

SCHOOL OF LAW, ECONOMICS & GOVERNMENT



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NEWSLETTER

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WELCOME MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DEAN

As we close the chapter on 2024 and embark on a promising new year, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the July-December 2024 edition of our biannual newsletter. This publication reflects the vibrant academic, research, and community engagement activities within the University of Malawi's School of Law, Economics and Government.

Allow me to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to our staff and students across the School for their loyalty, dedication, and unwavering commitment throughout the past year. Your hard work has been the cornerstone of our collective success, and I encourage you to continue striving for excellence as we journey through 2025 together.

This edition of the newsletter highlights numerous achievements and milestones. Among them is the launch of the Richard Tambulasi Memorial Scholarship, a fitting tribute to an outstanding academic whose legacy will now inspire future generations. Additionally, the establishment of the Afrobarometer Survey Support Unit in the Department of Politics and Government marks a significant step toward strengthening research capacity and governance in Africa.

Other notable stories include the PAS Society's inspiring secondary school outreach program, which motivated over 600 students to consider careers in public administration and political science, and a thought-provoking Matembo Nzunda Public Lecture on the legalities of electoral alliances in Malawi. Moreover, this issue captures the global engagements of our staff and students, such as our Law students'

Environmental Justice Clinic trip to Baltimore, USA.

Lastly, I extend my deepest appreciation to the editorial team, led by Dr. Gowokani Chirwa, for their meticulous work in curating this newsletter. Your dedication ensures that our collective achievements are celebrated and shared with a broader audience.

As we look forward to 2025, let us continue to innovate, collaborate, and transform lives through education. I wish you all a Happy New Year filled with health, growth, and success!



Professor Happy Kayuni

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FROM EXECUTIVE DEAN'S OFFICE

Afrocentric Governance in Focus: Prof. Happy Kayuni's Keynote at International Conference



On October 10, 2024, Prof. Happy Kayuni, the Executive Dean, delivered a thought-provoking keynote address at the 1st International Conference of the Afrocentric Governance of Public Affairs, held at Vanderbijlpark, North-West University, South Africa.

Prof. Kayuni's paper, titled *Swimming in Circles: The Complexities and Promises of Afrocentric Governance in the 21st Century Through the Lens of 'Maji-Nduna' Framework*, captivated the audience with its innovative approach to understanding governance challenges in Africa. Employing the metaphorical Maji-Nduna framework, Prof. Kayuni used the behaviors of four aquatic creatures—the catfish, usipa (sardine), frog, and crab—

to symbolize core issues in African governance.

The catfish, representing grand ideas with slippery execution, highlighted the disconnect between visionary policies and practical implementation. The usipa metaphor explored the timidity and conformity often seen in adopting external governance models, while the frog, with its erratic leaps, mirrored Africa's frequent policy shifts. Lastly, the crab's sideways movement symbolized the gap between political promises and on-ground realities.

Central to the framework is the symbolism of water, or "maji," representing life and adaptability, and "nduna," denoting leadership. Prof. Kayuni emphasized that effective governance must flow with the unique socio-political currents of the continent. The keynote sparked engaging discussions among academics and practitioners, reinforcing the need for Afrocentric solutions to address Africa's governance challenges. Prof. Kayuni's innovative perspective underscored the University of Malawi's commitment to producing thought leadership on issues of critical importance to the African continent.

Prof. Happy Kayuni Presents Exciting Research on Citizen Participation in Malawi

On 11th October 2024, Prof. Happy Kayuni, in collaboration with co-author Mr. Steven Chingaipe, presented a thought-provoking paper at the 1st International Conference of the Afrocentric Governance of Public Affairs held at North-West University in Vanderbijlpark, South Africa. Titled *From Elections to Engagement: An Analysis of Constituency Offices as Platforms for Citizen Participation in Malawi*, the paper analyzed the pivotal role of improvised constituency offices operated by Members of Parliament (MPs) in enhancing grassroots democracy. The presentation underscored the evolution of Malawi's democratic landscape since the reintroduction of multiparty democracy in 1994. It



explored how legal frameworks and political institutions have attempted to deepen citizen participation beyond the ballot box. Constituency offices, though informal and under-resourced, have emerged as critical points of engagement where constituents interact with their MPs to address community needs, provide legislative input, and seek assistance during emergencies.

Findings from the study highlighted a dual reality. On the one hand, many constituents actively use these offices through various channels, including visits, phone calls, and social media platforms. On the other hand, significant challenges persist. The operations of these offices often lack inclusivity, responsiveness, and accountability, with minimal tolerance for diverse opinions. The absence of a formal legal framework, standardized procedures, and adequate resources further hampers their effectiveness.

The paper's recommendations emphasized the urgent need for legislative reforms to formalize and strengthen the operations of constituency offices. Establishing these structures would promote greater accessibility, inclusivity, and accountability, thereby consolidating Malawi's democratic gains.

Prof. Kayuni's presentation sparked vibrant discussions among scholars and practitioners, earning accolades for its insightful analysis and actionable recommendations. This research contributes significantly to understanding citizen engagement in democratic governance and reflects the University of Malawi's commitment to addressing real-world challenges through academic inquiry.

Highlighting Youth Perspectives on Climate Change at Norhed Week Workshop

Prof. Happy Kayuni, alongside Prof. Dan Banik, Mr. Joseph Chunga, and Mr. Edson Ntodwa, presented a groundbreaking paper titled *A Critical Analysis of Perception, Experience, and Awareness of Climate Change: Implications for the Youth and Public Policy in Malawi* at the Norhed Week Workshop. The event

took place from 30th September to 4th October 2024 at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) - Mahatma Gandhi Campus in Blantyre, Malawi.

This timely paper analysed the escalating climate disruptions that have adversely impacted Malawi, with the economy—heavily reliant on agriculture—bearing the brunt of these changes. Drawing on empirical data from Afrobarometer's Round 9 survey, interviews, and secondary sources, the study illuminated the perceptions, experiences, and awareness of climate change among Malawian youth. The authors underscored how public awareness among young people could shape collective responses and influence policy-making in tackling climate challenges.

The presentation highlighted the urgent need for policymakers to amplify youth engagement and awareness to effectively address the multifaceted impacts of climate change, from erratic rainfall and droughts to Cyclone Freddy's devastating socio-economic toll. This critical analysis serves as a clarion call to integrate youth-driven solutions into Malawi's climate policies, fostering resilience and sustainable development.

Revolutionizing Public Service: Insights from IASIA Conference Presentation

At the 2024 International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA) Conference held at the University of the Free State, our Executive Dean presented a groundbreaking paper titled *Potential to Revolutionize Public Service Delivery? Assessing the Applicability of New Public Service in the Malawian Landscape*.

The paper explored a transformative shift in public service delivery, assessing the New Public Service (NPS) framework as a viable alternative to the traditional New Public Management (NPM) paradigm. Drawing on a Malawian case study, the research underscored the importance of citizen collaboration, co-creation, and social innovation in creating sustainable and responsive public services. Key findings highlighted the need for a "layering" approach—integrating NPS with existing gover-



nance models to ensure contextual relevance. This innovative perspective contributes to a broader conversation on redefining public service delivery in Africa and beyond.

Fan facts about School of Law, Economics and Government(SLEG) ?

1. Did you know that SLEG has 5 departments?
2. Did you know that 3 out of the 5 SLEG Heads of Departments (HoDs) are female?
3. Did you know that SLEG has 6 professors and 5 associate professors?
4. Did you know that SLEG is the only school with the Executive Dean's Trophy?
5. Did you know that SLEG graduates over 350 students annually?
6. Did you know that SLEG offers the Richard Tambulasi Memorial Scholarship, which targets Master's students in the Leadership and Management Department or the Politics and Government Department?
7. Did you know that SLEG offers 17 programs, including PhDs, Master's, and Bachelor's degrees?
8. Did you know that the Economics Department library is called the Chinyamata Chipeta Library, while the Law Library is known as the McKnight Machika Library?
9. Did you know that the Department of Economics ranks number one in the Master's program of the Africa Economic Research Consortium?
10. Did you know that you can study your PhD in Development Studies and Public Administration at SLEG?

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Establishment of Afrobarometer Survey Support Unit in the Department of Politics and Government

Afrobarometer (AB) is a non-profit, pan-African, and non-partisan survey research network which conducts public attitude surveys on democracy, governance, the economy, and society across the African continent. AB's primary goal is to produce high-quality survey data and analysis on African attitudes, experiences, and aspirations.



Assoc. Prof Dulani, Director of AB Surveys and Head of the UNIMA Survey Support Unit Speaking

This data is then fed into the policy processes to ensure that the voices of African peoples are reflected in governance decisions. The first Afrobarometer surveys were fielded in 1999 with an initial 12 countries, including Malawi, and now covers up to 42 African countries, reaching approximately 80% of the African population. To date, Afrobarometer has completed nine Rounds of Surveys and is currently in the midst of the tenth cycle of surveys. Through its work, Afrobarometer aims to contribute to informed policy decisions, foster public debate, and strengthen democratic governance in Africa.

As the operations of Afrobarometer continue to expand, the Central Management Team (CMT) of AB instituted a new support unit within the department of Politics and Government, in December 2023 and by January 2024 the unit was established. This support unit will be responsible for coordinating the survey operations side of the network, helping in the process to build survey capacity within the wider African context. The department of Politics and Government at the university of

Malawi becomes the third Afrobarometer support unit, adding to the current two units which are in the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University (MSU) (responsible for data analysis and capacity building) and the Institute for Democracy, Citizenship and Public Policy in Africa at the University of Cape Town (UCT) (responsible for data management).

