

By Getrude Mbago

Tanzania and India agree to continue strengthening cooperation investment in new water infrastructure

TANZANIA and India have agreed to continue strengthening cooperation in various areas which include increase investment in new water infrastructure and innovative strategies to help lift groundwater use in the country.

This was revealed during the weekend at the finalisation of a three-day visit by a delegation from the India Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

Speaking during the joint meeting of water officials of the two nations in Dar es Salaam, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Water Prof Kitlla Mkumbo said that Tanzania was yet to explore fully the potential in the groundwater.

According to him, if well researched and explored, ground water will help address water shortage challenges in the country.

"As per current data, Tanzania has 21 billion meters of ground water that are yet to be well exploited for the country's use. Lack of modern technology and skills to explore the potential stands as among the challenges, so our fellow

India has agreed to extend their support in this area," he said.

Considering that groundwater in Tanzania is likely to be the key resource to improve the water supply coverage in many areas, there is a need for the country to merge financial and technical capacities to unlock underground and surface water potentials.

He noted that India is among the nations that are too far in terms of technology of exploring groundwater, so Tanzania can also go far by cooperating with the nation.

"Today we have agreed to strengthen cooperation on some key areas including investment in research on ground water exploration, strengthen training and capacity building to staff especially on research and ground water technology..."

"India is the largest trading partner

of Tanzania comprising 18 per cent of its foreign trade and is among the top five investing countries in Tanzania, and these ties are developing well," he noted.

Tanzania attracts Indian investments and businesses in areas such as agro-products, manufacturing, mining, tourism and others sectors.

For her part, additional secretary from the India ministry of water T Rajeswaru said that India and Tanzania enjoy a vibrant social, and cultural for a number of decades something which should be maintained.

She said that India was ready to provide technical support and training to enable Tanzania research and explore the potential of ground water.

Chandramouli Ramachandrian, first secretary, head of chancery and commercial representative at High Commission of India said the two

countries have enjoyed Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (Itec) and India-Africa

Tanzania is a leading country for
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Forum Summit programmes for training and educational scholarships as well as grant projects in the field of Information Technology, healthcare and education.

India has committed around \$1 billion to fund development project in Tanzania.

