



# LAW, ECONOMICS & GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER

## SPORTS

PAS Society embraces unity and wellness at interclass games.

## CONFERENCES

Paper by Prof Happy Kayuni and Dr Tiyesere Chikapa-Jamali presented at IPADA Conference in Pretoria, South Africa

## DEBATE

Pas Society debates against the Philosophy Society

# A Message From The Executive Dean

Welcome to our third LEG Newsletter. As we move towards the end of this first semester, I am pleased to extend warm greetings to you all. In this edition of our Newsletter, I am honoured to share some exciting developments that underscore our commitment to excellence in education and innovative program delivery.

I am thrilled to announce the introduction of the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law, a significant milestone that reflects our dedication to advancing scholarly pursuits in legal studies. This addition enhances our academic offerings and opens new avenues for rigorous research and intellectual exploration.

Furthermore, I am pleased to report on the successful review of several programs within our School. The Master of Laws (LLM) in Commercial Law continues to evolve, providing our students with a cutting-edge curriculum that reflects the dynamic nature of the commercial legal landscape. Additionally, the Bachelor of Arts programs in Public Administration, Political Science, and Human Resource Management (HRM) have undergone meticulous review processes to ensure they remain at the forefront of contemporary academic discourse.

These enhancements align with our commitment to delivering innovative and high-quality programs that empower our students with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complexities of their respective fields. Our School remains

dedicated to fostering an environment where academic excellence, research, and professional development converge.

I want to express my gratitude to the UNIMA management led by Prof. Samson Sajidu and all our staff members and students who have consistently provided the much-needed support. I also extend my appreciation to the formidable editorial team led by Dr. Gowokani Chijere Chirwa. Enjoy this edition, and thank you!



**Prof. Happy Kayuni**





**Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, PhD**



**Emmillian Mlagha**



**Atupele Masanjala**



**Samantha Mosiwa**



**Farai Chigalu, PhD**



**Benson Munyenembe, PhD**

**Heads of Departments**



**Dr. Benadette Malunga**  
*Private Law*



**Dr. Ngcimezile Mweso**  
*Public Law & Clinical  
Legal Studies*



**Assoc. Prof. Gowokani  
Chijere Chirwa**  
*Economics*



**Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa**  
*Management & Leadership*



**Assoc. Prof. Michael Chasukwa**  
*Politics and Government*

**UNIMA Leadership**



**Mr. Martin Matululu**



**Prof. Samson Sajidu**



**Dr. Sunduzwayo Madise**

## Updates From the Office of the Executive Dean

### New PhD in Law Program and revision of some Undergraduate Programs

In a momentous development, the School of Law, Economics, and Government, through the Departments of Public Law & CLE and Private Law, is pleased to announce the approval of the much-awaited Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Law program by the UNIMA Senate on 4th September 2023. This latest addition underscores the School's resolute commitment to advancing academic pursuits in the field of law, offering students a platform for thorough research and intellectual development.

The same senate session approved several reviewed academic programs. The postgraduate program that received approval is the Master of Laws (LLM) in Commercial Law, offered by the Departments of Public Law & CLE and Private Law. Through this review, the program continues to progress, ensuring students receive an up-to-date curriculum that reflects the intricate dynamics of the commercial legal landscape.

Additionally, the undergraduate programs that underwent review are the Bachelor of Arts programs in Public Administration, Political Science (offered by the Department of Politics and Government), and Human Resource Management (HRM) offered by the Department of Management and Leadership Studies. These approvals affirm the school's dedication to delivering innovative, high-quality education that remains at the forefront of contemporary academic debate

### Professor Kayuni presented a paper at the National Democratic Institute Workshop in Zambia

On 10th August 2023, Professor Happy Kayuni presented a paper at the National Democratic Institute Workshop in Lusaka, Zambia. The paper, titled "From Regret and Resilience Towards Renewal and Redefinition: Barriers to Malawian Women's Empowerment in Politics," critically examines past challenges, current efforts, and future prospects for increased women representation in Malawi's parliament. This paper highlights that within the context of Africa, a quiet revolution has been taking place, shaping the political and governance landscape—the rise of women representation in politics. This movement has been steadily gaining momentum over the years; however, challenges persist, and Malawi is no exception. Employing qualitative and documentary analysis, the paper explores women's unique perspectives, bringing forth fresh ideas, innovative approaches, and a more inclusive agenda. The argument presented asserts that their journey is a testament to the power of



resilience, determination, and the unwavering belief that women's voices in Malawi deserve to be heard.

### **Paper by Prof Happy Kayuni and Dr Tiyesere Chikapa-Jamali presented at IPADA Conference in Pretoria, South Africa**

On September 15, 2023, as the world celebrated Democracy Day, Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa-Jamali presented a paper co-authored with Prof. Happy Kayuni at the 8th International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives (IPADA) held in Johannesburg, South Africa. The paper, titled "The Role of Epistocracy in Addressing Democratic Shortcomings in the Post-Truth Era: Insights from Malawi," draws upon the arguments of the American political philosopher Jason Brennan but is applied within the context of Malawi.

Epistocracy, a political theory and system of governance in which political power or influence is vested in individuals or groups based on

their knowledge, expertise, or competence, is the focal point of the paper. It contends that democracy faces numerous challenges due to inherent inefficiencies, often seen as a poor decision-making method created by incompetent or morally unreasonable deliberative bodies. In practice, democracy violates the competence principle, primarily because a significant portion of democratic citizens are irrational when it comes to politics.

The paper argues that Malawi's democratic governance system could significantly improve by considering some aspects of epistocratic philosophy.

### **Professor Kayuni's co-authored paper presented at the Catholic University of Malawi Research Conference**

On November 24, 2023, Temwa Mughogho presented a paper co-authored with Professor Kayuni at the Research Dissemination Conference held at the Catholic University of Malawi. The paper, titled "Strategies Used by Critical Civil Society Organizations to Survive in Hybrid Democratic Malawi (1994-2023)," highlights that since the reintroduction of multiparty elections in 1994, Malawi has witnessed a robust civil society actively engaged in promoting democracy and contributing to the country's development. However, this vibrant civil society has faced formidable opposition aimed at suppressing its advocacy role in demanding transparency and accountability from the ruling political elites.

