

By NASHON KENNEDY

Fisheries master plan can work wonders

A MASTER Plan (MP), according to experts, is a dynamic long-term planning document that provides a conceptual layout to guide future growth and development.

MP is about making the connection between social settings or buildings and their surrounding environment.

It is important in any community, organization, government or a state because it helps in estimating the timeline and cost of the project, which helps in effectively planning the project, but further helps in generating income even before completion of the project.

In case of good planning of cities and towns, MP helps to guide communities in their decisions on land use development and preservation, but also supporting the community to make inclusive financial smart decisions in any project which needs to be implemented.

The government has recently launched the fisheries Sector Master Plan (FSMP) (2021/22-2036/37) with the aim of providing a strategic framework for the long-term management and sustainable development of the sector.

The FSMP was officially launched by Prime Minister Mr Kassim Majaliwa at a function held in Dar es Salaam at the University of Dar es Salaam and witnessed by various government officials, fishery stakeholders and citizens.

The FSMP has a great importance in the growth of the fishing industry in line with implementation of the Blue Economy policy.

Speaking during the launching ceremony, Premier Majaliwa said the existence of various programs in the fishing sector will enable fishing resources in the country to be protected, managed and developed in a sustainable way and ultimately contribute fully to generating income and employment.



Mr Ndaki said the plan has also focused on the contribution of the fishing industry in eradicating the country to fully utilize the opportunities available in the Blue Economy and the challenges raised by stakeholders in the various areas touched during the preparation of the plan.

It also focused on promoting blue economy, attracting investments, infrastructure development, value addition,

fighting illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU)

About the master plan, The development of the FSMP (2021/22-2036/37) according to the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has been based on the principle of the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and Aquaculture (LAF&A).

It involved extensive consultations with stakeholders to

PRIME Minister Kassim Majaliwa cuts a ribbon to inaugurate fisheries sector master plan to be implemented in the period of 15 years. On his left is the Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Mr Mashimba Ndaki and right is the Chairperson of

However, the master plan will provide an overall strategic framework and guidance for sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in terrestrial Tanzania in the next 15 years.

The FSMP is comprehensive enough to achieve national, continental and global goals in food and nutritional security, poverty reduction, job creation, resilience against climate change impacts and conservation of

ing a strategic framework for the long-term management and sustainable development of the sector, is also an essential link to the National Fisheries Policy (2015). National Plan of Action for Small Scale Fisheries (SPSA-SM) (GoT/Infas2021) and other local and global initiatives, including application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) in the institutional framework for improved

more than inland aquaculture, of the ecological system and freshwater improved research, monitoring and reporting systems, improvement of labor and fish health, improved capacity building, compliance and enforcement of management measures, fisheries infrastructure development, inclusive economic zone (IEZ) and fishery-fishing opportunities and cross-cutting issues.

The guiding principles also include support to capacity building, strengthening regulatory systems, and ensuring regulatory coherence, all states, production, handling, value addition and marketing of aquaculture products, financing investment, space, environmental health and spatial planning, aquaculture production technologies, environmental fish culture and trade and aquaculture cross-cutting issues.

The launching of the master plan in Tanzania has come at the right time as it will increase fish stocks in the lakes, rivers and seas, although fish stocks are still faced with various challenges, such as illegal fishing activities.

It will also ensure the role of fish production will govern the sector will gain their hands in order to ensure the master plan is implemented well.

This however will increase fish production in the country and increase government revenues, employment, nutrition and good health to people living around lakes and rivers.

According to the official data from the ministry of livestock and fisheries, the fish catch from inland and marine waters ranged from 315,533 tons in 2005 to 473,592 tons in 2020.

About 85 percent of the production was from inland capture fisheries, 14 percent from marine capture fisheries and one percent from aquaculture.

annual fisheries' historical report (2006-2018). By 2020, fish production in Tanzania fluctuates with an increasing trend over time.

The trend of estimated fish catch from inland and marine fisheries increases from 200 (1,200) tons in 2005, ranged from 2100 (1,200) to 3,100 (1,300) tons in 2018, compared to a total of 450,000 tons.

Marine fisheries production included that in 2019, the total catch was 1,200 (1,200) tons, compared to 1,200 (1,200) tons in 2018, which was the lowest in 2014.

Of the 2019 harvest, 105,000 tons were harvested in inland waters and 1,100 (1,100) tons from marine waters compared to 105,000 (1,100) tons in 2018, which is 10,000 tons more harvested from inland waters and 60,000 (60,000) tons from marine waters.

The increase in the harvest was due to the decline of illegal fishing activities such as marine fish stocks, which are illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU), which is not recorded.

It would also help to keep growing at an average annual rate of 1.5 percent and per capita growth rate is increasing food security and the sustainability of the fishing industry. The current per capita fish consumption is 8g and can increase 40 percent of daily intake per capita and the contribution of 1.1 percent of the GDP and provide direct employment.

Since the fish sector master plan will provide an overall strategic framework and guidance for sustainable management and development of fisheries and aquaculture in terrestrial Tanzania in the next 15 years, stakeholders and other fishing stakeholders will gain their hands in order to ensure the master plan for the betterment of the country's progress comes from the fishing sector.