

# LWB kiosk project excites World Bank

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constructed ground tank. “The new tank services around 55 100 people in Lilongwe City South West, part of Lilongwe City East, Nanjiri, Bunda Road, Chiseka and the western bypass. Nanjiri is among the four-water supply

network expansion areas,” he said.

The aim of the project is to increase access to improved water services and safely managed sanitation services in Lilongwe.

It targets 500 000 people as direct beneficiaries—250 000 with improved water services

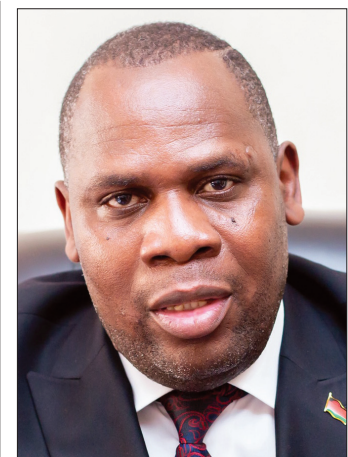
and 250 000 with safely managed sanitation services.

LWB community water points supply water to low-income areas such as the Nanjiri Kiosk which serves over 600 people.

It has an e-Madzi type Communal Water Dispenser system to ensure good water management.

Nanjiri eWater Kiosk beneficiary Anne Kazika said they previously used to fetch water from unprotected sources.

“Before the kiosk, several women used to scramble for water from a single borehole. All that is now history,” she said. ■



PHOTOGRAPH: NATION

Trapence: We need to save resources

# Mchinji District Hospital workers resume work

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Mchinji District Hospital health workers have resumed work on condition that their director of health and social services Dr. Juliana Kanyengambeta and her management team proceed on forced leave.

In a letter dated April 27 2023, Mchinji district commissioner Fred Movete confirmed sending Kanyengambeta and her senior managers on leave, pending Capital Hill’s determination.

“I would like to let you know that the listed district hospital management team members in your petition have gone on leave until Capital Hill addresses your concern.

“This allows an agreement between you and the negotiating team from Capital Hill,” reads the letter.

In the letter copied to their secretary Jimmy Simenti, Movete pleaded with them to return to work.

“May I take this opportunity to ask you and the entire team to go back to work peacefully as you are aware our main objective in Mchinji is to provide effective and efficient services to the people of Mchinji,” continues Movete’s prayer.

In an interview yesterday, Simenti confirmed that the workers returned to work on Friday after their meeting with ministries of Health and Local Government officials from Lilongwe.

He added: “During the meeting, we demanded that Movete should advise in writing that Dr. Kanyengambeta and her team have gone on forced leave and that the DC should also indicate when our grievances will be addressed.



PHOTOGRAPH: NATION

Some of the health workers during the protest on Thursday

the DC communicated that members of the hospital management team mentioned in our petition had proceeded on forced leave, and we resumed work.”

The health workers presented a petition to Ministry of Health principal secretary (PS) demanding the firing of Dr. Kanyengambeta, district nursing and midwifery officer Neema Uzeni Phiri, human resource manager a Mr. Munkhondya and principal administrator Devilious Mwale on allegations of abuse of public resources, failing to communicate promotion opportunities, intimidating and harassing them.

“...Individual officers mentioned in this petition do verbally intimidate and emotionally harass their subordinates, discharge their duties corruptly, poorly manage donor and government resources,” reads in part the petition which was sent through Movete.

But Mchinji District Council



PHOTOGRAPH: NATION

Movete: Capital Hill will decide

chairperson Denis Lazalo in an interview yesterday said the workers erred in addressing the matter to the PS.

“But whether the petition was addressed to the right or wrong office is not the big issue, but the merit in their grievances. That is what we have to discuss as a council to

map the way forward in this matter,” he said.

Kamuzu University of Health Sciences professor Adamson Muula agreed with Lazalo that the petition should have been addressed to Movete.

“This only shows that more work needs to be done for civil servants to understand the decentralisation process and how it works,” he said.

Muula, however, applauded the workers for behaving humanly by ensuring that skeleton staff was in place to manage the emergency, theatres and maternity wings.

“If these critical areas were closed, today, we could count lives lost at Mchinji District Hospital,” he said.

The hospital management committee chairperson Joyce Mphepo claimed that she was not party to the discussions.

“As the hospital management committee chairperson, I am rarely consulted on such important matters and I wonder why,” she said. ■

## Chakwera trips attract criticism

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is expected to undertake.

He, however, said they let the government off the hook after they were overshadowed by the State Residences’ overall budget reduction.

“Our analysis of the State Residences vote revealed the following; total allocation has gone down by K1 billion as compared to last year’s, a thing which gave us comfort that perhaps the office intends to take a more rational route,” he said.

Jooma stated that they had not envisaged that the trips would cost taxpayers heavily.

“You can also appreciate that the budget documents are not clearly telling us that the State functions will cost K2 billion,” he argued.

However, when we showed him that the figures were there that added up to the K2 billion planned travel expenditure; he admitted that they did not pay attention to the details.

“I think the overall reduction in the vote allocation overshadowed the other details whose scrutiny, I want to agree with you, is equally important,” he said.

Meanwhile, Jooma has asked Parliament to “continue to monitor the implementation of this vote to identify and condemn wastage”.

United Democratic Front spokesperson on finance Ishmael Mkumba argued that there was nothing wrong with the increase, saying the President needs to travel to persuade investors