

Alliance One spends K37 million to renovate Mchinji school

June 26, 2016  Isaac Kambwiri  1 Comment

One of the country's leading tobacco buying companies, Alliance One Tobacco Malawi Limited has spent over K37 million to renovate Mpita primary school based in Traditional Authority Dambe in Mchinji which was in a complete dilapidate state.

Speaking during handover ceremony held at the school's campus, Alliance One Malawi social services coordinator Godfrey Chimanya said his company decided to renovate the Mchinji based school as one way of fulfilling its corporate social responsibility program in the country.

Chimanya further explained that his company also decided to renovate the school after realizing that it is also based in the area where majority of people grow tobacco which the company buys annually in the country.

"As a company we thought it wise to renovate the classroom blocks of this school as part of our corporate social responsibility program here in Malawi and ensure that pupils are learning in a conducive environment," said Chimanya.

According to Chimanya his company has been complimenting government's efforts in improving the living standards of Malawians particularly in the



The newly constructed classroom block by Alliance One Tobacco at Mpita primary school



sectors of education, water & sanitation, environment and social-welfare among others.

He however urged parents in the area to avoid using children in tobacco fields as a source of labor but instead they should send their children to school so that they can become prominent citizens for this country in the future, adding that this is what Alliance One tobacco company advocates in every country it is operating around the world.

In his remarks, desk officer for Mchinji district education office Blessed Chinkhadze commended Alliance One Malawi for renovating the school which was first built in 1972 and was never renovated since then.

According to Chinkhadze, previously pupils who reached standard seven and eight were forced to walk a distance of more than 10 kilometers to learn at Khweri and Fanuwelo full primary schools because Mpita did not have these two classes.

“Let me commend Alliance One for renovating and constructing



Pupils of Mpita primary school expressing happiness during classroom block's handover ceremony



Chimanya (in blue shirt) with Traditional Authority Dambe

at Mpita school which has enabled pupils who reach standard seven and eight to learn at the same campus. Previously pupils who reach standard seven and eight were forced to walk a long distance to learn at Khweri and Fanuwelo schools which are located far away from here”, said Chinkhadze.

He disclosed that most children in the area were forced to drop out of school upon reaching standard six because they could not walk a distance of more than 10 kilometers to learn in the other primary schools which have standard seven and eight.

According to Chinkhadze the renovations that have been done to the school has helped to increase the school's enrollment from 623 during the previous academic year to over 740 during this school term.

Apart from renovating the school, the company has also bought desks and constructed the head teachers' office which has also been fully furnished.

Apart from Mpita primary school in Mchinji, Alliance One Tobacco has also constructed classroom blocks in other three primary schools in Kasungu and Dowa districts which has costed the Lilongwe based tobacco buying company over K132 million.

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That's a good gesture Alliance one and let the other companies emulate such CSR. I always believe companies should take these responsibilities to the rural areas not in town...there are a lot of structures that need urgent attention mainly schools and hospitals. Only Tobacco companies and Press Trust are always heard in doing such commendable jobs in rural areas unlike the communication (phone) service providers who waste money in coming up with competitions that benefit people in town only. May you please improve on your corporate responsibility...TNM, AIRTEL, National Bank... we do not hear you making an impact in the... [Read more »](#)

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