

TEVET specialists form association

LOVENESS ANUSSAH

Technical, Entrepreneurial and Vocation Education and Training (TEVET) principals in Malawi have formed an association whose aim is to address issues affecting the TEVET sector.

The body has been established through elections conducted on September 23, 2017 and over 32 principals from various technical colleges participated in the process.

Following the elections, Mzuzu Technical College has been entrusted with the chairmanship with the newly-established Tevet Principals Association of Malawi (TPAM).

Skills and Technical Education Programme (STEP) facilitated the elections process being in line with one of its objectives which is to strengthen the governance and



SKILLS TRAINING - Through TEVET institutions, youth are learning various trades

management of TEVET regulatory bodies and training institutions.

The association has been put in place to represent all technical, educational and vocational education and training principals and institutions at national level.

The elections were based on the already established regional structures for north, central and south.

In his speech, Mzuzu

Technical College principal Julius Phiri said there is a big task ahead since the association is just being established and needs a firm foundation for its sustainability.

"Our aim should be to unite as one TEVET provider body whether national, private, community or skills development centre so that one day we shall be called the best pioneers if we work together in implementing the plans

that we are going to set," said Phiri.

Phiri also asked members especially who had been in the steering committee for four months to continue helping in running the affairs of the association.

He added that that there is need to have a mandate where as they will be able to lobby with the industry and the responsible ministry on various issues.

Earlier on before the elections, Director of the Department of Technical and Vocational training under the Ministry of Labour, Youth, Sports and Manpower Development, Godfrey Kafere also commended the idea to establish a forum since it helps it cross pollination of management ideas across the institutions.

In his remarks, TEVET governance and institution management specialist for STEP, Todini Marecha, said, this is big step towards improved

coordination with TEVET institutions.

STEP will support TPAM's efforts in creating effective interface with other stakeholders, especially the industry.

Other executive members include Father Michael Mbandama of Don BOSCO as the vice chair, Lennox Mkoma of Chilobwe Technical College as treasurer, Tiwonge Mponda Chilombo of Malindi Community Skills Development Centre as the secretary and Wanangwa Sichone of Miracle Technical Institute as the vice secretary.

The other three members are the chairpersons of TPAN, TPAC and TPAS representing the regions and have full membership with voting rights.

STEP is a European Union funded initiative that empowers youth, enhances job creation and increases access to skills development opportunities aimed at empowering the TEVET sector and its capacity to satisfy the economy need for professionals through improvement of equitable and gender-balanced TEVET.