

More midwives to be trained

By FRANK KIMARO

THE government through the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare intends to increase enrolment of students in health schools for various medical and paramedical training, including nursing and midwifery to 10,000 students per year by 2017.

Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Seif Rashid, revealed this yesterday when he was launching the state of the world's midwifery report 2014 titled "A universal pathway. A woman's right to health."

"The government understands the importance of having skilled midwives who are key in our efforts to reduce maternal and newborn deaths," he said.

He further said the ministry continues to strengthen nursing schools with the best curricula which will help them attend to patients with great efficiency.

"The ministry has started to strengthen nursing

and midwifery schools to train students in competence based curricula to ensure quality product output. Newala and Nachingwea are among the schools which have started to benefit from this scheme," he said.

On her part, UNFPA Programme Specialist, Ms Felister Bwana, explained that Tanzania is among the countries which need to improve four sensitive areas for health providers especially midwives.

The world's midwifery report has focused on 73 of the 75 low and middle income countries that are included in the countdown to 2015. More than 92 per cent of all the world's maternal, newborn deaths and still births occur within these 73 countries.

The report shows that only 42 per cent of the world's medical midwifery and nursing personnel are available to women and newborn infants in these countries.