

# School of Law, Economics and Government Newsletter



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**Professor Happy Kayuni**  
Executive Dean of the School  
of Law, Economics and  
Government (LEG)

I am thrilled to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you as we embark on another exciting period as the School of Law, Economics, and Government. As the Executive Dean, I am honoured to be part of this vibrant and esteemed community of scholars, professionals, and future leaders of this newsletter. Some of the highlights include the establishment of new departments as well as the appointment of new heads of departments. This is a wonderful development for our school and UNIMA.

Our school stands at the forefront of legal, economic, and governmental education and research, dedicated to nurturing intellectual curiosity, fostering critical thinking, and preparing our students to make a profound impact in their chosen fields. This edition showcases some of the brilliant outputs from our school for you to enjoy and appreciate.

In the School of Law, Economics, and Government, we believe in the

transformative power of education. Our outstanding staff members, who are renowned experts in their respective fields, are committed to imparting their knowledge and expertise to all stakeholders. Our school encourages interdisciplinary collaboration, recognizing that real-world problems often require multifaceted solutions. We believe that a comprehensive understanding of the law, economics, and government is key to addressing the pressing issues of our time, such as social justice, sustainable development, and global governance. Together, we can break down traditional boundaries and forge new pathways for innovation and positive change. A closer analysis of what we have so far achieved in terms of research, publication and outreach attests to this.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated editorial team who worked tirelessly to provide you with an exciting newsletter.

## Editorial Team



**Gowokani Chijere  
Chirwa, PhD**



**Samantha Mosiwa**



**Alexious Kamangila**



**Atupele Masanjala**



**Emmillian Mlagha**

### UNIMA Leadership



**Prof. Samson Sajidu**



**Dr. Sunduzwayo Madise**



**Mr. Martin Matululu**



## Updates From the Office of the Executive Dean

### Professor Kayuni presents a paper at the University of Mumbai, India



Professor Happy Kayuni presented a paper on 12th January 2023 at the Centre for African Studies, University of Mumbai. The paper is entitled, "Malawian Perceptions of India's Development Cooperation". The paper is based on a wider research project involving three institutions: University of Mumbai, University of Oslo and University of Malawi. The project is entitled "India's Growing Footprint in Africa: The Politics, Benefits and Risks of South-South Cooperation (INDAF)". Specifically, the project aims at developing new knowledge on India's foreign policy and South-South Cooperation with Africa and a better understanding of the modalities and impact of India's soft power strategy and African perspectives on the efficacy of such initiatives

### Professor Kayuni presents a paper at the ECAS conference in Germany

On 2nd June 2023, Professor Kayuni presented a paper at the ECAS Conference 2023, University of Cologne, Germany. The paper is entitled "Development Cooperation & Gift Reciprocity in Malawi: Comparative Analysis of India and China in Malawi". This paper focuses on India and China as aid givers from the 'Global South' and how they conduct their business with Malawi, a developing country in Africa whose national budget depends on 40% of funds from donors to implement development projects. The paper engages the Gift Reciprocity theory to understand the interaction between India and China and Malawi. Based on qualitative data collected during field visits carried out in three years (2020 and 2022), the paper

argues that there are similarities and differences in the way China and India engages Malawi on development cooperation. The paper establishes that similar prominent features between India and China in their approach to development cooperation with Malawi include Commercial Development Cooperation/ Diplomacy and provision of credit line. India and China perceive their interest in cooperating with other countries in the global south as an act of brotherhood and friendship. From south-south cooperation perspective, the paper contributes to the debate on how best a weaker partner such as Malawi can get quality aid from dominant development partners such as India and China.

# Prof. Kayuni Joins Durban University of Technology's Centre for African Governance and Development as Advisory Board Member

Professor Happy Kayuni has been appointed as an Advisory Board member for the Centre for African Governance and Development (CAGD) at the Durban University of Technology in the Republic of South Africa. The main goal of the Centre is to provide transformative knowledge and leadership to public and private sector enterprises and communities through partnerships

and collaborations that enhance performance towards sustainable development excellence. This is achieved by promoting original research and conversations of global standard, on African governance and development, thereby contributing to the advancement of society, economy, and physical environment.

## LEG staff accompany MDF on a trip to the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom



From 19th to 24th June 2023, the UNIMA team led by Professor Happy Kayuni accompanied the Malawi Defence Force team led by General Nundwe to the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. This was the third international benchmarking exercise which is meant to lead towards the establishment of the Malawi National Defence College. Previously the team had visited defence colleges in Kenya and the United States of America. The Defence Academy of the United Kingdom is a British military training and education institution that provides advanced professional development and strategic education to military personnel, civil servants, and international students.

The Academy aims to develop the intellectual capacity and leadership skills of military and civilian personnel, enabling them to effectively tackle the complex challenges of defence and security. It serves as the leading provider of higher education and professional development for the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and

armed forces. The Defence Academy is responsible for delivering a wide range of courses, programs, and research activities, covering various aspects of defence and security. It offers academic qualifications, such as postgraduate degrees, and professional development courses tailored to the needs of military officers, defence professionals, and MOD civil servants. The academy is composed of several constituent colleges and schools, each specializing in different areas of study and training. Some of the notable institutions within the Defence Academy include the Joint Services Command and Staff College (JSCSC), Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS), Defence College of Management and Technology (DCMT) and Defence Academy Centre for Education and Research (DACER).

The UNIMA team comprised of Professor Happy Kayuni – UNIMA Team leader, Dr Ngcimezile Mweso, Dr Tiyesere Chikapa, Dr Enock Chilemba and Mrs Towera Mwachungu

## Bath Spa University exchange visit



Prof Happy Kayuni was one of the UNIMA team members who visited Bath Spa University (BSU) in the UK on a UNIMA-BSU staff exchange programme (8th to 19th May 2023). The exchange programme is co-funded by the Erasmus+ of the European Union. The UNIMA team exchanged notes/ideas with their counterparts at BSU which may go a long way to improve UNIMA's goal of enhancing internationalization. Professor Kayuni focused on support from BSU on the development of a BA-Criminology programme in UNIMA. Specifically, he had discussions with criminology experts at BSU led by Dr Rainer-Elk Anders who is Senior Lecturer in Criminology.

