

## Members of Parliamentary Family Planning Club spark on FP budget in Dodoma

The Government had been asked to increase budget for health sector for adequate medical supplies towards improving Family Planning (FP) services for women and children's better health. The statement was raised by some members of Parliamentary Family Planning Club (PFPC) in Dodoma Hotel on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July this year during the launching ceremony of the club.



The club was launched by the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Hon. Lucy Nkya. In her speech, she thanked the MPs forming the club with constitute (42.6% of all MPs).

*“My Ministry understands the importance of mother and child health; and I will be a member and so my permanent secretary. I will also send a note to the minister to be a member too.”* said Hon. Nkya.

*Hon Lucy Nkya unfolding the curtain during the launching of the club*

On the other hand, the Acting Chairperson for the launching Hon. Mary Mwanjelwa claimed that the issue on Family Planning has not been prioritized by the Government since the budget reduces every year despite the fact that demands are higher and all sectors' success will depend on whether the country has a manageable population.

In her official contribution during the parliamentary budget debate, Hon. Jenister Mhagama the chair of the club noted that it was unbearable that the budget for family planning was dependent on donors and the situation of service on mother and child including family planning was of very poor quality. She noted that his excellence president has shown the lead but ministry was letting him down.

*Members of the club seen in picture after the launching session*



On another hand, the Executive Director of Human Development Trust (HDT), Dr Peter Bujari clarified on the current situation whereby the 2011/2012 budget faces deficit. “The actual demand for FP requires 37.9 bn/-, however the ministry only allocates an excess of TZS 1 billion for family planning indicating its less focus on the area. He noted that while the allocation to family planning is such meager, the ministry requests eight times (8 billion) for allowances of different types.



*Members of the club listening to Dodoma RMO, Dr G. Mtei when visiting Dodoma Regional Hospital*

On his introducing remarks the Regional Medical Officer, Dr Geoffrey Mtei said there is high demand for FP expertise to improve services which currently most clients are denied of permanent FP procedures.

The Parliamentary Family Planning Club (PFPC) envisages achieving three objectives namely:

**Objective 1:** To advocate for increase in funding for FP to meet needs according to NFPCIP by June 2015

**Objective 2:** To demand accountability by Government on access to FP services in all districts by June 2012

**Objective 3:** To engage parliament on FP issues by June 2013

The Advance Family Planning (AFP) is a project under John Hopkins and Tanzania Centre for Communication Programs (TCCP), whereas HDT is a leading partner among Advocacy on HIV and AIDS in Tanzania (ANAT), Association of Journalist against Aids in Tanzania (AJAAT) and Uzazi na Malezi Bora Tanzania (UMATI) in implementation.

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