

KASUNGU

COMMUNITY
MAGAZINE

OUR COMMUNITY. OUR STORY.

Vol. 1 | Issue 1

GUARDIANS SHELTERED WITH DIGNITY

QUESTIONS FROM MY
DAUGHTERS

BORDERLESS
WILDERNESS

YOUR NEXT
CONTRACTOR WEARS
CAMOUFLAGE

IN THIS ISSUE

KASUNGU COMMUNITY RADIO

BIGGER THAN WE APPEAR

WE HAVE HIT
50K
FOLLOWERS
ON FACEBOOK



THE MOST FOLLOWED
COMMUNITY RADIO
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Kasungu Community Radio



Kasungu Community Radio



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Many will agree with us that Kasungu is more than a place on the map. It is history, it is farmland, it is people building quietly but boldly.

In this inaugural edition of the Kasungu Community Magazine, we bring you stories that matter to us — stories of smiles and struggles, of youth turning ideas into action, leaders serving with discipline, and communities choosing progress, together.

These are the same values that built this district, and they are the same values that will carry us forward.

This magazine is our record and our reminder of where we come from, what we are doing today, and what we can become together. We welcome your feedback, your support with advertising and content to ensure that together, we keep this a sustainable project.

This magazine is our mirror and our megaphone envisaged to come out every quarter. Let's celebrate where we come from, and own where we are going.

Welcome to Kasungu, as it is and as it is becoming.



Message from the District Commissioner

Kasungu is a district blessed with abundant natural resources, fertile agricultural land, rich cultural heritage and immense tourism potential.

Over the years, we have continued to register significant progress in key sectors such as health, education, agriculture, infrastructure and local governance. These achievements are the result of strong collaboration between Government, development partners, the private sector, traditional leaders and our communities, working towards a shared vision of improving people's lives.

This magazine comes at an opportune time. Beyond documenting our development journey, it provides a platform to showcase the vast opportunities that Kasungu offers in tourism, mining, agriculture, among others. It tells the stories behind the projects, celebrates the people driving positive change and highlights the potential that makes Kasungu a district of opportunity.

I congratulate Kasungu Community Radio for taking this innovative step. As a community-based media institution, the radio has consistently informed, educated and empowered our citizens. Through this publication, it has expanded that role by creating a lasting record of our achievements while inspiring confidence in our district's future.

As you read these pages, reflect on how far Kasungu has come and appreciate the collective effort behind every milestone. More importantly, let this magazine inspire us all to continue working together in building a prosperous, inclusive and resilient Kasungu.

Together, let us continue telling the Kasungu story – one of progress, opportunity and hope.

Dr. Lawfold Palani
District Commissioner



A Word From the Chairperson

**We are moving
beyond the
airwaves to
reach investors,
partners, and the
diaspora who are
looking for real
opportunities.**

On behalf of the Board of the Kasungu Community Radio (KCR), I welcome you to the first edition of the Kasungu Community Magazine.

For five years, KCR has been the voice of Kasungu — of farmers, traders, students, and families. We have shared your stories of struggle and success with our 100km broadcast radius.

Now, it is time the world heard them too. This development magazine is our next step. We are moving beyond the airwaves to reach investors, partners, and the diaspora who are looking for real opportunities.

Kasungu has what it takes. Talk of fertile land, hardworking people, untapped minerals, tourism and a prime location along the M1. This is not potential on paper; it is opportunity in motion.

Inside these pages, you will meet the people and organizations already

building a stronger Kasungu — in agriculture, health, education, energy, and business. Their work proves that when we collaborate, Kasungu grows.

Our role at Kasungu Community Radio remains the same. We will continue to inform, to connect, and to amplify. With this development magazine, we are amplifying Kasungu to the world.

Thank you to our editorial team, partners, and to you, our readers and listeners, for making this possible.

May this publication incentivise new conversations, partnerships, and investments for Kasungu and for Malawi.

Welcome, and thank you for reading.

Senior Chief Dr. Kaomba
KCR Board Chairperson



POLICE IS WATCHING!

...how CCTV is enhancing security in Kasungu

BY DAVIE BANDA

For years, tracking criminals after incidents of theft and robbery within the boundaries of Kasungu Municipality, was a difficult task for law enforcement officers. Once suspects disappeared into crowded streets, tracing and arresting them often took considerable time and effort.

However, the installation of Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras in strategic locations across Kasungu town is gradually improving the situation.

The surveillance project, which was launched in 2024 through a collaboration between Kasungu Police and its stakeholders, including members of the business community, is helping police monitor public spaces, gather evidence and improve crime investigations.

Officer-in-Charge for Kasungu Police, Alexander Moyo, says the cameras have already contributed to the arrest of several suspects in recent months.

“Economic development requires tight security, which is why we installed the cameras to complement our daily patrols so that we are able to arrest criminals terrorising people in various places,” Moyo says.

According to Moyo, before installation of the cameras, tracing criminals was often challenging and time-consuming. Today, CCTV footage is making investigations easier by providing valuable evidence and helping officers identify suspects more quickly. The development has been welcomed by the business community, which sees security as an important factor in creating a conducive environment for investment and commerce.

One of Kasungu’s prominent business people, Abid Muhammad, commends the initiative, saying it contributes to a safer business environment.



OC ALEXANDER MOYO



COUNCILLOR HASTINGS NYIRONGO

“We expect the CCTV to help create a conducive environment for businesses to operate,” he says.

Security experts also believe modern surveillance systems are becoming increasingly important as criminals adopt more sophisticated methods.

Aubrey Kabisala, a security expert and lecturer at Mzuzu University, says embracing technology is essential for effective crime prevention. “This is the right direction in crime prevention because criminals are also becoming advanced in their tricks,” he says.

According to him, CCTV helps keep records “that can later be useful in sensitive investigations.”

Despite the positive impact, the project faces challenges with Moyo acknowledging that financial constraints are limiting efforts to expand CCTV coverage to all parts of the municipality, while some cameras require maintenance and repairs.

Moyo appeals to development partners, the business community and

corporate organisations to support the initiative through funding and technical support.

On his part, Councillor Hastings Nyirongo, Kasungu Municipality Mayor, says the council is still pursuing funding from the Roads Fund Administration (RFA) to continue the installation of streetlights along major roads after the project stalled during its first phase.

He notes that this is another way of strengthening security in the fast growing town.

As Kasungu continues to grow, stakeholders believe investments in CCTV surveillance and street lighting will play a crucial role in improving public safety. While challenges such as funding remain, the project is already demonstrating how technology can support law enforcement efforts and contribute to a safer environment for residents, businesses and visitors, alike.



ABID MUHAMMAD



From Kent Mphepo's Memory

Questions From My DAUGHTERS



When I was younger, and my three inquisitive daughters were much younger too, I had the duty of answering many questions from those three budding souls. The common question was: "Dad, where do you come from? When and where were you born? Where did you grow up?"

As you can imagine, knowing where their mother came from was easy for them, for two reasons. First, every mother is the first "professor" for her children. A mother is the first to endure questions like: "Where did you buy me?" Or, "Where did you dig me up?" I am sure that my wife told them she was from Ngala Ya Pakamwa, T/A Chadzamira, Lilongwe District.

The second reason is that, apart from the 12 years we spent in Blantyre, Lilongwe is the place where we have lived together the longest.

One day, while we lived in Blantyre, they asked me, "Dad, where do you come from?" I said to the three girls, "I come from Ntchisi-Dowela, Lilongwe, Kusunga." They all burst into laughter, because it did not mean much to them.