## UNIMA Presents Afrobarometer findings at Malawi Police Headquarters



In February 2023, Professor Kayuni together with Mr Joseph Chunga and Dr Maxton Tsoka from UNIMA's Centre for Social Research, did a presentation at Police Headquarters in Lilongwe on the status of corruption in Malawi. Using the Malawi 2022 Afrobarometer data, they focused on several themes such as: Public safety and security, corruption and service delivery. This was based on an invitation from the Police to learn more about how they can tackle issues of corruption within their service.

## Executive Dean as discussant at the National Separation of Powers Conference

The Executive Dean was part of the panel at the Malawi National Separation of Powers Conference held at BICC in Lilongwe from 12th to 13th June 2023. The conference brought together key officials from all three arms of government: Judiciary, Executive and Legislature. The aim of the conference was to ensure that these institutions improve in their collaboration to enhance the delivery of governance outcomes in the country. Specifically, the Executive Dean participated in a short panel discussion entitled "Governance challenges and opportunities to deliver the Malawi 2063 Agenda". Some of the questions which were discussed include:

1. Realizing Malawi 2063 requires coordination and cooperation. How can these be achieved in the context of separation of powers?
2. What opportunities and challenges does doubling as a Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister present in a developing democracy such as Malawi?

## UNIMA signs an MoU to promote collaboration in peace education



On behalf of UNIMA's Vice Chancellor, the Executive Dean, Professor Happy Kayuni signed an MoU to promote collaboration and provision of quality and independent analysis and education in peace, unity & development. This MoU was agreed between the Ministry of Local Government and Universities (Inter-University network) at Crossroads Hotel in Blantyre on 21st April 2023. This was inspired by the recognition that universities constitute key incubators of knowledge relating to peace and development. These efforts by the UNDP in collaboration with like-minded actors and key stakeholders in the country's peace agenda culminated into the signing of the first Inter-University Network for Peace, Unity and Development Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) involving six Malawian institutions of Higher learning which are as follows: the University of Malawi (UNIMA), The Catholic University of Malawi (CUNIMA), The Mzuzu University (MZUNI), The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS), The University of Science and Technology (MUST) and The Malawi School of Government (MSG).

# LEG STAFF members part of the Afrobarometer-CSR winning bid



UNIMA's Centre for Social Research (CSR) which is under the School of Humanities and Social Sciences has recently won the highly competitive Malawi Afrobarometer National Partnership bid (for the next three rounds). Although CSR has been the Afrobarometer National Partner for some years, the initial agreement expired hence Afrobarometer Network invited bids from different research institutions for the

position. It was a very rigorous and highly competitive process but CSR finally made it. Some of the LEG staff members who were part of the bid team include Dr Jacobs Mazalale (Economics Department), Dr Tiyesere Chikapa-Jamali (Leadership and Management Studies Department) and Prof. Happy Kayuni (Executive Dean of LEG). Other CSR team members are Dr Maxon Tsoka, Mr Joseph Chunga and Mr Henry Chilobwe

## Msokera secures a SADC PhD scholarship



Ms Msokera Treassar Nhlane has been awarded a prestigious scholarship by the esteemed SADC Secretariat to pursue her Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies at the renowned University of Malawi. This scholarship is a testament to her exceptional academic achievements and potential for future success. It will fully cover her tuition fees and living expenses for the duration of her studies, from 1 August 2022 to 31 July 2026. Ms Nhlane is currently undertaking a research project entitled "Three Essays on Intellectual Property, Foreign Aid and Economic Growth in SADC". This project is being expertly supervised by Associate Professors Michael Chasukwa and Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, two highly respected academics in the region. Ms Nhlane's academic journey is destined for great success and we eagerly anticipate her future contributions to the field of Development Studies.

# Department of Economics



## New HOD of Economics



The economic department has a new head, Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, who will be in charge for the next three years. Dr Chirwa is taking over from Dr Jacob Mazalale, who worked hard over the previous three years to elevate the department to a new level.

## UNIMA Economics scoops position two at the Joint Facility for Electives



The Master of Arts Economics class of 2023 at the University of Malawi (UNIMA) unquestionably outshone their peers with their exceptional performance at the 2022 Joint Facility Electives (JFE) hosted by the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC). It's worth noting that the event, which took place in 2022, was attended by representatives from 11 African countries, including Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Ghana, Mauritius, Namibia, Botswana, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Kenya. However, the program was run online due to the lockdowns and travel restrictions of COVID-19, as participants could not travel to Kenya, where the program is usually administered. The University of Malawi came out as top-number 2. This was a step down from last year (2021) when we were in position one.

# Gowokani Chijere Chirwa appointed Extraordinary Associate Professor of the University of North West, South Africa



We are pleased to announce that Dr. Gowokani Chijere Chirwa has been appointed as an Extraordinary Associate Professor for the School of Economic Science at North-West University (NWU) in the Republic of South Africa. This appointment is a significant achievement for both universities as it strengthens their working relationship and will result in increased research collaboration. It also demonstrates international recognition for the research conducted by UNIMA. Despite working with NWU, Dr. Chirwa will continue to be employed by UNIMA. We extend our warmest congratulations to Dr. Chirwa on his well-deserved appointment.

## New Faces in the Department: New Developments

### Associate Professor Mangani Retires

On February 28, 2023, Associate Professor Ronald Mangani retired from the University of Malawi. His exceptional work has left a lasting impact on the department, resulting in growth in seminars and progress in PhD and MA programs. To show appreciation for his tremendous service to the Department, the DOE hosted a party in his honor.

