DCEA hunts drug traffickers who fled abroad

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE Drug Control and Enforcement Authority (DCEA) has intensified efforts to track down Tanzanian drug traffickers who fled to neighbouring countries, following intelligence reports that members of international narcotics syndicates are hiding in southern Africa to evade arrest.

DCEA Commissioner General Aretas Lyimo said the authority is working closely with law enforcement agencies in Eswatini, South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia to identify, arrest and extradite the suspects to face justice in Tanzania.

Speaking in Dar es Salaam, Mr Lyimo said the cross-border operations form part of broader efforts to dismantle international drug trafficking networks that continue to use Tanzania as a transit route for illicit narcotics.

"We have established operational cooperation with the relevant authorities in these countries after receiving intelligence that some Tanzanian drug traffickers have fled there. Joint operations will continue to ensure they are arrested and brought before the courts," he said.

The announcement came as DCEA unveiled the results of nationwide anti-drug operations conducted between May and June this year, during which authorities seized 22.6 tonnes of narcotic drugs, 30.5 litres and 19.94 kilogrammes of narcotic-based medicinal products, destroyed 228.5 acres of cannabis farms and arrested 188 suspects.

The operations also led to the destruction of 3.3 tonnes of cannabis and khat, while six vehicles, two tricycles (bajajis) and 33 motorcycles used in drug trafficking were confiscated.

Among the major seizures was 19.94 kilogrammes of products labelled as 'AFA CELL (Moringa Extract)' intercepted at the export cargo terminal of Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam.

Laboratory analysis established that the products contained 'Prazepam', a controlled benzodiazepine medicine with narcotic properties.

The consignment had been imported from Malaysia and was being prepared for shipment to Barbados in the Caribbean.

Three suspects identified as Agustino Ismaely (30), Zamia Upunda (23) and Habiba Mziga (54) were arrested in connection with the case.

Mr Lyimo warned that although Prazepam is prescribed to treat anxiety, stress and insomnia, misuse without medical supervision can lead to addiction, damage to the nervous and respiratory systems, unconsciousness and even death.

In another operation in Kinondoni's Manyanya area, officers intercepted 34.87 kilogrammes of khat concealed beneath crates of tomatoes aboard a Fuso truck that had travelled from Tarakea in Kilimanjaro Region after entering Tanzania from Kenya.

Three suspects, including the truck driver, conductor and a bajaji operator involved in distributing the consignment, were arrested, while another suspect believed to be in Nairobi remains at large.

Joint inspections conducted by DCEA, the Government Chemist Laboratory Authority (GCLA), the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) and the Tanzania Medicines and Medical Devices Authority (TMDA) also uncovered 122 cans of energy drinks branded 'TRIP' containing tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive chemical found in cannabis, at a supermarket in Dar es Salaam.

TANZANIAN delegation led by Deputy Minister for Finance Eng Mshamu Munde (second left) and Shelter Afrique Development Bank (ShafDB) headed by Charles Kazuka (right) in discussion on the sidelines of the 26th Annual General Meeting of shareholders of the African Trade and Investment Development Insurance (ATIDI) in Nairobi, Kenya, yesterday. (Photo by the ministry)

Govt eyes listing up to five state firms on DSE

By FLORIAN JAMAX

THE government plans to list up to five state-owned enterprises on the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) by the end of the 2026/27 financial year, in a move aimed at broadening public ownership, mobilising investment capital and deepening Tanzania's capital market.

Treasury Registrar Nehemia Mchechu announced the plan on Thursday at the closing of the 13th Building African Financial Markets (BAFM) Forum, saying the government has completed internal assessments and directed the selected institutions to begin preparations.

"We have completed the internal analysis on which corporations will be brought to the market and instructed them to start preparing for the listing process," Mr Mchechu said.

"At this initial stage, we are targeting two public corporations, but if everything goes according to plan, we hope to list four or even five state firms."

He said the names of the institutions will only be announced after receiving the required approvals from the Capital Markets and Securities Authority (CMSA) and the DSE.

Mr Mchechu said the initiative forms part of broader government efforts to strengthen the country's capital markets while reducing reliance on public financing for state-owned enterprises.

He added that listing the firms would enable ordinary Tanzanians to own shares in public corporations, expanding investment opportunities and promoting wider public participation in the economy.

"Public ownership becomes more meaningful when shares are listed on the stock exchange because citizens can directly own part of these companies," he said.

He noted that listed companies are also subject to stricter disclosure, transparency and corporate governance requirements, improving accountability alongside existing government oversight.

The two-day forum, organised by the DSE in collaboration with the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) under the theme: 'Driving Capital Market Growth in Africa through Innovation, Integration and Inclusive Participation', brought together delegates from more than 16 African capital markets and international institutions.

Mr Mchechu said discussions were focused on expanding African capital markets, mobilising domestic savings for infrastructure financing, increasing retail investor participation and strengthening the role of stock exchanges in supporting economic growth.

He added that Tanzania also intends to promote cross-border listings as African financial markets become more integrated.

CRDB Bank Senior Manager for Stock Brokerage and Advisory Services, Mr Iman Muhingo, said the proposed listings would inject fresh momentum into the domestic market after several years without a major initial public offering since Vodacom Tanzania's listing in 2017.

Kadoo Securities Chief Executive Officer Justin Amos said the forum highlighted the growing role of innovation and technology in expanding access to capital markets across Africa.

