

By Adam Phiri - The Daily Times

Group Chief Executive Officer for Press Corporation Limited (PCL) Mathews Chikaonda has urged members of the corporation to ensure that the country registers zero new infections, zero discrimination and mm deaths related to HIV and Aids. Chikaonda said this is possible if PCL employees, family members and everyone in the community which they work in should be part of the solution in scaling down new infections.

He was speaking in Blantyre on Monday when PCL members of staff joined the world in commemorating Worlds Aids Day under the theme "Healthy Life, Healthy Group".

"No one can shave your head in your absence. You are part of the problem and you should be part of the solution," said Chikuonda adding that the society should feel responsible for its own actions.

He said PCL is committed to ensuring that its employees are living a healthy life by providing free ARVs to those on medication and subsidising the drug for their family members.

Chikaonda said all employees and their family members diagnosed positive are maintained on the ARV scheme even after retiring.

"If we know their status voluntarily by the individual we pay 100 percent of the cost even if they have resigned or retired from the corporation. We have created a deliberate policy which is saying we are with you for life," he said.

Though there are some gains in the light against the pandemic, Chikaonda believes there's still more work to be done, saying other companies and the government need to learn from interventions PCI has put in place against the scourge.

"A collective effort is better than an individual effort. Press Corporation is one of the members in Malawi Business Coalitions against HIV and Aids to share the initiatives with other companies," he said.

Chikaonda advised employees of the trust to take the lead in spreading messages about the dangers of the disease which he said will help in minimising its prevalence rate.

PCL Group Committee Aids Awareness member Catherine Kaimila said they chose this year's theme because they believe that with health workers productivity improves.