The paper seeks to uncover the strategies employed by critical governance Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to thrive in a hybrid democratic Malawi. Despite the legal framework designed to protect CSOs, the paper establishes that political elites infiltrate this space, employing various mechanisms to limit their operational freedom. Consequently, CSOs have developed strategies to counteract these mechanisms and resist the efforts of political elites to restrict their sphere of influence.



# THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

## DOE at the 2023 ECAMA Annual Conference

This year's ECAMA annual economic conference occurred at Sunbird Nkopola in Mangochi from the 9th to the 10th of November, 2023. Five staff members from the Department of Economics had the honour of participating in this annual flagship event by ECAMA. The conference, themed "Fortifying Growth from Shocks," featured the department's Associate Prof. Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, Dr. Regson Chaweza, Miss Bertha Nguluwe, Dr. Farai Chigaru, and Dr. Jacob Mazalale.

Among these participants, Dr. Chigaru presented his paper "Exploring the Alignment of Industrial Policies to Comparative Advantages: A Case of Malawi's Development Agenda." In his paper, he identified products under the Malawi 2063 MIP-1 that had a comparative advantage in Malawi, those that did not, and those with hidden potential. To ensure that policymakers can easily access such information, Dr. Chigaru also developed a tool that can be utilized to determine the products with potential in Malawi. His tool can also be applied in other countries.

## The North-West University MOU Signed

The School of Economic Science at North-West University (NWU), Republic of South Africa, has formalised a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Economics at the University of Malawi.

Dr. Benedette Malunga signed this MoU on behalf of the Vice Chancellor, at the Department of Economics Boardroom on October 25, 2023. The collaboration aims to strengthen these two institutions' research, teaching, and capacity-building efforts. The Head of the Department of Economics, Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, Dr. Regson Chaweza, Associate Professor Patrick Kambewa, Dr. Jacob Mazalale, and Dr. Farai Chigaru were present at the MOU signing ceremony.

“

*Exploring the Alignment of Industrial Policies to Comparative Advantages: A Case of Malawi's Development Agenda.*



## A partnership with the University of Glasgow

The Department of Economics (DOE) is poised to embark on a long-term partnership agreement with the University of Glasgow. A meeting was held on November 30, 2023, between the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Glasgow, the Head of the Department, the Director of Resources, and the Director of Research from the DOE.

## WORKSHOPS

Ms. Emmilian Kasililika Mlagha attended the International Labour Organization workshop on August 1, 2023, in Lilongwe. The workshop focused on Employment Impact Assessment to maximize job creation in Sub-Saharan Africa under the Strengthen 2 Project. Its main objective was to introduce participants to methods used for Employment Impact Assessment in the construction industry.

## Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)- based policy planning and analysis using the RIAPA suite of models Workshop

Five members of the Department of Economics attended a workshop on Social Accounting Matrix (SAM)-based policy planning and analysis using the RIAPA suite of models, Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) models organized by the Institute for Food Policy Research from August 22 to 23, 2023. The attendees were Dr. Winford Masanjala, Dr. Regson Chaweza, Ms. Bertha Nguluwe, Ms. Emmilian Mlagha, and Dr. Patrick Kambewa.

The International Food Policy Research Institute, in close collaboration with various government agencies of Malawi, has developed a comprehensive new Social Accounting Matrix (SAM). This SAM can be utilized to conduct an economy-wide analysis of policies and public investments for Malawi. The creation of a new SAM for Malawi is a crucial tool for tracking progress towards Mw2063.

The workshop comprised two main components:

1. Presentation of the RIAPA suite of models and two preliminary studies on the impacts of investment priorities on the agri-food system and the impact of public investments given different climate change scenarios.
2. Validation of the new Nexus SAM and a technical walkthrough of the RIAPA suite of models.

The Department is anticipated to utilize these tools in future research and impart the same to graduate and undergraduate students.

## Departmental capacity building

In an effort to enhance student capacity, the Department of Economics (DOE), in collaboration with the UNIMA Economics Society, organized a data management and analysis workshop on November 18, 2023. The students were introduced to economic data management and analysis using household surveys. Specifically, they were taught how to read various standards of data in Stata, conduct data cleaning and preparation, visualize data, and perform statistical analysis using Stata.



# THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

## Department of Politics and Government holds trainings on artificial intelligence and mental health



— Associate Professor Dulani facilitating a Session.

The Department of Politics and Government and the Management and Leadership department occasionally hold trainings to improve staff members in different areas. On the 9th and 10th of November 2023, the two departments held trainings on Mental health and Artificial Intelligence at Nalipili in Mulanje. The topic on mental health was facilitated by Dr Chiwoza Bandawe from Kamuzu University of Health Sciences. In his presentation unpacked what mental health is, the causes of mental health problems, and how one can safeguard their mental health in the academia. Dr Chiwoza Bandawe not only unpacked the topic to address mental health of lecturers, but he also addressed aspects of students' mental health.

Associate Professor Boniface Dulani and Mrs Yapikachi Kambala from the University of Malawi facilitated a session on Artificial Intelligence. In their presentation, they unpacked how Artificial Intelligence is reshaping the academia by revolutionising teaching, learning, and research. Dr Dulani and Mrs Kambala explained how educators and students can leverage Artificial Intelligence in various ways to enhance teaching practices and support student learning.

## ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DULANI PARTICIPATES AT THE AFRICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION



Dr Boniface Dulani participated at the African Political Science Association in Pretoria, South Africa, as a Secretary General for the Association. At the same meeting, he served as a returning officer for the elections. Dr Boniface Dulani handled the leadership role of being the Secretary General for the African Political Science Association having completed his two-year term.



## Ms Maureen Kapanga presents a paper at the 14th international school of public planning, management and administration (SPMA) conference

On 26th October 2023 Ms Maureen Kapanga presented a paper titled “An Interplay between Land tenure Regimes and State Building in Malawi: A Chaos Complexity theory” (co-authored with Prof Happy Kayuni) at the SPAM International Conference in Pretoria, South Africa.