"Dad, where is that? Do we even have a district by that name in Malawi?" the youngest, Rachel-Mbalie, asked. I used her question as an opportunity to explain exactly where I came from. About Kasungu, this is what I said:

"My mother, Jelina Kanyangala Phiri," I began, "came from Ntchisi and Dowa districts. My father, Gershom Mphepo Banda, on the other hand, came from Mtunthama in Kasungu. However, since your mother came from Lilongwe, I too have family there. So all four districts — Ntchisi, Dowa, Kasungu and Lilongwe — are my home districts." "Oh! So you come from four districts!"

"Yes," I said. "But," I continued, "I was born and raised in Kasungu District. This is my paternal home. To be specific, I was born at the then-beautiful Kasungu District Hospital."

Talking about Kasungu District is something I have enjoyed doing all my adult life. On this page, beginning with this entry in this maiden edition of the Kasungu Community Magazine; I will be digging back into Kasungu for generations beyond my daughters to understand the district further than meets the eye.

THE GEOGRAPHY OF THE DISTRICT

Kasungu District lies 130 km north of Lilongwe, Malawi's capital, along the M1 Road. It sits at 1,342 metres above sea level and covers 7,878 km² of land. It is the second-largest district in Malawi, smaller only to Mzimba in the Northern Region.

According to the 2018 Census, Kasungu has a population of over 842,953 people. Climatically, the district has three main seasons: a rainy season from November to April; a cold, dry season from May to July; and a hot, dry season from August to October. October is typically the hottest and driest month of the year.

THE ETYMOLOGY OF THE NAME 'KASUNGU'

Historically, if it were not for the Ngoni wars between the 1830s and 1890s, Kasungu District would have been called "Mwala wa Nyenje" District.

"What do you mean?" I am sure someone is asking. Yes, indeed. Mwala wa Nyenje is the original name of the mountain from which the district derives its name.

In Chewa language and culture, two oral traditions run side by side and both are accepted. The first tradition says that when the Chewa looked at the hill from a distance, the tall trees on top resembled nyenje za chimanga — the maize tassels. The second tradition says that the mountain hosted insects called nyenje — cicadas — that sang loudly in the hot season, especially in September and October.

For this reason, from the earliest times to the 1800s, Kasungu Hill was known as Mwala wa Nyenje.

However, that original name was overshadowed by a decisive historical event. During the Ngoni incursions of the mid-19th century, Chewa warriors defeated a marauding Jere Ngoni Impi led by General Nawambe. As the army retreated northward, Nawambe left behind his shield — Nguru in Zulu — on the southern side of the hill.

When Chewa warriors led by Baza Dokowe found it, they celebrated the defeat of their arch-enemy. From that moment, the southern face of the hill was briefly called Nguru Ya Nawambe, "Nawambe's Shield," to commemorate the victory. Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda memorialized that achievement with his palace from the 1960s to this day.

Beyond this battle memory, Kasungu also became known for its protective role during both the Ngoni wars and the slave trade. For centuries, many Chewa communities were raided by Yao slavers and sold through Nkhotakota to Zanzibar, the region's major slave market.

To escape these threats, chiefs such as Dzoole of present-day Dowa, Kanyenda of Nkhotakota,

Nkanda of Mchinji, and others fled to the foot of Mwala wa Nyenje Hill. There, Chewa chiefs like Chulu had built large defensive walls and underground chambers at the place we now call Linga, to protect their people. While much of the Maravi world suffered famine and displacement, Kasungu offered a safe haven to war fugitives.

After the Ngoni and slavers withdrew, the area earned a new reputation: kumalo kosunga anthu, "the place that keeps people." From this, the short form Kasungu emerged.

When the British established the Protectorate, they set up a Boma at the foot of the hill in 1891 and, in consultation with Chewa leaders, named it Kasungu District. This recognized the district's critical role during more than two centuries of distress in Chewaland. The slave trade was officially abolished in 1896, but the name had already taken root.

When the Malawi Congress Party took power in 1964, Dr. Banda — who himself came from this area — retained the name. Throughout his 31-year administration, he made Kasungu a haven for people from all parts of the country who came to work on its many tobacco estates.

CONCLUSION

Chewa place names often carry many layers of meaning. We may never have a single, definitive explanation for why our mountain, and therefore our district, came to be called Kasungu. My discussion here is an initial contribution to that conversation, toward reaching a more precise understanding of the name.

The launch of Kasungu Community Magazine should be seen as our opportunity to begin engaging seriously with matters concerning our district.

Kasungu Hill likely became Mwala Wa Nyenje first because of its shape or because of the large population of edible insects, Nyenje — cicadas — that lived and sang there for centuries. After the Chewa victory over the Ngoni, it became Nguru Ya Nawambe, "Nawambe's Shield." Kasungu, Kusunga — a district of caring hands.

Finally, the colonial administration joined our ancestors in honouring the warmth, magnanimity, and courage of the original Kasungans, who opened their arms to people from across Chewaland during the distress of Ngoni invasions and Yao slaving raids.

Please join me again in the next edition as I unpack more historical facts about our district.

GUARDIANS

Sheltered With DIGNITY

BY TOPSON HASWELL BANDA

When Janet Phiri, a representative of patient guardians at the Kasungu District Hospital (KDH) looks back at what was previously their shelter at the facility, she wonders how she survived without contracting waterborne diseases.

“The place was too small and overcrowded. We were cooking, sleeping and resting in the same smoky environment. It was very difficult for us,” she recalls.

For long, Phiri and others aiding patients at KDH, slept in a cramped, smoky environment that doubled as a kitchen, with no toilets and devoid of privacy, a daily reality that subjected the already agonizing women to discomfort, congestion and indignity.

Sanitary conditions were equally troubling as the structure had no shower facilities, forcing guardians to bathe in open spaces around the hospital grounds, which Janet says, was both uncomfortable and humiliating.

“There was no dignity; no privacy,” she affirms.

Even the pit latrines available at the site had long reached capacity. With the facilities full and unusable, the area increasingly became a centre of open defecation, posing serious health risks to everyone, including the guardians themselves, patients and hospital staff.

“It was a health hazard. The conditions were not good for anyone,” she looks back.

At the hospital, guardians, who are mostly women, play a crucial role in supporting patient care by preparing meals, helping patients to bathe, fetching medication and providing emotional support.

But despite their importance, the conditions under which they lived while caring for patients were far from ideal.

The old guardian shelter at the hospital was painfully small. Built when the district's population was significantly lower, the structure could no longer accommodate the growing number of guardians who flock to the hospital each day.

Kasungu now has a population approaching one million, making its district hospital the fourth busiest district health facility in Malawi, receiving patients from both across the district and neighbouring areas.

Yet the facility's guardian shelter had remained largely unchanged.

Ethel Manda, a guardian who says she has been a regular ‘tenant’ in the structure, recalls how the women have been sleeping in the tiny shelter.

“We slept closely packed together, with some often sharing limited space on the veranda or along the walls of the small building.

“The air inside the structure was often thick with smoke, making it uncomfortable and potentially harmful for us who were already enduring long days caring for our sick relatives,” she says.

THE CRY IS FINALLY OVER

Responding to the need, Kasungu District Council budgeted for and constructed a new and modern guardian shelter at the hospital. This intervention has already transformed the lives of hundreds of women who support patients at the facility.

The newly constructed structure is spacious, well-designed and equipped with modern sanitary facilities, including proper bathrooms and toilets.

Unlike the previous shelter, the new building provides guardians with a safer and more dignified place to stay while caring for their loved ones.



NOW HAPPY - JANET PHIRI



OLD GUARDIAN SHELTER



NEWLY BUILT GUARDIAN SHELTER

“This structure has greatly improved our living conditions because we now have enough space and proper sanitation facilities.

“Women can bathe with privacy and we are no longer forced to stay in smoke all the time,” says Phiri, smiling.

