

Ministry of Education Commends DAPP for Promoting Quality Education

The Ministry of Education through Thyolo District Education Office has commended Development Aid from People to People (DAPP) Malawi for the commitment it has shown in promoting quality education in the district through implementation of various education programs.

Thyolo, the District Education Manager (DEM) Godfrey Kumbwese said that the district is privileged to have Amalika Teacher Training College in the district as it trains teachers who are committed to become teachers in the rural primary schools, where they are very much needed.



Student teachers graduated from Amalika TTC

The training which is taking place at DAPP colleges is unique as it does not only train the teachers to become qualified primary school teachers but also give them skills in community development such as women's community leaders and entrepreneurship.

Besides these, he said Thyolo district benefits from the DAPP's 400 Primary Schools program through innovative approaches which the program introduces.

400 Primary Schools is a DAPP Malawi education program that allows teachers graduated from DAPP TTCs to stick together, meet regularly to share ideas and knowledge on how they can improve the environment around their schools as a network. The program started in 2012 and currently it comprises of 80 teachers who are teaching in 69 rural primary schools across Malawi.

"The DAPP Graduated teachers who form the 400 Primary Schools regularly meet to discuss best practices in the teaching and learning methods, prepare teaching and learning resources. They also produce primary school mock examinations which greatly assist in preparing our candidates for National Examinations which are written to enable them enter secondary school. In some schools, they have introduced school vegetable gardens and woodlots which benefit both the schools and surrounding communities." Said Kumbwese

" There is need to intensify sensitization to the development partners on the importance of the programme so that they can support it to reach more schools in the country as this will help in improving the quality of education in our primary schools," he added.

Amalika TTC in Building Week



Student teachers and staff members passing bricks for construction

DAPP Amalika Teacher Training College students and staff members organized a building week to maintain the college's building structures such as the drainage system and ceilings. The common action took place from 20th to 22nd July 2018. In DAPP TTCs student teachers take part in the running of the college of which among others they clean the premises around the college regardless of gender or backgrounds. These practical actions are part of preparing the student teachers to be active in organizing similar actions with the children, the parents and the communities in and around the rural primary schools - once they have completed their training.

DAPP Malawi July 2018 Newsletter

Learners Encouraged to Establish Vegetable Gardens

Agness Chipamba is one of the primary school teachers that was trained at DAPP Malawi teachers training college. She currently teaches at Kanjira primary school in Lilongwe district.

As a DAPP graduate teacher, she belongs to a network of DAPP graduated teachers that stick together and meet regularly to share ideas and experiences on how best they can improve the environments around their schools.



Some of the learners in the vegetable garden at school

One of the activities that the network teachers encourages is the establishment of vegetable gardens in school through which the learners can get skills to do the same in their households. On 19th July 2018, the graduate teacher organized an open day and a cooking demonstration together with her learners where they prepared vegetables from their school's garden and encouraged the audience to also establish gardens in their homes. Attending the activity were the Primary Education Advisor, teachers from surrounding primary schools as well as teachers from Kanjira school.



Learners preparing vegetables for cooking demonstrations

Thyolo Farmers Club Hosts Sable Farming Company



Farmers Explain to Visitors from Sable Farming Company

On Thursday the 26th of July 2018 DAPP Macadamia Value Chain Enhancement project in Thyolo district hosted Sable Farming company, a partner that is responsible for providing Macadamia tree seedlings and its growing technologies in the project. The aim of the visit was to learn from the farmers how they are growing the Macadamia trees and to appreciate the challenges being faced by the farmers to offer assistance.

DAPP Malawi, Sable Farming and Intersnack are in a Public Private Partnership agreement that aims to increase the production and quality of Macadamia Nuts at different production levels to meet that of international standards. The project is running for 7 years from 2016 and is being implemented in Thyolo and Mzimba districts working with 3000 farmers.

Thyolo and Chiradzulu Farmers Clubs in Agriculture Fair

The DAPP Farmers Club projects in Thyolo and Chiradzulu districts participated in an Agriculture Fair that took place in July 2018, in Blantyre district. The event had been organized by the Blantyre Agriculture Development Division with an aim of showcasing the achievements made in terms of technologies and extension services.

The event was held under the theme "Rich Earth, Rich People; Restore our Environment for Sustainable Productivity."

DAPP Farmers Club program organizes farmers in groups of 30 to 50 members that form a club. The aim is for the farmers to practice climate smart agriculture, be linked to farm products market in order to realise economic benefits from their small scale businesses.