

## **MANDATE OF PHYSICAL PLANNING, LANDS AND LAND SURVEYING**

The coming in of decentralisation has made many departments that were operating under central government to start working under local government. Some government departments are now working at local government level. For example, Lands Physical Planning and land surveying have been given the mandate to work in each district on land matters. This means that offices are provided in the district councils to accommodate the officers working under the ministry of lands even though the operation of the offices are not fully decentralised currently. Section 19 (1) of Physical Planning Act 2016 provides that a local government authority shall appoint a planning committee for its area of jurisdiction which shall be the responsible planning authority for the area and shall exercise any duties as are conferred by the Act. This section provides the power to exercise physical Planning activities in the local government authority (district) where a committee is supposed to be appointed. Section 22 (e) of Local Government Act 1998 provides other functions of the assembly that the assembly shall take charge of all decentralized services and activities which include but not limited to land administration, physical planning and land surveying. Act gives the authority to lands, Physical Planning and Land Surveying to operate their work at District level such as Chitipa.