

## STAKEHOLDERS TRAINED ON HIV AND AIDS INTERVENTIONS

By Starphel Sithole

Malawi Network of Religious Leaders living with or persons affected by HIV and AIDS (MANERELA+) has trained stakeholders on community led HIV interventions in Kasungu district.

Kasungu District Director of Health and Social Services, Dr. Emmanuel Golombe who facilitated the training, highlighted the need to streamline efforts towards curbing rampant spread of HIV and motivate those who tested positive to remain on treatment.



Dr. Emmanuel Golombe, Kasungu DHSS

“We rolled out self-testing kits to cater for people who are not willing to get tested at health centers, this initiative was well integrated into our strategy and we stressed on using role models and experts to mobilize communities to get tested in order to start getting treatment, and achieve viral suppression”, Said Dr. Golombe.

Dr. Golombe further commended MANERELA+ for organizing such training as it will bring light to people living with HIV because knowledge is power. Therefore, proper training on such interventions will open up their minds and help them to make informed decisions.

One of the participants at the meeting, who is a member of Men Having Sex with Men, applauded MANERELA+ for the training which has imparted them with relevant knowledge which is a powerful tool in fighting the spread of HIV as they will spread the message to other people living with HIV

“This training will enable us to be on the forefront in encouraging people living with HIV in our communities to defy spiritual beliefs that discourage receiving ART treatment and we look forward to engaging traditional leaders to report people who spread misconceptions about HIV treatments to relevant authorities”. He said.

Malawi joined the global community on the 95-95-95 HIV target which means 95% of people living with HIV knowing their status; 95% of people who know their status access treatment and 95% of people on treatment with suppressed viral loads in 2022.

Malawi Network of Religious Leaders Living with or persons affected by HIV and AIDS (MANERELA+) organized a two day training in Kasungu TDC which targeted 65 people living with HIV who are recipients of care at Kasungu District Hospital, FPAM and Kasalika Health facilities .MANERELA+ in partnership with the Network Of Journalists Living with HIV (JONEHA) are implementing a project called “Citizen Science in Community Led Monitoring and Advocacy (CS-CLMA)” funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC).