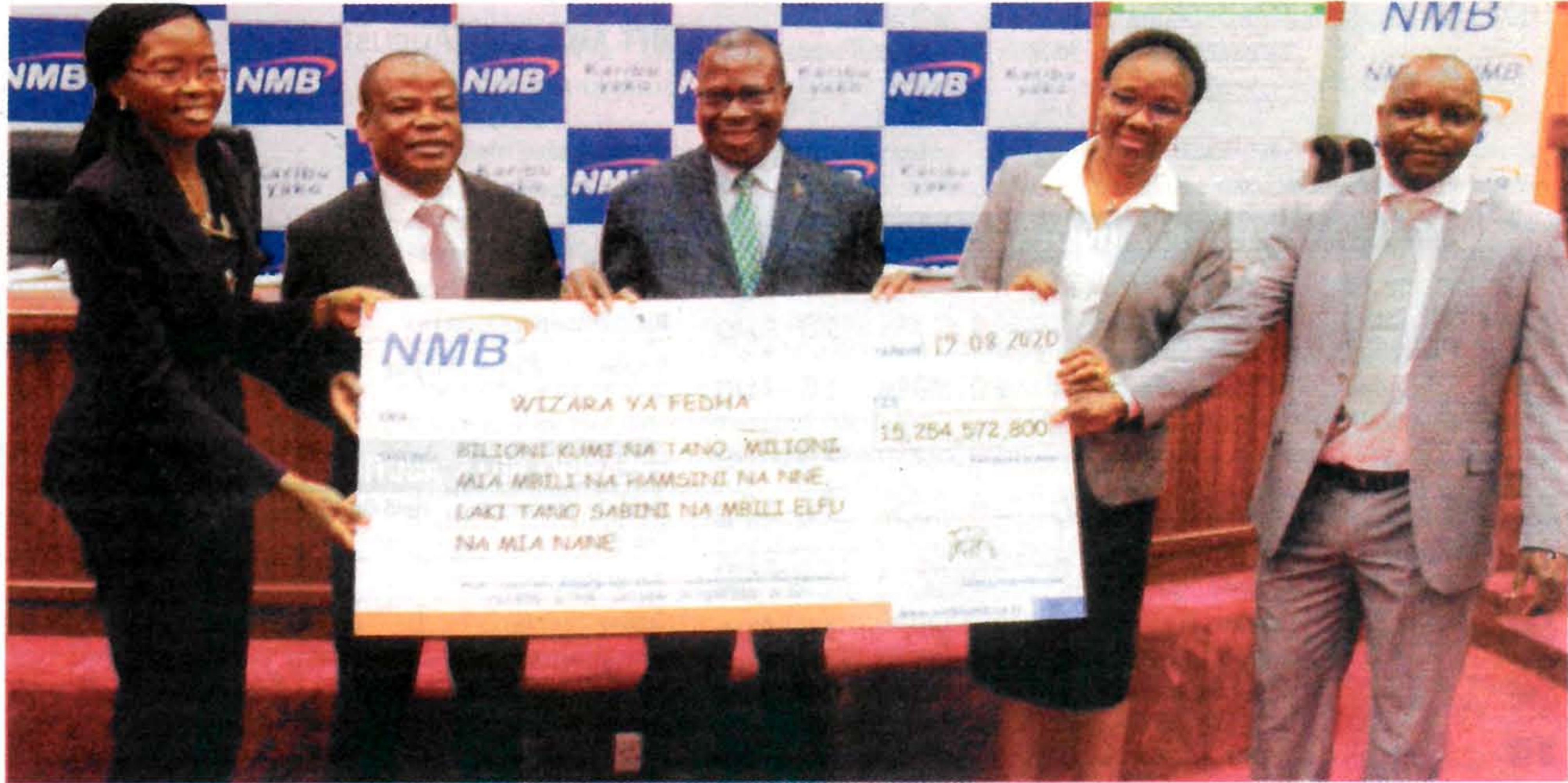


# NMB's dividends to govt climbs up as profits rise

Finance and Planning minister Philip Mpango (middle) receives a dummy cheque for Sh15.2 billion as dividend from government shares in NMB Bank Plc. From left are the bank's chief executive officer, Ruth Zaipuna; board chairman Edwin Mhede; the ministry's deputy permanent secretary, Mary Maganga and the Treasury Registrar, Athumani Mbutuka.

PHOTO | CITIZEN CORRESPONDENT



The bank's net profit jumped from Sh98 billion in 2018 to Sh149 billion in 2019. The amount paid out as dividends to shareholders rose from Sh33 billion last year to Sh48 billion this year

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**Dodoma.** The government yesterday received Sh15.2 billion in dividends from NMB Bank Plc.

The amount was a 45 percent rise from the Sh10.48 billion that the government received from its 31.8 percent stake in the lender.

Finance and Planning minister Phillip Mpango said the government was happy with the dividends it receives from NMB and called on other companies in which the government has shares to emulate.

"NMB is capitalizing on opportunities available in the country to do sound and profitable business. If others did the same on dividends, we would

witness a great improvement in the provision of social services for Tanzanians and also contribute to the various strategic government projects in progress," he said during an event that was held here yesterday.

The rise in dividend issuance reflects the increase in the bank's profitability during the past two comparative years, available data shows.

The bank's net profit jumped from Sh98 billion in 2018 to Sh149 billion in 2019.

As a result, the total amount paid out as dividend to share-

holders rose from Sh33 billion last year to Sh48 billion dividend this year.

NMB Bank's new chief executive officer Ruth Zaipuna presented the Sh15.2 billion dummy cheque to Dr Mpango during the event.

Ms Zaipuna said here yesterday that the dividend was approved by shareholders during an annual general meeting (AGM) that was conducted virtually in June.

"The AGM approved a total of Sh48 billion in dividend payment and out of this, the government is receiving Sh15.2 billion from its 31.8 percent ownership of NMB," she said.

She said apart from the Sh15.2

billion in dividend, the bank also paid over Sh170.8 billion to the government in form of taxes ranging from paye, corporate tax, skills and development levy, excise duty and VAT on services.

Ms Zaipuna said the current business environment in Tanzania provides enormous opportunities for which NMB was ideally positioned to support the citizens and business community in reaching their goals. "We remain vigilant in balancing our objectives of sustainable growth, cost efficiency and prudent risk management," she said.

NMB was privatized in 2005 to a consortium that was led by The Netherlands' Rabobank.

Currently, Rabobank owns a 34.9 percent stake in the bank. Apart from Rabobank and the government, individual investors - who have bought shares through the Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange - own 13.8 per cent of the shares, while the rest of the shares are held by an assortment of investors.

**NMB is capitalizing on opportunities to do sound and profitable business**

DR MPANGO | FINANCE AND PLANNING MINISTER