



PHOTOGRAPH: DAVIE MCHINGA

Staff and guardians at Kumbali Kindergarten

Communities celebrate 6 years of Kumbali

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'Canada' and 'Landscape' squatter communities in Area 44 in Lilongwe on Thursday celebrated six years of the establishment of Kumbali Kindergarten, the only institution that offers early childhood development (ECD) in the area.

According to the institution's coordinator Saili Mwale, the school was established in 2009 but was closed temporarily until 2011.

"When the school was established in 2009, the

number of school-going children increased but later, in 2010, the owner closed it and school enrollment dropped again. But we decided to reopen it in 2011 after parents in the area realised the need for the institution," said Mwale.

He said apart from following the government ECD policy, the school is unique in that it offers pupils school uniforms and demands communities' full participation in everyday activities of the school.

"We offer them school uniforms to eliminate disparities because they

come from different homes of different economic status. Secondly, we have two qualified ECD instructors who are assisted by parents every day," Mwale stated.

The celebrations were organised partly to allow the school's alumni and current pupils interact and encourage each other.

One of the parents who attended the celebrations Angela Simon said the school has reshaped the future of children from the surrounding communities because many of them have now developed interest in school. ■