

DSE gears up for the second round of enterprise initiative

The DSE Enterprise Acceleration Programme nurtures the startups and SMEs through training, mentorship and coaching

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Dar es Salaam. The Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE) is expected to open the second round of its enterprise support programme which is meant to help startups to raise capital.

The DSE Enterprise Acceleration Programme (DEAP) nurtures startups and SMEs through training, mentorship, coaching and sessions with business leaders, and links the companies to various sources of financing, including

banks, venture capital and crowd funding.

The first round of the six-month programme started with 15 companies, and nine of them successfully graduated and were listed on the bourse's acceleration segment, which profiles and increases the visibility of the firms.

DSE has a non-trading segment called the DSE SMEs Acceleration Segment (DSAS), or Endeleva, on which the successful companies are listed.

Qualifying SMEs will provide necessary information about their business conduct, performance, and opportunities to which potential investors and financiers could engage for further details, due diligence and ultimately investing.

In the future, qualifying SMEs

may consider accessing public capital through initial public offerings (IPOs), and subsequently listing on the DSE.

"We need more companies for this opportunity. Tanzania has great potential for small companies which need to grow financially and contribute to the economy," said the DSE director of business development, Mr Ibrahim Mshindo.

Owners and managers of participating companies are trained on sustainable business management and governance for them to implement their aspirational growth and development. That is to enable and empower them with skills for business proficiency, and make them more attractive to various private capital providers and

financiers.

"This is a very good programme, which has enabled us to improve financial governance and link us with financial institutions, which have actually started supporting our company," said Mr Adolf Olomi, managing director of Arusha-based Raha Beverages Co Limited, formerly known as Banana Investment.

Mr Olomi said the firm's target is to raise money for expansion through an initial public offering and list on the DSE in the next five years.

The initiatives are part of a wider goal by the DSE Plc to ultimately raise the number of listed companies, a project that started with the establishment of the Enterprise Growth Market (EGM) in 2013.