

PLAN UNDERWAY

Document under preparation to guide all scientific and technological innovations

New science policy in pipeline

Minister for Communication, Science and Technology, Prof Makame Mbarawa, says the envisaged policy is geared at meeting present needs

By The Citizen Reporter

Arusha. The government is preparing a new science, technology and innovation (STI) policy, whose formulation will involve players from different sectors, the minister for Communication, Science and Technology, Prof Makame Mbarawa has announced.

He revealed this when opening the first training seminar for stakeholders who will be involved in the process.

The week-long seminar took place at the Nelson Mandela African Institute for Science

and Technology (NM-AIST), a pan African institution located at Tengeru area on the outskirts of the city. It started operations in 2011.

Prof Mbarawa said that Tanzania has invested enough in scientific research facilities and that it was time to have a new science, technology and innovation policy in place that would meet needs of the present.

NM-AIST vice chancellor, Prof Burton Mwanjila, said that the institute had already undertaken training on entrepreneurship for experts and, according to him, similar training programmes would be organised for policy makers, including those specialising in STI.

Such training stints have been offered by the college

The just-ended training was also attended by journalists, who according to the NM-AIST officials, were key in the promotion of science and technology.

A senior academician at the institute, Dr Ahmad Kipacha, said many research findings had ended up in shelves without reaching the intended people, who could be easily reached through the media.

A research scientist with the Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Dr Prosper Pius Chaki, said that in the era of science and technology it was vital that research findings were accessed by people freely.

He challenged the media to report on STI and to ensure some of their reporters specialise in scientific research reporting.

BACKGROUND: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY IN TZ

Science and technology are powerful instruments for development. In Tanzania these have played a major role in the country's economic development.

Some of their contributions include improvement of the overall productivity by instituting structural changes in the methods with which producers increase output.

with the support of the United States government, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) and other partners.