The conference took place at ANEW Hotel with various participants, including academics, government officials, and MA/PHD students from different universities within Africa and beyond.

The paper’s main objective was to investigate the impact of land tenure systems on state building in Malawi during the colonial and post-colonial period within the context of the Chaos complexity theoretical framework. The paper highlights that in Malawi, Historical land complexities continue to influence state-building, necessitating the recognition of these complexities for effective land policies. Evidently, land remains a key determinant of political power, with the historical emergence of chieftainships and land competition during precolonial and colonial periods. Furthermore, Colonial land policies’ legacy, such as land alienation and new systems, continues to impact land governance and agricultural production disparities, as such the persistence of customary practices and conservative values calls for gradual and culturally sensitive land reform approaches. Contemporary land issues, including shortages and challenges in the smallholder sector, are rooted in historical dynamics, requiring multifaceted solutions, hence the Chaos complexity theory, which highlights the intricate interplay of historical, cultural, and political factors in Malawi’s land tenure regimes, with far-reaching implications for state-building, land governance, and political power dynamics. This underscores the need for adaptive and context-specific approaches to address land-related challenges.

Apart from the presentations the conference



— Ms. Maureen Kapanga presenting her paper.

organizers also organized a dinner gala, this social event provided a platform for the participants to further interact and build both social and professional connections for future collaborations and engagements.

## The Department of politics and Government interactions with Mzuzu University

On the 3rd of August 2023, the Department of Politics and Government participated in the validation workshop for the Master of Security Studies being developed by Mzuzu University.



- From right, Mrs Samantha Mosiwa, Malawi Parliament's Sergeant at Arms Major Kaliat and Mrs Sainala Kaleb from Catholic University at Master of Security Studies Validation Workshop.

The Department also participated in a stakeholder validation workshop by Mzuzu University for undergraduate programs that took place on the 16th of November 2023. Mrs Samantha Soyoyo Mosiwa represented the Department on both occasions.

## STAFF PROMOTIONS

### DR Asiyati Chiweza promoted to professor

The Department of Politics and Government would like to Congratulate Dr Asiyati Chiweza for her promotion to Professorship. Dr Chiweza is the first female professor of Public Administration in Malawi. She has been serving the Department for many years and is currently on

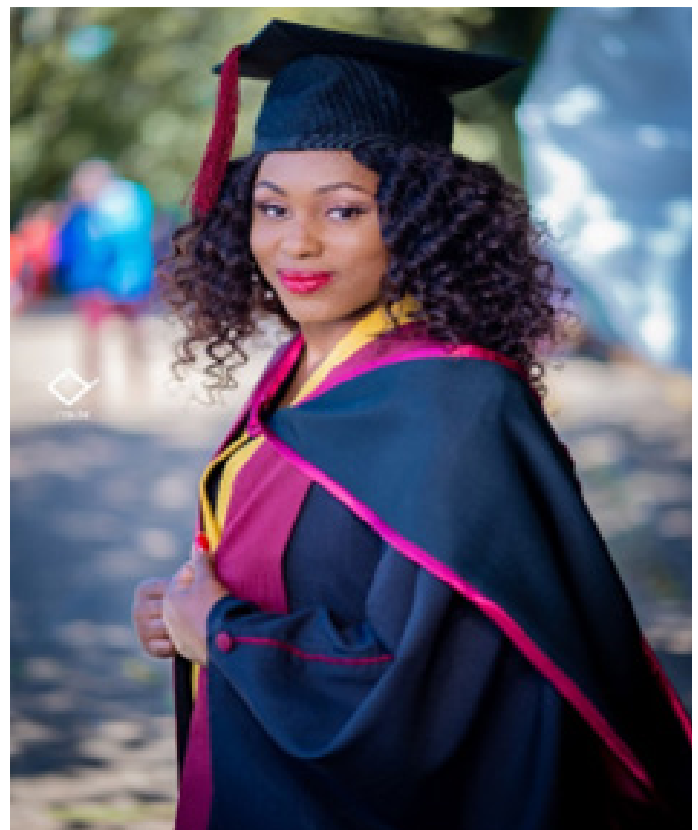


- Professor Chiweza

secondment at the Malawi School of Government, serving as Director General. Congratulations!

### Mrs Samantha Soyoyo Mosiwa promoted to senior lecturer

The department politics and government would like to congratulate Mrs Samantha Soyoyo Mosiwa for her promotion to senior lecturer. Samantha is a member of the politics



- Mrs. Samantha Mosiwa

and government department and is currently coordinating the three postgraduate programs running in the department. Congratulations!



# STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES



— PAS society students at the welcoming function

## PAS Society First year's dinner: a night of welcome and vision.

On the evening of October 15th 2023. A warm ambiance enveloped the Great Hall as the continuing PAS society students gathered to welcome the newest members into our academic family. The first year's dinner is a long-held tradition which seeks to initiate the first years into the University Society. It serves as a bridge connecting the freshmen to the rich experiences that await them and is an entry point into a supportive and inclusive university society.

The dinner was themed as a Future Leaders Soiree. It aimed to instill purpose and ambition. Each table was graced with a prospective career a student in the political and administrative field can venture into. They had a set of questions discussed to further the mood and serve as a gentle reminder that each student could become a guiding force in the future.

The dinner was more than a culinary event with a mouthwatering meal. It was filled with

fun games and other activities such as poetry, mganda and music performances by society members. The presence of Miss Maureen Kapanga (a member staff from the Department of Politics and Government) further instilled a sense of belonging and recognition among the students as they felt honored to have her presence. Ms Kapanga's speech served a guiding light and reaffirmation that they were home and would excel and enjoy their moments as Chilunga Intelligentsia. The atmosphere was lively and enchanting. The first years departed with smiles and had newfound sense of belonging. They looked forward to other societal events but were excited to witness their transformation into future leaders.



## Pas society debates against the philosophy society

The evening of Monday the 27th of November was a night to remember as the PAS society met with the Philosophy society in a heated debate on *“The Impact of Foreign Wars and natural crises on the economic status of Malawi”*. The topic reflected the real-world implications of the issues on the nation’s prosperity. The intellectual sparring was a testament of how important academic discourse is in shaping various perspectives as we chart forward in the development of our country.

