

Anglican Church partner in development—Msaka

MARVELLOUS ZINGA
MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

Minister of Education, Science and Technology Bright Msaka has hailed the Anglican Church for its significant contribution to the country's health and education sectors.

The minister said this on Saturday during the ordination of five priests and seven deacons at the church's St. Thomas Complex in Mangochi.

Msaka, who represented President Peter Mutharika, said

government prioritises education and health as key development sectors and that the Anglican Church has been a strong partner in the areas.

He said: "I am here to register government's acknowledgement and deep appreciation of the role the Anglican Church is playing in providing education and health services in this country.

"Many Malawians have been educated in Anglican schools and been treated in Anglican hospitals. We applaud the Anglican Church for these

services."

The minister urged the church to do more, saying government is ready to support and facilitate initiatives aimed at uplifting people's lives.

In his remarks, Bishop of Upper Shire Anglican Diocese, the Right Reverend Brighton Malasa described the ordination of the priests and the deacons as of great significance to the church.

"This year's ordination is remarkable because the increase in the number of priests indicates

that the number of souls to be converted will also increase," he said.

The Reverend Deacons who were ordained to the Sacred Order of Priesthood include Lawrence Chipwatali, Justice Namangale, Benjamin Chilonga, William Blake Maulidi and Chikondi Pembamoyo.

Those ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon are Isaac Phiri, David Chilowodza, Eddington Matendeu, Frank Saulo, Tendai Mditu, Kenneth Wisiki and Shame Banda. ■



Msaka: Government appreciates the church

Govt urged to invest in research

LLOYD CHITSULO
STAFF REPORTER

The Consortium for Advanced Research Training for Africa (Carta) has urged government to increase funding towards research in different areas, saying research is key to addressing some challenges facing African countries.

Deputy executive director of the African Population and Health Centre (APHRC), Joseph Gichuru, said this yesterday during the opening of a three-day Faculty and Administrators Staff (FAS) Workshop organised by Carta at the College of Medicine (CoM) in Blantyre.

The workshop seeks to enhance understanding of research training and clarify roles that universities play in supporting research and improving research outputs and creating an enabling network of researchers.

Speaking in an interview on the sidelines of the opening ceremony, Gichuru said having adequate funds for research would lead to high quality and relevant research.

He said: "Unless they put money on the table, researchers



Malewa (L), Saka and Saidi address the press after the opening ceremony

cannot carry out proper research. So that is one of the reasons why it is important to have adequate funds for research."

In a separate interview, Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Justin Saidi, acknowledged that having adequate funds for research is

critical to both education growth and the country.

"As a ministry, we agree and we have started doing that because we believe that research is the backbone of the country's socio-economic development," he said.

On his part, University of Malawi vice-chancellor Professor

John Kalenga Saka said through the workshop, the university would learn how best to generate new knowledge as per its core mandate.

He said: "Therefore, we need new systems or processes to support research and through this workshop we will build capacity as a university." ■

Govt introduces economic fund

CHIKONDI MAPETO
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Government has introduced the Community-Managed Socio-Economic Project Fund (CMSEPF) to provide a funding mechanism that is wholly controlled by local communities.

Speaking during a council meeting in Dedza, deputy director of planning and policy in the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development Walusungu Kayira said the fund has been established to focus public expenditure on more effective and efficient initiatives that respond to communities' needs.

He said: "This funding mechanism seeks to finance small and short-term projects in communities. This project fund will be wholly controlled and executed at local community level through area development committees and village development committees."

According to Kayira, the allocation to a district is based on the number of constituencies.

"In the 2018/19 fiscal year each constituency is allocated K19 665 000 for project execution. The communities' role is to identify and initiate the project, implement it and track use of funds through a community audit committee to be elected by themselves. The committee will track financial transactions and resource utilisation of the project," he added.

On his part, Mayani North councillor Nicholas Josiah said he was happy that government is bringing the development project fund directly to the communities. ■

Over 50 transferred in prison shakeup

JONATHAN PASUNGWI
STAFF REPORTER

Malawi Prisons Service (MPS) has transferred over 50 prison officers in a shakeup it has described as normal.

In a circular letter dated July 4, signed by commissioner of operations Yafeti Chimodzi, Southern, Central, Northern and Eastern region commandants have been redeployed within and outside MPS.

Some of the transferred, according to the communication, are deputy commissioner of prisons Raphael Mshalli who was regional commandant for Central Region. He has been moved to the North in the same position. His replacement is Milda Salilika, who was Lilongwe officer-in-charge (OC).

Southern Region commander Major Mzima has now been moved to Prison Training School at Mapanga in Blantyre; Clement

Chiwera has moved from the North to the South as commandant; and Chrissy Namakupula who was Eastern Region commander and is now at headquarters. She has been replaced by former Blantyre OC Brighton Simwera. Out of 32 OCs in the country, 15 have been transferred.

In an interview on Monday, MPS spokesperson Julius Magombo said the transfers were normal.

He said: "I can confirm these transfers, but they are just normal

transfers."

On his part, Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security Principal Secretary Sam Madula said he was not aware of the transfers.

He said: "I am not aware of these transfers. This is news to us. However, the chief commissioner did inform me some time back that she will be making some changes in postings. But the list has not been furnished to the ministry." ■