

# Tanzania short of 200 dentists

By Vicent Mwanjika

The country is facing an acute shortage of dentists, leading to thousands of dental cases to go untreated in local hospitals, the Government has revealed.

Deputy Minister for Education and Vocational Training Gaudensia Kabaka said there was one dentist in every regional hospital, which translates into a shortage of 200 personnel.

"We have very few dentists in the country due to lack of training facilities," she said at a ceremony to launch an ultra-modern facility at the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (Muhbas).

The \$3-million facility was officially inaugurated by President Jakaya Kikwete yesterday.

Ms Kabaka said the new facility was a result of efforts by the Government and its development partners to make up for the shortage.

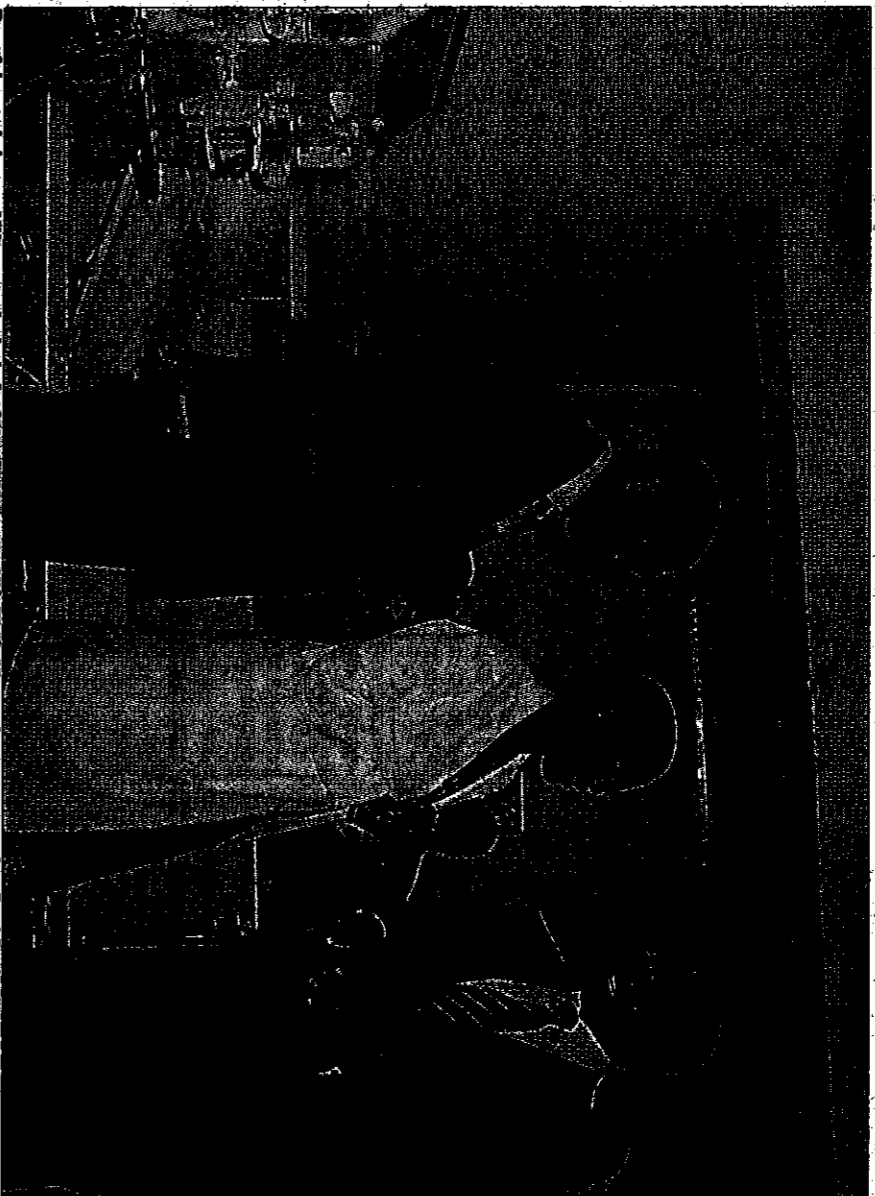
She promised that plans were afoot to train more dentists over the next seven years.

President Kikwete said the Government was keen to see to it that Tanzanians did not travel outside the country seeking treatment for various ailments.

"We want every Tanzanian to get health services in our hospitals here. We are now concentrating on building capacity of our major hospitals to deliver quality and affordable services," said President Kikwete.

He listed some of the advanced services already offered at Muhimbili as dental clinics, neurosurgeon and kidney dialysis.

The dental unit was established with support from Abbot Foundation in partnership with the Miracle Cor-



President Jakaya Kikwete is briefing a renal dialysis unit operators by Dr Linda Ezekiel, a consultant anaesthetist, during the opening ceremony of the new renal dialysis unit at the Muhimbili National Hospital. In the center is Dar es Salaam Minister for Health and Social Welfare Prof David Mwanjika.

ness of the World (MEW) all from the US, apart from dental building and facilities. President Kikwete also inaugurated emergency services facilities, the Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), CT Scanner, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and the Renal Dialysis Unit. The MEW Executive Director, Mr

Billy Bergman, appealed to the Government to improve conditions for professionals as a way of stemming the problem of brain drain that affects dentists as well.

