

Rotarians rescue needy students

SINGAYAZI KAMINJOLO
STAFF REPORTER

Bwaila Rotary Club of Lilongwe in partnership with University of North Carolina (UNC) has come to the rescue of five Malawi College of Health Sciences (mchs) students by paying their tuition fees and donated K7 million-worth of items to the college. The items include eye

glasses and boxes of healing Vaseline. Speaking during the donation, the club's president Mary Mkali said Rotary Club is about giving and serving the less fortunate. She said: "As a club we work with various partners to mobilise resources to contribute to the less privileged in our society. As members, we also make

individual contributions. The items donated today are as a result of our partnership with UNC Project." On the school fees, Mkali said the money was mobilised through a charity golf tournament last year. "We have a project called Tiphunzire Fund for helping out needy students in various schools. When we heard that some

students here were about to be expelled for lack of fees, we decided to help out with the little we have," she said. MCHS principal Dennis Nyirenda thanked the Rotarians for the assistance saying it will reduce the institution's challenges. He said there are many needy students at the college and some have left because of lack of school fees. ■



Members of the Rotary Club pose with beneficiary students

Cancer Centre opens soon—Minister

MORTON SIBALE
MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

Minister of Health Jappie Mhango says the Cancer Centre in Lilongwe will open as soon as the installation of bunkers at the newly-constructed facility is completed. The minister made the remarks Friday in Lilongwe during the commemoration of World Cancer Day, which also saw the country launch the National Cancer Strategic Plan.



Part of the centre that was damaged by rains recently

One of the buildings at the centre was damaged by strong winds a few weeks ago, which the minister said affected the schedule to operationalise the centre. However, Mhango was non-committal on the exact dates of the centre's opening, only saying he was optimistic that reconstruction of damaged structures will start shortly. He said once repairs are completed, the children's section will be operationalised. Said the minister: "We had technical capacity

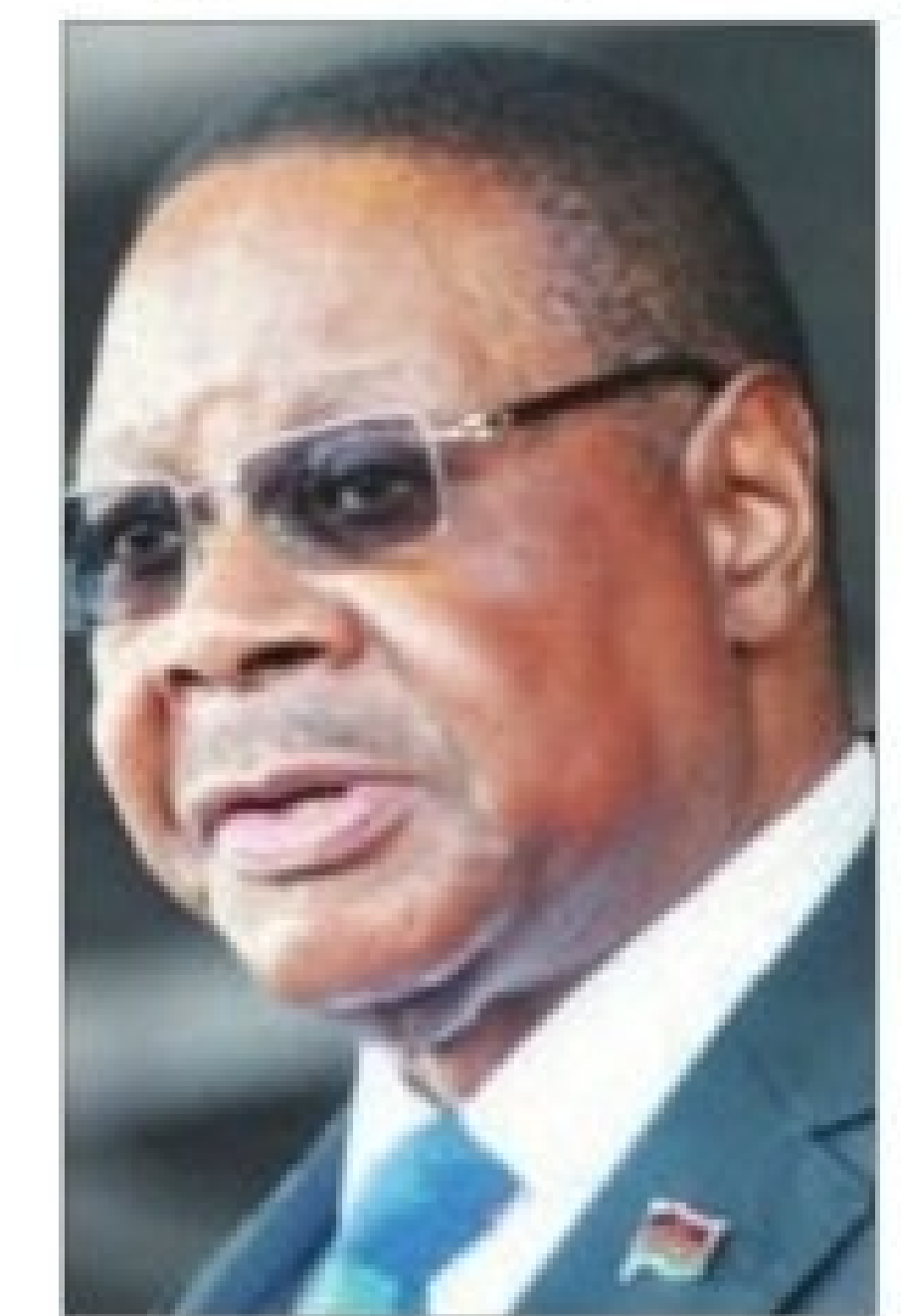
challenges in building the bunkers which have since been resolved and any time from now we will start building the bunkers. I will be able to give exact time for opening once we start building the bunkers." He said the bunkers are a key component of the facility's ability to offer radiotherapy services. Reacting to the remarks, Cancer Association of Malawi president Regina

