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State set to offset spending

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THE government hopes to offset spending almost 300bn/- annually for treatment of patients suffering from consumption of unclean water with the launching of the safe water project.

The Ministry of Health and Social Welfare Assistant Director of Health and Sanitation, Mr Elias Chinamo said that it was only through changing of attitude that the intended goals can be achieved.

Speaking during the launching of the project at Sungwi village in Kisarawe district, coast region, the National Institute of Medical Research Director General, Dr Mwele Malecela said the project has been funded by UNICEF and coordinated by NIMR and Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

"The project will cover two villages in Kisarawe and two in Geita and it will involve 660 households that were identified," she said. Dr Malecela said that the project will be such that it is in a research form where three different technologies tested by National Institute of Medical Research will be distributed to each household at different periods for six months.

She said that during the six months, researchers will be conducting interviews and getting feedback on the best technologies among the three. NIMR researcher Mr Hussein Mohamed explained that the project will centre on water treatment and safe storage at household level.

He revealed that the technologies that will be used include pot ceramic filters, siphon filters and use of chemicals like chlorine. "Another element of the project is to check which method best kills bacteria and later upscale to other districts and regions," he said.

The Kisarawe district commissioner, Ms Khanifa Karamagi who read a speech on behalf of coast region RC Mwantumu Mahiza said that she applauded the choosing of Sungwi as a pilot project because it has many challenges. Ms Mahiza said in her speech that she concurred with the notion of the change of behaviour.

"It saddens me that Sungwi is among the leading villages that lack toilets with many people easing themselves outdoors and near water sources," she said.