

DAILY NEWS 15/7/2008

JK touts co-operative societies

**From DEOGRATIAS MUSHI
in Tanga**

PRESIDENT Jakaya Kikwete yesterday directed Tanga regional leaders to see to it that co-operative societies were established at village level to curb smuggling of food outside the area.

Speaking after receiving the Tanga Region development report at Nejero Village, Kilindi District, the President said the societies should be under trained leadership.

He said Tanga Region authorities

should provide training to co-operatives to enable them remain sustainable and profitable.

Mr Kikwete who began his nine-day tour of the region, said if the food produced by farmers was stored well, the region would not face food shortage this and next year.

He told the Tanga regional leaders to be cautious with business people who come from neighbouring regions and countries to lure farmers to sell their produce at low prices.

He said co-operatives would provide good prices to farmers and

eventually get rid of unscrupulous traders who cheat farmers.

The president laid the foundation stone for new Kilindi District designated hospital, being built by friends from Finland at the cost of 2bn/-.

The hospital, the first in the District, will be owned and run by Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT) - Northern Eastern Diocese.

Speaking during the occasion, the Diocese's Bishop Stephen Munga said the hospital would offer services to all the people in the district irrespective of their creed.

Earlier, the Tanga Regional Commissioner, Mr Mohammed Abdulaziz, requested the government to facilitate the construction of Tanga-Horohoro Road being financed under Millennium Challenge Account (MCA).

He said the regional authorities have already established modalities of compensating those who would be affected including religious organisations.

The president is today scheduled to inspect various development projects in Handeni District and address a public rally in the evening.