Afrobarometer's surveys support unit within the department of Politics and Government at the University of Malawi was formally launched on the 4th of November, 2024 on campus. The Surveys Support Unit, which will be headed by Associate Professor Boniface Dulani, Afrobarometer's Director of Surveys, will be primarily responsible for planning, coordinating and managing all fieldwork activities in the Afrobarometer network. It will provide technical assistance with the development and review of survey tools, the management and administration of survey activities, as well as capacity building for surveys and the analysis of Afrobarometer data. In line with the Afrobarometer's Africanization drive, the establishment of the survey support unit at the University of Malawi will promote the network's senior presence on the African continent. With this launch, the University of Malawi becomes the second African university after the University of Cape Town, to become a fully-fledged AB Support Unit in the organization's 25 years of operations. This will create a greater opportunity and platform for the University of Malawi to showcase its academic excellence to the world, which is in line with the UNIMA's strategic plan of internationalization.

Funding for Afrobarometer comes from a consortium of donors that include Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); Mo Ibrahim Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and the United States Agency for International Development/United States Institute of Peace. Several funders have also committed resources to fund specific projects/modules and these include: the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, University of California San Diego (EMERGE Program); the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands in Uganda; the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), Global Center for Pluralism, Mastercard Foundation, The World Bank Group, and the European Union.

Richard Tambulasi Memorial Scholarship Launched

On December 5, 2024, the Department of Politics and Government, in collaboration with the Department of Leadership and Management Studies (two departments formerly called the Department of Political and Administrative Studies - PAS), officially launched the Richard Tambulasi Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship honors the late Professor Richard Tambulasi, who served as a distinguished member of the PAS Department and Principal of Chancellor College (then a constituent college of the University of Malawi) until his untimely passing on February 7, 2021.



The Vice Chancellor speaking at the launch a guest of honour.

Professor Tambulasi joined the University of Malawi on October 11, 2002, and earned his PhD from the University of Manchester in 2011. He was promoted to full professor on April 29, 2015. In recognition of his remarkable contributions to academia, the PAS Department resolved to establish the Richard Tambulasi Memorial Scholarship to preserve his legacy.

The scholarship will be available across four Master's programs hosted by the two associated departments:

1. Master of Public Administration and Management
2. Master of Arts in Political Science
3. Master of Arts in Development Studies
4. Master of Arts in Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations

The scholarship aims to:

1. Advance scholarly discussions in teaching and research areas central to Professor Tambulasi's work, including public policy, public sector re-

- forms, decentralization, governance, and public sector human resource management.
2. Attract and nurture young talent in academia, fostering core academic values and mentorship.



Mwai Nyando, one of the first beneficiaries, posing with the Vice Chancellor and Heads of Departments.

Funding for the scholarship will come from internally generated resources within the two departments. The departments also plan to collaborate with well-wishers and stakeholders committed to supporting the scholarship's objectives.

This initiative stands as a fitting tribute to Professor Tambulasi's enduring contributions to academia and his dedication to nurturing future scholars.

CRAFS Provides Tuition Fees Assistance to Master of Arts in Development Studies Students

The Centre for Resilient Agri-Food Systems (CRAFS) has generously contributed to the tuition fees of 39 Master of Arts in Development Studies (MDS) students from the 2023 cohort. Recognizing that financial constraints are a significant barrier to the successful completion of postgraduate studies, the department's postgraduate coordinator, Mrs. Samantha Soyiyo Mosiwa, wrote a proposal to CRAFS seeking tuition assistance.

In response, CRAFS agreed to provide K500,000.00 towards the tuition fees for each student in 2023 MDS cohort. This follows an earlier contribution by



CRAFS, where \$800 scholarships were awarded to three MDS students to support their research year. The Department of Politics and Government is grateful for this generous funding. Partnerships like these not only reduce the financial burden on students but also enable them to dedicate more time and focus on their academic work. Such support is crucial in improving retention and ensuring higher completion rates among postgraduate students. The department looks to other fruitful collaborations with CRAFS and other partners committed to advancing academic excellence.



INTERNATIONALISATION

Department of Politics Government engages with the University of North-West

The Executive Dean of SLEG Professor Happy Kayuni and Head of Politics and Government Department Professor Michael Chasukwa recently visited North-West University in South Africa to discuss the operationalization of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Centre for Afrocentric Governance of Public Affairs and the Department of Politics and Government.

The discussions were highly productive, leading to a mutual agreement to collaborate in various areas, including research, publications, teaching, joint seminars, staff exchange, and student exchange programs. Notably, it was agreed that three staff members from the Department of Politics and Government will be offered bursaries to pursue doctoral studies at North-West University in the fields of Public Administration and Political Science.



Professor Chasukwa making a presentation at NWU

Professor Michael Chasukwa Lectures at the University of Bologna



Professor Chasukwa teaching at University of Bologna

From November 12 to 16, 2024, Professor Michael Chasukwa, Head of the Department of Politics and Government, served as a Visiting Professor at the University of Bologna in Italy. During his visit, Professor Chasukwa contributed to the teaching of the Master's programs in Development Studies and Human Rights. His lectures were delivered under the Department of Culture and Heritage and the Department of Politics and Social Sciences.

This international engagement by the head of department highlights the department's dedication to global academic collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Ms Kapanga Presents a Paper at the IASIA 2024 International Conference

Ms Maureen Kapanga, a lecturer in the Department of Politics and Government, presented a paper titled "The Dilemma of Balancing Trust and Accountability in Land Administration Through the Involvement of Traditional Leaders in Malawi" at the IASIA 2024 International conference. The Conference took place in Bloemfontein, South African from the 1st of July to the 5th of July 2024. The theme of the conference was "Alternative Service Delivery and Sustainable Societal Responsiveness" and the venue of the five-day conference was the University of Free State (UFS).

The paper examines the contested role of traditional leaders in land reform and administration in the context of an African country, Malawi. Specifically, the paper critically interrogates the dilemma of balancing trust and accountability in land administration through the involvement of traditional leaders in Malawi. Traditional leaders play a significant role in customary land in many African countries and are often regarded as trustworthy figures given their long-standing positions of authority and cultural ties. Despite this trust, concerns about corruption and accountability persist. Studies suggest that traditional leaders may abuse their power for personal gains or engage in rent seeking behavior related to land allocation and management. Using the social capital theory as the theoretical framework, the paper argues that authority of traditional leaders stems from both historical precedent and ongoing social interactions imbuing them with a significant level of trust among local populace. There exists a widespread perception surrounding their involvement in land administration, fueled by various factors includ-



Ms Kapanga presenting her paper at IASIA

ing favoritism, nepotism and exploitation of power for personal gains, land grabbing, bribery and manipulation of land allocation systems. While trust serves as the foundation of their authority, accountability mechanisms are essential for ensuring the responsible exercise of power and maintaining public confidence. However, traditional governance systems often lack formalized mechanisms for transparency, oversight, and accountability, leading to a gap between trust and accountability. The paper suggests community oversight and participatory monitoring mechanisms as alternative means of enhancing accountability and transparency.

Mr. Gift Mbwele Presents at the 4th Pan African Heritage Museum Conference in Accra, Ghana



Mr Mbwele during discussion time for his paper.

Mr. Gift Mbwele, a lecturer in the Department of Politics and Government, participated in the 4th Pan African Heritage Museum Conference, held from September 15 to 18, 2024, in Accra, Ghana. The event was organized by the African University College of Communications under the theme, Sharing Pan African Truths: Narratives of Creativity, Imagination, and Resistance.

The conference featured six subthemes, with Mr. Mbwele presenting under Subtheme 5: Analysing Governance Systems, Sovereignty Movements, Pan-African Models, Leadership Dynamics, and Peace Initiatives. His presentation, titled "Removal of Policy-Making Powers from Councils: An Assault on Democratic Participation and Accountability," critically examined the implications of limiting policymaking authority at the local government level, emphasizing the need for democratic participation and accountability.

Assoc. Prof Boniface Dulani presents at Michigan State University Seminar

Assoc. Prof Boniface Dulani of Political Science in Department of Politics and Government, shared insights on Afrobarometer's history at a seminar celebrating 25 years of data and partnership that was hosted by the Michigan State University's African Studies Centre in East Lansing, Michigan, USA, on 4 December 2024.