### The PhD journey

**Laston Manja** has been accepted into the University of Michigan in the USA for a PhD in Economics, and will begin his studies in August 2023. He is expected to be there for a minimum of five years. Mr. Manja has already demonstrated himself to be a rising star while on campus, as evidenced by his impressive track record of publications at such a young age. We wish him all the best and eagerly anticipate him bringing his PhD home.



Laston Manja

## Welcome Aboard! The old and the new

The DOE welcomes back Associate Professor **Winford Masanjala**, an Associate Professor, has returned from his government secondment as the Principal Secretary in the Economic Planning and Development (EP&D). He has already resumed his work at the DOE.

### New members of staff

The DOE has added three new staff members: Dr. Farai Chigaru, Miss Emmillian Mlagha, and Mr. Francis Sambakunsi. Dr. Chigaru holds a bachelor's degree from UNIMA and a PhD from Peking University in China, with a specialization in applied econometrics. He is focused on identifying practical development

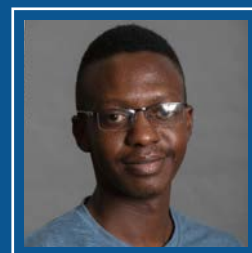
approaches for developing countries, particularly growth sectors that fit a country's unique context and initial conditions. Ms. Mlagha has earned a BSc from LUANAR and an MSc from the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Her research interests lie in agricultural and rural development, specifically in food security and nutrition, examining food systems and conducting economic analyses of poverty and inequality. Mr. Sambakunsi holds a BSc degree from UNIMA and an MSc from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the USA.



Dr Farai Chigaru



Ms Emmillian Mlagha



Mr Francis Sambakunsi



### Finland collaboration: Business and Sustainable Economic Development (BUSEDA): African and European Perspectives Workshop



The Department of Economics of the University of Malawi signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies of the University of Eastern Finland to implement a project, namely the Business and Sustainable Economic Development: African and European Perspective (BUSEDA). The agreement was signed by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Samson Sajidu, on 24th November 2022. Other participating universities are Botswana Open University, College of Business Education (Tanzania), National University of Lesotho, University of Mauritius, and University of Seychelles. The project's duration is 16 months, from 1st September 2022 to 31 December 2023.

The project aims to develop a joint online academic course titled "Business and Sustainable Economic Development: African and European Perspectives." This course will be introduced into the curricula of the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) and six African partner higher education institutions. This course aims to give participating students practical knowledge

about contemporary economic development and business climate in the participant countries.

As part of the project, a workshop was held in Helsinki, Finland, from the 25th to the 26th of May, 2023. Associate Professor Patrick Kambewa attended the workshop on behalf of the local project coordinator, Professor Levison Chiwaula, who is currently on a leave of absence. Among other things, the participating universities will develop course material relevant to their respective countries. However, the materials will be taught in all participating countries. During the workshop, Dr Kambewa made a presentation about Malawi, the University of Malawi's current status and initiatives that are currently underway and future prospects for the University. Additionally, the presentation also highlighted potential areas of investment in Malawi. These included (1) Energy Sector, (2) Transport Sector, (3) Health Infrastructure, (4) Tourism Sector, (5) Education Sector and (6) Industrial Sector. For the agricultural sector, the following were pointed out (1) Green belt initiatives, (2) Mega farms and (3) Industrial hemp cultivation.



# Visitors from Bristol and Singapore

The DOE received visitors from the University of Bristol, UK and the National University of Singapore. The meeting was to establish the working relationships among the universities. They discussed research that the foreign scholars were doing in Malawi and how they could find common ground for joint research. The meeting was electric.



## Workshops

- In April 2023, Associate Professor Spy Munthali participated in a workshop on the USAID Bicycles for Growth initiative in Lilongwe. As a result, they were invited to join the Bicycles Research Project Advisory Board for the next three years.
- Dr Farai Chigaru attended a workshop on the Training of Trainers (ToT) on PhD supervision organized by Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS). The workshop aimed at building the capacity of potential PhD supervisors on the best practice methods in PhD supervision. The focus was on best practices from PhD recruitment to PhD completion of PhD candidates. With participation from representatives from the five schools at UNIMA and representatives from MUBAS and KUHeS, contextual solutions were developed to mitigate the current challenges both supervisors and supervisees face.

## Community engagements

- The Department of Economics continues to be involved in the development of multidimensional poverty in Malawi. So far, Associate Prof G.C. Chirwa, Dr J. Mazalale and Ms Emmillian Mlagha are part of the team. The report is being done with NSO, UNDP, OPHI – Oxford UK and UNICEF.
- The National Planning Commission (NPC) involved Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa in teaching the Non-experimental impact evaluation method to would-be evaluators in Lilongwe on 16th March 2023.
- The headship- Dr Jacob Mazalale and Associate Prof Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, held the first student address in Wadonda Lecture Theatre. They invited all students studying economics to guide them as well as respond to commonly asked questions.
- Miss Emmillian Mlagha represented the Head of the Department at the LUANAR Curriculum Validation Workshop for their proposed MA in Development Finance/Microfinance Programme, which took place at Lilongwe Hotel in Lilongwe, on 26th June 2023.

## Honouring heroes

The Department of Economics has established the Ben Kaluwa Seminar Series as a tribute to esteemed individuals who have passed away. This seminar is dedicated to the memory of Ben Kaluwa, Ephraim Chirwa, and Richard Mussa. The presentations have received positive feedback with four staff members having already presented. These seminars take place monthly.

## Departmental seminars

Associate Prof G. C. Chirwa presented on the “effect of farm input subsidy on multidimensional poverty in Malawi” on May 4, 2023, as part of the late Professor Ben Kaluwa, Professor Ephraim Chirwa and Dr Richard Mussa seminar series.

