

BRIEFS

Traditional leaders asked to support govt

Minister of Local Government, Unity and Culture Richard Chimwendo Banda has asked traditional leaders to support government achieve its development agenda. He said this on Friday in Thyolo District during the elevation of Traditional Authority (T/A) Bvumbwe to Senior Chief and group village head Chidothe to Sub-T/A. "Government recognises the role chiefs play in translating its development plans. Elevation of chiefs is done to motivate them so they can continue working hard," said Banda. Paramount Chief Gomani thanked government for elevating T/A Bvumbwe.—BRENDA NKOSI, MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

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Shire Valley Transformation project excites minister

MARTIN GELA JNR
CORRESPONDENT

Minister of Agriculture Sam Kawale says he is impressed with the progress made at the Shire Valley Transformation Programme in Chikwawa District.

Speaking after touring the project on Thursday, he said the programme is in line with government's development plan, Malawi 2063 (MW2063).

Kawale said agriculture productivity and commercialisation is one of the pillars of MW2063, as such, there is need to scale up agricultural production. "Despite contractors facing different challenges, ranging from natural disasters and erratic cement supply, one can clearly see the drive to see the work



PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GELA JNR

Engineer Martin Chizalema (R) briefs Kawale on the project

progress," he said. Arnold Chiutsi, vice-chairperson of Mulambe Cooperative from Traditional Authority Katunga in the district, said they are prepared to embark on commercial farming once the project rolls out. Shire Valley Transformation Programme project coordinator Stanley

Khaila said they have made considerable progress. He said: "We have completed three bridges, the flume, three siphons and the canal. We are constructing the cofferdam, currently at 146 metres above sea level. "The intake design is under review and construction works are expected to commence once

that process has concluded." On securing land for the farmers, Khaila said over 44 000 land parcels have been adjudicated and demarcated in the first phase of the project and certificates of ownership are being prepared for land owners. "The process continues to the second phase of the project where currently over 18 000 land parcels [over 11 000 hectares] have been adjudicated and demarcated. "Again, 13 irrigation blocks have been established of which nine are already registered as cooperatives." The project is being implemented with support from the Government of Malawi, World Bank, African Development Bank and the Opec Fund for International Development and the Global Environment Facility. ■

PRESS CORPORATION PLC

VACANCY - DRIVER

Press Corporation Plc (PCL) invites applications from suitable candidates to fill the vacant position of **Driver** tenable at its Corporate Office in Blantyre.

Duties and Responsibilities
The duties and responsibilities of the position will include the following, in addition to other duties as may be assigned to the incumbent from time to time:

- Driving company vehicles to official errands as directed;
- Attending to routine vehicle problems and carrying out minor maintenance;
- Following such written and oral instructions about vehicle usage as are given from time to time;
- Reporting to the Police and appropriate authorities in the event of any accidents;
- Accurately recording trip details in the log books;
- Accurately filling trip reports and submitting them to the Administration department;
- Ensuring that pool vehicles are managed safely and cleanly with consistent review of engine oil and general vehicle checkup to ensure the vehicles are road-worthy;
- Ensuring timely reporting of faults or worn-out parts to the Administration Department for repairs;
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Desired Profile
We are looking for a dynamic, mature and reliable person to work in a very busy environment. He or she must have a proven track record of honesty and integrity with a high desire for professionalism. He or she must be willing to work outside normal working hours.

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- Fluency in oral and written English.

Interested individuals who meet the above criteria should send their applications together with a detailed Curriculum Vitae, indicating the names and addresses of **three traceable referees**, to **careers@presscorp.com**.

The Chief Finance and Administration Executive
Press Corporation PLC
P O Box 1227
BLANTYRE

Closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday, 28th July, 2023**.

People urged to restore degraded landscapes

MEMORY CHATONDA
MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

Blantyre district commissioner Alex Mdooko has urged people in Traditional Authority Kunthembwe in the district to work hard to restore degraded landscapes. He said this on Thursday at Mkajidi sub-catchment in Kunthembwe Extension Planning Area during the launch of district-based catchment conservation management project.

Mdooko described the project as essential for stimulating interest and mobilising communities for action in the implementation of climate-smart agriculture practices and other integrated catchment management activities. He said: "This project, which falls under the World Bank-funded Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project, is the continuation of the Shire River Basin project implemented in this area



PHOTOGRAPH: MEMORY CHATONDA, MANA

Mdooko speaks during the launch

some years ago to curtail the production of charcoal. "This is why we are launching this catchment conservation programme to encourage communities to participate in environmental conservation." Blantyre district chief agriculture officer Mphatso Kafuwa said communities will be involved in the management of village forestry areas and land resource management activities such as the construction of swales and tree-planting exercises.

One of the beneficiaries, Eneless Lungu of Mkajidi Catchment, said the project is encouraging many communities to participate in its implementation. "From the time we started implementing catchment conservation activities and other climate-smart agriculture technologies, our crop yields have doubled," he said. The launch was held under the theme 'Integrated catchment management for improved food security and climate resilience'. ■