

## **COSTECH participates in the launch of the National Guideline for Inventions, Innovations and Traditional Knowledge Practices and the Annual National Science, Technology and Innovation Competition.**

**By. Merchades M. Rutechura**

On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) participated in the launch of the National Guideline to Identify and Promote for Inventions, Innovations and Traditional Knowledge Practices and the Annual National Science, Technology and Innovation Competition - the event that was graced by the Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Professor Joyce L. Ndalichako (MB), at the Treasury Square in Dodoma City.

Delivering the opening remarks, the Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Professor James Mdoe revealed that the move towards developing the National Guideline to Identify and Promote for Inventions, Innovations and Traditional Knowledge Practices started as early as 2009 and went through a series of consultative meetings with different stakeholders including COSTECH, DSTI, BRELA, COSOTA, SIDO, SUA, UDSM, and TAI. He also revealed that the guideline will be used for the first time to guide the Annual National Science, Technology and Innovation Competition which is scheduled to take place in January 2019.

The event was also attended by the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Services Hon. Peter Serukamba (MP), who stressed the importance of the government to invest a lot of fund in science, technology and innovation so that its contribution towards industrialization can be realized. "As a country, in order to succeed in industrialization agenda, we need to invest immensely in science, technology and innovation. We are not late; so long now we have the national guideline, I trust that the government will support for innovators, inventors and traditional knowledge holders to that their contribution can make difference on industrialization agenda." He said.

Apart from members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Services, the event was also attended by Diplomats, Development Partners, head of institutions, secondary school students as well as employees from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Speaking during the launch, Professor Ndalichako noted that the government recognizes the contribution of each individual towards the country's move for industrialization and that innovators, inventors and traditional knowledge holders are a special group that if facilitated, can contribute immensely toward that nation's move for industrialization. "The government is committed toward creating supportive environment for innovators and inventors as well as for traditional knowledge holders as they are among the key groups to contribute towards industrialization agenda," she noted.



*The Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Prof. Ndalichako (left) delivers the speech before the launch of the National Guideline to Identify and Promote for Inventions, Innovations and Traditional Knowledge Practices and the Annual National Science, Technology and Innovation Competition.*

Professor Ndalichako also urged innovators, inventors and traditional knowledge practitioners to collaborate with the government so that it can fulfill its ambition of becoming an industrial nation. “In an innovative society, individuals, groups, organizations, government and parliament recognize that they are partners rather than opponents, controllers and contenders and therefore, the idea of networking, collaboration and common purpose is very important,” she added.

Apart from launching the National Guideline to Identify and Promote for Inventions, Innovations and Traditional Knowledge Practices, Professor Ndalichako also launched the Annual National Science, Technology and Innovation Competition. The annual national STI competition process is scheduled to be concluded in January 2019. The competition will involve six categories of innovators that is, from secondary schools, vocational colleges and informal

sector, technical colleges, university and innovators from research and development institutions.



*The Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Prof. Ndalichako (mid left) hands a copy of the guideline to the Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Services Hon. Peter Serukamba.*



*The Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Prof. Ndalichako (right) hands a copy of the guideline to COSTECH Director General Dr. Amos Nungu.*

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) will administer the process to identify best innovators from university and R&D institutions; the Vocational Education Training Authority (VETA) will administer the process to identify best innovators from vocational colleges and informal sector; the Dar es Salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) will administer the process to identify best innovators from technical colleges, while the Directorate of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology will administer the process to identify best innovators from secondary schools.