

## VOCATIONAL SKILLS COMPETITIVE

During an open day event that took place at DAPP Mikolongwe Vocational School, the management pointed out to students under training in various trades at the institution of the rewards in vocational and entrepreneurial skills.

The Principal for the school Mr Charles Salema was speaking during an Open Day event that had been organized at the school for the students to showcase various skills they have acquired in the course of their training.

The event was attended by youth that completed their trainings at institution and have established their businesses or have been employed, who inspired the students with their businesses and through story telling.

Alex Christopher is one of the graduates from Mikolongwe who has established his furniture business in Chilomoni, Blantyre city and he said he currently employs four people and he is financially stable because of the vocational skills learnt from the school.

Also in attendance during the Open Day were representatives from the District Youth Office, Traditional Authority Likoswe and Leather



Cooperative of Malawi.

The event was spiced up by a fashion show of clothing items made by the Tailoring and Fashion Designing students, shoes made by Cobbler and Shoe Making students, poems and music.

Mikolongwe Vocational School equips youth with technical and entrepreneurial skills to become self-reliant by being able to secure an employment or establishing their own small scale businesses.



## DAPP MALAWI 2020 PROGRESS REPORT OUT

The report provides an insight into the work of DAPP in Malawi in the past year. In 2020, DAPP Malawi clocked 25 years of working with the people of Malawi in promotion of social and economic development through programs related to health, education training, food security, community development, fundraising and environment.

In 2020, DAPP Malawi reached over 1.5 million Malawians through project implementation in the areas of agriculture, education and vocational training, health, community development via its social development projects.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, DAPP Malawi mainstreamed the Covid-19 preventative measures as put in place by the government of Malawi and with support from our partners we managed to respond to the pandemic through activities that have been captured in the report.

We use this opportunity to extend our big appreciation to all our partners, staff and all people in our projects for the work, achievements and progress made in 2020!

Find the report on: <https://www.dapp-malawi.org/images/phocadownload/progress20/DAPP%20Malawi%202020%20Progress%20Report.pdf>



## MACADAMIA FARMERS LEAP FRUITS OF HARD WORK

The Macadamia Nuts Value Chain Enhancement project in being implemented by DAPP Malawi in Thyolo and Mzimba district has this year made its first sale of the Macadamia Nuts to Sable Farming Company.



Rollled out in 2016, the project is working with 3000 farmers; 1500 each in Thyolo and Mzimba districts who are growing Macadamia Nuts. The farmers are organised into clubs of 25 members and have formulated Cooperatives with 750 members to join forces.

In Thyolo district, some farmers from Chimvu Cooperative who planted their trees in 2017 have this year made their first sale of 786 kilograms of Macadamia Nuts to Sable Farming Company that is buying the nuts at 9.16 US Dollars per kilogram.

The Project Leader Eric Mukhuna said this is just the beginning for the farmers to start realizing the benefits of their hard work, adding that it's only a few of the trees produced fruits this year but they expect to harvest twice a year from the same trees in future.

Felix Ngwilima is one of the farmers who comes from Tayali village in Traditional Authority Bvumbwe, he is a member of Talandila Club that is part of Chimvu Cooperative. He managed to collect 86 kilograms of macadamia nuts in his first harvest which have been sold to Sable Farming through the Cooperative.

"I am expecting around 600 thousand Malawi kwacha from this sale and I would like to use this money to improve my household and I will buy a cow for dairy farming," he said.

Apart from growing the macadamia nuts, DAPP Malawi is also mainstreaming conservation agriculture and sanitation and hygiene activities in

the project.

The Secretary for Chimvu Cooperative Mr Boniface Makondetsa from Naveya village in Traditional Authority Boyd said they have not only benefitted from the skills and knowledge to grow Macadamia Nuts but they have also learnt how to produce fertilizers, climate smart agriculture methods, mounting of firewood saving stoves and improved sanitation and hygiene through use of pit latrines, rubbish pits, clothes hanging lines and handwashing among others.

The project is being implemented by DAPP Malawi until August 2022 with funding from the Dutch government via Sympany of Netherlands.

Sable Farming Company is part of the consortium for this project and provides tree seedlings, expertise for growing the trees and a readily available market to buy and process the Macadamia nuts for import to Intersnack in the United Kingdom under the Public Private Partnership.

## DAPP TRAINS CAREGIVERS

Malawi with funding support from the World Bank through the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare has trained 80 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres Caregivers from Chikwawa and Neno districts during a two week training that took place at the DAPP Amalika Teacher Training College in Thyolo district.

The training focused on among other things introduction to ECD, psycho-socio support for infant learners, production of teaching and learning materials for ECD centres as well as nutrition and hygiene.

The training took place from 20 June to 2 July 2021.