"I ask the Government to encourage medical experts to stay here. Tanzanians badly need their services. I

also call on medical experts to remain here and serve their people," said Mr Bergman.

On his part, the Minister Vice-Chancellor Prof David Mwanjika said the Government would continue to help in setting up a new centre of excellence in the region.

## Moshi police arrest 'cannibal'

By James Lwaka, Moshi

Police in Moshi are holding a man on suspicion of killing his relative and then eating parts of the fleshy body.

The suspect is under police restriction in his hospital bed at the KCMC in Moshi, where he is admitted.

According to the Kilimanjaro police boss, Mr Lucas Ngi'oboko, the suspect, who is estimated to be 37 years old, was rescued from an irate mob, who wanted to lynch him following the murder at Kiboshe-Kindi village in Moshi Rural.

He said the suspect used an axe to kill his victim for unknown motives and then opened his guts, pulling out intestines and the penis to eat.

Shocked villagers who arrived at the scene as the suspect ate the organs, descended on him but quick intervention by the police saved him from death.

"We were shocked at seeing him eat the intestines and other organs. Other people who could not understand the bizarre behaviour ran away but some descended on him with all sorts of weapons," one villager said.

Some eye witnesses claimed, the suspect once killed a dog and also ate its flesh.

## Expert witness pins Yona and Mromba

By Rosina John

An expert witness yesterday told the Kisumu Resident Magistrate Court that the Government rejected an opinion regarding the award of a contract to a firm before Alex Stewart Stewart Co Ltd.

Mr Godwin Nyelo, a geologist and acting head of legal and financial affairs at the Ministry of Energy and Minerals, told the Court in Dar es Salaam that he was in a four-man team of expert witnesses involved in searching for a geophysical firm before Alex Stewart Stewart Co Ltd.

assigned to monitor activities of the company, representing the Government's interests.

He witnessed many irregularities despite the company's assurance that revenues would rise significantly.

Meanwhile, behind the court that discussed with other stakeholders showed that there was a bribery in entering into contract with Alex Stewart Co Ltd.

she rejected his opinion.

he was later

## Gates launches \$21m potato project for Africa

By Danna Kanyabwoya

The International Potato Centre (CIP) has launched a project to exploit untapped potential in sweet potato farming.

The project will improve nutrition, income and food security for one million farming families in Tanzania and other seven sub-Saharan countries.

A statement released yesterday in Dar es Salaam said the project, Sweet Potato Action for Security and Health in Africa (SASHA), will also be implemented in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Mozambique, Malawi, Ghana, and Nigeria.

It will be funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the tune of \$21

million.

"Melinda and I believe that helping the poorest small-holder farmers grow more sweet potato and get it to market is the world's single most powerful lever for reducing hunger and poverty," the statement quoted Mr Bill Gates as saying during the project launch on the World Food Day in Iowa, USA.

Sweet potatoes are the third most important food crop in East Africa in terms of production and the fourth most important in Southern Africa. It produces better yields in poor conditions with fewer inputs and less labour than other staples, making it particularly suitable for households threatened by migration, civil disorder, or diseases like AIDS.

Yet, the potential of this crop to address these challenges is largely untapped due to a lack of investment to improve yields, market potential and a negative perception as a poor person's food.

"This project will improve the food security, nutrition, and livelihoods of at least 150,000 families directly, with an indirect impact on one million families in Sub-Saharan Africa in five years, and the creation of conditions to reach 10 million households in 10 years," explained Dr Pamela K Anderson, director general of the International Potato Centre in the statement.

The project will establish three regional support centres to be based in leading national research centers in

## IPTL turbines miss 'switch-on' deadline

By Florence Mugarura

IPTL's turbines were still switched-off yesterday with no official explanation as to why they were not turned on the day before as the Government had announced.

The Minister for Energy and Minerals, Mr William Ngeleja, promised the public that the IPTL and Tegeta power plants would start generating 145 MW by November 1 to mitigate power rationing problem.

However, until yesterday, there were no signs of generating power from the two plants and the Government officials were not available to talk on the matter. One of the IPTL's workers told *The Citizen* that the management was not in position to talk about the matter because there were some misunderstandings between the Government and IPTL.

"I guess something is wrong between the two sides, the officials are not ready to talk about the matter—even to us who are in the same office," said the worker.

Efforts to reach the minister and his deputy, Mr Kigoma Malina, proved futile, as their mobile phones were unreachable.

Commenting on the state of power rationing, Tanesco public relation manager Badra Masoud said that the company had a deficit of 125MW in the national grid.

According to Ms Masoud, an additional 20MW from Songas power plant a week ago had helped to reduce power rationing and that more efforts were ongoing to end the problem.

However, she declined to explain IPTL's failure to turn on their turbines.

Ghana, Uganda, and Mozambique that will strengthen national potato breeding skills and capacity.

"Uganda has seen how sweet potatoes have helped provide food security during times of severe food shortage and when other crops succumb to disease. We stand ready to share our experience with others," said Mr Dennis Kyetere, director of the National Agricultural Research Organization of Uganda.

The SASHA project will also focus on empowering women farmers. "Women are nutritional guardians of the family and the primary producers of sweet potato, but they do not typically reap the rewards from their labour," said Dr Anderson.