



WALKING
THE TALK

BUILDING A PROSPEROUS TANZANIA



What 260bn/- fishing port means to Southern Circuit

By DAILY NEWS
Reporter

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Preliminary preparations for the construction of the fishing port have started, with geological investigation of soil (soil testing), said Kilwa District Commissioner, Ms Zainabu Kawawa recently.

She said the port is envisaged to produce 60,000 tonnes of fish annually that will be supplied in the local markets and for export.

"Experts have assured us that basing on the nature of our sea, the port will have the capacity to fish out at least 60,000 tonnes annually," said the DC.

The government also plans to procure fishing vessels for a special zone of deep sea resources as a key step to capitalise on the Blue Economy.

In its third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III), the government has placed much focus on 'Blue Economy' by encouraging sustainable use of the water or 'blue' resources.

The plan places emphasis on productive activities that rely on water-based resources include fishing, offshore prospecting and extraction of oil and gas, tourism, fish farming, aquaculture, shipping and maritime transport, seabed extractive industries, marine biotechnology, bio prospecting and offshore renewable energy.

Further, robust systems of maritime peace and security are key to attracting investment in water-based resources. Therefore, in implementing this plan, the government is putting in place an enabling business and investment environment in order to attract local and foreign investors so as to increase the contribution of this sector in the national economy.

Recently, the Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries, Abdallah Ulega told the National Assembly that the project is expected to be accomplished within 24 months.

The deputy minister was responding to a basic question by Kilwa South MP, Ally Kassinge, who had sought to know when the strategic project would take off.

According to Mr Ulega, the agreement for the execution of a project involving the Ministry and M/S China Harbor Engineering Company was signed on June 7, 2022.

Mr Ulega said preliminary preparations for the construction of the port have started and construction is expected to be completed within 24 months.

Such was good news for people of Kilwa and Lindi Region in general, as DC Kawawa insisted that the doors were open for more investors to set up their businesses especially in the tourism hospitality industry.

"We've enough land (beach plots) inclusive for investors to set up hotels and other recreational facilities," she said.

For her, this port will be one of the strategic projects that will spearhead the Resilient Natural Resource Management for Tourism and Growth (REGROW) project, which among other things, seeks to strengthen the management of protected areas and promote nature-based tourism in Southern Tanzania.

"The new port will add up to well-known attractions that Kilwa is blessed with, which include clean natural beaches, coral reefs, ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara," said the DC.

She also said that Kilwa, well known as the Persian City, still exists and is well preserved as a World Heritage site.

Designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1981, Kilwa Kisiwani is one of the renowned historic tourist destinations in Tanzania, housing many landmark historic structures, including the Great Mosque and the Mkuini Palace.

"The district is placing much emphasis and focus on tourism promotion and

preservation of nature. The infrastructures are perfect to allow investments and the district could be easily reached by sea, road or plane. We've a well-functioning airport here," she said.

Her sentiments were equally shared by the District Executive Director (DED) Eston Ngilangwa, who said Kilwa is a unique place, with a good number of historical sites ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara.

Kilwa remains one of the popular historical sites in Tanzania, East Africa, Africa and the world at large. The history of Kilwa has existed since time immemorial. This is due to the fact that it is one of the popular areas that were used as capitals since slave trade when Arabs invaded East Africa for trading activities. For instance, there are so many buildings on the coast that were built by colonialists like the Portuguese palisade in the area.

"It is believed that these two towns (Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara) by then (from 9th to 11th century), were more modern than London. Kilwa was the semi-global system of trade between India, China, Middle East and East Africa," Mr Ngilangwa said.

With the ruins remaining unspoiled and the extensive historical site worth seeing, Kilwa is a typical representation of Swahili civilization and culture of East Africa.

"Kilwa Kisiwani is the first town in the history of this world to use currency in trade but few people including most Tanzanians know this fact, it is imperative, we remind the world of this fact," the DED said.

He said apart from ocean tourism, where tourists could enjoy ocean breeze, surf ocean waves and explore the nature of living species in the sea, one can also learn about the 'Majimaji Circuit' Maji Maji Uprising (1905-1907).

He said the uprising which lasted for two years and involved people over 10,000 square miles started in Kilwa and ended in Songea, Ruvuma Region. The Maji Maji uprising in Tanganyika was the most significant African challenge to German colonial rule

during the brief period when Germany had African colonies.

"In Kilwa, we also have Pindi Nature Forest Reserve (PNFR), which covers an area of about 12,249 ha. The reserve is the largest remaining coastal forest among the nature reserves of Tanzania. The forest serves as habitat for white hippopotamus (hippos with albinism) that are found only in the area in Tanzania," Mr Ngilangwa said.