In his presentation at the seminar, Dulani, who is Afrobarometer's Director of Surveys and head of the

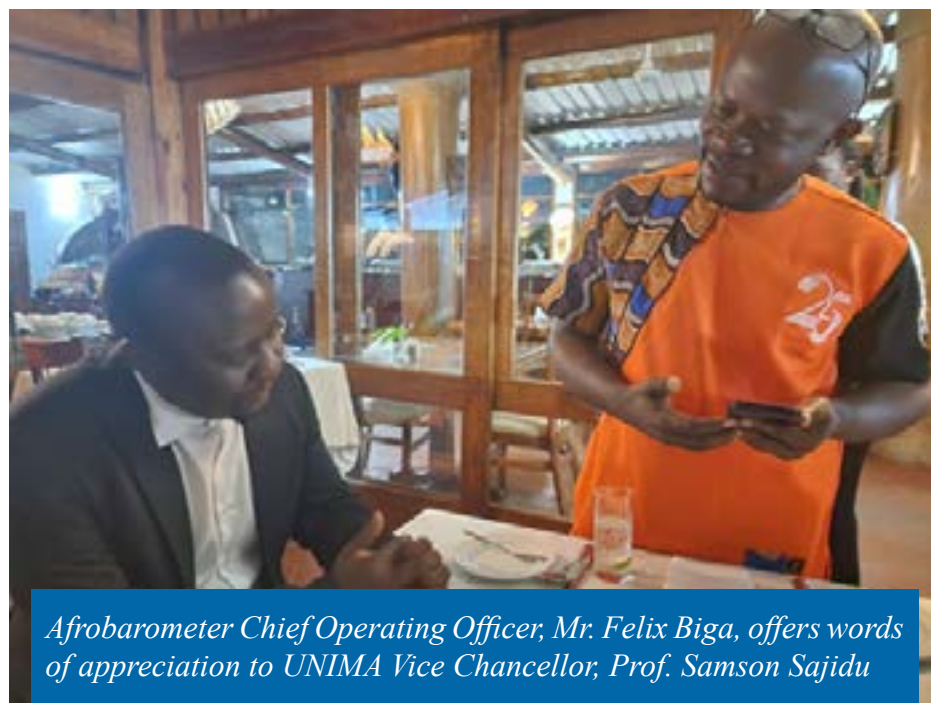
network's Survey Support Unit in the Department of Politics and Government at the University of Malawi, offered an overview of Afrobarometer's milestones and key achievements since the organization's founding in 1999. In particular, Dulani highlighted some of the key methodological innovations that have been introduced over time, including transitioning from Pen and Paper Personal Interview (PAPI) to Computer Assisted Personal Interview. (CAPI); experimenting with telephone

surveys as well as ongoing tests of interviewing youth aged 16 and 17. Other Afrobarometer presenters at the event included Dr. Carolyn Logan (Director of Analysis); Dr. Rorisang Lekalake (Senior Analyst/Methodologist) Ms. Anyway Chingwete (Deputy Director of Surveys). University Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Political Science and African Studies at Michigan State University, Dr. Michael Bratton, who is also who is one of the three co-founders of Afrobarometer, attended the event where he participated in a panel discussion on the past, present and future of Afrobarometer.

The event was also attended senior academic staff from various disciplines at Michigan State University (MSU) as well as graduate and undergraduate students that are affiliated to MSU’s African Studies Center at MSU. Among the most notable participants were Prof. Leo Zulu, who is the Director of the African Studies Center; Prof. Jeff Conroy-Krutz, Chairperson of the Department of Political Science; and Prof. Titus Awokuse, the Associate Dean for Research and Partnerships, International Studies and Programs.



UNIMA Afrobarometer Survey Support Unit Hosts Afrobarometer Surveys Team Retreat in Malawi, 24-29 November 2024.



Afrobarometer Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Felix Biga, offers words of appreciation to UNIMA Vice Chancellor, Prof. Samson Sajidu

The Afrobarometer Surveys Support Unit at the University of Malawi, hosted a team of 16 Afrobarometer survey team members for the 2024 Surveys Retreat from 24-29 November 2024. Afrobarometer surveys staff who attended the retreat came from nine African countries (Benin, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, Zimbabwe and the hosts, Malawi). In a demonstration of the strong support from UNIMA Management for the Afrobarometer Survey Support Unit, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Samson Sajidu, took time off from his busy schedule to welcome the delegates to Malawi and wished them fruitful discussions.

The retreat was an opportunity for the team to reflect on the work done in the current calendar year, identifying success and challenges, and to strategize for the upcoming calendar year of 2025. Among the key highlights was the recognition of the number of surveys completed in 2024, which have covered 28 countries—an average of 2.5 countries surveyed per month; the fielding of additional surveys that include a pre and post-election survey in South Africa; seven special surveys fielded under the Digital Transformation Africa project and a further three special surveys fielded under the Young Africa Works project.



Afrobarometer Surveys Team Retreat discussions in progress, Sunbird Nkopola Lodge.

The retreat, which was hosted for the first four days at Sunbird Nkopola Lodge in Mangochi, followed by an extra day at Kutchire Lodge in Liwonde National Park, also included sessions reflecting on areas where improvements can be done, including brainstorming sessions on possible innovations to be considered for the next Afrobarometer survey rounds. The team also took time off to sample some of Malawi’s tourist attractions, including a boat ride to Bird Island on Lake Malawi and a game ride in Liwonde National Park.

Assoc. Prof Boniface Dulani presents at Michigan State University Seminar



Assoc. Prof Dulani making his presentation.

On the 7th of November 2024, Assoc. Prof Boniface Dulani gave the keynote speech at the Strathmore Academy for International Research Collaboration (SAIRC) Summit in Nairobi, Kenya. The summit, which brought to-

gether more than 100 researchers from within Kenya, was held under the theme “Collaborative Evidence Generation for Impactful Livelihood Actions”. Dulani’s presentation was titled “Leveraging Afrobarometer Data for people-centred solutions,” and made a strong case for the incorporation of public attitude data for impactful livelihoods interventions

“Afrobarometer’s extensive survey data, which covers over 40 countries, represents more than three quarters of continent’s population. It provides a reliable snapshot of public opinion and livelihood realities across African communities. This can serve as an important, readily available, and free data source, serving as a foundation for data-informed actions in areas driven by the views of ordinary Africans themselves,” said Dulani.

Assoc. Prof Boniface Dulani, who also serves as Director of Surveys and head of the network’s Survey Support Unit in the Department of Politics and Gov-

ernment at the University of Malawi, went on to highlight the value of Afrobarometer data, which is free, easily accessible and usable, to livelihoods researchers across the continent. Among the areas where Afrobarometer data speaks directly to issues of livelihoods, Dulani cited time-series data on economic conditions, data on employment, which includes data on job availability, job types and satisfaction with employment. He also referred to public access to basic services, including experiences of corruption in accessing services such as education, health care; data on food security and social and political stability, to mention but a few examples.

Assoc. Prof Boniface Dulani went on to provide some illustrations of the Afrobarometer data that can be used for research on livelihoods, including findings on policy priorities from the perspectives of ordinary African citizens.

STUDENTS ACTIVITIES

Political and Administrative Studies (PAS) Society First-Year Welcoming Dinner at Mulunguzi Riverside Lodge.



PAS Society with Mr Pondani

On 05th October 2024, the Political and Administrative Studies (PAS) Society hosted a welcoming dinner for first-year students at Mulunguzi Riverside Lodge. The event aimed to introduce the new students to the PAS community, giving them a chance to meet other students, faculty members, and learn more about what PAS programs offer.

The evening began with a friendly welcome from the PAS Society President, Mr. John Peter, who shared his excitement about the new academic year and encouraged first-year students to become active members of the society. The PAS Society President also spoke about the importance of building a strong

community, where everyone could share ideas and support each other. A special moment of the evening came when the Students Representative Council (SRC) President, Mr. Thanks Ellia Mwalwanda, joined the event. Mr. Mwalwanda spoke highly of the PAS Society, calling it “one of the most vibrant societies at UNIMA.” His words motivated the new students and reminded everyone about the strength and importance of the PAS Society within the university.

Another significant guest was Mr. E. Pondani, a lecturer in the Politics and Government Department, who was delegated by Professor M. Chasukwa, the Head of the Politics and Government Department and PAS Society Patron, to represent him. Mr. Pondani addressed the first-year students and the entire PAS Society, emphasizing the importance of dedication and hard work in their studies. He encouraged the students to take full advantage of the opportunities the PAS offers, both inside and outside the classroom. He reminded them that the PAS Society is a supportive community that will help them grow, not only as students but also as future leaders in the political and administrative fields. His words served as an important reminder of the high standards expected from the PAS

students and the potential they hold to make a positive impact on society.

After the speeches, dinner was served and there were various entertainment activities such as music performances and dance performances.

As the evening ended, the first-year students left the event feeling welcomed, inspired, and ready to begin their journey in the PAS programs. The welcoming dinner was a perfect start to the academic year, providing a chance to meet new friends, connect with faculty, and learn more about exciting opportunities within the PAS Society. The night of good food, great company, and wonderful entertainment that set the tone for a positive and successful year ahead for all the students in the PAS program.

PAS Society Inspires Future Leaders Through Secondary School Outreach Program



PAS Society with Our Lady of Wisdom Secondary School students.

The Political and Administrative Studies (PAS) Society successfully conducted a secondary school outreach program in Blantyre City on Friday, November 29, 2024.

As part of its commitment to community engagement, the program aimed to inspire and motivate secondary school students to consider careers in public administration and political science at the University of Malawi. The PAS Society visited three schools: Our Lady of Wisdom Secondary School, Njamba Secondary School, and Maranatha Girls Academy.

In addition to the presentations, the program featured career guidance and counseling sessions, where students received

advice on the diverse career opportunities available in public administration and political science. The event attracted over 600 enthusiastic students, with both participants and teachers praising the initiative for its inspirational and educational impact.

This outreach program not only created awareness about the relevance of public administration and political science in Malawi but also encouraged young minds to envision themselves as future leaders in these fields.



Mr Pondani speaking to Maranatha Secondary School Students

PAS Society Hosts Event on Whistle-Blower Challenges in Malawi

On November 23, 2024, the PAS Society successfully hosted an engaging event titled “Whistle-Blowers Under Fire: Challenges of Free Speech in Malawi” in the Wadonda Lecture Theatre. The event brought together a diverse audience, including University of Malawi students, human rights activists, academics, journalists, legal practitioners, civil society members, government officials, and other stakeholders passionate about good governance and democracy. The event focused on the vital role whistle-blowers play in promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance, while also addressing the significant risks they face. In Malawi, whistle-blowers often encounter intimidation, harassment, and even job loss, all of which hinder free speech and undermine efforts to combat corruption and injustice.