The Pas society were the opposers of the notion and were led by Samuel Iwalani a third-year public administration student. Prince Bwinga led the Philosophy society and both sides produced compelling arguments. The debaters with great passion articulated their viewpoints and dissected the relationship between natural disasters, wars and the economic trajectory Malawi has been experiencing. The debate progressed with a crowd of support who applauded both teams for their reasoning and argumentative skills. The judges also offered commendable advice to the panelists on how they could improve their debating skills and convince even larger crowds.

The spirited debate was a depiction of the value of academic dialogue to exchange ideas and perspectives on the complex issues we face within our society. It was a collective effort to pave way for the development and growth of the nation. In the end PAS society emerged as winners with a score of 73% while the philosophy society scooped a score of 62%. The victory of PAS society highlighted the significance of research, preparation and the ability to articulate compelling arguments in the realm of academic debate.

## PAS Society embraces unity and well-being at interclass games.

On Saturday the 25th of November 2023, PAS society held an exhilarating sports competition in netball and football. Students from different classes gathered to share their passion for sports. Students are faced with schedules dominated by exams and assign-



— PAS students at the Interclass Games

ments; however, PAS society emphasizes on promoting active lifestyles out of busy school schedules and sports is one way of maintaining a holistic lifestyle for students.

The football games were played during the morning hours, and two teams were formed to facilitate class interactions. The first years formed a team with the final year students and the second years students with the third years. The first-year and final-year teams emerged as winners, winning with a score of 3-2. Despite the loss of the second- and third-year students, the atmosphere heading back to the school premises was auspicious as everyone was in high spirits of the well fought game they had just played.

The netball games were played in the afternoon, and the teams were formed as juniors and seniors. The junior team played with so much endurance and had excellent coordination despite interacting on the court for the first time. The seniors emerged victorious with a score of 23-5. The juniors were then invited to be a part of the PAS society netball team due their excellent ball skills and determination. The girls will fit right in the LEG reigning netball champions and certainly assist in keeping the trophy home.

The interclass games reminded the students of the importance of having an active lifestyle. They not only improved their physical fitness but also their mental resilience and team-work which are all essential skills for success in any field.

## DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

**Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa–Jamali and Professor Mustafa Hussein present their papers at 8th International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives.**



Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa–Jamali and Professor Mustafa Hussein both presented their papers at the 8th International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives that was held in South Africa’s Johannesburg from 13–15th September, 2023. The International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives (IPADA) is an International academic organisation aimed at promoting quality scholarship and academic networking across the continents. The Conference’s major purpose is to create academic networks among the public, private and academic institutions through organised collaborative research activities.

Dr. Chikapa presented the first paper titled “Performance Management Systems and their Utility in the Malawi Public and Private Sector” (co-authored with Professor Lewis Dzimhiri). She also presented a second paper titled “Analysing Effectiveness of the Industrial Relations Court in Labour Dispute Settlement” (co-authored with Peter Kanyatula and Mr.

Ernest Thindwa).

Professor Hussein presented a paper titled “Traditional authorities and democracy in Malawi governance challenges, sustainable economy and administration of the state” (co-authored with Mr. Gift Sambo) and another one titled “Democratising local governments–challenges and opportunities facing the promotion of citizen engagement in Malawi’s local authorities”.

**Professor Lewis Dzimhiri Present a Paper at Malawi’s Fourth International Conference of the Universities and Colleges Association**

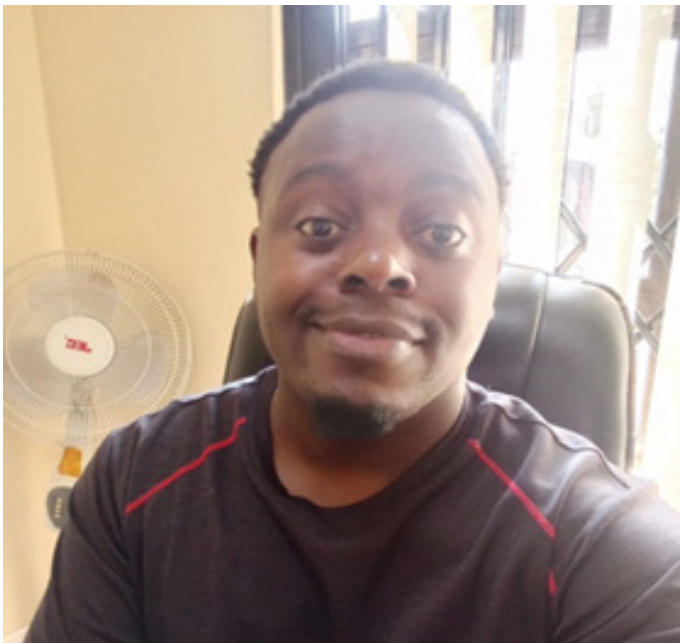


Professor Lewis Dzimhiri attended and presented a Paper at Malawi’s Fourth International Conference of the Universities and Colleges Association of Malawi held at Malawi School of Government Kanengo Lilongwe during 23–24 November 2023. The title of the paper was “Higher Education Human Capital Development Industry and Economy: Where is The Missing Link for Relevant Skills?” The findings of the paper point to a huge mismatch between what HEIs produce and what industry needs. The author concludes that HEIs do not approach the production of

graduates in a systematic manner. HEIs need to understand skills required by the economy and industry in order to establish graduate profiles which will in turn provide the basis for the design of programmes, pedagogical strategies and appropriate assessments.

## INTERNATIONALIZATION

### Dr. Benson Munyenembe completes his Postdoctoral Fellowship



The Department of Management and Leadership welcomes Dr. Benson Munyenembe who has completed his postdoctoral fellowship at National Taiwan Normal University. Dr. Benson Munyenembe was awarded a 1-year postdoctoral fellowship which he undertook in Taiwan. During his post-doctoral fellowship, he was involved in research at the Department of East Asian Studies at National Taiwan Normal University.

