

# MP: My plan is to turn district into key centre for education

From five secondary schools nine years ago to 32 to date, Musoma Rural District has made a great stride in education development. In this interview, our writer **Mkinga Mkinga**, talks to Musoma MP **Nimrod Mkono**, who has played a key role in the establishment of more schools in the area, about his vision to make the district a centre for educational growth in the country

**Statistically, your constituency has made a great stride in educational development. What exactly is on the ground to show?**

I recall some nine years ago when I was declared the Musoma Rural Member of Parliament, the constituency had about five secondary schools, a situation that had been for long denying most of our children the opportunity to acquire education.

But today, we are talking of 32 secondary schools in the constituency with a total enrollment of more than 400,000 students.

**As the MP, what is your personal contribution to education in Musoma Rural, considering that it's a critical issue closely related to the interest of people?**

The constituency has benefitted a lot from my own efforts to develop the education sector. Firstly, I established a fund through which I have built schools. Secondly, I have successfully mobilised people to be part of the development project. You may have trillions of cash but without people supporting your ideas, they can come to naught. That's why I found it very important to get the people together for a common purpose.

Thirdly, I have been fully involved in the rehabilitation of primary schools that were in bad shape. The aim is to create a good learning environment for our children. Some of the schools that have been rehabilitated are Nyabukika Primary School in Kabulabula Village and Bwenda Primary School in Rusoli.

**What criteria do you use to select the beneficiaries?**

I receive requests for assistance from different parts of the constituency. But I also pay regular visits to evaluate the situation on the ground and decide what needs to be done to

development of education is one of the key promises that I made to the people during my election campaign. And to fulfill this, I have poured billions of shillings into the project because I wouldn't want to let anyone down in any part of the constituency. In a nutshell, the development of education is a need that has always been there in the area, and we are ensuring that it's met without discrimination.

**Do you finance all this yourself or you have other external sources of funds?**

It's through my own funds, and of course I get help from some friends who are living abroad. I have to acknowledge the fact that they have been supporting me a lot to realise my dream.

**Some of the schools you have helped construct are state-of-the-art, and different from schools in most rural areas. What gave you this idea?**

Musoma Rural is not just a constituency, but it is also an important place in the history of this country. It is the homeland of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

He desired to make it the centre for educational development. So it deserves only the best. I feel honoured to be MP of the area, and most importantly to play a key role in efforts to make Mwalimu's dream a reality.

We are not stopping here. Currently, I'm working on establishing more schools in Nyanja and Kiagata divisions, and there are plans to have a university here in Butiama. These beautiful schools are part of the necessary groundwork for that institution of higher learning.

**Can you tell us more about the university plan? Is it something that's imminent?**

Of course, it's in the pipeline. The loca-



MP Nimrod Mkono

Mwalimu came. The institution will be used to conduct agricultural and rural development studies. It will attract students from northern Tanzania, southern Kenya, as well as Burundi, Rwanda and western Congo.

The main aim of the university will be to offer Tanzanian youth the best opportunity in

be the first of its kind in East Africa providing agricultural and rural development studies.

Mwalimu had a vision to bring positive changes to rural areas, and that's our motto: To move Africa towards modern rural life through vocational training. The university will, therefore, aim at improving the quality of rural life