Another guardian, Edina Mailosi, shares similar sentiments saying the new shelter has significantly improved hygiene and comfort for the women who spend long periods at the hospital.

“We are very thankful to the council for this structure. The sanitation here is good and the environment is clean. We have already forgotten our past struggles,” she adds.

The K430 million project was made possible partly through the Constituency Development Funds (CDF).

To finance the project, each of Kasungu District’s 10 constituencies, contributed

at least K20 million towards the initiative, enabling the district to build a facility capable of accommodating the growing number of guardians at the hospital.

Kasungu District Director of Health and Sanitation Services, Emmanuel Golombe, says the project reflects the district’s commitment to improving the welfare of the communities it serves.

“Guardians play a very important role in the care of patients. They assist with feeding, hygiene and many other aspects of patient care.

Because of that, it is important that they also have a decent and safe place to stay,” emphasises Golombe.

The medic adds that improving infrastructure around hospitals contributes significantly to the overall quality of healthcare services, saying better living conditions for guardians also translate into better support for patients. Chairperson of the council’s Health Service

Committee, Councilor Christopher Kamtambo, says the guardian shelter is part of a broader effort by the district council to strengthen health service delivery through infrastructure development.

He notes that several other health projects have been implemented across the district, in recent years.

To improve healthcare service delivery, the district has managed to construct various infrastructures including this guardian shelter, according to Kamtambo who notes that investments like the guardian shelter, assist with non-clinical tasks critical patient care.

For Janet Phiri and the many women she represents, the new guardian structure has reinstalled the dignity that eluded them for some time. Their concerns have turned into history and their roles in health care provision, painted with smiles.



Gogode Maternity Wing Rewrites Mothers' Stories

BY LAMECK DIMITON GIFT

Picture this. It is a 2006 night at Gogode. The village is perched about 25 kilometers north-east of Kasungu Boma in the area of Traditional Authority Kaomba. A woman is giving birth on her way to the Kasungu District Hospital (KDH).

She is not in a ward. There are no nurses, no clean beddings, and no lighting. Only the cold air along Gogode's rough dusty roads, the sound of hurried footsteps, and a bicycle struggling through the darkness as life slips closer to danger with every kilometer to cover. As they cycle, the cries of labour break the silence of the night as 37-year-old Beatrice Phiri struggles through intensifying labour pains.

There is no ambulance and no nearby maternity wing. Kasungu District Hospital is the family's only hope. Yet this reality contradicts the national policy of ensuring that every person has access to a health facility with maternity services within a five-kilometer radius.

Before reaching the hospital, Beatrice can no longer hold on. She gives birth by the roadside.

"I thought I was going to lose my baby and my life that night. The pain was too much," recalls Beatrice, almost twenty years later.



BEATRICE PHIRI: GAVE BIRTH ON THE WAY TO THE HOSPITAL



For many years, giving birth at Gogode and surrounding villages was difficult and dangerous. Pregnant women travelled long distances while in labour. Some delivered their babies on the road, like Beatrice, while others gave birth at home risking both their lives and those of their newborns.

In 1996, Efrida Jekapu from Masasa Village, Traditional Authority Chitanthamapiri faced a similar experience. Flooded rivers and muddy roads made travelling to the referral facility almost impossible.

“We tried everything possible to reach the hospital, but there was no help, and I ended up giving birth on the road,” she recalls.

These miseries are no longer cause for worry thanks to a new structure closer to Efrida and other mothers. For Gogode women childbirth is no longer a journey of fear and survival as hope has come closer to their homes, thanks to a timely intervention.

In 2022, the Kasungu District Council commenced the construction of a maternity wing at Gogode Health Centre using a performance-based grant under the World Bank-funded Governance to Enable Service Delivery (GESD) Project.

The facility was officially opened in December 2025, bringing safe

maternal health services closer to thousands of women in the area. For Teleza Phiri from Ngulube Village, Traditional Authority Chitanthamapiri, who was waiting to deliver at the facility at the time of her interview, the new maternity wing meant safety and peace of mind.

“Previously, giving birth was a serious risk because we had to travel to the Boma, which was challenging due to poor road conditions, especially during emergencies at night.

“Now that we have the maternity wing here, safe motherhood is within reach. However, the facility still faces some challenges, including shortage of beds, water supply problems, and unstable electricity,” she notes.

Senior Group Village Head Gogode says the maternity wing has reduced the suffering women endured for many years.

“People in this area suffered for a long time because health services were far away”, he says adding that the maternity wing “has brought relief to our community.”

Kasungu District Director of Health and Sanitation, Dr. Emmanuel Golombe, says the maternity wing is equally a relief to the Kasungu District Hospital and nearby health facilities.

“It has helped reduce congestion at our main hospital and is also helping to save lives that could otherwise have been lost,” he notes. Dr. Golombe urges communities and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) committees to prioritise challenges affecting health services in their areas.

Presidential Advisor on Safe Motherhood Maria Mainja says the new maternity wing at Gogode Health Centre will improve access to maternal healthcare.

“We commend the government for expanding maternity services in rural areas so that women can access care close to home. This will help reduce delays during labour and ensure safer deliveries for both mothers and babies,” Mainja says.

Meanwhile, Braxton Banda, District Civil Society Network Chairperson, has called on the government and development partners to continue investing in maternal healthcare services in rural areas.

“Communities have carried this burden for many years. More support is needed so that every woman can access safe delivery services with dignity,” he says.



Borderless Wilderness West of Kasungu



Drive west out of Kasungu town and the road gives way to Miombo, then to silence followed by the wild. Nestled on Malawi's border with Zambia, the Kasungu National Park (KNP) stretches across 2,316 square kilometers of rolling woodland.

This is Malawi's second-largest park and one of Southern Africa's most authentic wildernesses. Here, elephant herds move through towering trees and hundreds of bird species sing from the tree canopy.

The KNP sits at the heart of a major regional wildlife corridor with its western and northern boundaries forming part of the international border with Zambia, linking habitats across both countries. That positioning matters because it means KNP is not just a park, it is a lifeline for migration, for conservation, and for visitors who want nature without the crowds.

Just 53km from Kasungu Boma, 33km to the main gate then a scenic 20km drive to Lifupa Lodge, tucked beside the waterhole where wildlife comes to drink. There is even an airstrip at Lifupa Camp, a reminder that as far back as the 1980s and 90s, this park was already on the world tourism map.

Its story began in 1922 as the Fort Alston Forest Reserve, created to fight sleeping sickness. Then it became a Game Reserve in 1930 and in 1970, it was gazetted as a National Park under the National Parks Order.

More than 100 years later, it stands as one of Malawi's flagship conservation landscapes, protecting heritage, wildlife, and a way of life.

Here, nature enthusiasts are rewarded with an extraordinary diversity of wildlife in elephants, buffaloes, lions, leopards, numerous antelope species and an abundance of birdlife.

Today, KNP forms part of the Malawi-Zambia Trans-Frontier Conservation Area (TFCA), an expansive cross-border conservation landscape covering more than 31,700 square kilometres.



Wildlife move naturally between Malawi and Zambia through the Kasungu-Lukusuzi ecosystem promoting peace, regional cooperation and cross-border tourism. The initiative also seeks to improve ecosystem integrity, encourage sustainable management of natural resources and foster cultural integration.

The park contains Malawi's largest expanse of miombo woodland, providing critical habitat for countless animal species. It also protects much of the upper catchment of the Dwangwa River which sustains agriculture, settlements and livelihoods across the central region before flowing into Lake Malawi.

In recent years, strengthened anti-poaching operations, coupled with the deployment of advanced Earth-Ranger and SMART patrol monitoring systems, have contributed to a noticeable increase in the elephant population. Improved surveillance and coordinated law enforcement have enhanced wildlife protection.

