Our SACCOS realized a surplus of Tsh8 million last year, while the members' share capital increased to Tsh1.6 billion. The combined deposits and capital comes to a total of a little more than Tsh380.36 million," Temu said.

According to the chairman, the institution's membership has doubled from the initial 17 when it was established in 2000 to 34 today.

Temu said the number of members has been rising and falling due to several reasons. These include the deaths of some of its members; retirement and

resignation – usually after changing employers.

Temu named another achievement of the TCB-SACCOS as a seminar it organized last year for its members. The seminar was facilitated by experts from the Moshi University College of Cooperative & Business Studies (MUCCoBS).

The chairman also cited as yet another achievement the fact that the SACCOS was operated without loss or incurring huge debts since it was established ten years ago.

However, he noted that repayment of short-term loans by its members wasn't good enough, admitting that this was "one of the challenges the SACCOS is facing."

Repayment of "other loans by the members is excellent; but repayment of short term loans by our members is one of the main challenges faced by our institution," he stressed.

"Another challenge was the handling by the SACCOS of the big PPF (Parastatal Pensions Fund) loan acquired by the Society for on-lending to its members," Temu said.

Apparently, the Society acquired a loan from the PPF amounting to Tsh266.6 million in 2008 to fatten its loan portfolio.

On the way forward, Temu said the institution plans to increase its membership, savings, shares and deposits, so as to improve its status.

Speaking during the occasion, the TCB director-general, Engineer Adolph Kumburu, urged members of the TCB-SACCOS to "advise TCB workers who are not members of the Society to join the institution, so as to improve their economic and general welfare."

In the speech read on his behalf by Engineer Daudi Kiangi, Kumburu said that, by joining the Movement, workers would not only improve their SACCOS, but also their wellbeing and that of their families.

"The TCB-SACCOS is in a good position to promote the economic interests and general welfare of its members through mobilization and savings, credit and other services provided by the SACCOS", he explained.