## STUDENT ACTIVITIES

### UNIMA Law Enforcement Society First Year Welcoming Function, Handover, and Certificate Presentation

On the evening of Friday, the 1st of December 2023, The UNIMA Law Enforcement Society had a general meeting in Wadonda Lecture Theatre on University Campus. During this meeting they welcomed their first-year students to the society, ushered out the outgoing executive and passed the mantle to the incoming executive, but also presented those that had served in the Society's executive committees and Electoral commissions with certificates.

The Society felt it was important that their new first years receive a warm welcome to the rest of the society and get a feel of what it feels like to be a member of the UNIMA Law Enforcement Society at the University that God loves the most. The event also served the purpose of being a symbolic way handing over the baton to the incoming executive committee and rewarding their predecessors with certificates of appreciation to encourage those to come after them to take part in society activities such as being in the Law enforcement electoral commission spear-headed by Gift Moyo, the chairperson that conducted elections the previous week.

The Activity that evening was convened by second year students of the Law Enforcement class,





Emily Dongolosi and Kalipo Kumukumu who along with the rest of the Law Enforcement students were graced by the guest of honor, Dr. Tiyesere Mercy Jamali— who is the Head of the Management and Leadership department under the school of Law, Economics and Government at the University and the Society Patron, Mr. Chikosa Banda from the department of Law. Mr. Chikosa Banda did open proceedings with acknowledging the first years in attendance, congratulating the outgoing executive and offering some strong words of advice for the society as a whole. Another second-year student, Imtyaaz Robert who came forward to deliver a beautiful poem titled “It is the progress to be cherished” that highlighted the challenges that the first class of Law Enforcement in 2019 faced as the pioneer cohort and the works of the Executive Dean of the School of Law, Economics and Government playing a huge role in stabilizing the society with some exciting activities.

The handover ceremony then took place with the outgoing President, Mr. Mwaku Kalambule delivering his farewell remarks to the society and encouraging the same love and support that was given to him to the new leadership. The symbolic handover of office and duties then took place, followed by a fine speech from the incoming President-Elect, Mr. Chisomo Anderson. The Head of Department and guest of honor, Dr. Jamali had some powerful remarks that enlightened the whole room and evoked a sense of optimism for the newly introduced program for the students to strive for excellence especially the fourth-year students who will be the first to graduate next year.

Lastly, was the certificate presentation that was done by the guest of honor, Dr. Jamali and Mr. Chikosa Banda. Four groups of students were presented with certificates of appreciation, which were; The very first executive that formulated the society in 2021, the first ever electoral commission, the Second executive committee and the most recent Society electoral commission. After the conclusion of the presentation of awards, refreshments were served and the Event conclude.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIVATE LAW & THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW AND CLINICAL STUDIES

### THIRD ANNUAL RITZ COMMERCIAL LAW MOOT COURT COMPETITION

The Students Law Society together with Ritz Attorneys At Law (Ritz) held their third annual Ritz Commercial Law Moot Court Competition in November and December of 2023. The Competition, fully sponsored by the law firm Ritz, brought together law students from all four years of the law departments to argue a fictitious case before a panel of judges. The competition was split into three rounds (preliminary, semi-finals and finals) and this year's case centred on personal property security and involved the students addressing a conflict between two pieces of Malawian legislation, namely, the Personal Property Security Act and the Warehouse Receipts Act. A total of four students, Alice Malunga (4th year), Prince Kathewera (3rd Year), Andrew June (3rd Year) and Yekhai Sitima (3rd Year) proceeded to the finals which were held at the High Court premises in Blantyre on Friday the 8th of December, 2023. At the award ceremony held after the presentation of oral arguments, Ritz announced that they were planning to establish a scholarship to assist needy law students with their tuition. After arguing the case before Justice Chigona, Justice Chinangwa and Justice Mhome, Alice Malunga emerged victorious and was crown the winner. Alice has been awarded an internship with Ritz Attorneys which she shall take up during the school holidays.



### RESEARCH DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE ON STUDY ON CHILD MAINTENANCE, IN LAW, POLICY AND PRACTICE

On 9th November, 2023, Dr. Bernadette Malunga, the Head of the Department of Private Law, and Ms. Theresa Chome, a lecturer in the Department of Private Law, hosted a research dissemination conference. The study, funded by UNICEF, assessed the Malawian legal framework on child maintenance and enforcement orders in terms of gaps and strengths. The study also assessed how maintenance claims, application and enforcement orders are conducted in practice. In terms of the practical application of the law, Dr. Malunga and Ms. Chome focused on two districts, Zomba and Nsanje. The conference was attended by UNIMA's head of research Dr. Maurice Monjerezi, Her Worship Banda, the Zomba Child Justice Court Magistrate, members of civil society, UNIMA members of staff and students. During the conference, Dr. Malunga and





Ms. Chome revealed that, though poverty is a major contributing factor to fathers not providing child maintenance, other factors such as fear that the mothers of the children will use the money for their own personal reasons, cultural beliefs such as the mother's side being responsible for the children in matrilineal societies and the fact that the fathers often leave either the district or the country altogether, also contribute to high incidents of fathers not paying child support.

### **SEMINAR BY PROFESSOR THOKO KAIME**

On 18th August, 2023 the Private Law Department hosted Professor Thoko Kaime who gave a seminar titled 'Imagining the Law School of the Future.' Professor Kaime is a graduate of the University of Malawi and is currently a Professor and the Chair of African Legal Studies at the University of Bayreuth in Germany. In his talk, he focused on teaching, research, advocacy and network. He encouraged law schools and the legal profession to let go on long held norms in order to become the force of change that can transform societies at large. It was key to ensure that the law school was student-centred, international and open and critical. Importantly, however, he stated that it was also important to leverage current technological advancements in order to broaden their reach.





## LAW EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Law Departments, on 21st November, 2023, held the Law Excellence Awards Ceremony in which law students who excelled in their studies by obtaining a minimum of a credit GPA (minimum of 3.0) in previous academic year were recognised and awarded. Students who were also able to show the most improvement in their work were also recognised and awarded. The ceremony aims to foster a spirit of pride in the students for their achievements and to also encourage other students to work hard in that academic year. The ceremony also serves the additional purpose of officially welcoming first year Bachelor of Laws and Diploma in Law students. This year's awards were held in the Law Building Quadrangle and presided over by His Lordship Allan Hans Muhome, Judge of the High Court of Malawi.