Conservation at KNP extends beyond protecting wildlife. Park management recognises that long-term success depends on neighbouring communities sharing in the benefits of conservation.

With support from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), boreholes have been sunk in surrounding communities, reducing the need for residents to fetch water from within the park, where encounters with wildlife posed significant risks.

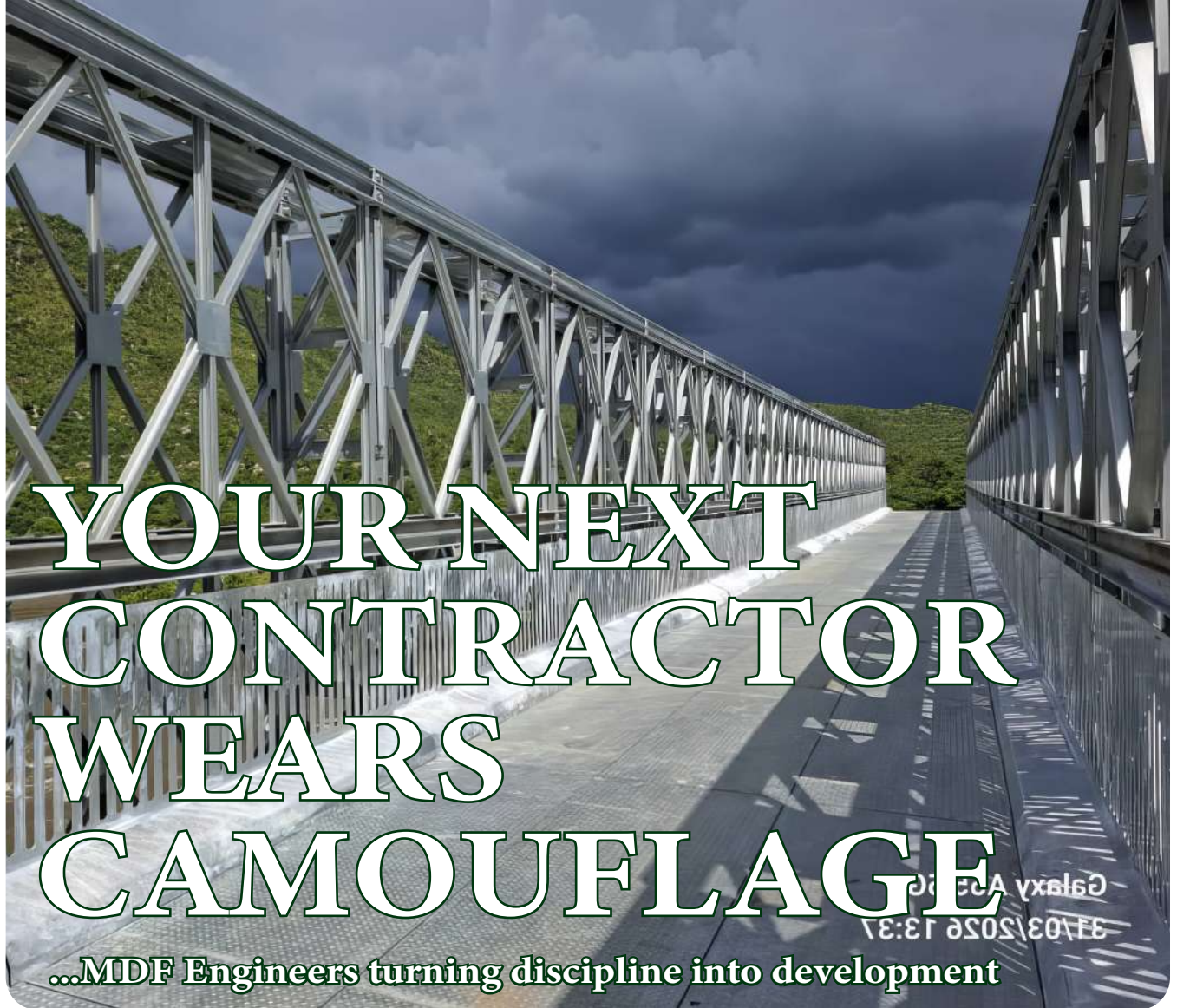
Growing visitor numbers demonstrate the park's increasing appeal. In 2025, KNP welcomed 6,483 domestic and international tourists who travelled to experience the unique blend of wildlife, landscapes and tranquility.

Much of this progress has been made possible through partnerships with organisations including IFAW, GIZ, EPIF, the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and KAWICCODA.

As the park continues to improve, Kasungu stands ready to welcome a new generation of visitors, eager to discover the untamed heart of Malawi. From the miombo to elephants, from history to horizon, Kasungu National Park is wilderness, timeless and waiting.



A FLEET DONATED TO SUPPORT CONSERVATION



Drive from Kasungu into Malawi's regions and you will see their work before you ever see their uniform – a bridge holding against floodwater, a road that survives the rains; a hostel standing tall and solid.

Most Malawians know the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) for parades and peacekeeping. Fewer know that inside its ranks is one of the country's most capable construction forces — the Kasungu based MDF Engineers Battalion.

When rivers burst and wash away roads, farmers, traders and ambulances get cut off. That is when this battalion moves. Their living evidence is the Mpatamanga Bridge in Neno — a major horizontal engineering accomplishment that proves MDF soldiers can deliver complex bridge work to national standards.

They have also laid tarmac on the Tsangano road in Ntcheu, linking communities that used to be isolated every rainy season. Where dirt tracks once swallowed tyres, the MDF disciplined engineers rolled out durable roads — faster, and at lower cost than most private firms. Then there is vertical construction. At the Staff College in Salima, the battalion built a 36-room hostel with structural precision, load-bearing accuracy and quality finishing.

It is not just bridges, roads and hostels – the same team can raise a school block, a clinic, a government office, or a housing estate anywhere across Malawi.

And, here is where their pride lies. The MDF Engineers Battalion is the only unit in Malawi with specialized expertise in steel and marble bridge construction. They bend, weld and shape steel pipes to exact





specifications — high-skill work that is usually imported at huge cost for the capacity already here at home.

Find time from your busy schedules to walk through their workshops and you will hear welding, sawing, and fabrication. They produce steel frames, furniture, trunks and storage units.

Their carpenters do joinery with the same military precision applied to concrete for schools, offices and institutions – quality locally-made furniture and fittings, keeping money and skills within Malawi.

For government departments, councils, NGOs, and private developers, the math is simple – with the MDF Engineers Battalion, you get discipline, quality, speed and lower cost while keeping local jobs.

In a country where bad roads separate villages from markets and patients from hospitals, the Engineers Battalion offers something rare — a construction partner that is credible, capable, and already invested in the community.

The question for institutions planning the next bridge, road, or building across Malawi is no longer “can they do it?” The question should be “when do we put them to work?”

WHY HIRE MDF ENGINEERS BATTALION

1. Lower cost – Military discipline means less waste, faster delivery
2. Quality assured – Built with technical precision
3. Local expertise – Only unit with specialized steel bridge skills
4. Community impact – Projects come with social responsibility

HOW TO ENGAGE THEM:

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FROM PROMISE TO PROGRESS

....Kanyika is finally moving

BY TIONE LUWANGA



For nearly 20 years, the people around Kanyika heard the same words – “the mine is coming.” In May, 2026, those words became machines. The Kanyika Niobium Project in Mzimba has started moving people, moving earth, and moving Malawi closer to a new kind of future.

FROM PAPER TO GROUND

Half of the project affected people have now been assessed ascertaining that about 210 households will begin receiving compensation by July, 2026.

“We will start with those in critical areas so that early ground works can begin smoothly,” says Lisungu Chirwa, Managing Director of Globe Metals and Mining Africa Limited.

