

BY SAM BANDA JNR

FOCUS on Ability Society (Foas) in partnership with Nova Employment in Australia has extended the deadline of entries for this year's Focus on Ability Short Film Festival to July 31.

The organisers said they decided to extend the deadline to give a chance to filmmakers to participate in the festival which is running for the 12th consecutive year in promoting ability.

With over US\$100,000 in prizes up for grabs and unparalleled international exposure, this is a festival that has seen filmmakers walking away with cash prizes.

Foas Executive Director, MacDonald Nyirenda, said yesterday that the total prize money for local level (Malawi) is US\$2,500.

"Entries from Malawi automatically enter both national and international levels," Nyirenda said.

He said despite the world

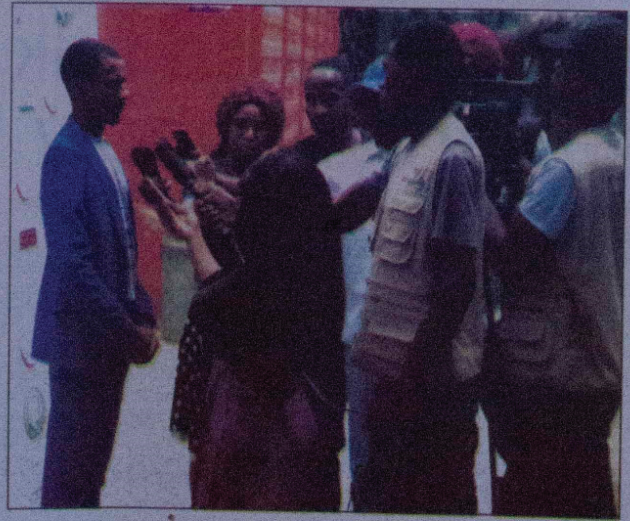
# Focus On Ability Short Film Festival extends entry deadline

being affected by Covid-19 pandemic, they felt it was important to continue with the festival and give people a platform to share stories of overcoming adversity.

"Our festival is conducted online (this year's awards announcement will be online) and the release of the films will provide the world with positive content, something that is very much needed," he said.

Nyirenda also called upon filmmakers to stay safe and follow the necessary precautionary measures when shooting their films.

In last year's festival in Malawi held at Blantyre Cultural Centre, four winners were awarded prize money in the categories of Best films and Best actors.



FLASHBACK—Nyirenda speaks to journalists during last year's event—File photo