PAS Society President, John Peter, speaking in a panel discussion

The primary objectives of the event were to: i) Highlight the importance of whistle-blowers in strengthening democratic values, ii) Explore the dangers whistle-blowers face and the impact of these risks on their willingness to speak out, iii) Advocate for stronger legal protections to encourage whistle-blowers to come forward without fear and iii) Promote a culture where free speech is valued and protected.

A panel discussion led by PAS Society President John Peter and other speakers delved into these themes, sparking thought-provoking conversations about the systemic challenges facing whistle-blowers in Malawi and the potential solutions to address them.

The sparked discussions highlighted that there is need for robust whistle-blower protection laws to foster accountability and good governance and need for in-



Members of PAS Society posing with Dr Grace Tomoka Bakuwa (one of the speakers) after the event

creased awareness of the critical challenges faced by whistle-blowers and the importance of safeguarding free speech in Malawi. The event concluded with a call to greater advocacy and collaboration to strengthen whistle-blower protection. The PAS Society hopes to continue these discussions, fostering a culture where individuals can speak truth to power without fear of reprisal.

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Exploring the Economic Potential of Malawi’s Arts Sector

On September 13th, Associate Professors Zindaba Chisiza and Gowokani Chijere Chirwa had an audience with President Dr. Lazarus Chakwera at Sanjika Palace in Blantyre. They were part of a team that included representatives from the creative sector in Malawi. The meeting was an initiative spearheaded by the special advisor on creative industries, Q Malewezi. The two professors from the University of Malawi (UNIMA) presented preliminary findings on the mapping of Malawi’s arts and cultural industries, which they are leading.



1

The research was made possible with a grant from the Rei Foundation Limited in New Zealand. In an era where many countries around the world have harnessed their creative industries as engines of economic growth, Malawi has the opportunity to do the same. The insights from this study could pave the way for more strategic decisions on supporting artists and expanding cultural programs across the nation.

1. HE Dr. Lazarus Chakwera poses with the team from creative sector and Professor UNIMA
2. HE Dr. Lazarus Chakwera

The study’s primary goal was to determine the economic contribution of the creative sector in Malawi. It also sought to identify the challenges affecting its growth and development and to recommend strategies for enabling the sector to boost Malawi’s economy. Findings show that, as of 2022, the arts contributed 28 billion kwacha to Malawi’s GDP. Furthermore, the sector is largely male-dominated and youth-led, with the average age being 29. However, with the right investment, there is potential for this number to grow. The quest for 1 million jobs may be easier by investing in this sector, as its multiplier effect may be significant, since most jobs in this sector are self-employed and entrepreneurial in nature.



2

NPC Director General Shares Insights on Malawi Vision 2063 with UNIMA Students

On 22 October, the Department of Economics hosted the Director General of the National Planning Commission, Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali, who gave a presentation on Malawi Vision 2063. In his presentation, Dr. Munthali highlighted the current progress of the first phase of implementing Vision 2063, indicating that only 44 percent has been completed.

He outlined two major objectives for this phase: to graduate Malawi to a lower-middle-income country and to fulfill most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To achieve these objectives, he emphasized the need for accelerators, including strategies that the Malawi Planning Commission (MPC) is implementing. Among these is the strategy focused on investing in key productive sectors: agriculture, tourism, mining, and manufacturing.

Dr. Munthali also addressed challenges such as natural shocks and political issues affecting initial progress and discussed potential solutions. Key attendees included Prof. Happy Kayuni, Dean of the School of Law, Economics, and Governance, and Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere, Head of the Economics Department, along with faculty and students from various disciplines.

The presentation provided a platform for students to share their perspectives on how the National Planning Commission can help realize the nation's aspirations.

PICTORIAL HIGHLIGHTS



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1. Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali



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2. Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali with Faculty Members



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3. Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali with UNIMA Students

IMF Launches the October 2024 World Economic Outlook at DOE



Mr. Nelson Koumtingue

On October 29, the Department of Economics, in collaboration with the International Monetary Fund, hosted the launch of the October 2024 World Economic Outlook report, focusing on a chapter on Understanding the Social Acceptability of Structural Reforms.

Presenters included Ma Silvia Ablizio, a senior economist at the IMF Research Department, and the IMF's representative to Malawi, Mr. Nelson Koumtingue. They discussed the Fund's role in promoting financial stability through research and policy collaboration with governments.

The discussion highlighted how people's attitudes, shaped by knowledge and culture, can affect the acceptance of reforms. Increased understanding of these reforms tends to improve social acceptability. Migration issues were also addressed, with findings suggesting that legal status for migrants can reduce crime rates.

The audience engaged in discussions about Malawi's economic challenges and the IMF's involvement, emphasizing the need for state-led consensus in decision-making. This event followed a recent visit from the World Bank, showcasing the Department's commitment to working with international partners towards national economic prosperity and sustainable development goals.

Key participants included the representative of the Dean of LEG, Dr. Chisinga, the Head of the Economics Department, Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, and Associate Professor Patrick Kambewa, who served as the discussant, along with staff from the department and students from various disciplines.



Ms Silvia Ablizio



Ms Silvia Ablizio during her presentation

DOE at ECAMA's 2024 Annual Conference

The Department of Economics shone at the 2024 Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA) Annual Conference under the theme “Economic Priorities for a Vulnerable Economy.” The conference took place from the 13th to 15th November 2024 at Sunbird Nkopola in Mangochi. In the spotlight were Dr. Bertha Bangara Chikadza, who is also the president of ECAMA, and Professor Winford Masanjala, who led a panel discussion on the framework for internal and external stabilization.



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1. Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa in the middle
2. Professor Chinyamata Chipeta
3. Dr. Bertha Bangara Chikadza
4. Professor Winford Masanjala

Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, head of the Department of Economics, led a panel discussion on “Reimagining Malawi’s Economic Growth.” Professor Chinyamata Chipeta also led a panel discussion on the “Framework for Internal and External Stabilization.” Through effective participation in national agendas, the department has remained committed to fulfilling the country’s economic growth objectives.

Workshops and Conferences participation by DOE Staff

1. Dr. Bertha Bangara Chikadza attended the African Macroeconomics Academy (AFMA) at Ramada Hotel, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 7 to 11 October 2024



Dr. Bertha Bangara Chikadza at the African Feminist Macroeconomics Academy (AFMA) at Ramada Hotel, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

2. Dr. Bertha Bangara Chikadza attended and presented at the Third International Biennial Macroeconomic Symposium (IBMS2024), held at the Riverside Hotel in Durban and capacity building training at the University of KwaZulu Natal from 27th October to 8th Nov, 2024.
3. Dr. Bertha Bangara Chikadza moderated a Panel discussion on the Rethinking Our Financial Architecture towards a US\$50 Trillion African Economy: What’s our stake? At the CEO Malawi RoundTable, Mt Soche Hotel, Blantyre on 25th October, 2024.
4. Dr Bertha Bangara Chikadza attended the 4th 2024 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Meeting of the Reserve Bank held at Ryalls Hotel in Blantyre on 4th November, 2024.
5. Dr Bertha Bangara Chikadza presented the Holistic Productive Capacities Development for Malawi and Productive Capacities Development Roadmap for Malawi at a High Level at the High-level Validation Workshop, BICC, Lilongwe 5-6th November, 2024.
6. Dr Bertha Bangara Chikadza presented at the LifeCo Financial Empowerment Summit held on 7th November, 2024 at Sunbird Lilongwe Hotel, in Lilongwe (virtual).
7. Dr Bertha Bangara Chikadza Participated in the Grants Concept Note Review of the Transforming Agriculture Through Diversification and Entrepreneurship (TRADE) Project at Ekhaya Resort in Mangochi, 11-15th November (part of it was done virtually)

2024 Economics Students Welcome Event!

Recognizing the importance of supporting our new students, the Economics Department under the School of Law, Economics, and Governance (SLEG) organized a welcome event for first-year and continuing students. The event aimed to celebrate the beginning of a new academic year and introduce some exciting changes within the department.



Professor Happy Kayuni

Prof. Happy Kayuni, Executive Dean, highlighted the range of programs under SLEG and encouraged students to excel from the first year. Students were also encouraged to join various societies like the Economics Society and Law Society to build leadership skills and compete for the Executive Dean's Trophy.

Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, HoD, gave a brief talk about the upcoming new courses that will soon be introduced in the Department of Economics. These new offerings are designed to meet the growing demand for modern skills in today's fast-changing economy.



*Associate Professor
Gowokani Chijere Chirwa*

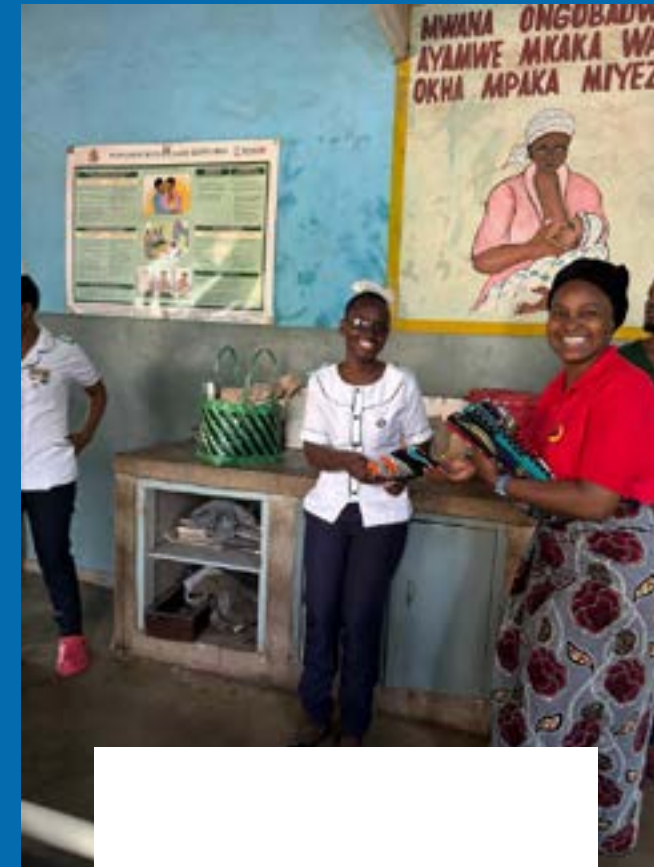
Additionally, the Economics Society President, Emmanuel Yosufu, shared the latest updates, starting with the introduction of the new Student-Tutor Committee, an initiative designed to help students navigate academic challenges by creating a support system and improving student learning experiences.