Those early works are already underway with construction access roads, site clearing, and preparation for the main plant. The plant itself will take about 18 months to install, with equipment being shipped in from overseas.

On the company’s website, Interim CEO Charles Altshuler calls it the shift from planning to action.

“For Globe, Kanyika is now a fully permitted and engineered project entering construction. This is years of research and community engagement turning into physical progress,” he states.

WHY IT MATTERS

Kanyika sits on 3.8 square kilometers rich in niobium, tantalum, and uranium. At full capacity, it will produce about 3,267 tonnes of niobium pentoxide and between 150 and 160 tonnes of tantalum pentoxide every year.

That’s not just metal; it is jobs, roads, tax revenue, and forex.

As mining expert Chikomeni Manda puts it “this is the start of the mining cycle; it tells financiers and government that this is real.” He adds: “The benefits will be felt in Mzimba, Kasungu, and across

Malawi — from Pay as You Earn and Value Added Tax, to royalties and a new Sovereign Wealth Fund.”

The project is licensed under LML0216/21 for 25 years and operates under a Mining Development Agreement signed in March 2023. A

Community Development Agreement also commits 0.45% of annual turnover to local projects through the Kanyika Development Trust.

A COMMUNITY WAITING, NOW WATCHING

The mine touches Senior Chief Mabilabo and Khosolo in Mzimba, stretches into Chisemphere and Simulemba in Kasungu. For years, people here watched exploration teams come and go. The delay in the MDA and mining license kept hope on hold.

That wait ended in 2021 with the license, and in 2023 with the agreement such that Senior Chief Simulemba cannot hide his excitement.

“Our community will change,” he says, adding that “development will come, jobs will be created, businesses will be born and many lives will be improved.”

**The Benefits
will be felt
in Mzimba,
Kasungu and
across Malawi -
Chikomeni Manda,
Mining Expert**

ALREADY GIVING BACK

Even before the first ore is dug, Kanyika is already investing in people. The project has donated books and desks to Kanyika CDSS, repaired boreholes, installed solar and a vaccine fridge at Entandweni Health Centre, and given indigenous tree seedlings to surrounding schools.

First oxide production is targeted for the first quarter of 2028. Until then, the focus is on building infrastructure, trust, and opportunity.

After two decades of anticipation, Kanyika is no longer a promise on paper. It is a mine under construction. And for Mzimba and Kasungu, that changes everything.



KASUNGU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

PUBLIC NOTICE

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

Kasungu Municipal Council wishes to inform the general public, institutions, businesses and organizations that the following facilities and equipment are available for hire.



KASUNGU STADIUM



**KASUNGU
COMMUNITY HALL**



SEPTIC TANKER



Bomag Roller

Interested clients are encouraged to contact the Council for booking arrangements and applicable hire charges.

DIGITAL PAYMENT SERVICES

The Council has embraced digital payment platforms to enhance convenience and efficiency in the payment of municipal fees and charges.



CITY RATES AND BUSINESS LICENCE FEES

NATIONAL BANK OF MALAWI

·Acc Name: Kasungu Municipal Council
·Acc Number: 459003
·Branch: Kasungu



DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY FEES

STANDARD BANK MALAWI

·Acc Name: Kasungu Municipal Council
·Acc Number: 9100001585751
·Branch: Kasungu

The Council encourages all residents and businesses to pay their City Rates and other fees promptly to support the provision of quality services and the continued development of Kasungu Municipality.

For further information, please contact:

KASUNGU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Email: kumc@boma.gov.mw

"Let us all contribute towards the development of our Municipality through timely payment of rates and fees."



THE NEWLY CONSTRUCTED WARD AT KASUNGU DISTRICT HOSPITAL

The Ward That Pays Back

.... how one ward's income is improving services for every patient

At Kasungu District Hospital (KDH), one ward is helping pay the bills for the whole facility. The paying ward was set up to offer patients more privacy and better amenities. But its real impact goes beyond those walls. Revenue from the ward is now funding improvements hospital-wide, creating a model where better care helps fund even better care.

For so long, Kasungu residents who needed faster and more convenient healthcare services had limited options. Those who could afford additional comfort, privacy and quicker attention often had to travel outside the district at times as far as the capital Lilongwe, over 100 kilometers away.

The situation has now changed. At Kasungu District Hospital now stands a modern paying ward that is redefining how public health facilities can improve patient experience while generating additional resources to strengthen healthcare delivery.

The facility, with its spacious rooms, improved privacy and comfortable environment models a new approach where optional paying services help support the wider health system without replacing free essential services.

“For many years, people who wanted paying services had to travel outside the district.”

BY TOPSON HASWEL BANDA

“The paying ward is not just about collecting money. It is an alternative health service delivery unit where people who need additional services and are able to pay can access quality care while supporting the wider health system,” says Dr. Emmanuel Golombe, Director of Health and Sanitation Services for Kasungu District.

Opened in December 2025, the facility was constructed through the World Bank-funded Governance to Enable Service Delivery (GESD) Project at a cost of K1.4 billion.

Within six months of operation, the paying ward generated more than K160 million, funds that are being reinvested into improving health services across the district, which, according to Dr. Golombe, has filled a major void in Kasungu's healthcare system.

“For many years, people who wanted paying services had to travel outside the district.



DR. EMMANUEL GOLOMBE

This meant additional transport costs, accommodation expenses and time away from their families. Now those services are available here,” he emphasises.

Kasungu District, with a population of about one million people, faces many of the pressures affecting Malawi’s health sector, including shortage of health workers, inadequate medicines, limited ambulances and rising operational costs.

Chairperson of the district council’s health service committee, Councilor Christopher Kamtambo, says limited local revenue has made it difficult to meet growing demands.

“Our health facilities require resources for fuel, water, electricity, medicines and other essential services. However, our revenue base remains limited,” he observes.

The paying ward comes at a time when Malawi is promoting innovative health financing approaches under the Health Sector Strategic Plan III (2023–2030), which seeks to strengthen systems and accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage. Dr. Golombe says Kasungu’s model supports this vision by creating additional resources to address operational challenges.

“The idea is not to commercialise healthcare. The purpose is to generate additional resources that strengthen the entire health system,” he clarifies.

Funds generated from the facility are supporting critical areas including fuel purchases, water supply, equipment repairs, medicines and additional staffing.

One major beneficiary has been the hospital’s theatre department, where resources from the paying ward have helped support theatre staff, increasing the number of operating days.

“Theatre services have improved because staff are supported to remain available.

“Development is meaningful when it improves the daily experiences of citizens, and this facility is doing exactly that.”

This has increased our capacity to conduct operations and serve patients,” says Dr. Golombe.



The initiative has also helped maintain critical services such as the High Dependency Unit and is supporting plans to recruit additional health workers to strengthen facilities across the district.

Regina Phiri from Traditional Authority Mwase, says the ward has addressed a long-standing challenge.

“Before, people who wanted paying services had to travel far. Now we have a decent facility here in Kasungu where people can receive quality care without leaving the district,” she notes.

Hellen Maganga from Chitete Township says the facility gives patients more choices.

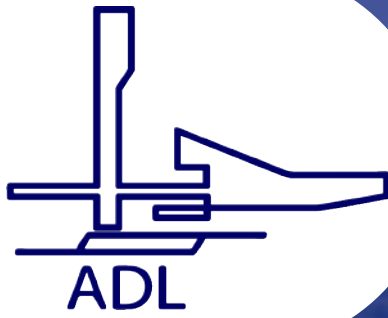
“Some people need privacy, comfort or faster attention. Having this option within our own district saves time and reduces unnecessary travel,” she observes.

