

Chiefs commend Eva Demaya Centre

By Paul Tembo

Paramount chief Chikulamayembe of Rumphi has hailed Eva Demaya Centre for complementing government efforts in education, healthcare and social welfare.

The chief was commenting on how the centre is taking part in the development of the area citing construction of Chitipwiri Full Primary School and Kasongwe which is under construction in its catchment area of western part of the Nkhamanga valley, T.A. Chikulamayembe and T.A. Katumbi in Rumphi.

“I would like to urge the community and other organizations including government to support the centre because it is very helpful and my people are benefiting a lot,” said the Paramount Chief.

Speaking at the centre headquarters, founder and managing director Jacqueline Kouwenhoven popularly called *NyaGondwe* by the locals around the centre said, “my dream is to fight hard so that we can have centres like this in several parts of the country.”

The centre is providing unique health service as it has both a herbalist and medical officer working side by side assisting the community depending on the type of problem.

According to Maria Luhanga the centre’s community officer, the centre has seven projects currently being carried out namely; healthcare, orphan care, micro-credits, community assistance, environmental protection, sports and donors and cross-cultural exchange.

Said Luhanga, “our centre is also active, in the field of HIV/AIDS education and awareness and provides fully accredited VCT services.”

“The centre’s clinic is the only medical facility in the country that provides a special complementary healthcare of homeopathy in the country as far as I know,” said the District Medical Officer for Rumphi, Dr. Jonathan Chiwanda.

Homeopathy according to Kouwenhoven (*NyaGondwe*), is a system of medicine which involves treating the individual with highly diluted substances, given mainly in tablets form, with the aim of triggering the body’s natural system of healing based on their specific symptoms, a homeopath will match the most appropriate medicine to each patient.

The centre was established in the year 2001, has also created employment to over 62 locals from the area and serves a population of over 70,000 people.

October 2013