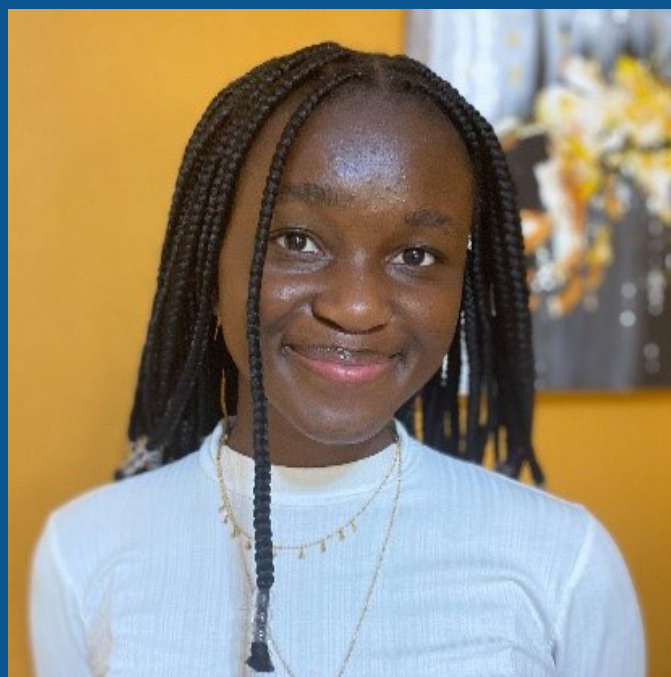
On the 1st of June, 2023, Associate Prof W.H. Masanjala presented in the Ben Kaluwa series. His talk was on “Can Malawi sunset the fertiliser subsidy programme?”.

## Shining a Light on DOE Students

### Students achievements

- The students of the DOE have continued to excel on an international level, representing Unima with great distinction. On the 22nd of May, **Miss Desiderata Nkhoma** presented her Master’s thesis at the 2023 IDM Annual Symposium held by the Institute for Disease Modeling (<http://idmod.org> ). This was done on 22-24 May in Seattle, USA.
- **Mr. Chrispin Mtocha** has been invited to participate in an event in Bogota, Colombia due to his exceptional master’s thesis on multidimensional poverty. Additionally, **Miss Tughulupi Ndovi**, who previously won the USD3000 grant from AERC, has recently been awarded another grant of USD 9000.
- **Theodora Kuntembwe**, a second-year student from the Department of Economics at the University of Malawi has been successfully accepted for the Global Ugrad Program sponsored by the US Department of State and World Learning Inc. The program provides students from around the world with the opportunity to study in the USA. As a representative of the University of Malawi, she is determined to showcase her home institution’s excellence and rich cultural heritage. She is

fully committed to maximizing this academic and personal experience as she engages with diverse perspectives and immerses herself in a new learning environment.



**Debora Kuntembwe**

# 2023 Fourth Year Economics Students Symposium



This year's Fourth Year Economics Symposium was held at the Golden Peacock Hotel in Lilongwe City on Friday, June 2, 2023. The following were the invited guest: Mr Jolam Banda (Director of Planning, EP&D), Mr Ian Khonje (former student and currently an Econopreneur), Dr Grace Kumchulesi (Director of Development Planning, National Planning Commission), Dr. MacDonald Mafuta Mwale (Secretary to the Treasury) with Professor Ronald Mangani (Chief Executive Officer of Press Corporation PCL) as Guest of Honour.

Among the presenters during the symposium were the Guest of Honour Dr. Mafuta Mwale, then Dr. Kumchulesi and finally, Mr. Khonje. The various speakers challenged the students to take the current economic challenges the country is facing as opportunities. An example was given about the people outside the continent who are flocking into Africa at the time Africans were leaving the continent for "greener pastures" outside the continent.

The Director of Planning (EP&D) mentioned of opportunities for internships which are available in the Division mentioning that students from other

Institutions take advantage of the internship in the third and fourth year, unlike their counterparts from UNIMA.

He also indicated a need and Department's interest to participate in the review of the Department's curriculum.

In response to these observations, the Department representative indicated that the internship issue will be reported to the Head, who will take it up with the Department for appropriate action. Furthermore, the symposium was told that the current Syllabus was developed a few years ago in which the Department was involved and that when the appropriate time comes, the Department will be involved for its input. The Director also discussed a need for a formal MoU with the Department, as is the case with the Reserve Bank of Malawi. On their part, the students were enthusiastic to learn more about the internships and job opportunities in civil service. Mr Mphande, made a presentation which was presented eloquently, and he truly represented his classmates and the Department very well. Dr Regson Chaweza and Dr Patrick Kambewa escorted the students on behalf of the Department. Speaking on behalf of the Head of the Department, Dr Kambewa urged the students to prepare for a competitive world ahead and encouraged them to keep in touch with the Department for mutual benefit.



## Associate Professor Boniface Dulani teaches at Afrobarometer summer school



The Afrobarometer is a pan-African, independent, non-partisan research network that measures African public attitudes on economic, political, and social matters. The network annually holds summer school programs to equip African Scholars with data collection and analysis skills. Associate Professor Dulani, a member serving in the network for a long time, was part of the experts teaching the 2022 November summer school.

## Associate Professor Dulani receives a 15 Years of Service Award from Afrobarometer



On the 17th of May 2023, at the Afrobarometer annual general meeting held in Ghana Accra, Associate Professor Dulani was given an award for serving 15 years in the network. Congratulation, Associate Professor Dulani, for this achievement.

## PAS Society takes part in Equal Trade Organisation Launch

On the 8th of January, PAS Society participated in the launch of Equal Trade Alliance, an organisation starting operations in Malawi. PAS Society and Economics Society were booked for a debate on the motion that “Equal trade certification is the only way to eradicate poverty in Africa in less than a generation”. PAS Society came out victorious from the debate. To celebrate the victory, the Society was treated to lunch hosted by the Head of the Department, Associate Professor Micheal Chasuwa.