Dar to host global marine conservation summit

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

TANZANIA has been selected to host the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Nairobi Convention (COP12), scheduled for October 6-9 at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre (JNICC) in Dar es Salaam.

The event is expected to strengthen the country's position as a leader in marine and coastal conservation while creating opportunities for investment, tourism and the growth of the Blue Economy, a key priority under the National Development Vision 2050.

Announcing the development yesterday in Tanga, Deputy Minister of State in the Vice-President's Office (Union and Environment), Mr Reuben Kwagilwa, said the selection reflects the international community's confidence in Tanzania's leadership in the sustainable management of marine resources.

He noted that Tanzania earned the hosting rights after being appointed Chair of the Nairobi Convention Executive Committee during the 11th Conference of the Parties (COP11) held in Madagascar in 2024.

Mr Kwagilwa said the conference will bring together government leaders, environmental experts, scientists, investors, international organisations and other stakeholders to discuss sustainable ocean management and the Blue Economy.

He said Blue Economy promotes sustainable use of oceans, lakes, rivers and coastal resources to generate economic growth while protecting environment. Key sectors include fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, maritime transport, marine energy, marine minerals and carbon trading.

According to the deputy minister, the country expects the conference to attract new investment, advanced technologies and strategic partnerships that will add value to marine resources and stimulate economic growth.

He added that the event will also boost conference tourism by attracting hundreds of international delegates, benefiting the hospitality, transport and other service industries.

Beyond the economic gains, Mr Kwagilwa said the conference will enhance Tanzania's capacity to address marine pollution, plastic waste and climate change while strengthening regional cooperation on the conservation of shared marine resources in the Western Indian Ocean.

Held under the theme "Towards a Sustainable Blue Economy in the Western Indian Ocean for People and Nature: A 40-Year Journey," COP12 marks four decades of the Nairobi Convention's efforts to protect the marine environment while promoting sustainable economic development.

TZ secures 1.9bn/- to strengthen climate governance

By SUSAN MMARY

TANZANIA has secured a major boost to its climate governance efforts after the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding worth 7 million NOK (1.87bn/-) to strengthen the country's capacity to monitor greenhouse gas emissions and participate in international carbon markets.

The one-year inception phase will support the National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCMC) in establishing institutional, technical and financial systems for monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions in line with the Paris Agreement and the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

The project will also lay the foundation for a national carbon registry, strengthen climate transparency systems and position Tanzania to access climate finance and emerging carbon market opportunities.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, Norway's Ambassador to Tanzania, Tone Tinnes, said effective climate governance depends on strong institutions.

"Strong climate governance begins with strong institutions. Through this partnership, Norway is supporting Tanzania in building the systems needed to strengthen climate transparency and unlock climate finance," Ambassador Tinnes said.

UNDP Resident Representative Shigeki Komatsubara said the organisation was proud to partner with the government, the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the NCMC to help Tanzania meet its international climate commitments.

He said the initiative builds on UNDP's previous support, including assistance in preparing Tanzania's first comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory in 2018, and will strengthen governance systems, institutional capacity and strategic partnerships needed for the centre to fulfil its expanded mandate.

NCMC Chief Executive Officer Kathryn Kigaraba described the agreement as a major milestone for the institution and Tanzania's climate agenda.

She said the project would establish governance systems, partnership frameworks, technology readiness and institutional procedures necessary to meet international standards and attract climate finance.

"Our ambition is clear. We want the National Carbon Monitoring Centre to become an institution recognised for integrity, transparency, professionalism and credibility," she said.

Deputy Chairperson of the NCMC Board, Mr Khamis Khamis, said the agreement is a strategic investment in national institutions and comes at a critical time following the establishment of the NCMC as a statutory body responsible for greenhouse gas management, carbon markets, monitoring and verification systems, carbon project registration and research.

Under the one-year inception phase, the project will establish financial management and governance systems, conduct a national assessment of MRV and carbon market gaps, prepare an investment-ready MRV programme, develop a private sector engagement strategy and assess technology requirements for a national carbon registry and digital MRV system.

The initiative is being implemented under the Tanzania-Norway bilateral climate cooperation agreement signed in September 2023, which prioritises climate transparency, climate finance and stronger climate governance.

TBS warns traders against unregistered, substandard goods

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS) has warned traders and importers against dealing in unregistered and substandard products, including food and cosmetics, as it intensifies market surveillance across the country.

TBS Eastern Zone Manager, Engineer Cyril Kimario, issued the warning during the destruction of 5.6 tonnes of substandard goods in Mkuranga District, Coast Region.

The destroyed consignment included expired house paints, banned cosmetics containing harmful ingredients and expired food products.

"TBS continues to remove and destroy substandard goods because their use poses serious health, environmental and economic risks to consumers. Our operations are aimed at ensuring that only safe and approved products reach the market," Eng Kimario said.

He said the agency remains committed to protecting public health by removing products that fail to meet national quality and safety standards.

According to him, some prohibited goods are smuggled into the country through unofficial entry routes to evade inspection.

"TBS staff remain vigilant to ensure all products available on the market are registered and comply with the required standards. Our goal is to ensure no Tanzanian is harmed by using unsafe products," he said.

Eng Kimario urged consumers to avoid purchasing expired goods and banned cosmetics, encouraging them to report suspected substandard products to the authorities.

He also warned traders and importers that legal action would continue to be taken against those found importing, distributing or selling prohibited products.

The bureau said the destroyed goods were seized during routine and surprise inspections conducted in warehouses and markets as part of ongoing efforts to protect consumers and ensure fair trade.