District Commissioner for Kasungu, Dr Lawford Palani, says the development demonstrates the impact of combining government investment with effective local management.

“Development is meaningful when it improves the daily experiences of citizens, and this facility is doing exactly that,” he says.

As Malawi continues its journey towards Universal Health Coverage, Kasungu’s paying ward illustrates how public facilities can explore innovative financing approaches while maintaining their responsibility to provide essential healthcare for all.

For patients, the paying ward means dignity during a difficult time. For Kasungu Hospital, it means a future. The income generated here is proof that small changes can have hospital-wide impact — from new equipment to cleaner wards to more staff support. As the model grows, the hope is clear: that every patient, whether in a paying bed or a general ward, benefits from the care that this one room helped pay back.



Airport Developments Limited

ADL Unveils Infrastructure Projects to Boost Malawi's Economy

The Airports Developments Limited (ADL) has outlined a bold plan to modernize Malawi's airport infrastructure to drive economic growth, tourism, trade, and investment.

As Malawi works toward becoming an inclusive, self-reliant, industrialized upper-middle-income nation, ADL says efficient airports are critical for connecting the landlocked country to global markets.

The state-owned company manages Kamuzu International Airport, Bakili Muluzi International Airport, Mzuzu Airport, Likoma Aerodrome, and all public aerodromes. Its mandate covers aeronautical services — air navigation, security, rescue and firefighting, infrastructure maintenance — and non-aeronautical services including real estate, retail, parking, and aviation training. ADL's vision is a safe, secure, well-managed airports that meet regional and international standards.

The ADL's bold plan comes with critical infrastructure development beginning with a US\$1 Billion Airport City. The centerpiece is a 700-hectare mixed-use development in Lumbadzi Township next to Kamuzu International Airport in Lilongwe. Currently at feasibility and preliminary design stage under a Public-Private Partnership, the project will expand KIA's terminal and build an entire urban hub.

Planned facilities include office parks, a hotel with a world-class golf course, international hospital, shopping mall, international schools, university, export processing zone, warehouses, cinemas, parks, greenhouses, car dealerships, and high-end residential units.

The ADL says the city will improve infrastructure, attract investment, and create thousands of jobs.

Further, ADL has on the cards, a Green Airport Initiative where the company is transforming KIA into a model of environmental sustainability with a target of carbon neutrality. Key components include carbon offset programs and participation in carbon credit markets, afforestation and reforestation to sequester carbon and improve air quality and an integrated waste management with recycling, composting, and biogas for power.

A flagship element is the Solar Rehabilitation Project where ADL aims to make KIA fully powered by renewables, with up to 20MW generated from rooftops, car park shelters, and surrounding land. The system will include 3MWh of battery storage to ensure reliability. Surplus power will be sold to the grid, creating a new revenue stream and reducing reliance on national electricity supply. The project aligns with aviation's net-zero 2050 target.

Then there is the Likoma Island Tourism Project projected at US\$75 Million. There ADL plans to transform Likoma into a premier tourism destination through a three-phase Public Private Partnership (PPP). Proposed developments include expanded runway and terminal, luxury hotel, staff housing, aquarium, casino, shops, sports facilities, waste infrastructure, and cruise ship facility.

The goal is to increase domestic and international tourism, generate foreign exchange, and create jobs. ADL has already partnered with the Malawi Gaming and Lotteries Authority and Umodzi Park to develop the hotel and casino. A feasibility study and funding mobilization are next.

If delivered, these projects will rank among Malawi's largest investments in aviation, tourism, and green infrastructure; positioning the country as a competitive hub for trade, travel, and sustainable development.



Pangs of Dilapidated Classrooms

... CDF brings hope to heal the pain of damaged infrastructure

BY TOPSON BANDA, BAXTON CHIPETA AND TAWINA KULUWEYA



KAULAUTA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Across Kasungu District, the classroom remains a symbol of hope for thousands of children whose dreams are shaped within its walls. However, for many learners, the journey towards a better future is taking place in environments that expose the deep challenges facing primary school infrastructure.

From classrooms damaged by violent storms to learners studying under grass-thatched shelters and teachers struggling to report for duty because of inadequate accommodation, the condition of some schools reflects years of pressure on education infrastructure.

During the 2024/25 rainy season, storms damaged 74 school facilities across the district, while another 53 were affected during the 2025/26 season. The damage has worsened existing challenges in several schools, leaving some learners to share limited classroom space or rely on temporary structures to continue their education.

At Mpasadzi Primary School, a 90-year-old institution in the north-western part of Kasungu, the effects of storm damage remain visible. Cyclone Chido in 2024 destroyed some classroom blocks and damaged teacher houses, forcing more than 700 learners and 11 teachers to continue operating with limited facilities.

The school's Head Teacher, Jordan Munthali, says the damaged infrastructure has affected the learning environment.

"We are still using the damaged classroom blocks, a situation that exposes learners to scorching weather. When it is raining, we combine learners in the remaining classrooms, resulting in congestion," Munthali says.

Of the school's six teacher houses, only two are in good condition, forcing four teachers to rent outside the school campus.

"Despite the houses being in a poor state, they are also not enough because four teachers are currently renting outside the school, resulting in absenteeism due to long distances, especially during the rainy season," Munthali adds.

At Kaulauta Primary School in Traditional Authority Kawamba, the challenge is different but equally concerning. Learners attend lessons in a grass-thatched shelter constructed by the community after the school expanded to Standard Six without enough classroom blocks.

Standard Six learner Rodrick Banda says the temporary structure has affected their studies.

"During the rainy season, we miss classes because it's not safe. Sometimes, we knock off early because teachers are not enough, so they just tell us to go home. This affects our performance, and many learners end up repeating classes," he says.



MPASADZI PRIMARY SCHOOL

The school has 343 learners against only four teachers – far below the recommended teacher-pupil ratio of 1 to 60 – a situation that Head Teacher Saidi Nkhoma says has created pressure on both teachers and learners.

“It’s true that sometimes we send the children home once the rains start, for their safety,” Nkhoma explains.

Meanwhile, at Liwala Primary School in Chamama, the shortage of teacher houses has become a major barrier to effective learning. The school has 1,674 learners and 17 teachers, but only one institutional house reserved for the Head Teacher.

Deputy Head Teacher Clara Mawalu says many teachers travel several kilometres every day to reach the school, affecting punctuality, especially during the rainy season.

“Approximately, teachers commute three to four kilometres to reach this school,” Mawalu says, adding that “teachers often arrive late at school due to the distance they have to cover.”

Kasungu District Education Network Chairperson Clifford Kachale describes the condition of the schools as a reflection of the infrastructure challenges affecting some learning institutions in the district.

Kachale says it is unfortunate that learners continue to study in a substandard environment and calls for urgent interventions to ensure that children have access to safe and conducive learning facilities.

However, Kasungu District Council says communities should not lose hope, as mechanisms have been put in place to address infrastructure challenges through different development financing windows.

Director of Planning and Development Simeon Labana says government has directed that part of the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) should be used to rehabilitate infrastructure damaged by disasters.

According to him, communities have also been empowered to identify and prioritise projects according to their most pressing needs, which for Labana, means that schools facing serious infrastructure challenges can be prioritised through local development planning processes.

“CDF is going to heal many of the wounds that have been left behind by damaged school infrastructure. Communities know the challenges they face,

and through their Area Development Committees and other local structures, they now have the opportunity to prioritise schools that require urgent attention,” Labana advises.

He adds that most damaged school infrastructure will be rehabilitated through CDF, assuring communities that the situation will gradually improve.

“A significant part of the damaged infrastructure will be addressed through CDF. The important thing is for communities to identify and prioritise these needs so that resources are directed where they are most needed,” he adds.

