

## Shine Relief Malawi – A Zidana

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February Hamid Mtambo, who is also Village Headman Chilambe and I travelled to Namasalima health centre to officially hand over the donated baby clothes to the maternity wing. We were well received by the Group Village Head Namasalima himself, Chairperson of the Health Centre Committee Friday Mulewa, Medical Assistant Jeremiah Mbite and Nurse Joyce Chikaphupha.



In his remarks, the Group Village Headman thanked the organisation for the donation to the centre, which serves a population of more than 20,000 people, that it will go a long way towards assisting the newborn babies.

- The Medical Assistant was also short of words for the kind gesture Shine had shown to the future leaders of this country.
- The nurse said, the donation has come at a right time when they are registering many births at least 6 a day; many of them do not have enough clothes because of the rampant poverty in our motherland. She went further to say that under weights require being in a warm environment for them to survive. The local masses have been registering a lot of deaths of the under weights because of poor care, one of which is inadequate warm clothing.
- “I pray that God Almighty should bless you more to continue caring for the less privileged of the society,” said the Chairperson of the Health Committee.

The Centre was constructed a long time ago before the multiparty era was ushered in, in 1993 when the population was very small. The centre is failing to accommodate the number of patients who visit the centre every day due to increasing numbers of the population. Some stand on long queues in the sun because of the small space available.

- The Centre does not have a private room for labour as the same room is also used as the area where Anti-Retro-Viral therapy {ART} is also administered to HIV/AIDS patients with only plywood board which separates the two. This is not conducive for women in labour and is against the recommended standards in health. Above all, it does not bring dignity to women.
- The maternity equipment is inadequate to cater for the ever-growing population.
- There is lack of beds and mattresses in both maternity and general ward that forces patients to sleep on bear floor, which is not good, either for their ill health.
- The general ward is just one room whereby they combine both male and female patients which is not in line with our Malawian culture.

Despite numerous challenges the staff body is facing, they are working so hard from what I learned from the Group Village Head and the Chairperson of the Committee. They just need to be supported with the necessary facilities and equipment for them to carry an effective job.

God bless you all for being a big help.