The welcome event served as a platform to highlight the positive changes happening within the Department of Economics, all aimed at enhancing the academic and professional growth of students.



Economics Society President Emmanuel Yusufu addresses his fellow students

Dr. Bangara-Chikadza in the Mothers Fun Run Night



Dr. Bertha Bangara-Chikadza took part in the Mothers Fun Run Night, in collaboration with Nation Publications Limited, to fundraise for maternal health in Malawi. On the 16th of August 2024, Dr. Bangara-Chikadza spent a night at Maperela Health Centre in Chikhwawa District as part of the fundraising activity.

DOE Shines at SLEG Postgraduate Award

On July 19, 2024, the School of Law, Economics, and Government hosted a postgraduate awards ceremony to celebrate outstanding students' achievements in various categories of their studies. The ceremony was held in the Wadonda Lecture Theatre, with notable attendees including the Head of Postgraduate Studies, Professor Grivas Muchineripi Kayange, and the Head of the Department of Politics and Government, Professor Michael Chasukwa.



SLEG Postgraduate Award recipients from DOE

Three postgraduate students from the Department of Economics were awarded the best publication awards, and one was awarded for the best course. The department extends its heartfelt congratulations to Bridget Naphiyo, Chrispin Mtocha, Tughulupi Ndovi, and Pemphero Mphamba for winning these prestigious awards.

Economics Department of Economics at UNIMA Media Open Day 2024



At this year's University of Malawi Media Open Day which took place on the 23rd of November, the Economics Department proudly showcased its work and contributions to both academia and the community. The exhibit highlighted research published by our lecturers in respected economic journals, reflecting their commitment to addressing key challenges in Malawi's economy and beyond.

The department also presented newsletters in digital format, providing an accessible platform for sharing updates, research, and achievements within the department.

The department had an engaging time sharing its efforts with students, alumni, and visitors, and to demonstrate how the field of economics contributes to shaping policy, driving innovation, and supporting sustainable development.

Dr. Farai Chigaru Selected into the Faculty-Student Programme (FSP)

In October this year, UniPod launched the Faculty-Student Programme (FSP), a cutting-edge initiative aimed at translating academic research into viable business solutions. This competition invited Malawian researchers and innovators to address pressing development challenges faced by Malawi and Africa. Participants were tasked with creating solutions within thematic areas such as healthcare, agriculture, education, disaster management, financial technologies, and the creative industries.

Dr. Farai Chigaru, a lecturer from the Department of Economics at the University of Malawi (UNIMA), emerged as one of the winners of the FSP. Dr. Chigaru's innovation addresses the growth



paradox for developing countries by identifying productive growth sectors (sectors with a comparative advantage). He developed software that automates a complex economic methodology, providing precise estimations of growth opportunities for developing nations. Using PHP programming and MySQL for the database, Dr. Chigaru's software has the potential to revolutionize economic planning and resource allocation across Africa. The department celebrates this achievement and remain committed to fostering innovation that transforms academic research into impactful solutions for Malawi and beyond.

Dr Bangara-Chikadza, New ECAMA President and DIC Board of Director

Congratulations to Dr. Bertha Bangara Chikadza, one of our esteemed senior lecturers, on her appointment as President of the Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA) and to the Board of Directors of the Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC).

Dr. Chikadza's dedication, visionary leadership, and expertise in economic development make her an exceptional choice for these roles. Her innovative problem-solving skills and deep understanding of economics will undoubtedly drive impactful policy discussions and initiatives, shaping the nation's economic future. Her achievement is a source of pride and inspiration for the department.



Dr. Bertha Bangara Chikadza

DOE hosts prof Steven Dunga from the UNW



From November 11th to 18th, 2024, the Department of Economics (DOE) hosted Professor Steven Dunga from North-West University (NWU) in South Africa as part of the ongoing activities in the MOU between these two institutions.

During his stay, Prof. Dunga met with staff of the DOE on campus

working in poverty studies and reviewed the syllabus for the PhD in Economics. Prof. Dunga also conducted a practical workshop with master's students in economics on emerging issues in poverty studies and taught in the Policy Analysis module. Prof. Dunga collaborated with Associate Prof. Gowokani Chijere Chirwa on a manuscript centered on poverty and resilience.

During the Annual ECAMA Conference, Prof. Dunga also participated as a keynote speaker, where he spoke on economic priorities to turn around the economy. He pointed out that Malawi has many low hanging fruits that can easily be utilised within the three sectors of Agriculture Tourism and Mining. He emphasised on the need for proper policy implementation as key to the transformation of the country.

Machiru Moyo Presents Her Research at a Conference organized by KUHeS



Machiru Moyo

Machiru Moyo, a postgraduate economics student, presented her research at the 3rd Research Conference at Amaryllis Hotel organized by KUHeS. Her research, conducted in collaboration with Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, focuses on how taxes on tobacco and alcohol can help reduce diseases caused by these products in five African countries, including Malawi.

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends this approach to improve public health. Given Malawi's financial constraints in allocating 15% of the national budget to health, her research raises important questions about whether such measures could provide much-needed support to our health system and recover economic losses.

DOE at the Titukulane Project Close-out Dissemination Event

Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa made a presentation on the findings of the Titukulane Project, which was implemented by a consortium of NGOs, with CARE as the lead. The project also involved LUANAR and UNIMA (SLEG and SHSS). The two-day closeout dissemination event focused on sharing results. The University of Malawi (UNIMA) has produced 13 papers and 6 policy briefs during the period of its involvement in the project.

Department of Economics Procures New Computers for its Labs



DOE Computer Lab

The Department of Economics is excited to announce the procurement of new computers for its labs. This initiative aims to promote inclusivity and enhance educational quality by providing equal access to technology. "Lack of a computer should not be an option for failure," highlights the department's commitment to ensuring all students have the necessary resources for success.

This investment underscores our dedication to fostering an equitable learning environment for everyone. The acquisition of these computers was made possible through the support of the University of Malawi management and the Government of Malawi.

DOE Postgraduate Student Raising the Flag of DOE at UNIMA Higher

The Department of Economics would like to congratulate Miss Sylvia David Kachola, a Master of Arts in Economics student, on her selection for the ARTIMIS Mentorship Program. As part of the program, she will travel to Germany, where she will interact with professionals from various fields.



Ms Sylvia David Kachola

This interaction is believed to enhance her knowledge and skills. During the program, she will be supervised by Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa and Dr. Ben Malinga John.

Commenting on her selection, she said, "This experience will strengthen my research skills and enable me to contribute meaningfully to Malawi, Africa, and the global community by supporting evidence-based policies that address critical socioeconomic challenges and foster sustainable development."

Department of Economics Hosts Scholarship Workshop



On 12th September, the Department of Economics held an insightful workshop with guest speaker Mr. Micheal Masiya, aimed at equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to apply for a variety of scholarship opportunities in the United States. The workshop featured presentations on available scholarships, the

institutions offering them, such as EducationUSA Malawi, application requirements, and step-by-step guidance on how to successfully apply.

Among the speakers was Ms. Theodora Kuntembwe, who successfully completed the Global UGRAD program earlier this year through



the U.S. Embassy in Lilongwe. She shared valuable insights from her experience, motivating her peers to take advantage of these international opportunities.

The Department of Economics remains committed to empowering students by continually raising awareness of international opportunities.

Yamikani Bottoman Takes 3rd Position in the 11th ARSO Continental Essay Competition!



Yamikani Bottoman in the middle

Yamikani Bottoman, a third-year Bachelor of Arts in Development Economics student, has earned third place with her insightful essay on the theme “Empowering Consumers through Standardization to Achieve their Rights to Safe, Quality Goods and Services”. The competition is organized by Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS) in collaboration with the African Organization for Standardization (ARSO) and AMC Group Africa. Yamikani’s essay emphasized the critical importance of standardization in ensuring consumer protection, enhancing product safety, and promoting fair market competition.



Economics Students Participate in a Workshop Hosted by Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC)

On October 18, the Economics Society hosted a workshop with the newly launched Deposit Insurance Corporation of Malawi at the Amaryllis Hotel in Blantyre. Key speakers included Miss Lowina Mwasigala and the General Director of the Corporation, Mr. Chitani Chigumula.

The meeting focused on raising awareness about the DIC, its establishment, and its roles, alongside those of the Reserve Bank of Malawi. Discussions emphasized how the Corporation can enhance its services to clients. These open discussions foster cooperation through knowledge sharing and contribute to the country’s development.



Miss Lowina Mwasigala during her presentation



DOE Students actively listening during the presentation

Capacity Building for Undergraduate Students

On October 5th and 6th, the Department of Economics hosted a successful two-day Stata training aimed at enhancing data analysis skills among students.