The reserve has other numerous tourist attractions that include crocodiles, grants galago (Galagoides granti), the laser-pouched rat (Beams hinde) and chequered elephant shrew (Rhynchocyon cirnei macrurus). Others are

Nyange dam, network of riverine forests, Mbalahala hills, worshiping sites and German ruins.

In regard to the fishing port, Mr Ngilangwa said it will certainly be the biggest facility of its kind in Africa and that fact is enough to pull a number of visitors and business persons from across the world.

"This port will enable Kilwa to retain its lost glory as a trade hub in the world. Modern fishing equipment including vessels and scientific fishing methods will be applied. It will involve deep sea fishing, processing and exportation of varieties of fishing products," he said, adding that the main markets will be Asia

and Europe.

Kilwa is also rich in ocean tourism, according to Daudi Gidioni, a Tour Guide at Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara. He said many visitors come for nature-based tourism, such as swimming and snorkeling on coral reefs.

"Kilwa offers clean, calm water, pristine beaches, regenerative seafood and stunning coral reefs as well as other marine and coastal ecosystems, which form the land and seascape that attracts many tourists and many are coming to enjoy."

Mr Gidioni said that the Indian Ocean is home to several species including largest organisms on earth, and Kilwa, he says also attracts

some of the unique species including dolphins and even sharks.

To promote ocean tourism, the Tanzanian Wildlife Authority (TAWA), has availed a glass-bottom fiberglass boat, which is quite seaworthy and it provides a perfect view for visitors to explore a wide variety of fish species, coral reefs and sand.

Speaking about the ruins of Kilwa Kisiwani and Songo Mnara, Mr Gidioni said that the Sultan's palaces contained good internal sanitation. The royal palace buildings that were built during the rise and existence of the coastal trading city of Kilwa were well designed for comfortable city life. The structures dem-

onstrated unique construction and were built to a high standard of what we now call modern conveniences.

"The royal family and relatives enjoyed the luxury of good internal sanitation. The buildings used local materials including coral stones," he said.

The ruins such as the biggest mosque in East Africa by that time are believed to be built around the 11th century by the Islamic merchants who came to the coastal area for trading activities.

These buildings still exist as one of the famous ruins that attract many people to visit the place. It attracts both domestic as well as international visitors.



Re-election of Brahim Ghali as

By Special Correspondent

Africa faces marine fisheries resources

THE goal of fisheries management is to produce sustainable biological, environmental and socioeconomic benefits from renewable aquatic resources. Wild fisheries are classified as renewable when the organisms of interest (e.g., fish, shellfish, amphibians, reptiles and marine mammals) produce an annual biological surplus that with judicious management can be harvested without reducing future productivity. Fishery management employs activities that protect fishery resources so sustainable exploitation is possible, drawing on fisheries science and possibly including the precautionary principle.

Modern fisheries management is often referred to as a governmental system of appropriate environmental management rules based on defined objectives and a mix of management means to implement the rules, which are put in place by a system of monitoring control and surveillance. A popular approach is the ecosystem approach to fisheries management. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), there are "no clear and generally accepted definitions of fisheries management". However, the working definition used by the FAO and much cited elsewhere is:

The integrated process of information gathering, analysis, planning, consultation, decision-making, allocation of resources and formulation and implementation, with necessary law enforcement to ensure environmental compliance, of regulations or rules which govern fisheries activities in order to ensure the continued productivity of the resources and the accomplishment of other fisheries objectives.

According to the FAO, fisheries management should be based explicitly on political objectives, ideally with transparent priorities. Political goals can also be a weak part of fisheries management, since the objectives can conflict with each other.

For the most recent several decades, the political goals in fisheries management of commercially important species have been rapidly evolving, primarily driven by (1) a recognition of the response of fish and other target animals to changing climate, (2) new technologies for fishing particularly on the high seas, (3) development of competing policy priorities for aquatic environments leading to a more ecosystem-based approach to fisheries management, and (4) new scientific insights about the processes affecting fish population size and recruitment. The political objectives operative in recreational fisheries management are often substantially different from those

prevalent in commercial fisheries management. For example, catch-and-release regulations are common in some types of recreational fisheries.

Fisheries objectives need to be expressed in concrete management rules. In most countries fisheries management rules should be based on the internationally agreed, though non-binding, Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, agreed at a meeting of the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) session in 1995.

