

BRIEFS

Police plead for support for CCTV project

Blantyre Police Station has appealed to well-wishers to support the law enforcement agency with materials or equipment to enable smooth implementation of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras project currently underway in the city. In an interview on Thursday after receiving paint from Monolux Paints, Blantyre Police Station spokesperson Peter Mchiza said the installation of CCTV cameras will help to reduce crime and road accidents in the city. In a separate interview, Monolux Paints managing director Timu Gill said it was the responsibility of every individual or organisation to support police in the city.—JONATHAN PASUNGWI, STAFF REPORTER

Man jailed 12 years for defilement

Phalombe Magistrate's Court has sentenced a 45-year-old man to 12 years imprisonment for having sex with a 15-year-old girl. State prosecutor Lawrence Kambale told the court that the man defiled the girl between November and December 2023. In the court, the man pleaded guilty, but in mitigation prayed for leniency, saying he is a breadwinner for his family. However, first grade magistrate Leonard Msoa, dismissed the plea and handed him a custodial sentence to deter would-be offenders.—LINDA LIKOWA, MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

Shire Valley irrigation project ready 2024

MARTIN GELA JNR
CORRESPONDENT

Farmers in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts will have to wait for a year before they start growing crops under the Shire Valley Transformation Programme expected to be completed in 2024.

Speaking at Saturday during a media tour of the construction site, the programme's communications officer Alice Kaunda said government has set September 2024 for the completion of the first phase of the project comprising 52 kilometres (km) of the 118km-long irrigation canal.

She said: "Currently, we have finished construction of canals under the first phase of the contract,



PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GELA JNR

Kaunda: Coordination has made things easy comprising the intake and first six kilometres of the main canal.

"We are working with Electricity Generation Company [Engenco] on

the re-construction of the intake as part of the rehabilitation of Kapichira Hydro-Electricity Station Dam which suffered damage from Cyclone Ana in 2022.

"The contractor is bringing in more equipment and manpower to meet the deadline."

Kaunda said coordination with different government entities helped in addressing challenges that would have delayed the project.

She said: "For instance, the Presidential Delivery Unit [PDU] and Ministry of Energy facilitated constant supply of fuel to our sites.

"The PDU and Ministry of Trade and Industry also played a critical role in obtaining a waiver

for our contractors to import cement when the country was facing cement shortages."

Vicent Sineki from Traditional Authority Ndakwera in Chikwawa, said farmers in his cooperative are geared to start growing different cash crops next year.

"We are developing a business plan as a cooperative with support from the agribusiness consultant, Agricana," he said.

Ministry of Agriculture is implementing the project in three overlapping phases with support from Malawi Government, the World Bank, African Development Bank, Global Environment Facility, and the Opec Fund for International Development. ■



VACANCY

St John Malawi is a non-profit organization with a dedicated team of volunteers working to deliver first aid and healthcare services to vulnerable members of the community in Malawi. We provide comprehensive first aid services and deliver health-focused community health projects supported by donors. St John seeks a new staff member to be part of the team in a small and friendly office.

First Aid Training/Assistant Officer - St John Malawi

JOB PURPOSE:
Support first aid services department in marketing, organizing and conducting first aid courses training in line with the Mission statement and Vision of St John Ambulance of being a global leader in first aid services and healthcare provision.

RESPONSIBLE TO: Head of First Aid Services and Sales (HtA)

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Facilitate training courses, events and services for First Aid Services and Sales department
- Ensure first aid training materials/ equipment are kept safe and clean at all times
- Conduct customer/client visitation and linkages for first aid services
- Develop annual and quarterly work plans and execution of the same in liaison with the head of department
- Conduct marketing and sales activities of First Aid Supplies and Services.
- Facilitate establishment of first aid clubs in schools and communities; and conduct awareness of first aid services
- Assist in the development of departmental annual business plan
- Support and supervise brigade volunteers in their respective divisions
- Write and submit monthly and quarterly reports to the Head of First Aid Services and Sales

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- A minimum of Medicine/Public Health/Nursing Degree, with at least 2 years' work experience in training those with ICT skills an added advantage;
- Experience in marketing and clients/customers handling for trainings a MUST;
- Good verbal communication, report writing and presentation skills in English;
- Self-motivated and the ability to work with minimum supervision;
- Ability to work with others and to maintain compatibility among staff, customers and partners;
- Working understanding of NGO operations and business code;
- Ability to identify needs and pro-actively make improvements

HOW TO APPLY

Application deadline: 12:00 noon on Friday 22nd December 2023.

The application should be sent to: jobs@stjohnmalawi.org

E-mail subject line: Training/Assistant Officer Recruitment

Attach the following:

- a covering letter up to one page long, outlining your relevant experience and your most recent salary and benefits package, and;
- an ID card CV
- Send to: jobs@stjohnmalawi.org

St John Malawi is committed to equal opportunity and will not discriminate in its employment practices due to an applicant's religion, gender, age, race, colour, national origin or disability.

Mwanza District Council intensifies fight against HIV

DOREEN CHIHALO
MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

Mwanza District Council says it has intensified the fight against HIV to reduce prevalence rate and new transmissions in the district.

Speaking on Thursday at Kalanga Primary where the district commemorated World Aids Day and Candle Light Memorial, Mwanza District Council chairperson Bellon Kasambwe called on partners to scale up awareness on HIV transmission.

"We want to reduce HIV transmission from eight to four people out of every 100 in the district," he said.

Kasambwe commended Our Bodies Our Lives Movement for empowering women living with HIV by providing them with start-up capital for small-scale businesses.

The organisation's district coordinator Loretta Simbeye said they empower women living with HIV to



Kasambwe (in purple shirt) tours a pavilion

generate income to buy food which is critical for the effectiveness of their medication.

Mwanza district Aids coordinating committee chairperson Madalitso Chochoywe bemoaned low participation of men in the fight against HIV in the district.

Senior Chief Govati warned faith leaders against discouraging people living with HIV from taking anti-retroviral

drugs (ARVs).

"Discouraging people living with HIV from consistently taking ARVs is bad," he said.

One of the people living with HIV, Phaleas Stanford, testified on the benefits of taking ARVs and encouraged people to go for HIV test.

World Aids Day is commemorated on December 1 but the district marked the event on December 14. ■

PHOTOGRAPH: DOREEN CHIHALO, MWAHA