



PHOTOGRAPH

### Tambala: Review of the current Act is underway

a passport until they repay their education loan, among other things.”

Tambala said this on

who fail to repay the loans must be named and shamed by publishing their names in the local press.

“Every responsible citizen should be able to say that if I was assisted then I need to repay the loan so that other needy students must also benefit from the same funds,” she said. ■

### Yassin: Biodiversity data is crucial

# Quality biodiversity data key

MIKE VAN KAMANDE  
CONTRIBUTOR

National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) says there is need to generate quality biodiversity data and manage it efficiently since it is the backbone of any development in a country.

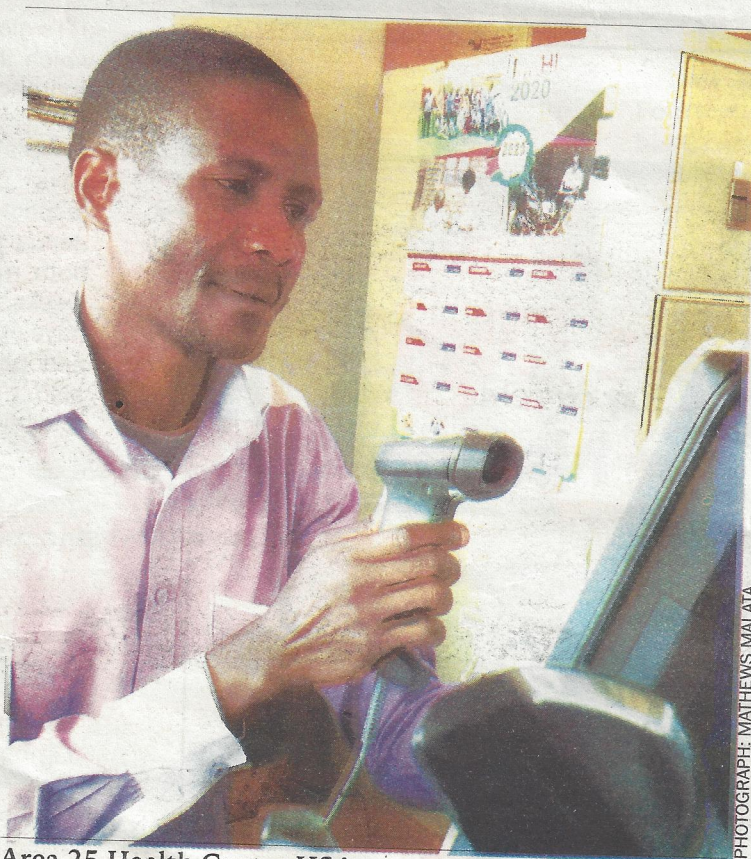
Speaking in Liwonde during a biodiversity information management forum (BIMF) NCST director general Elija Wanda said there is lack of coordination between institutions doing research and keeping data and data users; hence, the forum was established to provide a pedestal for coordination.

“The 2020 meeting is the third to be hosted in Malawi and it is focusing on using biodiversity data for national processes such as red listing and identification of key biodiversity areas. NCST is the bud for the global biodiversity information facility [GBIF] an international organisation aimed at making the world’s biodiversity data accessible globally. Malawi became an associate participant in 2015.

In his remarks, Environmental Affairs Department deputy director Ben Yassin said biodiversity information is key to planning and resource allocation apart from helping in identifying gaps in biodiversity conservation. “Biodiversity is central to Malawi’s economic growth since it is a natural based-economy with agriculture contributing the bulk of the economy,” he said.

The forum comprises NCST, environmental affairs department (EAD), National Herbarium and Botanical Gardens (NHBG), Wildlife and Environmental Society of Malawi (Wesm) and Museums of Malawi. ■

# ation wins wealth award



PHOTOGRAPH: MATHEWS MALATA

### Area 25 Health Centre HSA using the TB-EHR

“We have also installed 60 dashboards in all the 30 facilities for the data visualisation component for the directors of Health and Social Services and TB programme officers to easily monitor key parameters for quick decision-making regarding drug refills and follow-ups, among

others. As you know data is important and the government aims to translate data into action and change,” he explained.

The awards were scheduled to take place in Geneva but took place virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic. ■

EHR recognition effective.

The award has system expansion covering 30 health facilities.

pled for the nation. It cements together we can country—Malawi. commitment of re through ICT. members of the Ministry of Health al Fund for the k forward to a Chirwa.

h spokesperson o could not ent on the win ation is helping ment of TB data terly reports for at that adoption es where it has d is above 80

ys that health sy to generate ck patient-level rrors and works to the manual

Chirwa currently st is integrating District Health em (DHIS II) data repository ctured health-