**Unconditionally Committed to Solving Problems in Malawi’s Health Sector**

**The Malawian UK Nurses Association** (**MUNA) hopes to replicate the success of its maiden fundraising event in the coming months. Its Executive Team is extremely encouraged by stakeholders' selfless devotion to the cause of overcoming challenges facing Malawi’s health sector.**

After a series of virtual and in-person meetings held in the past eighteen months, the Malawian UK Nurses Association (MUNA) resolved to mobilise sufficient funding to address some of the persisting challenges in Malawi’s health sector.

Now, inspiringly, the organisation has taken a bold step towards meeting this noble mandate. This follows the groundbreaking launch of the body’s fundraising campaign on the 6th of August 2022 in Maidenhead, United Kingdom. Malawian Kent Community, led by Maines Msiska, hosted the event.

**Exceeding expectations**

Despite having other equally important usual work-related commitments, members of the NUMA and other stakeholders with vested interests unconditionally committed their time and financial resources. In her review of the event, MUNA’s President, Charity Gladstone, states that it is due to this selfless devotion that the event exceeded expectations.

“The event was a litmus test for the commitment of every member of the organisation. Its success has underlined everyone’s commitment to playing a part in finding lasting solutions to problems bedevilling Malawi’s health sector,” Gladstone explains. “We all know we have problems in areas basic resources should be there in primary health care. We are extremely gratified that the Malawi Diaspora community regards this as a calling.”

While every member is always willing to commit their extensive know-how in the field of health at no cost, however, lack or limited financial resources always emerges as one of the biggest obstacles. “Much as we wish otherwise, as well-intentioned as our efforts may be, inevitably, at some point funding is needed,” Gladstone acknowledges.

**Greatly indebted for the support**

Last but not least, MUNA is greatly indebted to the Malawian High Commission to the United Kingdom and Malawian-owned UK-based companies for their immense support.

The most distinguished guest, Malawi’s High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Dr Thomas Bisika, and his team graced the event. MUNA views this gesture as underscoring the Malawi High Commission Office’s wholehearted support for improving Malawi’s health sector.

The MUNA executive team is also greatly indebted to the generosity of Malawian-owned UK companies such as Motto Money, Wisechoice, Shannon Healthcare, Totally Care and the African council that sponsored the event.

Through MUNA, the Malawi Diaspora Community, especially health professionals, hope to use the experience gathered in the UK, to benchmark the approach to tackling health inequalities in Malawi. The UK’s universal health system is often referenced as a model for some developed countries to emulate.

Overall, optimistically, Gladstone foresees MUNA replicating the success of the maiden fundraising initiative in the forthcoming events. “As they say, ‘*A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step*’, permit me to hasten to pronounce that the event is one big step towards meeting our mandate.”

**Refurbishment at Kamuzu Central Hospital**

MUNA’s first task is 1b a male surgical ward at Kamuzu Central Hospital. The directors of Kamuzu Central Hospital, Dr Sam Ngoma and Mrs Mary Chinkhata, identified the ward as among those desperately in need of refurbishment.

The ward is congested as it is designed to accommodate 45 patients but instead admits 120 patients. Besides the lack of resources, the ward environment is substandard and presents several challenges including infection prevention, and provision of care in a dignified environment just to mention a few. This impact negatively on mortality rates, length of stay and surgical outcomes.

On why the male surgical ward has been earmarked for assistance, Gladstone expounds: “Caring for the ill and their families in the very best environment is important to us stated Charity. As such, we want to help our mother country in renovating this ward in partnership with the teams on the ground. We aim to have an improved and future-proofed acute in-patient ward.”

The estimated cost for phase 1 of this project is currently £30,000. MUNA’s Executive Team, including Patrick Vundule, Sala Kamkosi, Charlotte Kamundi, Susan Msatida, Stella Mwanza, Clement Ndau, Maines Msiska and Patricia Liyao, is appealing to all potential donors to support MUNA to reach this goal.

For further details, MUNA can be contacted through the following email address: info@muna.org.uk. Alternatively, donations can be made by clicking the following link [https://mumb2g40xcm.typeform.com/to/korMla](https://mumb2g40xcm.typeform.com/to/korMlacK)