## PAS Trained on How to Handle Issues of Plagiarism



Members of the PAS department, in a meeting held in Nalipiri on the 7th of February 2023, had training on issues to do with plagiarism. Mr Blessing Katuma from the University of Malawi Library trained the PAS members. Some of the topics tackled were: defining plagiarism and its forms, how plagiarism affects academic integrity, use of plagiarism softwares, plagiarism versus artificial intelligence such as ChatGPT and how other universities in UK, Australia and USA are handling issues of plagiarism and artificial intelligence.

## PAS meets with DHRMD and OPC to review 2022 internships and plan for 2023

In the year 2020 PAS revamped its internship program. Second and third year students are sent to different government offices and parastatals during the second semester break with the aim of acquainting them to their program related work places. On the 6th of March 2023 PAS held a meeting at Hippo View Lodge in Liwonde with DHRMD and OPC officials who are partners in the implementation of the internship program to review 2022 internship and to plan ahead for the 2023 phase. Presenting at the meeting on behalf of the department was the Head of Department Professor Michael Chasukwa.

# Prof. Hussein works on a research collaboration with NLGFC



UNIMA, represented by Professor Hussein, has been working on a research project with the National Local Government Finance Committee (NLGFC). The project is on Democratising local governments' service delivery and assesses the challenges and opportunities facing the promotion of citizen engagement in Malawi's local authorities.

## Member of Staff achievements and Congratulatory Messages

**Professor Happy Kayuni was appointed as Executive Dean for the School of Law, Economics and Government**



The Politics and Government Department, together with the Management and Leadership studies department, would like to congratulate Professor Happy Kayuni for his appointment as Executive Dean of SLEG. The two departments, previously under the name Political and Administrative Studies Department, are proud to have one of our own serving as executive dean. Congratulations, Professor for this achievement.

**Associate Professor Michael Chasukwa Michael Chasukwa was appointed as Executive Head of the Politics and Government Department**



The Politics and Government Department, together with the Management and Leadership studies Department, would like to congratulate Associate Professor Chasukwa for his appointment as Head of the newly formed Politics and Government Department. Associate Professor Chasukwa was previously serving as Head of the PAS department. The department looks forward to working with you. Congratulations!

## **Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa was appointed as Executive Head of the Management and Leadership Studies Department**



The Management and Leadership Studies Department, together with the Politics and Government Department, would like to congratulate Dr Tiyesere Chikapa for her appointment as Head of the newly formed Management and Leadership Studies Department. The department looks forward to working with you. Congratulations!

## **Associate Professor Mustafa Kennedy Hussein Promoted to professorship**



The Politics and Government Department, together with the Management and Leadership Studies Department, would like to congratulate Professor Mustafa Kennedy Hussein for his promotion to full professorship. Congratulations on achieving this milestone Professor Hussein!

## **Professor Mustafa Kennedy Hussein appointed as an international advisory board member for IPADA.**

On the 9th of May 2023, Professor Hussein was appointed as an International advisory board member for International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternative (IPADA) Board. Congratulations, Professor, for this achievement!

## **Mrs Yapikachi Kambala graduates from the University of Malawi with a Master's degree in Public Administration and Management**



Congratulations to Mrs Kambala on achieving a master's degree in Public Administration and Management from the University of Malawi on April 13, 2023. The Politics and Government department, along with the Management and Leadership Studies Department, extend their heartfelt congratulations on this significant achievement. Well done!

## **Associate Professor Asiyati Chiweza was appointed as the Director General of the Malawi School of Government**



The Politics and Government Department, together with the Management and Leadership Studies Department, would like to congratulate Associate Professor Chiweza for her appointment as the Director General of the Malawi School of Government. Congratulations and all the best in this journey.

# PAS students visit the National Planning Commission and EU ambassador to Malawi's residence



the residence of His Excellency Mr Rune Skinnenach, ambassador of the EU to Malawi, where they had lunch and round table discussions. Some topics discussed were education, fighting corruption, trade and investments and public policies. Also in attendance were Ms Lucy Chihana, a PAS staff member, the speaker of the national parliament Honourable Catherine Gotani Hara and Dr Thomas Munthali, the director of general of the NCP. After the Luncheon, the students went to another session on unmasking the 2063 and the role of the youth with the NPC at the Health Sciences Hall.

On the 12th of April 2023, the PAS Society went on an educational trip in Lilongwe, where they first visited the National Planning Commission and later had a luncheon at the EU ambassador to Malawi's. Upon arrival at the NPC, the students were met by the director of planning, Dr Grace Kumchulesi and other officials who gave the students an overview of the duties of the NPC and gave them an overview of a presentation that the NPC officials were making that afternoon on the Malawi 2063 national policy. The students then proceeded to



## PAS Break bread together for the last time in Mangochi



On the 2nd of June, PAS final year students left for their final education visit and farewell function in Mangochi. On the day of arrival, the students had a public lecture by Mangochi officials and NICE on how the municipalities and city councils carry out their functions. On the afternoon of the same day there were other lectures addressing issues of mental health and investment. On the 3rd of June, PAS Department members of staff had

talked to the students on life after university, navigating the workforce as a new graduate and postgraduate studies and various scholarship opportunities. The PAS Members of staff in attendance were Professor Chasukwa, Dr Tiyesere Chikapa, Ms Lucy Chihana and Mrs. Yapikachi Kambala.



# Departments of Public Law & Clinical Legal Education and Private Law



## UNIMA Hosts A Public Lecture on Judicial Independence and Accountability

The University of Malawi, under the School of Law, Economics and Government, hosted a Public Lecture on Judicial Independence, delivered by the Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Right Honourable, Lord Burnett of Maldon. The Public Lecture, which was the fifth in the Matembo Nzunda series, was titled 'Judicial Independence and Accountability in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities.'