Mr. Jatta Mhone facilitating the training



Mr. Jatta Mhone helping some students during the training session

The event featured Mr. Jatta Mhone, an experienced professional in the field of data analysis. The training focused on improving proficiency in Stata for effective data analysis, supporting policy implementation, and encouraging research. This training represents a valuable investment in students’ skills, equipping them for future challenges in data analysis, policy analysis, and implementation.

DOE Featured Research



This period’s featured research is from an undergraduate dissertation by Miss Amanda Chatata. She was supervised by Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa. Her paper was published in the Q1 journal Health Economics Review on 5th January 2025. The study assesses “The impact of multidimensional poverty on antenatal care service utilisation in Malawi.” The findings suggest that multidimensional poverty, also known as nonmonetary poverty, reduces ANC utilisation.



They found that only 52% of women adequately utilise ANC services. The study interviewed 23,504 women aged 15-49 and 7,356 men aged 15-54. Key findings show that older women who are employed, educated, and use contraceptives are more likely to utilise ANC services as recommended.

Congratulations Miss Amanda Grace Chatata and Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa!

DOE Students Get Professional Insights on saving through the Malawi Stock Exchange

The world is changing, and the future remains uncertain—a sentiment shared by many young people today. In response to this reality, the Department of Economics, through the Economics Society in collaboration with the Social Work Society, organized a talk on the importance of saving among students. The event began with a lively debate on the topic, allowing students to share their perspectives and insights on the value of saving.



Role-play performance by participating students



Mr. Vince Chinyama

A highlight of the program was the presence of Mr. Vince Chinyama, co-founder of Extol Consultancy Limited, who provided valuable insights for students interested in saving through the Malawi Stock Exchange. His expertise broadened the attendees' understanding of investment opportunities and financial literacy.

The event also featured a compelling role-play performance by participating students, illustrating real-life scenarios and emphasizing the practical need for saving and its impact on financial security.

Overall, the session was both enlightening and engaging, leaving students with actionable knowledge to prepare for their financial futures

Tour Through SLEG



DEPARTMENT OF LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa wins Post Doctorial Fellowship



DR. Tiyesere Chikapa has been awarded a Post-Doctoral Fellowship with The Gender Equitable and Transformative Social Policy for Post-Covid-19 Africa (GETSPA) Project, hosted by the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana. As part of this fellowship, Dr. Chikapa will participate in a residential fellowship, including a conference, at SOAS, University of London, from March to May 2025. We wish Dr. Chikapa all the best in her research and endeavors

UNIMA Law Enforcement Society Welcomes First-Year Students

The University of Malawi's Law Enforcement Society hosted a warm welcome party for first-year students in Law Enforcement Management and Leadership (LML) and Human Resource Management (HRM) on October 4, 2024, at the University's Little Theater.

The society's President, Chisomo Anderson, delivered an enthusiastic speech, encouraging unity and peace among the students. "We are here whenever you need assistance," Anderson emphasized. The society's Patron, Mr. Chikosa Banda, advised the newcomers to prioritize academics over social life and addressed common criticisms faced by law enforcement students. "Don't be discouraged when people say, 'ndiwe wapolisi chabe'—they are just envious of you," he said. In her speech, Dr. Tiyesere Mercy



Chikapa Jamali, Head of the Management and Leadership Studies Department (which oversees the LML and HRM programs), assured the first-year students that they could always contact her or any department member for support. She encouraged the students to work hard in their studies. The event featured games, dances, activities, interactions, and refreshments, providing a fun and engaging environment for the students.

Presentations at the 9th Annual IPADA Conference

Dr. Benson Munyenyembe and Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa presented research papers at the 9th Annual International Conference on Public Administration and Development Alternatives, held at the Garden Court Marine Parade Hotel in Durban, South Africa, from September 11–13, 2024. The conference drew participants from many universities across Africa. Dr. Munyenyembe presented two papers both co-authored with Professor Mustapha Hussein. The first paper was titled “Leadership and Management Development in the Public Sector: Controversies and Dilemmas Facing Human Resource Development in Malawian Municipalities” and second paper was titled “Leadership and change management in Malawian higher education institutions.” Dr. Chikapa presented a paper titled “Leadership in Higher Educational Institutions in Malawi: Where Are the Women?”www

Presentation at the Women’s Leadership in Higher Education Conference

Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa presented a paper titled “Achieving Gender Equality in the Workplace” at the Research and Leadership Conference for Women, themed “Breaking Barriers, Building Futures: Women Leadership in Higher Education.” This inaugural conference was held at the University of Malawi in Zomba from August 7–8, 2024.

Financial Intelligence Authority’s Director of Compliance and Prevention Guest Lecture



The Department of Leadership and Management Studies hosted a guest lecture delivered by Mrs. Anita Mankhambo, the Director of Compliance and Prevention at the Financial Intelligence Authority. Her insightful remarks on inter-agency collaboration emphasized the importance of unity and effective information sharing in combating financial crimes. Mrs. Mankhambo encouraged the Department of Leadership and Management Studies, home to the BSc Law Enforcement Management and Leadership program, to forge strategic partnerships with key law enforcement agencies and regulators. These partnerships, she noted, could empower students to become champions of integrity while opening up more opportunities for attachments.

UNIMA Law Enforcement Society Leadership Handover Ceremony

On November 15, 2024, the University of Malawi Law Enforcement Society held a formal handover ceremony, marking the transition of leadership from the outgoing executive to the newly elected team. This ceremony is an important tradition for the society, as it ensures continuity and progress, enhances visibility, and strengthens team building, all while maintaining legitimacy for the new leadership.

This ceremony is an important tradition for the society, as it ensures continuity and progress, enhances visibility, and strengthens team building, all while maintaining legitimacy for the new leadership. The



event began with opening remarks from the event convener, Mr. Chikalipo Kumukumu, who outlined the objectives of the gathering: “We are here to celebrate our past accomplishments and set the stage for the future.” The outgoing President, Mr. Chisomo Anderson, delivered an enthusiastic farewell speech, offering congratulations to the new executive, expressing gratitude to the department and patrons for their support throughout his tenure, and urging all members to support the new leadership. “As I pass the baton to the

new leadership, I encourage you all to continue upholding the values of integrity, professionalism, and teamwork, as outlined in Article 2 of our society’s constitution,” Anderson stated. In his acceptance speech, the incoming President, Mr. Stephano Kathumba, thanked the outgoing leadership for their excellent work and challenged society members to continue the legacy of excellence and innovation established by their predecessors. He also appealed to the department and patrons for continued support. On behalf of Dr. Benson Munyenyembe, Head of the Department of Management and Leadership Studies, a representative applauded the outgoing executive for their dedication and urged the new leadership to build on their achievements. The ceremony concluded with speeches from the society’s Patron, Mr. Chikosa Banda, who congratulated the new leadership and emphasized the need for innovation and discipline among members, fundamental values in law enforcement. The event also included poems, a ceremonial handover, certificate presentations, and refreshments.

2024 Curriculum Review Exercise

The Department of Leadership and Management Studies held a curriculum review session on December 3–4, 2024, bringing together over 30 individuals who have taught in the BSc Law Enforcement Management and Leadership program since its inception four years ago. The participants included staff from the University of Malawi, the Malawi Police Service, and the Immigration Department. This two-day workshop reviewed the current curriculum and planned its future direction for the next five years, with further consultations to take place with clients and industry stakeholders.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LAW AND CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF PRIVATE LAW

Tribute to Associate Professor Ngeyi Ruth Kanyongolo



Associate Professor Ngeyi Ruth Kanyongolo was born on 31st March, 1969. A loving wife and mother, dedicated member of her church and a giant in the legal fraternity, hers was a life well lived by a person well loved.

Associate Professor Kanyongolo, an alumna of the UNIMA, joined the UNIMA as a member of the Registry team and eventually transitioned to a teaching role in 2000 when she became a lecturer in law. During her tenure at the University, she served as a member of the University Senate and of the Council for Legal Education. Further, she made history by becoming the first ever female dean of law serving as dean from 2015 to 2018. Under her leadership, she initiated the idea of a curriculum review of the law degree program, which was completed after her term of office. She ensured that the curriculum was

gender-sensitive and facilitated the introduction of a Gender and Law course as a compulsory module in the first year of law school. Further, Associate Professor Kanyongolo brought in partnerships that benefitted the university and the Law Faculty, as it then was. Through her, the Law Faculty partnered with Norwegian funders, and she was able to sustain that relationship for years. In addition, under her leadership, outreach and clinic activities were strengthened by introducing grants to clinics and establishing a drop-in Centre at Chikanda (a local community within UNIMA's vicinity), where students, under the supervision of lecturers, offer free legal advice to surrounding communities. Outside of her roles at the University, her expertise in areas such as corporate governance, commercial law and labour law led to her serving in roles such as a Board

Chairperson of Standard Bank PLC and Airtel PLC. A force in the legal fraternity, she was one of the founding members of Women Lawyers Association (WLA) and also served as President of WLA and Vice-President of Malawi Law Society. At the time of her death, Associate Professor Kanyongolo had retired from the University and was serving as the Vice-Chancellor of the Catholic University of Malawi.

Well known for her impeccable teaching, research and leadership skills, she was mostly known for her warm personable nature. Known for her a quick wit, people were drawn to her affable nature and the way in which she made everyone around her feel comfortable and heard. Always willing to offer a helping hand or word of advice, she served as a mentor for countless young women and girls both in the legal profession and outside of it.

