

'Economic growth resulting in environmental degradation'

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THE general economic growth the country is currently experiencing is resulting in increased environmental degradation, especially in most farming areas, a local economist has said.

University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) Economics lecturer Dr Godius Kashyarara said, noting that while there was a boom in the economy,

increased farming activities were also resulting in the destruction of the environment and hence measures were necessary to ensure both sides were addressed.

He was speaking yesterday at the official inauguration of the Environment for development Tanzania (EfDT) project.

"There is a lot of deforestation going on as a way of clearing land for farming activities, and while this cannot be avoided, measures must be enforced to make farmers plant trees to

replace the ones they cut on productive lands," he said.

Kashyarara also said farmers were supposed to desist from the habit of just cutting down trees even where they don't need the land for production.

The EfDT project is expected to take three years and identifies the environment as an important resource for development.

EfDT coordinator Dr. Razack Lokina said the project would support poverty allevia-

tion and sustainable development through increased use of environmental economics in the policy-making process.

"Protecting environment is our major concern. We want to be close to the government in terms of policy processes. Since EfDT is a new initiative I can not tell the challenges ahead as it is one year since it started. But rest assured that we plan to play a good part in this project," said Lokina.

He added that EfDT fellows were striving to build a

bridge between research and policy planning as well as decision-making.

"Currently there is typically a gap between academic research and government's policy formulation. These two areas of work rarely meet or influence each other of which it is a missed opportunity," he added.

The project is currently being funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).

TATEPA firms at Dar bourse

THISDAY REPORTER

Dar es Salaam

THE Tanzania Tea Packers Limited (TATEPA) has seen its share price at the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) swell to 510/- per share this year from 400/- it posted mid last year.

The DSE daily market report showed that the once DSE's dormant tea company had managed to sell 3 shares at 510/- in yesterday's trading sessions while remained with 500 shares on offer at the same price.

Financial market analysts have attributed the increase to the announcement of interim dividends by the company's board of directors last year. The Tatepa board announced an interim div-