## NEWS

### NEW HIRES

The Department of Private Law and the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Studies are excited to welcome two new members to the team.



Ms. Teuka Tembo



Ms. Ruth Mchizi

Ms. Ruch Mchizi, who has joined the Department of Private Law as an Associate Lecturer, holds a Bachelor of Education degree and a Bachelor of Law (Honours) degree both from the University of Malawi. Her primary research interests lie in gender studies and gender related aspects of human rights. Ms. Teuka Tembo has joined the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education and she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Media and Development Degree and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) degree from the University of Malawi as well and her research interests include environmental law and health law. Welcome to LEG and we wish you nothing but success in your new journey!

### **MR. MATHIAS CHIWAYA, THE LAW LIBRARIAN, RETIRES**



Mr. Mathias Chiwaya, the beloved law librarian, is retiring from UNIMA's service after 39 years of service. Mr. Chiwaya joined UNIMA as a library assistant in May 1984 in UNIMA's main library. During the construction of the current Law Building block, Mr. Chiwaya volunteered to help organise the McKnight Machika Resource Centre but he officially joined the law departments in 2005. Mr. Chiwaya, as overseer of the Machika Resource Centre has proven himself time and time again to be the biggest resource there and has spent years providing invaluable assistance to both faculty and student alike. To celebrate his service and show gratitude, the law departments threw him a farewell party on 12th December, 2023. The Law departments would like to thank Mr. Chiwaya for his invaluable service and though he will be immensely missed, they wish him nothing but the best as he embarks on the next phase of his journey!

### **LAW STUDENTS QUALIFY FOR ORAL ROUNDS OF IAN FLETCHER INTERNATIONAL INSOLVENCY LAW MOOT**

Three 4th year law students, Rashiedah Wineshi, Martin Chirwa and Charles Dokera, are representing Malawi in the Ian Fletcher Insolvency Law Moot Court Competition. The Competition is coordinated by INSOL International and the International Insolvency Institute. It encourages the best and brightest law students around the globe to learn about international insolvency law and international commercial litigation. Students will have a chance to engage with their peers, judges and members of international insolvency bodies. The competition is fully virtual and is split into two rounds, namely the written round and the oral round. Teams who do well in the written round are then invited to compete in the virtual oral rounds. The UNIMA team has qualified for the oral rounds to be held in February 2024. We wish our team nothing but the best as they embark on their training for the oral rounds!



## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE & SUSTAINABILITY CLINIC LAW STUDENTS GO TO MARYLAND, USA

In August 2023, about 13 law students visited the University of Maryland in the United States. UNIMA and the University of Malawi entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2021 in which the two schools decided to establish an exchange programme that would allow students from each school to visit the other school and learn about the environmental challenges faced and solutions practiced in each country. The programme allows the UNIMA students to learn by teaching others about Malawi's environmental practices. Peter Tsabola, one of the members of UNIMA's Environmental Justice and Sustainability Clinic said, "We are so excited to be able to present our work and project to an international audience!" The 13 UNIMA students were escorted by their lecturer, Mr. Chikosa Banda and the Legal Clinics Coordinator at the time. The visit marked the second half of the exchange programme as 8 University of Maryland students had already visited Malawi and UNIMA in May 2023. During their trip, the UNIMA students were also able to visit Washington DC, the Capital City of the United States, and visit iconic landmarks such as the White House and the Lincoln Memorial.



## DISABILITY RIGHTS CLINIC PLAYS CRITICAL ROLE IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE AFRICAN DISABILITY PROTOCOL

On the 3rd of December 2023, UNIMA's Disability Rights Clinic, together with the Federation of Disability Rights in Malawi held a symposium under the theme *Promoting Disability Rights in African and Malawian Context: The Importance of Ratifying the African Disability Protocol (ADP)*. The symposium constituted one in a series of activities undertaken by the clinic to lobby the government of Malawi to ratify the African Disability Protocol, a protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. Their efforts proved fruitful as on 6th December 2023, the government ratified the African Disability Protocol! Further, a day prior to that, Parliament passed the *Persons With Disabilities Act which repealed archaic laws such as the Disability Act and the Handicapped Persons Act*.





## CONFERENCE PAPERS

1. Mughogho, T and Kayuni, H. 2023. "Strategies Used by Critical Civil Society Organizations to Survive in Hybrid Democratic Malawi (1994–2023)". Paper presented at Research Dissemination Conference, Catholic University of Malawi, 24th November 2023
2. Hussein, M.K. 2023. An overview of India–Africa Peace and Security initiatives–Any prospects for the future? Paper presented at the International conference (hybrid mode) on India's relationship with South Africa during the post–independence era, November 27–28, 2023, Department of South African and Brazilian Studies Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, India.
3. Hussein, M.K and Sambo, G. 2023. Traditional authorities and democracy in Malawi governance challenges, sustainable economy and administration of the state, paper presented at the International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives IPADA CONFERENCE, 13–15 SEPTEMBER, 2023 JOHANNESBURG, South Africa.
4. Hussein, M.K. 2023. Democratising local governments–challenges and opportunities facing the promotion of citizen engagement in Malawi's local authorities, paper presented at the International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives (IPADA) CONFERENCE, 13–15 SEPTEMBER, 2023 JOHANNESBURG, South Africa.
5. Kayuni, H and Kapanga M. 2023. "The Interplay of Land Tenure Regimes and State Building in Malawi: A Chaos Complexity Perspective". Paper presented at the 14th International School of Public Planning, Management & Administration (SPMA) Conference, University of Pretoria. Hybridity Governance in Africa 26 – 27 October 2023, ANEW Hotel, Pretoria. South Africa.



