Use new plan to tackle diseases, urges govt

By Filbert Rweyemamu
The Citizen Correspondent

Arusha. The government has exhorted local institutions to effectively use an international research programme launched here yesterday.

The minister for Livestock and Fisheries Development, Dr Titus Kamani, said, if well utilised, the programme aimed at exploring factors that transmit animal-to-human diseases would go a long way in preventing diseases such as Ebola.

The Zoonoses and Emerging Livestock System is a $92.5 million research and training programme supported by six British funding agencies.

Tanzania is hosting four of the 12 projects funded within the programme preceded by a seminar which the minister also opened here yesterday.

"This study is unusual in that medical, veterinary and social scientists will be working together, collecting quantitative data, such as that relating to infection dynamics, and qualitative data, such as that relating to behavioural change," Prof Sarah Cleaveland of the UK-based University of Glasgow said.

She said the study would also emphasise interactions with farmers, consumers and policymakers to gain a broad understanding of different perspectives.

"By integrating our findings we aim to produce models that can help predict changes in disease risks as well as in policy shifts and institutional changes that might be required in the battle to reduce the burden of these zoonotic diseases," she added.

The programme will consider the drivers, risks and impacts of, among others, brucellosis, Q fever, and Rift Valley fever; and hazards associated with zoonotic enteric pathogens in emerging livestock meat systems.

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CUF candidate stripped of membership as polls near

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By Haika Kimaro
The Citizen Correspondent

Mtwarra. The Civic United Front (CUF) in Mtwarra Region has stripped Mr Salum Sudi alias Sabe of the party membership.

Mr Sudi was also the party's candidate for Magomeni B Street chairmanship in polls to be held tomorrow.

The CUF secretary in Mtwarra District, Mr Said Kulaga, told reporters here that Mr Sudi had been stripped of his membership after he campaigned for a rival CCM candidate.

He did so last Thursday. He said on that day, donning CUF attire, Mr Sudi campaigned for the CCM candidate during the ruling party's rally. That happened at Citrus Street in Chikongole Ward when CCM members were campaigning for their candidate who is competing with that of NCCR-Mageuzi.

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DAR ES SALAAM

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"Campaining for a CCM candidate is a gross violation of our code of conduct. It is something which we can't tolerate because it amounts to sabotaging our party," he said. Before the penalty, Mr Sudi was also working as CUF deputy director for rights and legal affairs in the district as well as chairman in Magomeni B Street.

"When he was summoned during a meeting he admitted to have campaigned for the CCM candidate. In his defence he said he did not regard doing so as a mistake and when he was asked to apologise he refused. That is when we reached the decision to strip him of the membership," said Mr Kulaga.

When he was asked by this reporter why he did so, Mr Sudi said he campaigned for the CCM candidate because he did not want that of NCCR-Mageuzi to win.

"I didn't want the NCCR-Mageuzi candidate to win because the party has acted against an agreement we reached under Ukawa [the Coalition of Defenders of the People's Constitution]," he said.

Ukawa brings together four opposition parties: Chadema, CUF, NCCR-Mageuzi and NLD. One of their basic agreements was to field a common candidate for each position in an effort to beat CCM. Each candidate should be supported by all four parties.

DEMOCRACY: Candidate campaigns for street chairperson ahead of civil polls