Welcoming of New First Year Bachelor of Law and Diploma in Law Students Through "The Soiree"



at Dominoes Gardens saw guests adorn themselves in elegant cocktail attire and masks.

The Private Law Department and the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education were excited to welcome a new cohort of first year students who were successfully admitted to the Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Programme and Diploma in Law Programme after successfully completing the rigorous and highly competitive intake assessment. This year, a total number of 645 candidates applied to the Bachelor of Laws (Honours) programme. Only 253 students were subsequently shortlisted and invited to partake in the intake exercise and from there, 60 students were admitted into the programme. The Diploma in Law Programme saw 198 applicants with 46 of them being offered a space into the programme.

As per tradition, the The Private Law Department and the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education threw the first years a welcoming party known as the Soiree. The guest of honour was Counsel Juliana Kanyongolo and the theme for this year's Soiree was 'Masquerade and Old Money.' The Soiree, held

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#BeTheBest
#ChooseExcellence
#ChooseUNIMA
#ChooseSLEG
#JoinTheGiants!

Law Student Takes Up Standard Bank Plc Internship



Earlier this year, Standard Bank PLC and the Private Law Department entered into an arrangement under which the Legal Department Standard Bank would award an internship to one student from the third year Bachelor of Laws (Honours) class. In June, 2024 three students were invited for interviews at the bank and from them Bwighane Gondwe was the successful student. Bwighane spent a majority of his end of year holiday interning under the Legal Department’s Dispute Resolution branch. Under the supervision of Counsel Vanessa Masamba and Counsel Happy Thengolose, Bwighane was able to have first hand experience on how the Bank handles disputes relating to a number of issues such as employment law, general contract law and credit agreements. When asked of his experience Bwighane stated that it was an amazing learning experience that he profoundly enjoyed.

PLCLE and POG Departments at the NORHED Week: Addressing Key Issues in Higher Education in Malawi

Two projects from the School of Law, Economics, and Government; Women’s, Children’s, and Nature’s Rights in Environmental Governance (WCNREG) and Governance for the SDGs (SustGOV) together with Climate Change and Ecosystems Management in Malawi (CCEM) project from the School of Natural and Applied Sciences, were part of the first-ever NORHED WEEK in Malawi from September 30 to October 4 hosted by Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) in Blantyre.

The Norhed week was organized by all the 12 NORHED-funded projects from six universities; LUANAR, MZUNI, MUBAS, MUST, KuHES, and UNIMA. The event brought together institutions from Malawi, Norway, and other international partners under the theme “Strengthening Higher Education and Research in Malawi.” The conference was significant as it aimed to facilitate an exchange



of experiences, foster collaborations, and provide networking opportunities among the projects and partners.

The event was also attended by the Norwegian Ambassador to Malawi, Her Excellency Ingrid Marie Mikelsen, director of Education, Dr Levis Eneya, NORAD assistant director, Dr Thomas Poulsen, and representative, Tor Rand, and all Vice Chancellors



from the six universities. Project posters showcased research on various topics and areas of focus, such as climate change, healthcare systems, and governance. During the NORHED week, the WCNREG project coordinator, Dr Ngcimezile Mweso, gave a presentation on Gender and Research addressing the crucial role of gender analysis in research; why it is important, and how to incorporate it in research. Members from the SustGOV project, Prof Happy Kayuni, and Prof Micheal Chasukwa presented their research papers, and PhD students from the CCEM project, Maryking Mwinuka, and Lusungu Nkhoma presented their research work.

EVENTS

6th Public Lecture in the Matembo Nzunda Public Lecture Series: The Law Governing Electoral Alliances in Malawi

On a sweltering hot Friday afternoon of November 15th 2024, Counsel Khumbo Bonzoe Soko took to the podium of Chikowi 2 Lecture Theatre to deliver an exceptionally crafted public lecture on the topic “Ndale Zochita Usiku: the Law Governing Electoral Alliances in Malawi.” This was the 6th lecture in the now celebrated Matembo Nzunda Public Lecture Series under the School of Law, Economics and Government’s Public Law and Clinical Legal Education Department. The series is named in the honour of Dr Matembo Nzunda; a prominent lawyer, academic and, until his death, a Senior Lecturer in Law at the then Chancellor College for his extensive role in the promotion of good governance and rule of law. The lecture focused on a delineation of the nature of electoral alliances in Malawi and the status they amount to at law. Pertinently, it sought to interrogate how this complexity feeds to the overall pipeline of rule of law and good governance in light of Malawi’s Constitutional order. A major concern was the lack of explicit recognition of these of arrangements by the law resultantly bringing into issue questions of legal status and enforcement. Arguments were also made about the legitimacy of those wielding legal and political





authority if they got elected on ‘alliance tickets’ but later disbanded. Another critical aspect brought to the fore was the opacity within which alliance agreements are shrouded and how that may come in the way of the Constitutional principles of transparency and accountability. In his presentation, Counsel Soko decoupled the idea of legally binding nature of an arrangement from the question of enforcement. Drawing from the Constitutional fountains in sections 13(m) and 40 as well as section 3 of the Political Parties Act, he advocated for the idea that,

whilst the effect of the reading of these sections is that political alliances actually create legally binding obligations (thus addressing the issue of recognition under the law), it might be the question of enforcement that is the issue. Part of the ‘challenge’, so he opined, has to do with our Constitutional order which in as far as elections and forming of a government is concerned only recognizes an individual person as opposed to a party or a party structure. In effect, this means that while the legitimacy for any group of political parties to field a particular candidate in an election via an alliance agreement is recognized under the law, it is not automatic that that would be legally enforceable in cases of non-compliance. He therefore advocated for a transformative constitutional order. Advocate Soko’s public lecture presents a significant milestone and has set the ball rolling in putting a critical lens on the country’s electoral laws in light of the newly adopted 50%+1 electoral system. Electoral alliances may as well therefore be the new normal. It is only prudent then that in light of the upcoming 2025 elections, the law, adjusts and adapts accordingly.

Staff-Student Seminar on Addressing Sexual Violence in Malawi: Legal Framework and Institutional Accountability

On 10th October, 2024 the Law Departments held a staff student seminar in the Law Boardroom. The theme of the Seminar was “Addressing Sexual Violence in Malawi: Legal Framework and Institutional Accountability.” The seminar had a total of three presenters, two students and a member of staff. Mr. Bwighane Gondwe, a 4th year student, presented a paper titled Law Enforcement As Perpetrators of Sexual Violence: Institutional Framework Failure where he looked at the prevalence of sexual assaults carried out by law enforcement personnel such as police and discussed if the law effectively provides redress.

Lastly, Ms. Ulemu Kanyongolo, a lecturer in the Department of Private Law, presented a paper titled Image Based Sexual Abuse: The Effectiveness of Malawi’s Legal Framework in which she examined Malawi’s legal framework responsiveness to image sexual abuse such as revenge porn.



The second presenter was 4th year student, Zaib Master with her paper titled Examining the Legal Framework Addressing Artificial Intelligence Generated Pornography which looked at how the introduction of artificial intelligence has created a new group of sexual offences which have not been provided for by law.

Commercial Law Clinic Staff-Student Seminar



The commercial law clinic organized a staff-student seminar on Thursday the 21st of November 2024. It was held in the Law Boardroom. The theme for the seminar was Commercial Law in Malawi: Emerging Issues with the main Topic being The Law related to privacy and data protection in E-commerce. Mr. Daud Suleman, Director General of MACRA, was invited to be the guest presenter for the event. He discussed the importance of privacy and Data protection specifically understanding why data protection is essential for safeguarding personal information in E-commerce. He stressed on the importance of prioritizing E-commerce matters in Malawi as a developing country and how familiarity with relevant regulations and laws ensure businesses comply and build consumer trust. Lastly, He emphasized that it is crucial for businesses, as data controllers, to understand their responsibility in handling personal data. The concept of E-commerce is a fairly new idea in Malawi and especially Data protection in E-commerce, this is evidenced by the enactment of the Data protection act in 2024. Therefore, this seminar was meant to help fill the gap in information and it proved to be very educational and insightful for both the students and professionals that attended.

Gender Justice Clinic In Action During The 16-Days Of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

This year’s theme for 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence was Unite to End Violence Against Women and Girls: Towards Beijing +30. The Gender Justice Clinic carried out the following activities:

1. ONLINE CAMPAIGN AWARENESS

The Clinic was producing electronic posters carrying various messages concerning Gender Based Violence. The posters would be shared across all media platforms of the Clinic such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. This enabled the Clinic to reach out to wider masses of people with the message.

2. ONLINE PANEL DISCUSSION

This was held on the 27th of November 2024 from 2:30-4:30 PM. The Online Panel Discussion was done in collaboration with the Norwegian Students’ and Academics’ International Assistance Fund. This brought together experts and activists from both organizations to extensively discuss on issues relating to Gender Based Violence. During the discussion, Linda Phiri representing Gender Justice Clinic presented on the topic of “The Status of GBV Prevention in Malawi”.

3. SEMINAR



On the 29th of November 2024, the Clinic had a seminar under the theme of Confronting Gender Based Violence, Cultivating Consent and Fostering Healthy Relationships which was tackled by Ms. Rashieda Laika Wine-si. Afterwards, the members of the Clinic engaged in an interactive session discussing issues which were raised from the presentation. The Seminar was held in the Law Boardroom from 2:30 to 4:30 PM.

Deakin International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition

UNIMA competed in the Deakin International Commercial Arbitration Moot Competition for the first time ever. Hosted by Deakin Law School, the Deakin International Commercial Arbitration (ICA) Moot is open to law students from Australia and overseas. The competition takes place virtually every September over four days. Each team competes in two preliminary rounds during the first two days, once as claimant and once as respondent. The elimination rounds, quarterfinals and semifinals take place on days three and four.

