

# MCC supplies over 2,000 solar panels to Kigoma Region

By Guardian Reporter

THE Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has provided more than 2,000 Photo Voltaic (PV) solar panels to Kigoma region.

The panels have arrived in Dar es Salaam, ready for distribution in the region as part of the new solar power project funded by the Corporation.

A statement availed to this paper yesterday said in addition to the solar panels, over 600 batteries, charging controllers, inverters, mounting structure and accessories have also been provided.

In March this year MCC's Tanzanian counterpart, MCA-Tanzania, signed a more than USD4.7-million contract for a joint venture with a prominent local company, Rex Investment to bring solar power to Kigoma region.

"This is the largest solar power contract awarded to date in Tanzania," said the statement from the US embassy.

The contract according to the statement calls for far more than just the delivery and installation of modern solar PV technology.

It said the goal of the programme is to develop all of the elements necessary for a successful solar PV economy in Kigoma.

"Thus, in addition to the newly arrived hardware, the programme also will involve training in, and marketing of the new technology, including help to residents of the

Kigoma region in identifying new business opportunities that the technology helps make possible," it said.

According to the statement the solar power PV project is part of the portfolio of energy projects totaling \$206 million under the Millennium Challenge Compact signed between the governments of the United States of America and the United Republic of Tanzania in February, 2008.

Other Energy Project components include the manufacture and installation of a new 100 Megawatt submarine power cable linking Zanzibar to the Mainland.

It said the specialised cable has already been manufactured and is set to arrive in the next two weeks when implementation is expected to start. The corresponding civil works on land at Mtoni and Ras Fumbua in Zanzibar, and Ras Kilomoni on the Mainland are also underway.

Another key component of the MCC Compact's Energy Project is the extension and upgrading of approximately 3,000 kilometres of power transmission and distribution lines in Mwanza, Tanga, Dodoma, Morogoro, Mbeya, Iringa and Kigoma.

In addition to the Energy Project, the MCC Compact also includes major components that will provide significant assistance in the transport and water sectors. A total of \$698.1 million in US assistance is provided to Tanzania under the MCC Compact.