6. Dzimbiri, L. and Chikapa, T.M (2023). "Performance Management Systems and their Utility in the Malawi Public and Private Sector". 8th International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives (IPADA), Holiday Inn, Sunnyside Park, Johannesburg, South Africa, 13th September 2023.
7. Kanyatula, P and Chikapa, T.M and Thindwa, E. (2023). "Analysing Effectiveness of the Industrial Relations Court in Labour Dispute Settlement". 8th International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives (IPADA), Holiday Inn, Sunnyside Park, Johannesburg, South Africa, 13th September 2023.
8. Chasukwa, M; Kayuni, H; Nicollini, M; Gaddi, J. 2023. "Governance, Institutional Isomorphism and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Malawi: Fractals and Pyramids Compared". 17th Biannual Stellenbosch University's International Winelands Conference, University of Stellenbosch- School of Public Leadership. South Africa
9. Kayuni, H and Jamali-Chikapa, T .2023. "Role of Epistocracy in Addressing the Democratic Shortfalls in the Post Truth Era: Some Insights from Malawi". 8th International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives (IPADA), Holiday Inn, Sunnyside Park, Johannesburg, South Africa, 13th September 2023
10. Kayuni, H. 2023. "From Regret and Resilience Towards Renewal and Redefinition: Barriers to Malawian Women's Empowerment in Politics". Paper presented at National Democratic Institute Workshop 'Overcoming Challenges to Women's Political Representation in Malawi and Zambia', held on 10th-11th August, 2023 at the Southern Sun Hotel in Lusaka
11. Kaphale, J., (2023) Fixing A Jigsaw Puzzle through Introduction of Strategic Plan as a Governance Policy: The Case of Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) AND Malawi Posts Corporation (MPC) From 2016-2021." Paper presented at the 14th International School of Public Planning, Management & Administration (SPMA) Conference, University of Pretoria. Hybridity Governance in Africa 26 - 27 October 2023, ANEW Hotel, Pretoria. South Africa.
12. Kaphale, J., (2023) "Are Strategic Plans a Magic Wand in Enhancing Organizational Performance in Public Organizations? The Case of Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) and Malawi Posts Corporation (MPC) From 2016-2021." Paper presented at the 14th International School of Public Planning, Management & Administration (SPMA) Conference, University of Pretoria. Hybridity Governance in Africa 26 - 27 October 2023, ANEW Hotel, Pretoria. South Africa.
13. Kaphale, J., (2023) "Assessment of the Role of Strategic Plan in Enhancing Performance in Public Organisations in Malawi: The Case of Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) And Malawi Posts Corporation (MPC) From 2016-2021." Paper presented at the 14th International School of Public Planning, Management & Administration (SPMA) Conference, University of Pretoria. Hybridity Governance in Africa 26 - 27 October 2023, ANEW Hotel, Pretoria. South Africa.
14. Khunga, C., (2023) "The Impact of Foreign Aid on Tropical Cyclone Freddy Victims in Malawi: Insights from the Affected Districts." Paper presented at the 14th International School of Public Planning, Management & Administration (SPMA) Conference, University of Pretoria. Hybridity Governance in Africa 26 - 27 October 2023, ANEW Hotel, Pretoria. South Africa.

15. Dzimbiri. L. (2023). "Higher Education Human Capital Development Industry and Economy: Where is The Missing Link for Relevant Skills". Paper presented at Malawi's Fourth International Conference of the Universities and Colleges Association of Malawi held at Malawi School of Government Kanengo Lilongwe during 23–24 November 2023.

## PUBLICATIONS (JANUARY– DECEMBER, 30 2023)

1. Etter-Phoya,R., Manthalu, C., Chigaru, F., et al (2023). Financing child rights in Malawi. BMC Public Health 23,2255. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-023-16319>
2. Manja, L.P., & Badjie, I.A. (2023). Does household welfare change with finance access? The case of women and the youth in The Gambia. Review of Development Economics, 1–41. <https://doi.org/10.1111/rode.13053>
3. Chikatentha.D., Jamu.E., Chirwa., G.(2023). Complex and Multifaceted Sociodemographic Depression Correlates in Malawi During COVID-19. in Ndasauka Y.(2023). [COVID-19 and Psychological Distress in Africa's Communitarian Perspective](#)
4. Dulanya, Z., Srivastava, A., Kinnaird, T. C., Manda, B., Kafumbata, D., Jamu, E., ... & Masanjala, W. (2023). Assessing the potential of syn-rift sediments for geochronological dating and its implications for the development of Makanjira–Shire basin in south Malawi Rift. [Quaternary Science Advances, 100114.](#)
5. Zingwe, D.E., Banda, A.E. & Manja, L.P. (2023) The effects of remittances on household food nutrition security in the context of multiple shocks in Malawi, [Cogent Food & Agriculture](#), 9:1, DOI: [10.1080/23311932.2023.2238440](https://doi.org/10.1080/23311932.2023.2238440)
6. Maleta,C., Kayambazinthu,E., Kambewa., P and Chigeda.A. (2023). Effect of Nutrition on Children Reading Ability. International Society for Education Planning
7. Maleta. C., Kayambazinthu,E., Kambewa, P. and Chigeda, A (2023). Education development programming – Responsiveness and Adaptability of the Implementation of the Malawi National Reading Programme in Lungwena, Mangochi District. Asian Institute of Research. Education Quarterly Reviews, Vol.6 No.3
8. Chirwa, G.C., Manja, L.P., Chasukwa, M., Gunde, A., Dulani, B., Kayuni, & K. Chinsinga, B. (2023) .Assessing the relationship between digital divide and citizens' political participation in Africa, [Development Southern Africa](#), DOI: [10.1080/0376835X.2023.2224363](https://doi.org/10.1080/0376835X.2023.2224363)
9. Novignon, J., Chirwa, G.C., and Frempong, B.R. (2023). Agricultural input subsidy, food price shocks and malnutrition in Malawi. In Mkandawire,T., Chavula., H.K ., et al (eds). Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy (forthcoming). Oxford Press, Oxford, United Kingdom
10. Chirwa G.C (2023). Socioeconomic inequality in health care access in Malawi. In Mkan-dawire,T., Chavula., H.K ., et al (eds). Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy (forthcoming). Oxford Press, Oxford, United Kingdom
11. Mangani. R. (2023). Smooth transitioning Growth in Malawi. The Role of Economic Policy. African Review of Economics and Finance



