

COSTECH Awards Innovators Who Successfully Won the Call for Proposals

By: Merchades M. Rutechura

On 7th March 2019, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology through the Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) awarded a total of 1.9 billion shilling to innovators who successfully won the call for proposal advertised in 2018. The awarding ceremony was officiated by the Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Professor Joyce L. Ndalichako during the climax of the Annual National Science, Technology and Innovation Competition that took place at the Nyerere Square in Dodoma.

Speaking during the event, Professor Ndalichako highlighted that the support was part of the commitment that the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida), together with the Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) made towards supporting the innovation activities in the country.

“As government, we are doing all we can to make sure innovators get what they deserve and I am grateful that Sida and HDIF have been key supporters of government initiatives, including granting support to innovation ecosystem in the country,” she noted.

Professor Ndalichako also called for the private sector to support the innovation systems in the so that the country can reach to the industrialized economy. “I would like to call for the private sector to support the innovation ecosystem so that the country can reach to the industrialized economy,” she pleaded.



The Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Professor Joyce Ndalichako (left) hands in a dummy cheque to a representative of grassroots innovators Mr. Daniel Marwa. She is accompanied by the Deputy Permanent Secretary Prof. James Mdoe (2nd left) and the COSTECH Director General Dr. Amos Nungu (2nd right).

Delivering the vote of thanks, the COSTECH Director General, Dr. Amos Nungu revealed that in 2018, the government in collaboration with the Sida and HDIF floated a call to support grassroots innovations and innovation hubs in the country. “We received a good number of applications but in the end, we were able to fund 32 grassroots innovations and the 15 innovation hubs in the country,” he revealed.

Dr. Nungu also revealed that Sida agreed to fund 17 innovation projects whereby 15 are small and 2 are big ones. “The winners of smaller projects will receive up to 40 million shilling while the winners of big projects will receive up to 130 million shilling,” he said adding that the HDIF will fund a total of 30 projects whereby 15 are dedicated to grassroots innovations and 15 are dedicated to funding the establishment and development of innovation hubs/spaces.



The Acting Vice Chancellor of the University of Dodoma Prof. Frowin P. Nyoni (right) receives a dummy cheque from Minister for Education, Science and Technology Hon. Professor Joyce Ndalichako (left). Prof. Nyoni represented institutions that won the proposals for establishment of innovation hubs.

Connecting the innovators’ award ceremony to the climax of the Annual National Science, Technology and Innovation Competition, Dr. Nungu said that the funding is in line with the theme of this competition, namely "Developing Skills and Innovations for Industrial Economy" as the Commission uses the competition platform as a means to encourage innovators to use their talents to solve problems from the surrounding communities.

“We also want to encourage innovators and the public at large, to apply for funds COSTECH advertises and we hope that through these funds, they will be able to improve their skills and hence solve problems from the surrounding communities,” he ended.