So far, the council is already investing in modern education infrastructure through other funding windows, including the Governance to Enable Service Delivery (GESD) Project and the Regional Climate Resilient Programme (RCRP).

Labana cites Kakwale and Kaphaizi schools as examples of institutions that have benefited from such investments after being affected by stormy rains.

As Kasungu works to rebuild damaged infrastructure, the hope is that classrooms will once again become places where learners pursue their dreams without the burden of unsafe and inadequate learning spaces.



SIMEON LABANA: KASUNGU DISTRICT DPD



LIWALA HEAD TEACHERS' HOUSE



THE LONGEST SEVEN DAYS

**...agonies of Nthunduwala Camp
Residents**

BY TOPSON HASWEL BANDA

About 80 kilometres west of Kasungu Boma, 70-year-old Hastings Mwale lives in a tiny grass-thatched hut with his wife, five children and 11 grandchildren at Nthunduwala Camp in Kasungu District.

The hut is one of many at the camp where 127 households have spent 12 years waiting for a promise that was supposed to last only seven days. Instead of a temporary holding place, the camp has become a permanent home characterised by overcrowding, destitution and uncertainty.

The half-acre piece of land accommodates close to 400 people crammed into brush huts that offer little privacy or protection. Some of the structures accommodate extended families of up to 17 people.

Mwale recalls that their troubles began decades ago when they were recruited from different parts of Malawi to work in tobacco estates in Kasungu districts.

“Back in the 70s, we used to work in estates in Kasungu. Some of us were picked from the south, others from central and northern regions. However, around 1994/5, there were massive retrenchments in the estates.

“We were fired and given nothing yet we worked for many years without holidays or leave benefits. We then went to Zambia working in farms. There also, things did not go as envisaged and government picked and dumped us here,” he recalls.

While in Zambia, Mwale and others worked for farmers who had settled inside the western side of the Kasungu National Park. They were later removed after authorities discovered that the area was protected land.

“We did not know that the area was part of the park because it was being cultivated by Zambians. So one day, park authorities came and destroyed all houses there leaving us destitute,” Mwale vividly remembers.

After discussions between Zambian and Malawian authorities, the families were transported back to Malawi and settled at Nthunduwala Camp.

According to Mwale who was recruited from Phalombe in July 1978, authorities assured them that their stay at Nthunduwala would be temporal. Alas! That was a day dream.

Initially, the camp residents had no issues with the camp because authorities said it was a waiting place before they move to a permanent location where they would own land to cultivate crops for their livelihood.

“But this has not happened. It is perhaps the longest seven days man has ever lived on earth. We have lived a troubled life ever since. You can see for yourself,” stresses Mwale.

Returning to Phalombe is no longer an option for him because living more than a decade away, he no longer knows where exactly he came from or whether anyone would recognise him.

For younger residents such as 25-year-old Selina Biliati, the camp is the only home they know. She was 11 years old when she arrived in 2012 and has since married another



A SHELTER AT NTHUNDUWALA CAMP



LYSON NKHOMA



T.A. NTHUNDUWALA



MINISTER OF LANDS; CHIMWEMWE CHIPUNGU

resident. Their three children are now growing up in the same difficult conditions.

Life at Nthunduwala camp is hell with congested huts yet the residents cannot construct bigger shelters because there is not land. The entire camp has only two toilets – one for men and the other for women.

“We don’t have food; we don’t have land; we don’t have anything to rely on. People here say we are refugees and don’t have any respect for us. Our children don’t have school uniform and cannot be allowed in school because of that. There is literary nothing good we can point at here at the camp,” Biliati laments.

Another resident, Lucy Nkhoma, says the overcrowding has eliminated privacy, with adults and children forced to share the same confined spaces.

“Here, there is no male or female, young or adult. These kids you see know everything about what married people do because they see what we do as husband and wife. Some couples opt to have sex it in the bush at night but it is not safe,” she says.

The plight of Nthunduwala residents has attracted attention from human rights advocates, including the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), which has been calling for their relocation.

Hastings Kalima CCJP Kasungu coordinator says the prolonged stay at the camp represents a denial of basic dignity.

“A person cannot be a refugee in their own country,” he observes. Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development Chimwemwe Chipungu visited the camp recently and described the situation as unacceptable.

“It’s a pathetic situation to see our brothers and sisters living in such a destitute situation. As a ministry we will go back and try to find land applicable for living just as well as for farming,” Chipungu said.

The minister also said government would engage other stakeholders to mobilise support for the affected households.

“We have to include other stakeholders that would be in a position to assist us here. We are going to speak to donors as well because the people here need food, shelter, tents, maize.

The Minister observed that “It’s sad they live in such small grass houses that are prone to accidents like wind and fire.”

During his visit, Chipungu provided K1 million in assistance to the community, but residents insist that relief support is only a temporary measure because their biggest demand remains access to land where they can rebuild their lives and become self-reliant.

Camp chairperson Stanley Lyson Nkhoma says the community wants a lasting solution.

“We do not want to depend on handouts, forever. We are energetic and ready to work, but we have no land. The minister’s visit gives us hope that government is serious and that something will finally be done to relocate us,” he says.

Traditional Authority Nthunduwala has also appealed to government to urgently intervene, saying the residents have endured hardship for too long.

Meanwhile, trapped in a place they never envisaged to call home, the residents’ waiting continues as the seven day-promise further stretches, indefinitely.



KASUNGU DISTRICT COUN

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Crisis Looms at Kasungu Prison

...650 inmates, water shortages, justice delayed

BY LAMECK DIMITON GIFT



Officer-in-Charge James Msimuko



Second Grade Magistrate Samuel Chakudza

Inside Kasungu Town, where water is already scarce, another crisis is unfolding behind prison walls. Kasungu Prison was built for 200 inmates; today it holds 650 offenders and remandees, more than triple its capacity. Food is budgeted for just 450 while space, water, and dignity are running out.

Overcrowding has pushed living conditions far below acceptable standards with sleeping space getting so limited that inmates share cramped cells.

“The situation is worrisome here. Inmates sleep in cells like bags stacked on top of each other. They wake up tired and this affects their performance at the farm,” says Officer-in-Charge James Msimuko.

Water is worse. Though the prison sits in Kasungu town, piped water sometimes disappears for weeks forcing inmates to walk 2km to fetch it because boreholes are also broken.

“Inmates bathe once in two weeks because the boreholes are not functioning properly, and where they fetch water is too far,” Msimuko told stakeholders during International Human Rights Day commemorations.

The event was organized by the Paralegal Advisory Service Institute (PASI) in

partnership with Irish Rule of Law International.

Msimuko says the biggest driver of congestion is remandees waiting months for court appearances.

“We call for quick administration of justice so that people do not stay here for too long on remand. Justice delayed is justice denied,” he said.

He adds that “in some cases, suspects stay for months only to be acquitted. This is a violation of their rights. We do not need speeches — we need action.”

Second Grade Magistrate Samuel Chakudza agrees that delays are fuelling the problem.

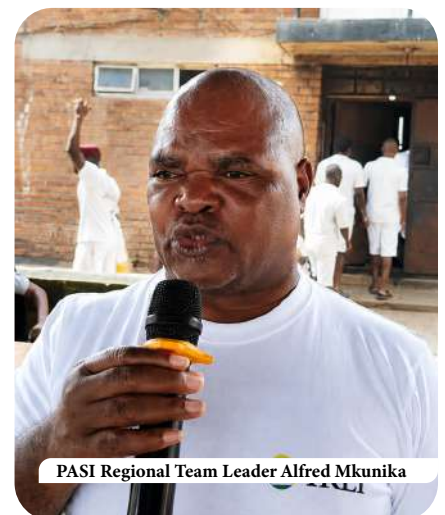
“This is a violation of inmates’ rights because every person is presumed innocent until proven guilty,” Chakudza said, adding that that some prosecutors also pressure suspects to plead guilty “to fulfil personal interests.” PASI Regional Team Leader Alfred Mkunika used the day to engage inmates on their rights.

