Manica (Malawi) Limited hands-over information centre to Dowa community

Freight forwarding and logistics firm, Manica (Malawi) Limited, through its mother company AMI Worldwide Group, has supported construction of a multi-million-kwacha health information centre for the youth in Nkhafi Village, Traditional Authority (T/A) Chakhaza in Dowa. The infrastructure, which is an all-embracing approach providing health information and social facilities for the youth, comprises a community library, recreation and health information rooms.

The company donated $10 000 (about K7.5 million) for the construction.

Speaking in an interview, Manica (Malawi) Limited commercial manager Richard Chikalipo said the donation was made as part of AMI Worldwide Group’s corporate social responsibility programme following a request by Wandikweza, Non-Governmental organisation (NGO) behind the establishment of the centre.

He said the company, established in 1963 and is one of the leading logistics service providers in the country donated the infrastructure as a way of giving back to the community.

“We realise that majority of our population comprises the youth and that in line with Manica’s corporate social responsibility program’s focus areas of health and education, Manica (Malawi) Limited, through our head office, felt duty bound to assist in the construction of this facility, which will make a positive impact on youth in these focus areas,” Chikalipo said. In her remarks, Wandikweza chief executive officer Mercy Chikhosi, whose organisation operates the facility, hailed the company for the contribution towards youth development. She said the facility is expected to provide opportunities for the youth to realise their full potential through acquiring knowledge on sexual reproductive health, family planning and HIV and Aids. Chikhosi said the youth will also receive support on school work after classes through volunteer teachers and access health and wellness facilities at the centre.

Furthermore, the youth will be able to access general information on career issues through the centre.

“We are, therefore, grateful to Manica (Malawi) Limited for this donation, he said. Through the activities at the centre, there will be a reduction of HIV and Aids cases, teenage pregnancies and unemployment rate in the district.

“It is on this background that we designed this intervention to respond to and address these challenges,” Chikhosi said. She encouraged the youth to take advantage of the services which the centre is providing and use this opportunity to develop into productive citizens.

The facility is expected to benefit over 4000 youths from the community and surrounding areas in the first year.