Many countries have set up Ministries/Government Departments, named "Ministry of Fisheries" or similar, controlling aspects of fisheries within their exclusive economic zones. Four categories of management means have been devised, regulating either input/investment, or output, and operating either directly or indirectly:

A large scale study in 2008 provided strong evidence that ITQs can help to prevent fishery collapse and even restore fisheries that appear to be in decline. Other studies have shown negative socioeconomic consequences of ITQs, especially on small-scale fisheries. These consequences include concentration of quota in that hands of few fishers; increased number of inactive fishers leasing their quotas to others (a phenomenon known as armchair fishermen); and detrimental effects on coastal communities.

Traditional management practices aim to reduce the number of old, slow-growing fish, leaving more room and resources for younger, faster-growing fish. Most marine fish produce huge numbers of eggs. The assumption was that younger spawners would produce plenty of viable larvae.

However, 2005 research on rockfish shows that large, elderly females are far more important than younger fish in maintaining productive fisheries. The larvae produced by these older maternal fish grow faster, survive starvation better, and are much more likely to survive than the offspring of younger fish. Failure to account for the role of older fish may help explain recent collapses of some major US West Coast fisheries.

A Fishery Manager's Guidebook issued in 2002 by the FAO advises that a set of working principles should be applied to "highlight the underlying key issues" of fisheries management.

Managing fisheries is about managing people and businesses, and not about managing fish. Fish populations are managed by regulating the actions of people. If fisheries management is to be successful, then associated human factors, such as the reactions of

fishermen, are of key importance, and need to be understood.

Fisheries mismanagement is due, in part, to corruption. Corruption and bribery influence the number of fishing licenses that are distributed and to whom, as well as the negotiation of fishing access agreements.

The environmental impact of fishing includes issues such as the availability of fish, overfishing, fisheries, and fisheries management, as well as the impact of industrial fishing on other elements of the environment, such as bycatch. These issues are part of marine conservation, and are addressed in fisheries science programs.

Fisheries also have an evolutionary impact on species, especially related to the implementation of minimum landing sizes.

Marine resources are resources (physical and biological entities) that are found in oceans and are useful for humans. The term was popularized through Sustainable Development Goal 14 which is about "Life below water" and is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015. The official wording of the goal is to "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development".

Marine resources include:

- biological diversity (marine biodiversity)
- ecosystem services from marine ecosystems, such as marine coastal ecosystems and coral reefs
- fish and seafood
- minerals (for example deep sea mining)
- oil and gas
- renewable energy resources, such as marine energy
- sand and gravel
- tourism potential

The text of Target 14.7 of Sustainable Development Goal 14 states: "By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing states and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism".

Fisheries and aquaculture can contribute to alleviating poverty, hunger, malnutrition and economic growth. The contribution of sustainable fisheries to the global GDP was around 0.1 per cent per year.

The African marine fisheries sector is huge. It's valued at more than US\$24 billion per year.

The sector is comprised of two main players. One is the continent's artisanal or small-scale fishers, a form of fishing conducted on small fishing boats by coastal communities. The other is industrial fisheries, including trawlers and distant water

fishing fleets.

These vessels are sometimes owned by African nationals but mostly overseen by international fishing companies or as part of a joint venture. Fishing by non-African fleets is done through access agreements or licenses issued by African states.

Perhaps surprisingly to some, the small-scale fisheries make a greater contribution to the continent's economy than their industrial counterparts. They're also vital to the livelihoods and diets of millions of people.

In Africa, the fisheries and aquaculture sector employs about 12.3 million people. Half of these are fishers, the rest work in fish processing and marketing, or fish farming. Their catch feeds millions.

But all is not well in Africa's oceans. Distant water fleets are over-exploiting fish stocks through overfishing and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. This is because there's limited domestic or regional capacity to monitor the activities of these trawlers and enforce existing laws.

It's hard to provide exact data, because the actions of some of these fleets are unsanctioned, but it's estimated that in west Africa, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is the equivalent of 40 per cent to 65 per cent of legally reported catch.

The marine fisheries sector is under threat due to these unsustainable rates of fishing, and also because of weak fisheries governance. Some African states are trying to address the problems of unsustainable fishing through the introduction of new policies and management practices. In a recent paper, we reviewed four case studies of such measures, from Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, and Somalia.

Our findings demonstrate two things. First, fisheries governance measures in Africa are largely constraining small-scale fishers, while failing to contain the industrial fisheries sector.

Second, despite a higher incidence of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in industrial fisheries than in small-scale fisheries, efforts to develop and regulate fisheries continue to advance the industrial sector. African states have continued to enter new agreements and issue new licenses to distant water fleets. They also fail to institute stringent measures to curb their illegal activities.

We argue that the small-scale fishing sector is better adapted to meet the continent's nutritional and socioeconomic needs. States must therefore redirect efforts to govern fisheries towards regulating the industrial sector. They must also ensure small-scale fishers have priority access to nearshore fishing grounds and fish stocks.