Speaking to a global audience of the Attorney General, Director of Public Prosecution, Judges of the Supreme Court and High Court, judicial officers, Academics, President and membership of the Malawi Law Society, the business community and students, among others, the Lord Chief Justice called the Judiciary to be accountable to the people.

"In this steadfast retort, we find the crux of the Rule of Law – two key tenets which, like the poles of a magnet or sides of a coin, oppose and yet depend on one another. First, no one is above the law. Second, no one is punishable except in accordance with the law. This basic constitutional foundation is forever being built upon. At the heart of both accounts is the ideal of judicial independence enshrined in the fourth Latimer House Principle and in section 103 of Malawi's Constitution."

The Lord Chief Justice postulated the seven principles necessary to attain judicial independence and accountability as being; 1. the appointment of judges should, so



far as possible, be free from political influence 2. judicial training should be independent of political control 3. the judiciary must be adequately funded 4. security of tenure of judicial officers 5. judicial immunity from suit, 6. accountability – albeit accountability of an independent kind and 7. open justice.

"As I conclude, Judicial Independence requires Judicial interdependence hence my gratitude for inviting me here today". Burnett said.

Representing the Chief Justice Rezine Mzikamanda, Justice of Appeal Lovemore Chipoka SC thanked the Lord Chief Justice for visiting Malawi and addressing an important topic of Judicial Independence. "Judicial officers take oath to abide by professional ethics, and this Lecture contributes to giving direction on how the discharge of their professional duties without bias or fear elevates judicial independence and accountability".



Malawi's Attorney General, Thabo Chakaka Nyirenda hailed the Public Lecture saying it provides an opportunity for Malawi's judiciary to get feedback. "This public Lecture was informative and addressed critical areas in legal practices."

Research Coordinator Associate Professor Garton Kamchedzera stated that the Matembo Mzunda lecture series were established by the Law Faculty to honour Dr Matembo Nzumba, who is one of Malawi's

most respected jurists and members of Parliament who passed away in 2000. "Our Matembo Nzunda lectures cover a range of topics that are central to a balanced understanding of good governance such as inclusiveness, democratic participation and political legitimacy, forms of accountability and mechanisms such as transparency and access to information, effectiveness of service delivery, respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights. It is part of a wider strategy to build and concentrate expertise in various aspects of good governance in the School, which may take the form of a graduate programme in governance".

## University of Malawi Excels in Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition



The University of Malawi is amongst the best twenty-four universities across the world, which have proceeded to the in-person rounds of the 15th edition of the Nelson Mandela World Human Rights Moot Court Competition. The University of Malawi is being represented by Teuka Tembo [fourth year] and Bentry Nyondo [third year] from the School of Law Economics and Government.

According to Nyondo, the competition started with different universities submitting

written arguments from which the best fifty universities across the world were selected to participate in the preliminary virtual rounds of the competition. After the preliminary assessment of the written arguments process, the University of Malawi was amongst the top four African universities from a total of fourteen African universities. During the preliminary rounds of the competition from 20th to 27th May 2023, the University of Malawi's team claimed the third position amongst the best seven African universities from the African region. Nyondo attributed the success of the team to their dedication and hard work and further support from their coaches within the School of Law, Economics and Government. 'As a team, we are enormously grateful to the School of Law, Economics and Government for all the steadfast support rendered to us since the start of the competition', said Nyondo.

The University of Malawi's team is now expected to travel to Switzerland, Geneva, to compete against the other 23 best universities across the globe from the 18th to 21st July of 2021. The Nelson Mandela Moot is an annual human rights moot court competition organized by the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria and brings together the best ten universities from all United Nations regions to compete in the competition. This year's moot tackles issues of the arms trade, compulsory acquisition of land by Governments and the treatment of refugees victimized by war and armed conflict.

# Class of 2023 Excels in Trial Advocacy



On 1st June 2023, the High Court Rooms were turned into Lecture Theatres as the Final Year Law Students from the School of Law, Economics and Government of the University of Malawi, showed their grit in trial advocacy. As part of their curriculum requirement, each LLB (Hons) Mw candidate appeared before the Court as Counsel in a criminal Mock Trial. Pursuing competency-based, experiential and comparative teaching and learning, the students were assessed by their skills in drafting, knowledge of facts/law, correct and articulate analysis of issues, clarity, organization, Ingenuity, persuasiveness and ability to respond to questions.

During the mock trial, the students worked with a hypothetical case of facts where the state was prosecuting one Desmond Peters for theft while the defence team provided defence services for the

accused. The students were assessed through their conduct of opening statement, examination-In-Chief, Cross-Examination and Final Submissions. Judges of the High Court; Justice Jean Kayira, Justice Kacheche and Justice Mambulasa presided over the matter in three different courts at the High Court Principal Registry.

The Judges gave feedback to the students in which they praised their trial advocacy skills and encouraged them to work in the areas they struggled in, to ensure quality legal representation. The Head of the Public Law and Clinical Legal Education thanked the Judges, the Course Lecturer and the Students for a successful exercise. Dr Mweso re-emphasized the Department's commitment to ensure that the Lawyers that are produced from the Law School, have the necessary practical skills to practice.

## Kamangila Calls for Abolition of Death Penalty in Africa

University of Malawi's Legal Clinics Manager, Alexious Kamangila, has called for Africa to abolish the death penalty. He made the call at a 4-day conference in Nairobi, Kenya, themed best practices for the abolition of the death penalty. The conference attracted advocates for the abolition of the death penalty across the globe, with particular focus on providing necessary skills for advocacy for States to uphold the right to life.

Kamangila, who is a Reprieve Fellow and teaches Clinical Legal Education at the School of Law, Economics and Government, postulated how the path to abolition is like a meandering river. Delivering a module on Advocacy Mission; Organizing the Mission and Managing Arising Obstacles, he called for a strategic and contextual approach to advocacy within the realm of litigation and promotion/advancement for death penalty abolition.

