

Call for efforts to combat drug abuse

From NESTORY NGWEGA in Tanga

RESIDENTS of Tanga region have been urged to join efforts in fighting narcotic drug abuse in order to save the lives of youth who have been addicted.

The call was made here yesterday by Tanga District Commissioner, Ms Halima Dendego, during commemoration of Narcotic Drugs Day held at Tangamano grounds.

She said the problem of drug abuse in Tanga city was alarming as many youths were affected, thus there was a need for deliberate

efforts to be taken by the whole community to fight the vice.

She said following increase of the problem, the district had started a campaign to educate youth groups in various areas, in collaboration with some non-governmental organizations, to take measures to help youths who have already been affected by narcotic drugs.

She said so far a sober house in Magomeni area in Tanga city had registered about 70 drug addicts who were undergoing physical

and mental treatment in order to bring them back to normality.

She however said the number of affected youths was bigger, hence there was a need to expand the capacity of the sober house in order to recruit many affected youths.

“At a sober house we give them support including health and mental treatment as well as counselling in order to reform their lives. Many of them are well; therefore, I urge the residents of Tanga to support the sober house because the

youths need food and other requirements,” she said.

Speaking during the event, a sober housekeeper who is also one of the affected youths, Mr Salum Amour, asked the government to provide employment to youths who have reformed from the sober house so they would not engage again in drugs.

“Our problem is employment... we don't know what to do after leaving here. We want the government to give us jobs. Many of us might revert to drugs if we shall have nothing to do,” he said.