

## Cartoonists, performers take jibe at business in Tanzania

By Staff Reporter

THREE leading business associations - CTI, TCT and VIBINDO Society on Friday will launch a business report, a cartoon exhibition and a radio satire in Dar es Salaam.

The launch will be held at Nafart Space in Mikocheni in the evening from 6.00pm. Members of the public including business executives will have the opportunity to take a light hearted look at barriers to business in Tanzania but also take action," said Gaston Kikuwi. He is the chairman of Vibindo Society (Jumuiya ya Vikundi vya Biashara Ndogo Ndogo), a business membership association that represents over 62,000 small traders in Dar es Salaam, Morogoro and Lindi regions.

The report to be launched is named eBusiness Leaders Perceptions of the Investment Climate in Tanzania - 2011i. It

has inspired local cartoonists whose work will be exhibited.

According to Kikuwi, the exhibition supplements the report in showcasing some major stumbling blocks towards the realisation of a better business environment.

A major highlight of the event will be the presentations of USD 4,000 prizes by business leaders to 6 winners among the 20 cartoonists participating in the exhibition. The six winners have their work featured in the report. The first prize winner will receive USD 1,500.

The report written by a British consultant, David Irwin, is commissioned on an annual basis by Business Environment Strengthening for Tanzania Programme - Advocacy Component (BEST-AC).

Findings are based on an extensive survey and interviews done with a representative crosscut of the Tanzanian business community. This is the

fourth year in which this survey has been done and will be the first time that the report is shared with the public.

Top business leaders lead by the Confederation of Tanzania Industries (CTI), the VIBINDO Society and the Tourism Confederation of Tanzania (TCT) and other business associations will chair the event.

The barriers to business themes in the report ranging from power, roads, corruption and water among others are depicted by cartoonists, who participated in a competition based on what business leaders identified as major stumbling blocks in doing business in

Tanzania, Kikuwi said, it was high time cartoonists and other artists should be actively involved in fighting for a better business environment.

An improved business environment means a better Tanzania for all business people n artists, hawkers, producers,

farmers, manufacturers, service providers and all the general public, he said. Kikuwi, who was among the judges in the competition added that, the artists powerfully, presented the stumbling blocks to businesses in Tanzania.

He hope such work will lead all stakeholders to work harder to improve the business environment, he said.

According to Rachel Kessi, coordinator of the competition, who is also the programme manager of the Music Mayday Youth Centre, the competition was very stiff. At the launch, the public will be treated to a preview of a brand new radio satire 'WACHA MASHARA' (no kidding), which also depicts the business environment.

Christine Kilindu from CTI will open the event, which will also include a performance by contemporary dance company, Dar Dance International, who will perform a piece about corruption called MOVE.