Njirima said they are looking forward to the opening of the facility as it will go a long way in helping fight the cancer problem in Malawi. "As cancer association, we will keep pushing government to open this centre as soon as possible because we see the gravity of the situation on the ground. Opening this centre will help our people because most of

them cannot afford to seek medical help abroad," she said. Construction of the Cancer Treatment Centre at Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe started in 2017. The centre is being constructed with a \$15 million (about K11.1 billion) loan from the Open Fund for International Development and was initially scheduled to be opened late last year. ■

APM to launch irrigation project

SOLISTER MOGHA
MALAWI NEWS AGENCY



Mutharika: It will enhance food security

President Peter Mutharika is today set to launch the Shire Valley Transformation Project touted to be the biggest irrigation initiative in southern Africa. Announcing the launch at a rally in Blantyre on Sunday, Mutharika said the project, when completed, will ensure food security in the country and dependency on rain-fed agriculture would be a thing of the past.

Said the President: "I have always said I am not a politician but rather a development leader. What I want is that people of Lower Shire should be free to grow any crop of their choice throughout the year and most importantly, produce more agricultural produce that would make the country food secure." He said besides the irrigation project, government plans to construct more secondary schools to make education accessible to all Malawians.

of school fees, we are introducing the bursary scheme where families can get financial support for their children. "Not only that, we are also putting more funds to the university loans scheme so that university education remains accessible. As government, we will also continue with construction of community technical colleges." The Head of State further assured Malawians of government's continued provision of safe and clean water by drilling more boreholes as well as through provision of piped water.

The President said government will establish a bursary scheme in secondary schools to enable needy students continue with their education. Said Mutharika: "From now onwards, I don't want any child to drop out of school because

Speaking earlier, Senior Chief Kapeni commended the President for improving road network through the construction of more roads, establishing community technical colleges and spearheading the Malawi Rural Electrification Programme. ■

Livingstonia University celebrates women

ENALLA
MUNYENYEMBE
MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

University of Livingstonia (Unilia)-Laws Campus on Sunday celebrated International Women's Day (IWD) by hosting an event themed HerDayUnilia to create awareness on women's rights. Unilia Students Union speaker Tanaka Chirom-

bo in an interview said the event was a success and educative. She said: "The event was a success as there was a rich discussion on how women can use their rights if they face any form of discrimination and abuse." Chirombo thanked the college administration for allowing them to host the event and supporting them to create Student-Staff Re-

lations Policy to help students and staff to work together. On her part, Women Lawyers Association of Malawi member Hazel Miseleni said such events are powerful learning platforms for students as they enable them find their own voice and make significant changes in their lives. "Such events create a platform for awareness

where students can learn and help each other in ensuring that their voices are heard without anything to hinder them," said Miseleni. The event comprised a public lecture and debate on sexually transmitted grades in Malawi; an introduction of SheDecides and He4She concepts and launch of Unilia's Student Staff Relations Policy. ■