He expressed great optimism that Africa will be death penalty free by 2042.

"Death Penalty is not a political issue, it is a human rights issue, despite that its removal from statutes excels where there is political will. The public are always important to be part of the process as the consulted and not to give permission/consent. Africa being one of the continents with challenges in the criminal justice system, the abolition of the death penalty becomes an opportunity to revive the wind of change of the system for the better of the most destitute who are usually at the receiving end of either death penalty or its impact. This is even more urgent or pertinent considering the irreversibility and the non-deterrent nature of the death penalty. Thus, the current status of the majority of countries in Africa having abolished the death penalty

in practice, the ground for total abolition is fertile.”

Kamangila applauded Seirra Leone, Central African Republic and Zambia for being the recent abolitionist in the last two years. He was particularly of praise to CAR for abolishing the death penalty in the face of political unrest and war, describing such as a brave character. Closer to Malawi, he indicated that Zambia abolishing the death penalty is a clear example of the role of political leadership (will) in attaining abolition.

“It is important for governments to deal with real causes of crime such as murder and not eliminating the symptoms. Without a doubt, criminals should be tamed and punished at all times without exemptions. Yet it is essential to emphasize that the state should Execute Justice, Not People. End Crime, Not Life,” he concluded.

The Seminar was organized by International Commission Jurists, Kenya, with the support of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Being a Regional Seminar, the training saw practitioners from; Malawi, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Botswana, Congo, Serra Leone, and Ghana. Malawi has the death penalty in its law books for offences such as; treason, murder, rape, robbery etc. Despite having the Death Penalty in our statutes, no one has been executed for 31 years (since 1992), while Courts continue to have the discretion to sentence people to death.

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It is important for governments to deal with real causes of crime such as murder and not eliminating the symptoms.



## The good the bad, the ugly: women in digital spaces

As one of the eight specialised clinics in the School under the Department of Public Law And Clinical Legal Education, the clinic exists to fulfil its statutory mandate to teach, advocate, research and carry out outreach and community engagement as well as other activities that push towards law reform in the advancement of gender equality. The clinic was established in 2016 to empower students and through the creation of communities of influence bring on board as many stakeholders as possible for the advancement of gender equality. The clinic's membership is open to registered students from any programme. At the moment, it has a total number of 63 active and registered members.

The Gender Justice Clinic held an event in commemoration of the annual International women's day (IWD) that annually falls on the 8th of March. The International theme for 2023 was DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality. The purpose was to celebrate the strides women have made generally and specifically in the field of innovation and technology. The clinic liaised and collaborated with Plan international for the event. Plan is an independent development and humanitarian organization that advances children's rights and girls' equality. The partnership with Plan was to booster the clinic's visibility by working with such a prominent organisation championing for common objectives.

The event took place on the 23rd of March 2023 at the Law Boardroom from 2pm-4pm and was patronised by 51 people comprising of members, non-members, and members of staff as well as a Plan international representative. It was an informed panel discussion facilitated by the clinic executive with guidance from the clinic supervisor, Dr N Mweso. The intention was to discover the narrative that stands of women and girls in relation to cyber spaces in Malawi. The topic, "The good the bad, the ugly: women in digital spaces"

, was deliberately chosen to resonate with the paradigm shifts the world at large is going through with the emergence of advanced technologies. The discussion was structured around four main topics: the benefits of digital technologies and education for women's empowerment; barriers to their access and use of successful approaches to increasing women's access

to digital technologies as well as the role of the law and stakeholders in promoting women's access to digital technologies and education. Three presentations were done, the first by Trecia Ndelema, a law student, who is the current president of the clinic on survey findings conducted in the days leading up to the event on women's experience in the digital space as a step towards creating a 'women's guide to social media. The second presenter, Lusayo Changadeya is a Gender studies final year student, former Miss UNIMA and an influencer who spoke on the lived realities, opportunities and challenges girls and women face. She stressed that her strategic use of technology has brought so many opportunities but bemoaned the stereotypes that emerge when women and girls use social media as a tool for empowerment and development. The last presenter, counsel Pilirani Chuma, a partner at M & D associates presented on the interplay between the law, digital technologies and rights towards advancement of gender equality. She emphasized on the point that, due to lack of knowledge as to what the law says on the topic, a lot of wrongful conduct such as harassment is being left unchecked when ideally there should be online-offline harmony of the law in terms of enforcement. All the presentations were clinched by an interactive session open to all attendees.

The event was important to the activities of the clinic as it falls squarely under its objectives- research, teaching and awareness. Promotion of girls' and women's digital literacy and access to digital technology plays a pivotal role in achieving gender equality and promoting the right to information among other social-economic benefits. Technology can be a powerful tool for connecting, sharing experiences and generally amplifying the voices of women and girls in their efforts for change. The discussion also highlighted the vast digital gap that exists. It was noted that despite the accumulated efforts and commitments, women and girls continue to face challenges that prevent them from accessing and utilizing digital technology tools at the same level as their male counterparts. The dialogue thus served as a platform to question why progress in this area is stunted, what has been done and recommend solutions that can help bridge the digital gap.

# University of Malawi And University of Maryland Continue to Excel



In November 2021 the University of Malawi signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Maryland focusing on the activities of the two Universities' Law Schools. The MOU aimed at providing cooperation on academic activities of the two law schools so as to strengthen mutual understanding, foster friendly cooperation and to promote sustainable and productive academic collaboration and exchange between faculty, researchers, practitioners and students of both schools.

Areas of joint activity between the Universities include: joint class

instruction; research and training programmes; faculty cooperation and exchange; student exchange; joint arrangement and sponsorship of conferences or workshops; joint publications and other such activities as desirably useful for the two academic institutions.

