

Road infrastructure improves in Pemba

From **ABDULWAKIL SAIBOKO in Pemba**

SIXTY per cent of highways in Pemba are now tarmac and have opened up villages formally a nightmare to reach by road.

The Pemba Resident Engineer in the Road Department, Mr Hamis Masoud Hamis, said this to journalists during a tour of some of the five roads under construction in Wete and Micheweni districts.

“Before revolution, Pemba had a network of 78 kilometres of tarmac roads which were

a width of six metres. The work to construct new roads begun in 1976 and we have reached 200kms, making over 60 per cent of roads tarmac,” he said.

Mr Hamis noted that the five roads now in the final stages were being constructed using the aid worth 38bn/- extend to the government by Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) through the Millennium Challenge Account-Tanzania (MCA-T).

The roads being construct-

pected to be completed in February 2014.

“These five roads are complete by 85 per cent. We are remained with only few works such as putting in place road signs and making final touches on drainage systems,” he said.

Some of the roads under construction with their kilometres in brackets include Bahanusa-Mtambwe (13km), Kipangani-Kangagani (2.7km), Chwale-Kojani (1.9km), Mzambaraukarimu-Finya-

Uhondwe (13.8km).

In another development, Mr Hamis said that the government has secured 12 million US dollars soft loan for the expansion of road networks in Pemba and that in three years to come some other 35kms will be constructed.

“Procedures are underway to construct 35kms of roads connecting Ole and Kengeja. We have already hired a consultant for feasibility study and to start with we have acquired 12 million US dollars soft

he said.

A villager at Mtambe, Abdallah Hamad Abdallah (60), said that one of the new roads which reach their village has turned fortunes for the better.

“We used to get difficulties when it comes to transport and those days we had no option than walking but now we thank God that the tarmac road is here,” he said.

Mr Abdallah said that many expectant mothers lost their lives during labour due to dif-



Completed section on Mzambarau –Takao-Pandani –Finya Road



Finya Round about Junction