

Disasters, environment drain K142.9bn

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A recent report on Public Expenditure Review on Environment and Disaster Risk Management has revealed that government spent \$278 million (about K142.9 bn) on environment and disaster risk management in six years.

The report targeted allocations to the national budget in the cited areas between 2006 and 2012.

"The total expenditure on environment that was incurred through the national budget by the key ministries of Climate Change Management, Land Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture and Food Security, Water Development and Tourism, Wildlife and Culture and Health adds up to US \$278 million for the six-year period from 2006/7 to 2011/12," reads the report completed in November 2014 and was launched on Friday last week.

According to the report, during the six years under review, water was the environment subsector that incurred the highest expenditure at 30 percent



MANGANI—Review will facilitate effective monitoring

followed by lands at 25 percent.

The report has, among others, recommended that government should provide more funding for environment and disaster risk management. In

addition, the report also says a separate code for climate change to which all budgeting and spending on climate change will be attributed should be created in the national budgeting and reporting system.

The report also recommends that all budgets that are prepared by ministries and departments should not be prepared in an ad hoc manner, but be based on policy aspirations.

Secretary to the Treasury, Ronald Mangani, said the review provides a baseline for interrogating trends in the execution of future public resources allocations to the environment and disaster risk management sectors.

"It is stimulating to note that this review may facilitate the effective monitoring of the contribution of these sectors towards sustainable development, as the country strives to achieve its medium-term development targets and its long-term vision," Mangani said.

He said the Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development is keen to address the challenges faced in environment and disaster risk management.

He cited such challenges as funding on ad hoc basis, weak coordination of disaster risk management programme implementation and lack of investment goals which lead to wastage of resources.

