

ANCONE GROUP NEWS

ANCONCE GROUP CHAMPIONS BRIDGE AND DRAINAGE DESIGNS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF DUAL CARRIAGE WAY FROM CLOCK TOWER TO KAMEZA ROUNDABOUTS AND CHIGUMULA TO MPEMBA BYPASS ROAD FOR BLANTYRE CITY COUNCIL IN BLANTYRE CITY

By Luke Bisani

Floods are among the disaster cases that leave people in desperate situation. Property is lost, structures are damaged, livestock is washed away and sometimes life is lost.

In 2015, Malawi witnessed the devastating floods that affected many parts of the country, as a lot of property was washed away, lives of both human beings and livestock were lost due to the torrential waters that showed no mercy to the living creatures and non-living things.

The impact of the floods was noted to affect the people in both rural and urban settings of the country.

Though climate change fueled by degradation of the environment was singled out to be the cause of the floods, poor planning of drainage structures in the cities was recorded to be another cause of the 2015 flooding disaster.

The 2015 disaster was not only the catastrophe that hit the country for the past years as series of such disasters continued affecting the people of Malawi.

Media reports on record have revealed that floods hit Malawi's capital Lilongwe in the year 2017.

People in Lilongwe had a sad day when floods from Mchesi stream showed no mercy to the people along the streams.

The floods in Lilongwe killed six people apart from destroying five Church buildings among them being Area 22 Assemblies of God, Deeper Life Church in Kawale, African Church and Destiny Church.

Among the reasons reported to have caused the floods in Malawi's capital city, included environment degradation and encroachment of the river banks by the residents.

Some stakeholders also hinted that lack of good drainage system in the locations that the floods hit is another reason that fueled the waters to sweep people and property in Lilongwe.

Learning from such catastrophic disasters, Blantyre City Council (BCC) had in mind that having a good drainage system is among the solution of combating floods in cities of the country during rainy season.

It is against this background that Blantyre City Council demanded dual carriageway geometric designs from Kameza roundabout to Clock-tower to be incorporated with full surface water and subsoil drainage schedules.

The actual construction works of dual carriage way are being implemented by Mota-Engil as construction contractor and Royal Associates as Design and Supervision consultant. Royal Associates subcontracted scope of Bridge and Drainage design and supervision to A-N Consulting Engineers (ANCONE Group).



ANCONE Group thus conducted hydrology and hydraulic studies for the project area and prepared associated working drawings and specifications for bridge, box culverts, pipe culverts, longitudinal open and covered drains and subsoil drainage systems.

“The drainage structures designed and specified for the works considered flood return periods of 1 in 20years, 1 in 50years and 1 in 120years depending on complexity of the drainage structure and the cost of construction” Said Engineer Allan Nyirongo, Chief Executive Officer at ANCONE Group.



As the works are still being implemented for the construction of the dual carriageway, ANCONE Group has expressed satisfaction that the construction is going according to the designs submitted to the contractor.

The project that is to take a period of a year to completion is to witness the good engineering work of all construction parties involved and are geared to handover satisfactory road product to the client, BCC, and above all to the road users in Blantyre city.

The road between Kameza Roundabout and Clock tower in Blantyre is an existing tarmac single lane road. The scope in this construction works aims at expanding the roadway to double lane in each direction. The specific works include ripping off existing road surface whose base and sub base layers are damaged, removing top soil on adjacent road sides where the new road foot print is passing, replacing highly plastic subgrade materials with suitable fill materials meeting specific grading requirements, placement of crusher run base material and placing of asphaltic surfacing materials amongst others.



ANCONE Group also accepted a subcontract arrangement to prepare designs and specifications for Chigumula- Mpemba by pass road for Blantyre City Council in Blantyre City. The construction contractor for the works is Tahit Networks.

This project involves opening up virgin land in green fields according to geometric designs of the road alignment. Due to undulating nature of the location, there are various points where the proposed road alignment crosses various river points and low lying points. The natural terrain also steep to very steep natural slopes. The scope of works involves massive earthworks in form of cuts and fills.



The 186 kilometer bypass that starts from Chigumula to Mpemba will go to Chileka Airport then the road is to cross the M1 road to join Zomba road near Njuli Quarry.

Then the bypass is to be diverted from Zomba road at Chiradzulu turn-off to Mzedi area passing by Banana Club in Bangwe and turn back to Chigumula through Mtenje.



Malawi President Peter Mutharika who launched the Chigumula-Mpemba bypass road explained that the bypass is to play a critical role in improving the safety and reliability of Blantyre links which will in turn reduce

and eliminate delay of vehicles and improve traffic conditions of the existing road.

BCC, which is an oldest urban center in Malawi and Southern Africa, strives to deliver quality services delivery to the people of Blantyre.

Being at the center of decentralization process, people from Blantyre eye the council in provision of quality public works that uplifts the lives of people in the city.