Faculty from both Universities co-teaches a seminar in Environmental Justice, Human Rights and Public Health where students from both Universities work collaboratively on research projects focused on Malawi's environmental challenges. In addition to the course, the University of Maryland obtained funding for a bi-directional student/faculty exchange. Professor Peter Danchin and William Piermattei recently led a group of eight students from University of Maryland on a visit to Malawi between 5th to 15th May 2023. During the said exchange program/visit, Prof Peter Danchin delivered a Public Lecture on "New Directions in

## Environmental Justice in International Human Rights Law



Further, students from the two Law schools organized a joint symposium on environmental justice.

During the Maryland visit, students and faculty from the two Universities visited a number of spots in Malawi with educative experiences thereby enriching their theoretical understanding of the challenges with a practical experience. Through such, their classroom conversations were challenged, confirmed and at times re-oriented as they engaged with the practical realities.

In August 2023, 12 Students and 2 Faculty members from the University of Malawi are expected to visit University of Maryland after a 3year hiatus due to covid-19 travel disruptions.

# Publications

1. **Chikapa, T.M** (2023) “Fresh Presidential Election in Malawi, June 2020: Implications on Malawi’s Democracy” in Chari, T and Dzimiri P (eds) *Military, Politics and Democratization in Southern Africa: The Quest for Political Transition*, Springer
2. **Chirwa, G.C.**, Luba ,M., Ntenda., P. (2023). “Is it bulletproof?” Correlates of perception on the protective effect of male circumcision in Malawi. *Malawi Journal of Social Science* Vol 22
3. **Chirwa, G.C.**, Zonda, J.M.,**Mosiwa,S.S.**(2023). Effect of government intervention in relation to COVID-19 cases and deaths in Malawi. *Humanities and Social Science Communications*
4. **Hussein, M and Kayuni, H.** 2023. “Fighting unethical behavior in Africa’s Public Service: Dilemmas, Controversies and Opportunities Facing Malawi’s Anti-Corruption Bureau” in Molokwane, T, Mudau, T and Hussein, M. (Eds) *The Context of Public Administration in Southern Africa: Contemporary Issues and Future Perspectives*. Batalea Publishers. Pp 104-114.
5. **Hussein, M.** (2023) “Promoting Professionalism in Africa’s Public Service: A Case of Continuous Learning, Skills Development and Training in Malawi’s Public Service” in Molokwane, T, Mudau, T and Hussein, M. (Eds) *The Context of Public Administration in Southern Africa: Contemporary Issues and Future Perspectives*. Pp 145-162. Batalea Publishers.
6. **Hussein, M.** (2023) “Public Service Delivery Strategies in Local Governments: Challenges and Lessons From Malawi’s District Councils” in Molokwane, T, Mudau, T and Hussein, M. (Eds) *The Context of Public Administration in Southern Africa: Contemporary Issues and Future Perspectives*. pp71-86. Batalea Publishers.
7. Kunyenje., C., **Chirwa, G.C.** et al. (2023). “COVID-19 Vaccine Inequity in Low-Income Countries (LICs). [Public Health Policy](#)
8. **Mangani. R.**(2023). Smooth transitioning Growth in Malawi. The Role of Economic Policy. *African Review of Economics and Finance*
9. Molokwane, T, Mudau, T and **Hussein, M.** (Eds) (2023) *The Context of Public Administration in Southern Africa: Contemporary Issues and Future Perspectives*. Batalea Publishers.
10. Mulwafu, T & **Garton Sandifolo Kamchedzera** ‘ Land Degradation Neutrality and the Weak Avoid, Reduce and Reverse Priorities in Malawi’s Soil Laws’ available at <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4422362>
11. Njor,C; **Masanjala;A** & Gudo,J (2023) ‘The role of Non-governmental organisations in advancing good governance’ *Journal of Comparative Law in Africa*, Volume 9 Issue 2, p. 71 – 101 <https://doi.org/10.47348/JCLA/v9/i2a3>
12. Nkhono-Mvula, T., **Kayuni, H.**, and Mulwafu, W., (2023) Post-Colonial Agriculture Policy and Agrarian Change in Malawi, 1964–1979, *The African Review*, pp.1-24
13. Opuni, M., Sanchez-Morales, J. E., Figueroa, J. L., Salas-Ortiz, A., Banda, L. M., Olawo, A., **Munthali, S** & Bautista-Arredondo, S. (2023). Estimating the cost of HIV services for key populations provided by the LINKAGES program in Kenya and Malawi. [BMC Health Services Research](#), 23(1), 337.

14. Opuni, M; Jose Luis Figueroa, Jorge Eduardo Sánchez-Morales, Andrea Salas-Ortíz, Luz Edith Ochoa-Sánchez, Mariana Morales-Vázquez, Louis Masankha Banda, Alice Olawo, **Spy Munthali**, Julius Korir, Meghan DiCarlo, Navindra Persaud (2023). The cost of providing comprehensive HIV services to key populations: an analysis of the LINKAGES program in Kenya and Malawi. [Global Health: Science and Practice Journal](#)
15. **Salima, W., Manja. L., Chiwaula., L.S and Chirwa, G.C.** (2023). The impact of credit access on household food security in Malawi. [Journal of Agriculture and Food Research](#)
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17. **\*Chiwamba, V,** (2023) Perceptions on the Effects of Religiosity on the Attitudes and Behaviour of Public Sector Employees, Molokwane, T, Mudau, T and Hussein, M. (Eds) *The Context of Public Administration in Southern Africa: Contemporary Issues and Future Perspectives*. Batalea Publishers. pp163-175;
18. **\*Khunga, C** and A Magolowondo (2023) Performance Contract and Service Delivery in Malawi’s Parastatals: A Case of Lilongwe Water Board, Molokwane, T, Mudau, T and Hussein, M. (Eds) *The Context of Public Administration in Southern Africa: Contemporary Issues and Future Perspectives*. Batalea Publishers. pp19-33.