

ANCONE GROUP NEWS

ANCONE GROUP OFFERS EXCELLENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STUDY CENTRE AND DINING HALL BLOCKS FOR EVTI AT CHILOMONI TOWNSHIP IN BLANTYRE

By Luke Bisani

Vocation skills have become among the options that can be used to lower high unemployment rate that is high in Malawi and is negatively affecting the youths.

Many youths in Malawi desperately search for jobs that demand them to be mainly in offices after graduating from various high learning institutions.

Though some youths in the country had that chance of attending to high learning institutions, many are in the category of unemployed due to lack skills that can enable them to qualify for the various job profiles.

Among the factors contributing to unskilled labor force among the youths include lack of adequate teaching and learning space in institutions of higher learning, poverty as many fail to go to private schools of high learning to have knowledge that they can use once they get employed in area that they have been trained for amongst others.

Realizing such challenge, Malawi government stepped in with efforts of training the youths of the country in various vocational skills.

Since 2014, Malawi Government has built a number of vocational training institutions across the country to train the youths in vocational skills like carpentry, welding , brick laying just to mention some but a few.

This has been seen to be a move in right direction towards lowering the unemployment rate, as many youths are becoming economically empowered, once they complete their trainings in their respective vocational training institutions.

Some youths are joining the construction industry as they get employed once they have completed their technical studies they enrolled for. Others are employing themselves through opening various trades such as carpentry, steel welding and fabrication shops amongst others.

The country is however still faced with a challenge of high demand of the youths to be accommodated in vocation training institutions that government is building due to high numbers of the youths in the country. This situation calls for more public outcry to increase the number of vocational training centers in the country to give chance to more youths to have access to professional trainings.

To support government efforts in imparting vocational skills to the youth in Malawi, Evangelical Vocation Training Institute (EVTI) slated to drill the youths with technical skills that can help them to be economically empowered.

With increased enrollment and demand by the youths to be imparted with vocation skills at EVTI, the institution planned to expand its institutional infrastructure by constructing Study Centre and Dining Hall Blocks.

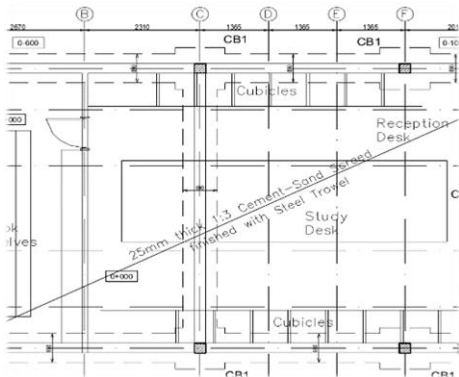
As it is the case with various property developers, EVTI was in dilemma of choosing a Project Management Engineering consultant who could provide quality project design, tendering services, construction supervision and project management services amongst many companies that are available in the construction industry.

Finally EVTI recognized technical skills that define service signature of A-N Consulting Engineers (ANCONE Group) as a project manager for construction works. The college thus engaged ANCONE Group to take a leading position in implementing the proposed infrastructure development plans of study centre and dining hall blocks within the school campus at Chilomoni Township in Blantyre, the commercial hub of Malawi.

ANCONE Group thus prepared the project designs which included architectural, structural and civil engineering, mechanical and electrical services drawings for both Study Centre and Dining Hall Blocks. The consultant also prepared technical specifications, bills of quantities and cost estimates (budgeting) and tender documents.

After client's acceptance of the design package, cost estimates and tender documents, the consultant carried out procurement process for the selection of construction contractor. The successful bidder for the works was DEC Construction Company.

During construction period, ANCONE Group offered project management and contract administration services which included conducting routine progress and technical meetings. These routine



meetings were key to ensure timely execution of works with required quality standards and within budget.

Amongst others the project consultant was also checking payment certificates from the contractor and recommending to the client for payment to be effected on the approved works.



“When the works were completed, we issued completion certificate to ascertain that the works had been done according to the designs and specifications” Said Engineer Allan Nyirongo, Chief Executive Officer for ANCONE Group.

Right from project inception date, the project consultant ensured that there was good working relationship amongst all parties involved on the project. Such an awesome collaboration enabled the works to be completed without disputes.



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Malawi is among countries with high unemployment rate in the World, with the majority being the youths. This has prompted some stakeholders like EVTI to come in to solve the challenge of unemployment that is high through provision of vocation training to the youths of Malawi.

During the construction period, all concrete was produced onsite and structural framing



members were cast in situ. Malawi is among countries with high unemployment rate in the World, with the majority being the youths. This has prompted some stakeholders like EVTI to come in to solve the challenge of unemployment that is high through provision of vocation training to the youths of Malawi. In 2016, Trade test, a vocational training examination body, singled out EVTI as a top institution of offering quality training and achieving high pass rates in the country. Speaking at the



graduation ceremony in that year, Trade text authorities applauded the institution for its efforts of drilling the youths in vocational trainings.

EVTI authorities disclosed that the institution has groomed students who have either excelled as employees or entrepreneurs in the country. During the 2016 graduation ceremony EVTI authorities revealed that over 200 graduates were on record to have been employed by the public and private sector.

Through government initiative like Skills and Technical Education Programs (STEP) institutions like EVTI do train the youths in various vocation skills. The goal of STEP in Malawi is to empower the Technical, Entrepreneurial, Vocational Education and Training (TEVET) Sector to satisfy the economy's need for professionals through improvement of equitable and gender- balanced TEVET in the country.

Since its launch, STEP has helped in imparting skills to the youths of Malawi; the skills have fostered economic empowerment amongst the youths of this country.

EVTI enrolls the youths for a three- year general fitting and discipline course adding to painting and decoration.

The construction works of both Study Centre and Dining Hall were achieved with funding from Buglands Charitas Donor from Netherlands.