

BUSINESS & FINANCE

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Prefabricated building products coming

By MASATO MASATO

BELGIAN producers of industrial building systems, Frisomat Ltd, are planning to introduce prefabricated building products to the Tanzanian market, in a move to help individuals and institutions build strong houses quickly.

The firm's Export Manager for Africa, Mr Bob Desmet, said in Dar es Salaam yesterday that the products would reduce costs developers are presently facing.

Speaking at the Tanzania International Trade Exhibition at the

Diamond Jubilee Hall in the city, the manager said the products are easy to handle and environment friendly.

He said his company has taken part in the exhibition to introduce to the Tanzanian market the firm's products and defend the technology it uses to produce the product.

"Our aim is to have a well-established partner to distribute our products. Visitors have shown interest in our products," he said, adding that they are produced using cheap technology.

He also said the technology can easily be

transferred to Tanzania because it requires elementary and simple civil engineering.

According to the manager, the technology they use compares favourably with the "traditional one", which uses column and trussed beams of large and heavy materials as well as heavy foundations on the construction site.

Meanwhile, some exhibitors to the four-day event which ended yesterday have decried dismal turnout of visitors, blaming the anomaly on lack of the event's publicity.

"I have travelled all the way (from Italy) to meet

business people but here I am alone...I have never even seen a news article on the local media about this event. I don't know what is happening," Inchiostri Evernic of an Italian Euroink complained.

She said her firm was looking for a local partner or agent to distribute its products but "with the number of visitors coming in I don't think we will get one."

Another exhibitor from Malaysia, Mr Geoffrey Wong, voiced similar concern. "I don't know...maybe people are not interested or they were not aware. But the turnout has not been impressive."