

FemAct appeals to Kikwete not to assent CDFC Bill

By Guardian Reporter

MEMBERS of the Feminist Activist Coalition (FemAct) have appealed to President Jakaya Kikwete not to assent to the Constituency Development Catalyst Fund (CDFC) Bill, which was passed by Parliament last month.

A statement issued by FemAct over the weekend said that funds would not make a difference in the lives of marginalized majority poor, women and men.

The statement signed by the Tanzania Gender Networking Program Executive Director Usu

Mallya said CDFC would also rob members of parliament their role to hold the government accountable and that it would also fuel petty and grand corruption in the country.

The CDCF Bill passed by Parliament last month, among other things, gives members of parliament powers to become chairpersons of the committees which approve the funds to finance development projects in their respective constituencies.

"This is against the legislators' constitutional responsibility because they are not supposed to fund projects but to act as representatives of wananchi in holding the government

accountable so that it can deliver quality services to the people," Mallya said in the statement.

FemAct is worried that if members of parliament would become chairpersons of CDCF Committees they would automatically lose their powers as government watchdogs, a crucial function in making sure that the government performs its responsibility with accountability.

Mallya said in the statement that FemAct was of the view that by passing CDCF Bill the legislators had been unjust to their electorates who collectively presented their views in Dodoma requesting them not to pass the Bill.