

Bamboo doors, roofs for local market

By FLORENCE MUGARULA

THE National Housing and Building Research Agency (NHBRA) is conducting research on the possibility of using bamboo poles for the manufacture of doors, window and roofing materials.

The agency is also conducting studies on the construction of dome houses in some of the regions in the country as well as using soil to make doors.

The NHBRA Director General, Dr Matiko Mturi, told the 'Sunday News' during an exclusive interview yesterday that among the duties of the agency include researching for affordable building materials, improving housing for middle and low income people, to offer advice and improving housing standards.

He said the agency is still researching on the new technology and that the study may take up to three years.

"In that case, people will be required to invest in bamboo farming because they will be needed as low cost tools for manufacturing building materials," he said. He added: "The idea here is to make sure that all local materials are utilised fully."

According to Dr Mturi, the agency is carrying on with many researches on low cost building materials in collaboration with the Commission for Science and Technology (Costech) and some members of the private sector.

"The public will be informed on each and every step we make. We are looking forward to helping people to live in modern houses at a low cost," said Dr Mturi.

He said there has been an increase of shortage of houses as years roll on and that NHBRA thinks there is a need to come up with a solution, which must involve the construction of low cost houses.

He said in 1969 the shortage of houses in the country stood at 21,000 units, in 1974 the number grew to 25,000. He added that the 2012 census shows that Tanzania needs at least three million houses for its people.

"We are facing a big challenge. The shortage of houses has been increasing every year. NHBRA is aware of the situation and that is why we are carrying on with research so that we can come up with a solution to the challenge," said Dr Mturi.

Dr Mturi added that the agency has been advising the public on how to use low cost building materials so that they manage to build more modern and stronger houses.

He said the agency has been engaged in researching on low cost building materials and that many people have already benefitted from their studies.

"We have managed to conduct studies and come up with low cost bricks. These are produced from clay soil and



"In that case, people will be required to invest in bamboo farming because they will be needed as low cost tools for manufacturing building materials," he said. He added: "The idea here is to make sure that all local materials are utilised fully."

a little amount of cement. They are durable and strong. Many people are using them now," he said.

He added that there is no need for Tanzanians to live in poor houses since they are surrounded by materials that could help produce bricks.

Continues on pg 3

Bamboo doors, roofs in pipeline

Continued from Page 1

"There is no place in this country where there is no clay soil. We advise people to adopt our technology and use it for producing bricks and build modern houses," he said.

According to Dr Mturi, NHBRA has been offering trainings in various parts of the country on how to produce bricks from clay soil and build houses using the NHBRA technology. He said the idea has already helped many people to build modern houses.

"In Morogoro, Dodoma and many regions in the Lake Zone, there are some people who have decided to adopt the technology and build modern houses," he said.

He said that with NHBRA house construction technology, many people have managed to cut down building costs by half. "For the house, which would have cost, for example, 40m/-, a person can build it at 20m/- only. And it is a very nice house and even more beautiful than others in town," he said.

On the Fifth Phase Government's intention to improve the housing sector, Dr Mturi said under the five-year development plan, the government is set to build 50,000 houses across the country. He said the idea will be well implemented if the government will opt to use low cost materials.

At least 16trn/- has been allocated for the construction of the said houses in the period of five years. In this financial year alone, the government has allocated 327bn/- for the said purpose.

According to Dr Mturi, studies shows that 60 per cent of modern houses are needed in rural areas.

"When you find two people sleeping in one room, we call it overcrowding. This situation is common in many families in the country especially in rural areas. We are therefore advising fellow Tanzanians to adopt low cost building material technology so that they can liberate their families from this problem," he said.

He added: "It is obvious that a person who does not sleep well always suffered from different diseases. The situation also affected thinking capacity and many people get affected psychologically.

Therefore, good shelter is important for the health of families."

Dr Mturi informed the 'Sunday News' that the agency has been working closely with the National Housing Corporation (NHC) and that they are looking forward to extending their cooperation.

"We are a researching agency. We always come up with low cost building materials and new designs. We expect NHC to continue adopting our technology in building its houses across the country," he said.

Dr Mturi added that in 2015 NHC bought modern brick machines from UNBRA for the youth in various regions.

"NHC was offering the machines and 500,000/- as capital to youth groups. This helped to take our technology to many Tanzanians," he said.