“Issues raised included delays in disposing of cases, and bail conditions that favour the rich while the poor are given stiff conditions they cannot afford,” Mkunika observed.

International standards demand that prisons should protect health, hygiene, and dignity of in-mates, the very things missing at Kasungu Prison where congestion makes rehabilitation nearly impossible.

This year’s International Human Rights Day theme was “Human Rights: Our Everyday Essentials.” At Kasungu prison, those essentials — water, space and timely justice — are still out of reach.

As Malawi works to strengthen justice, Kasungu’s crisis is a reminder that rights do not stop at the prison gate.



PASI Regional Team Leader Alfred Mkunika

SPOTLIGHT FOR UPCOMING KASUNGU ARTISTS

BY BAXTON CHIPETA



A CROSS SECTION OF PATRONS



KONDOWE



NESTAR

As the harvesting season draws to a close in Kasungu District, farmers who have spent months tending to their fields finally get a moment to pause and reflect on the journey behind them. Despite the challenges of erratic rains, rising farm input prices and other obstacles that tested their resilience, many consider the completion of the agricultural season a reason to celebrate.

The period after harvesting is not only significant for farmers but also creates opportunities for businesses and entertainment activities to thrive. With households having more time to socialise and communities seeking moments of relaxation, entertainment events often become a welcome break after a demanding farming season.

Recognising this opportunity, Kasungu Hotels and Akometsi Limited organised a three-day music extravaganza dubbed "Kasungu Harvest Festival" at Kasungu Inn in the Municipality. The event, which ran from 29 to 31 May, brought together musicians from different genres and provided a platform for both established and emerging artists.

One of the organisers from Akometsi Limited, Pearson Kondowe, said they identified a gap in the district's entertainment landscape, noting that Kasungu had never hosted a music festival that runs for several consecutive days.

"We noted that in Kasungu there has never been a music festival running for days. Thus, we sat down and launched 'Kasungu Harvest Festival', which will be happening every year," Kondowe said.

The organisers also ensured that the festival catered for different audiences by bringing together musicians from both secular and gospel backgrounds.

"Given that people have different tastes in music, we incorporated both secular artists and gospel artists," Kondowe said.

The festival created a valuable opportunity for upcoming artists who were given a platform to perform alongside established musicians thereby offering them a chance to introduce their music to a wider audience.

"Upcoming artists deserve a spotlight so that their talent can blossom. Therefore, we brought in artists from the ghetto to spice up the event and share the same stage with renowned musicians.

"We will be including these upcoming artists in our music show activities too. We are even planning on creating a band from these young ones," Kondowe explained.

The upcoming artists who performed at the festival included Nestar, Gwero, Wongie, Moffin, Twaiger, Queen Nefa, Jibid Pule, Sean Tee, Rister, Critix, Kids Cana, Thospah Oshee and Eminent.

Thospah Oshee, whose real name is Thoko Cassim, says the opportunity was a dream come true.

"This is the best feeling of my life as an upcoming artist. I have been waiting for this moment to come to pass. Many people will be able to recognise the talent which I have," beamed Oshee with excitement. He thanked the organisers for giving him a platform to showcase his talent and reach new audiences.

Similarly, Nestar Nyamachika, popularly known by her stage name Nestar, describes the opportunity as extraordinary. She says the performance allowed the people to appreciate her ability and passion for music.

"Being one of the artists who usually gets booked in Kasungu as an upcoming artist, this has shown me that the feedback is positive. I tried to give the best performance so as not to disappoint my fans," blushed Nestar amid the explanation.

Meanwhile, Moffin, whose real name is Lyton Malizwe, says the opportunity was encouraging, especially considering the limited number of music shows in the district that allow emerging artists to showcase their abilities.

The festival featured a wide range of performances throughout its three days. The opening day on 29 May saw performances from Temwah, Saint, Kell Kay, Bee Jay, Moses Makawa, Quest, Mic Mash, Pop Young, Lady Aika and the upcoming artists.

The second day brought together more established names, including Gibo Pearson, Gwamba, Macelba, Charisma, Teddy Makadi, Joe Gwaladi, Sean Morgan, Joseph Mkasa, Jeg, Sife Mw, Bwede, Kineo Madness, Gule Wamkulu and other local artists.

The festival concluded on 31 May with performances from Kasungu Church Choirs, Favoured Martha, The Great Angels Choir, Miracle Chinga and Kamuzu Barracks, bringing the three-day celebration of music and talent to a memorable close.

TN Stars' Exit Killed Football Morale

BY LUCKY MILLIAS

Kasungu District has now clocked four years without a football side in Malawi's top-flight league — the FDH Bank Premiership — a situation football stakeholders say is weakening competition among local teams aspiring to reach the elite level.

The district once produced TN Stars, a side that earned promotion to the TNM Super League of Malawi in 2018 before being relegated in 2022. The team rose from the former Kasungu Medicals under the guidance of ex-Malawi National Football Team coach Meck Mwase and later received sponsorship from a district native Thomas Nyirenda, eventually rebranding to TN Stars.

Mwase says having a team in the country's elite league played a crucial role in motivating young players and strengthening grassroots football structures in the district.

"Having a team in the top-flight league brings competition among local teams because players aspire to graduate into the bigger side. This eventually helps in player development from the grassroots level," Mwase observes.

He adds that apart from football development, TN Stars also contributed to economic activity in the district whenever the team hosted league matches.

"When the team hosted games, businesses benefited because visiting supporters and officials needed accommodation, food, and transport services," says coach Mwase.

Despite the current absence of a top-flight side, Mwase believes Kasungu still has the potential to produce another elite team if stakeholders unite to support grassroots football and clubs participating in Central Region competitions.



ANDREW CHISALE:
KASUNGU DISTRICT FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION CHAIRPERSON

Veteran football administrator Mbena Ziliro Moyo says the morale surrounding football in the district has significantly declined compared to the days of Kasungu Medicals, Kasungu Police, Santhe Admarc, Kasungu Division, and Wimbe United.

"These teams received support which created stiff competition and helped produce quality players. Now we need collective effort to motivate existing teams so that Kasungu can once again have representation in the FDH Bank Premiership," Moyo says. Kasungu District Football Association chairperson Andrew Chisale also acknowledges that lack of financial support remains a major setback affecting the performance of local teams.



COACH MECK MWASE

"We have clubs like Ergo FC, Chisomo Football Academy, and Santhe FC with talented players, but lack of resources continues to be a major bottleneck," he notes.

Currently, Kasungu hosts four major football competitions under the Central Region Football Association namely; National Bank Championship Under-23, Castel Challenge Cup, Nisha Kasungu District Football Extravaganza funded by a local farmer and the K100 million GoJet Investments Central Region Football League.

Each of these competitions accommodates only 16 teams from the entire district, a situation stakeholders say limits exposure and competitive opportunities for emerging talent.

For years, Kasungu has been regarded as one of Malawi's football powerhouses, producing several notable players who later starred for elite clubs and the national team.

These include Precious Phiri, Sankhani Mkandawire, China Chirwa, Stain Davie, Stuart Mbunge, Alick Zulu, and Bonface Kaulesi, all of whom rose through district football structures before making names for themselves nationally.

Kaulesi and Zulu once featured for Silver Strikers and Red Lions after starting at Santhe Admarc, while Mkandawire, Phiri, and Mbunge played for FCB Nyasa Big Bullets, Blue Eagles, and the Malawi National Football Team after developing through Kasungu Police and Kasungu Medicals.



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