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N More than just news

GOVT/NGOs TRACK

Police officers asked to protect wildlife

MARTIN GELA JNR
CONTRIBUTOR

Police officers in the country have been challenged to protect wildlife from extinction, saying it attracts tourism.

South East Region police commissioner Chikondi Chingadza made the appeal in Chikwawa on Monday during stakeholders meeting on how to protect wildlife which Shire Valley Transformation Programme (SVTP) and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife organised.

She said: "It is our duty to intensify roadblocks checks to find perpetrators and bring them to book."

"Chikwawa has two conservation areas of Majete Game Reserve and Lengwe National Park which require our officers to assist in wildlife protection. This will



Chingadza speaks during the meeting

increase forex which is ideal for the country's economic development."

Chikwawa Police Station officer-in-charge Francis Chisaka thanked the SVTP and National Parks and Wildlife for organising the workshop which, he said, would help in apprehending and prosecuting people involved in wildlife crimes.

Department of Parks and Wildlife investigator Wyson Suwedi urged law enforcers to work together in curbing illegal poaching.

He said: "We are planning to empower community policing members across the village that surround the park and game reserve to take responsibility of caring wild animals." ■



A community member asks a questions to duty-bearers

MHRRC urges community to hold duty-bearers to account

GLADSON M'BUMPHA
CONTRIBUTOR

Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC) has empowered communities in Dowa to hold duty-bearers to account when they are lacking.

Speaking in an interview on Wednesday during an interface meeting at Traditional Authority (T/A) Mkukula headquarters in the district, MHRRC director Emma Kaliya said it is high time communities suffered in silence when it comes to delivery of essential services.

"The interface meeting

is aimed at empowering communities to hold duty-bearers accountable when it comes to service delivery. We engaged different stakeholders from health, education, social, district council and traditional leaders to appreciate the score-cards from communities themselves, take note of their concerns and how they can address them," she said.

On his part, desk officer on special needs education in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology in Dowa Vincent Liwinga hailed MHRRC for the interface meeting.

"We have heard

communities' concerns on different issues. As government, we will sit down and look into the issues so that we move together," he said.

Group Village Head Njolomole under T/A Mkukula said communities should be engaged in activities taking place in their areas.

"As custodians of the people, we need to be engaged in every activity government is implementing in our areas," he said.

The meeting was organised with financial support from Norwegian Church Aid) and Danish Church Aid. ■



Malango: Mainstream cholera messages

'Teach people to practise hygiene'

AYAMBA KANDODO
CONTRIBUTOR

National Initiative for Civic Education (Nice) Trust has urged its volunteers to mainstream their activities with cholera messages so that people understand the dangers.

Speaking during a meeting with the volunteers from Lilongwe Central Constituency at Traditional Authority (T/A) Kalumba's headquarters on Monday, Lilongwe and Dedza Nice civic education officer Daniel Malango said there is need for massive awareness about the cholera as some people seem not to understand how to prevent it.

He said: "We must mainstream cholera messages into activities we are implementing because cholera is claiming a lot of lives. People need to fully understand preventive measures and start following them."

Malango noted that despite the availability of cholera vaccines, some people are refusing to receive due to unfounded beliefs.

He said some people have been brainwashed with dangerous beliefs that are contributing to the spread of the disease.

Nice area civic education coordinator Paul Majamanda said some people do not believe the existence of the outbreak and also that hygiene in the area is pathetic.

He noted that some village heads have been spreading false information about the cholera vaccines by relating Covid-19 vaccine.

Lilongwe and Blantyre are among cities that have registered high number of cholera cases in the country. ■

PHOTOGRAPH: AYAMBA KANDODO

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GELA JNR

PHOTOGRAPH: GLADSON M'BUMPHA