

UN coordinator, PMO-RALG urge precautions on MDGs

By Nelson Kessy

Economic stakeholders from various parts of the country have expressed alarm that the government was not involving most people effectively in developmental activities in order to realize the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on time.

However, the lack of involving citizens in development activities in the community may lead to failure

in accomplishing some MDGs 2015 goals, according to Jama Gulaid, the UNICEF Representative and Acting UN system resident coordinator.

Speaking in an interview at midweek, at a seminar for localization of implementation of the post 2015 development agenda in Tanzania, economic stakeholders raised concern that without involving citizens in development activities it will be difficult to accomplish various MDG goals by late 2015.

The representative noted

that since 2000 Tanzania has been making good progress in achieving MDGs, including universal primary education, promoting gender equality, empowering women and reducing maternal and infant mortality.

“As the deadline for MDGs approaches, some countries are intensifying efforts in accomplishing set goals by late 2015 through involvement of the whole community, which is feasible in Tanzania as well,” he said.

Lack of community

involvement in the MDGs as it was agreed to involve the grassroot communities and local governments is critical for the impact of MDGs, as lacking this dimension affects efforts to localize the concept in the society, he stated.

On the basis of this weakness, Tanzania has expressed interest to localize the post 2015 agenda, thus it is organizing consultations around the post 2015 development agenda focusing mainly on implementation issues and monitoring progress

on MDGs 2015.

Dr. Hoseana Lunogelo, executive director for the Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) said that community involvement is necessary since it is cumbersome to wait for the government to perform everything. “It is so essential for different stakeholders to be involved in development activities taking place in the community,” he emphasized.

Meanwhile, Jumanne Sagini, the Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister’s

Office, Regional Administration and Local Government, (PMORALG) said that good governance needs to be conducted and involve the whole community so as to accomplish the MDGs on time.

Citizens’ involvement especially in education and health sector projects is important, so I call upon communities from village level to the central government to get involved so as to accomplish MDGs 2015 on time, the ministerial executive intoned.