

Disabled youth climb Mount Kilimanjaro

From QUEEN ISACK in Moshi

A group of young disabled people from Kilimanjaro and Arusha region have climbed Mount Kilimanjaro to Mandara Hut on the International Day for Persons with Disabilities.

Speaking at Mandara Hut, one of the youth said they were happy to have a day's trip at Africa's highest mountain.

Jacqueline Japheth said the community should understand that disability isn't ability.

She said a non-governmental organization, Connects Autism Tanzania (CA Tanzania), provided them with education skills on employment under Kazi ni Uhai programme.

"I have completed my course. Now I want all my fel-

low disabled people to get jobs like me," she said.

Connects Autism Tanzania Director, Grace Lyimo, said her organization took the group to Mountain Kilimanjaro to celebrate the International Day for People with Disabilities.

"We support young people with autism to develop skills and gain experience that can help them become self-reliant," she said.

"The duty to handle children with disabilities is left to teachers, and the burden only lies with the Ministry of Education," she added.

A tour guide from Pristine Adventures and Safari, Francis Mosses, said it was different experience working with the group of the disabled youth.