UNIMA's team consisted of three final year students. The team placed 21st in the preliminary rounds out of 43 teams and did not proceed to the other rounds. However, we are proud to report that the UNIMA team's written arguments for the Respondent received an honourable mention.



2024. The final round, held at the High Court Premises in Blantyre, saw the final four competitors being judged by Justice N'riva, Justice Chanza and Justice Bodole. The final four consisted of Mr Harry Chiwoza and Ms. Sungeni Mkwanda arguing for the applicants and Mr. Mphatso Nkhata and Ms. Temwa Banda arguing for the respondents. Mr. Mphatso Nkhata and Ms. Temwa Banda emerged moot winners for the 2024 Ritz Moot Court Competition. The team walked away with MK200,000.00 and a customized trophy each. On the same limb, Mr. Harry Chiwoza and Ms. Sungeni Mkwanda emerged runners up and walked away with MK170,000.00. Ms. Sungeni Mkwanda emerged as the best oralist for the final round. She was awarded MK50,000.00 and was offered an internship position at Ritz Attorneys at Law.

Nyale Moot Court Competition



The UNIMA Nyale Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Moot Court Competition 2024 served as a high-impact, advocacy-oriented event aimed at fostering legal expertise and advocacy on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) among law students in Malawi. This moot court

competition drew 12 teams of passionate law students, promoting engagement with pressing legal challenges in the SRHR landscape. The competition provided a platform for students to argue and advocate on real-world SRHR legal issues while being evaluated by esteemed judges from both academia and the judiciary. The final



was held on 23rd September 2024, from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM, and was broadcast live on Mibawa Television, ensuring maximum visibility for the competition and its stakeholders. For the final round, prestigious High Court judges, Zion Ntaba J, Ruth Chinangwa J, and Chimbizgani Kacheche J, from Zomba and Blantyre were selected to preside over the matter and determine the overall winners. The Finalists were Ms. Temwa Banda, Mr. Harry Chiwoza, Mr. Andrew June, and Mr. Bwighane Gondwe. Ms. Walumbike Nkhata and Ms. Taweni Maoni won the prize for the best written memorials. Ms. Temwa Banda emerged the best oralist. Mistery Andrew June and Bwighane Gondwe were the runners up. Ms. Temwa Banda and Mr. Harry Chiwoza became the eventual moot winners, winning by a margin of 1 point.

NEW HIRES

Pearson Weston Charles Masambo



He has come on board as an Assistant Lecturer in the department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education. He holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) obtained from the University of Malawi in 2023. His main research interest is in the field of human right law particularly in the area of refugee law on the role of progressive legislative and policy reform towards the maximum attainment and enjoyment of rights by possibly displaced persons.

Samuel David Kanyika



Mr. Kanyika joins the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education as an Assistant Lecturer and Legal Clinics Coordinator. He was admitted to the bar in 2018 after obtaining a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) obtained from the University of Malawi. Thereafter he spent 6 years practicing law in private law firms. He brings a wealth of knowledge in litigation in both criminal and civil matters.

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS

Environmental Justice Clinic Trip to Baltimore, Maryland, USA –by Zaib Master (4th Year Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Student)



When I think about a defining moment from our trip to Baltimore in the USA, what stands out in my memory is the video I took of my friend on a small bridge opposite the Hard Rock Cafe at the Baltimore Harbor. The weather in early September was warm but temperate, and looking at the refurbished factory and the wide, empty red-brick bridge that we thought was the perfect photo spot, it really hit me that we were actually all the way across the ocean, in a totally different continent — all because of a course we took on Environmental Justice, Public Health, and Human Rights that was, frankly, the opportunity of a lifetime. Our group of eight students was undoubtedly very in-

vested in environmental and public health issues, with each of us having acted in the respective legal clinics during our time at law school. The course was academically enlightening and a great way to get involved with legal activism in Malawi, but the trip to visit the Francis King Carey School of Law at the University of Maryland was the culmination of all our interests.

We remarked time and time again to each other how privileged we were to be attending any and all the events planned in our itinerary. We were all quite star-struck and lucky enough to befriend environmental lawyers at the Global Conference for Environmental Legal Clinics, who came from as far as Peru to as close to home as Zimbabwe. During the conference, our hosts were kind enough to insist that, as students, we engage in a roundtable assessment and gather information from the prestigious attendees about how the conference had changed their approach to their environmental clinics.

Activities big and small left us completely in awe, whether we were hiking in small historic towns outside Virginia or traveling to Washington, D.C., where we visited the Supreme Court of the United States and the World Bank Headquarters in one day! Our hosts asked us, towards the end of our 10-day trip, what the most exciting activity we had been a part of was, and I consistently replied that visiting the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis was one of my favourites. The organisation was housed in a completely eco-sustainable building — it was solar-powered, recycled its own water, and in its backyard they had the quaintest beach. We jokingly asked if they were scoping out the job market for lawyers from Malawi.

The trip allowed us to expand our academic, social, and career horizons in ways we had never considered before. It brought us closer to our friends across the pond and was completely unforgettable.



PUBLICATIONS (JAN-DEC 2024)

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

1. **Bangara, B.C.** (2024). ‘Public Debt, Economic Growth, and Inflation Dynamics in Malawi’, in Hopestone Kayiska Chavula, and others (eds), The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy, Oxford Handbooks <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/58212/chapter-abstract/482141531?redirectedFrom=fulltext>
2. **Bangara, B.C.** (2024). Public Revenue–Expenditure Nexus in Malawi: Are There Asymmetries?, in Hopestone Kayiska Chavula, and others (eds), The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy, Oxford Handbooks <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198890164.013.10>
3. **Chatata, A., and Chirwa, G.C.**, (2024). The impact of multidimensional poverty on antenatal care service utilisation in Malawi 10.1186/s13561-024-00581-9 <https://healthconomicsreview.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13561-024-00581-9>
4. **Chikapa, T.** (2024). Academic Freedom Struggle and Employee Commitment at the University of Malawi. In Ndasauka, Y., & Kamchedzera, G. (Eds.), Academic Freedom in Africa: The Struggle Rages On. London: Routledge. <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003516248-17/academic-freedom-struggle-employee-commitment-university-malawi-tiyesere-mercy-chikapa-jamali>
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10. **Gambanga, F. Nchimunya, L. Makondes, J. Chavula, C. Mulenga, N. Mwenifumbo, T. Chitanda, F. Mtaula, J. Tsai, Y. Bitilinyu- Bangoh, J. Gunda, A. Shibemba, A. Choonga, P. Khan, S. & Peter, T.** (2024) Community based delivery and administration of SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Diagnostics Tests (Ag-RDTs): an operational research study in market places in Malawi and Zambia. Published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39353456/>
11. **Kambuku, F., & Munyenembe, B.** (2024). Impact of Network Ties, Shared Norms, and Trust on the Job Performance of Malawian Civil Servants. Journal of Public Administration and Development Alternatives, 9(1) <https://journals.co.za/doi/pdf/10.55190/JPADA.2024.313>
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CONFERENCE PAPERS

1. 19 November 2024: “Aid Modalities and European Union Development Cooperation in Malawi,” paper presented at Department of Cultural Heritage and Una Europa, University of Bologna, Italy
2. 8 November 2024: “European Union Development Aid and Aid Agreements in Malawi,” paper presented at Department of Cultural Heritage and Una Europa, University of Bologna, Italy
3. 14 November 2024: “The Land Question in Southern Africa – the Case of Malawi,” – MA Development Class, Guest Lecturer, University of Bologna, Italy
4. 15 November 2024: “Grassroots Resistance to Land Alienation and Capital Accumulation in Malawi,” paper presented at Department of Political and Social Sciences, University of Bologna, Italy
5. 8 November 2024: “Reimagining Food Sovereignty: Politics, Policy, and Elections in Malawi,” paper presented at 2nd Food Studies in Africa, University of Malawi, Malawi, **Kapanga, M., Chasukwa, M., and Kayuni, H.,**
6. 10 – 11 October 2024: “Scientific Writing for PhD and Young Scholars,” first Afrocentric Governance for Public Affairs Conference, North West University, South Africa
7. 1 October 2024: “Institutional Bypasses in Malawi’s Social Cash Transfer Programme,” paper presented at Norhed Week Conference, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, Malawi, with **Chasukwa, M., Banik, D., Kayuni, H.,**
8. **Munyenyebe, B & Hussein, M.K. (2024).** Leadership and management development in the public sector: Controversies and dilemmas facing human resource development in Malawian municipalities. IPADA 9th Annual International Conference, Durban, Republic of South Africa.
9. **Hussein, M.K. & Munyenyebe. B. (2024).** Leadership and change management in Malawian higher education institutions. IPADA 9th Annual International Conference, Durban, Republic of South Africa.’
10. Chatata, A., and Chirwa, G.C.(2024). The impact of multidimensional poverty on antenatal care service utilisation in Malawi
11. **Kambiri, C.(2024).** ‘Theorising Trust in Law and Development in the Postcolonial States of Africa’ Paper Presented at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law’s Hybrid Conference on Trust and Law in Africa (2 December 2024).
12. **Chirwa, N., and Tembo,T.(2024).** ‘Towards Effective Stewardship in State Owned Enterprises in Malawi: Applying the Public Trust Doctrine in Corporate Governance’ Paper Presented at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law’s Hybrid Conference on Trust and Law in Africa (2 December 2024)