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JK keen on uplifting poor

DAILY NEWS Reporter

Daily News; Thursday, November 30, 2006 @00:08

PRESIDENT Jakaya Kikwete yesterday expressed his resolve to ensure that the Property and Business Formalisation Programme, Mkurabita, attains its objectives as soon as possible.

The president made the statement when officiating at the National Consultation Conference on the Legal Empowerment of the Poor held in Dar es Salaam.

He pointed out that Mkurabita remains a major component of his government's political programme. The conference was organised by the Commission on Legal Empowerment of the Poor (CLEP).

"Empowering the poor is an agenda I zealously campaigned on. Therefore, I have a personal interest in seeing to it that it attains its objectives as soon as possible", the president said.

President Kikwete further said that it is the government's belief that as long as the poor live outside recognised and enforceable laws, they will never know prosperity, adding that the law has to work for the poor and most disadvantaged in the society.

He said that the government through Mkurabita and other similar programmes will continue to work with the stakeholders in developing short, medium and long term products that will address the demands towards the legal empowerment process.

The session was attended by former president, Mr Benjamin Mkapa and the Co-Chairperson of the CLEP, Dr Madeleine Albright, and was chaired by former Minister for Industry and Trade, Mr Iddi Simba.

During the conference, Dr Albright likened extreme poverty to a prison in which "far too many people are trapped, a prison that is overcrowded and without justice."

The former US Secretary of State went on to say that they have learned that it is not enough to raise national income or increase national rates of economic growth while the majority of the population is excluded.

She also said that they are aware that many anti-poverty strategies have been tried in the past hinting that programmes that are producing good results should be continued.

"Our goal is not to start over; it is to do better", she said.

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