12. 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*. 10.1057/s41599-023-01821-9
13. 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*
14. Kunyenje, C., Chirwa, G.C. et al. (2023). "COVID-19 Vaccine Inequity in Low-Income Countries (LICs). [Public Health Policy](#)
15. Salima, W., Manja, L.P., 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](#)
16. Marjorie Opuni<sup>1†</sup>, Jorge Eduardo Sanchez Morales<sup>2†</sup>, Jose Luis Figueroa<sup>2</sup>, Andrea Salas Ortiz<sup>2</sup>, Louis Masankha Banda<sup>3</sup>, Alice Olawo<sup>4</sup>, Spy Munthali, Julius Korir<sup>6</sup>, Meghan DiCarlo<sup>7</sup> and Sergio Bautista Arredondo<sup>2\*</sup> (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.
17. Marjorie Opuni, 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* 2023 | Volume 11 | Number 3
18. Maleta, C. Kayambazinthu, E.K., Kambewa, P., Chigeda, A. (2023). Key issues in teaching children reading in Lungwena, Mangochi District, Malawi *International Journal of Arts and Social Science* [www.ijassjournal.com](http://www.ijassjournal.com) ISSN: 2581-7922, Volume 6 Issue 11
19. Chasukwa, M, Dulani, B, Kayuni, H and Chiweza, A. (2023). Identity Entrepreneurs and Cultural Framers in Contemporary Ethnic Identity Mobilization in Malawi *Africa Review*. Pp 1-22. BRILL Publishers.
20. Nkhono-Mvula, T; Kayuni, H and Mulwafu, W. (2023). Historical Origins of the State's Exploitative System of Peasant Farmers in Malawi from 1926 to 2000 *Bandung: Journal of the Global South*, Vol.10. Pp 239-261. BRILL Publishers
21. Nkhono-Mvula, T; Kayuni, H and Mulwafu, W. (2023). Post-Colonial Agriculture Policy and Agrarian Change in Malawi. *Africa Review*. Pp 1-24, BRILL Publishers  
10.1080/O376835X.2023.2224363. Taylor and Francis Publishers
22. Sikwese, L, Tambulasi, R and Kayuni, H. (2023). Reforming the Public Sector in Malawi: A Gateway to Improved Service Delivery. *Malawi Journal of Social Science* Vol 22: Pp 51 - 67
23. Kayuni, H. (2023). "Historical and Contemporary Perspectives on Development Policy and Politics in Malawi" in Chavula, H; Ngalawa, H; Munthali, T and Dulani, B (Eds) *The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press .
24. Chasukwa, M., Dulani, B., and Zuka, S.P., (2023) "Development Aid and Institutional Design: Interests and Power Games in Malawi's Local Development Fund," in Chavula, H.K., Ngalawa, H., Munthali, T.C., and Dulani, B., (Eds) *The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

25. Chavula, H.K., Ngalawa, H., Munthali, T.C., and Dulani, B., (2023) "Introduction," in Chavula, H.K., Ngalawa, H., Munthali, T.C., and Dulani, B., (Eds) *The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press .
26. Chavula, H.K., Ngalawa, H., Munthali, T.C., and Dulani, B., (2023) *The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
27. Chasukwa, M., and Banik, D., (2023) "Development Aid Complementarity or Competition? The West and China in Malawi," in Chavula, H.K., Ngalawa, H., Munthali, T.C., and Dulani, B., (Eds) *The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
28. Fisher, S., and Chasukwa, M., (2023) "The Political Economy of Global Health: The Case of Development Aid and Parallel Paths in Malawi's Health System," in Chavula, H.K., Ngalawa, H., Munthali, T.C., and Dulani, B., (Eds) *The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
29. Kaphale, J., (2023) "Strategic Plan Implementation Challenges and Organisational Performance of Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority and Malawi Posts Corporation, 2016–2021" was found acceptable for publication in *Journal of Public Administration and Development Alternatives*, 8(1).
30. Khunga, C., (2023) "The Impact of Foreign Aid on Tropical Cyclone Freddy Victims in Malawi: Insights from the Affected Districts." *Journal of Public Administration and Development Alternatives*, 8(1)
31. Chikapa, T. M., Rubery, J., and Távora, I. (2023). *The Makeshift Careers of Women in Malawi: Neither Traditional nor Flexible. Work, Employment and Society*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/09500170231198736>
32. 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.
33. N Mbanu-Mweso 'In pursuit of environmental sustainability :The complexity of human rights and gender issues in climate change governance in Malawi' in Jean-Claude N. Ashukem and Semie M. Sama (eds) *Domestic and Regional Environmental Law and Policies in Africa: A Research Companion* (London: Routledge, 2023) 385–404
34. N Mbanu-Mweso 'Gender and REDD+ governance in Malawi: Enhancing women's right to participate' in Ademola Oluborode Jegede (ed) *REDD+ and State Human Rights Obligations in Africa* (London: Routledge, 2023)
35. N Mbanu-Mweso, B Malunga, G Makanje & T Chome 'Recognition of Marriage by Repute: Its Implications on Customary Law and Gender Justice in Malawi' (2023) *Southern African Public Law* <https://doi.org/10.25159/2522-6800/12223>.

36. T Mulwafu, and GS Kamchedzera, , Land Degradation Neutrality and the Weak Avoid, Reduce and Reverse Priorities in Malawi'S Soil Laws. Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=4422362> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.442236>
37. Chikapa–Jamali, T.M. (2023). Fresh Presidential Election in Malawi, June 2020: Implications on Malawi's Democracy. In: Chari, T., Dzimiri, P. (eds) Military, Politics and Democratization in Southern Africa. Advances in African Economic, Social and Political Development. Springer, Cham. Available at: [https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-35229-4\\_7](https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-35229-4_7)
38. Chikapa, T.M, Rubery, J. Távara, I(2023) The Makeshift Careers of Women in Malawi: Neither Traditional Nor Flexible, Work, Employment and Society O O:O  
Available at: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/09500170231198736?icid=int.sj-full-text.citing-articles.1>