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SCHOOL OF LAW, ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT

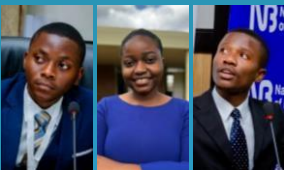
NEWSLETTER



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FOREWORD*Professor Happy Kayuni*

Dear all,

I warmly welcome you to this edition of the School of Law, Economics and Government (SLEG) Newsletter.

The past six months have been highly engaging at all levels for the mighty SLEG. We're talking about staff and student engagements—and everything in between. We have also collaborated with external stakeholders and members of

academia from institutions across the continent and beyond, which has been undeniably enriching.

We have celebrated the diverse achievements of members of our vibrant community in various capacities—from outstanding student academic performance and essay-writing brilliance to School awards and publications. We have also witnessed the exceptional sportsmanship of our students,

who dominated the Dean's Trophy by winning in multiple categories. And yet, these achievement barely scratch the surface of all we've experienced in the first half of the year. That's why this edition is so timely.

It offers us an opportunity to reflect on and relive the moments we've created and shared. As you turn the pages, take a look at what SLEG has accomplished as part of laying the mortar and brick toward our broader vision—to

become a world-class school. Let these milestones fuel our drive to do more, while resisting the temptation to slip into laziness or complacency.

To the editors, we say thank you—thank you for your hard work and for making sure this issue reached us. Enjoy the read,

Professor Happy Kayuni
Executive Dean
(SLEG)

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SLEG INTRODUCES NEW MASTER'S PROGRAMS



Master of Development Studies in Political Economy

The School of Law, Economics and Government is introducing a pioneering Master of Development Studies in Political Economy aimed at fostering a comprehensive understanding of the interplay between development and political economic forces. The first intake will be in September, 2025. This program supports the University's strategic goal to increase student enrollment and introduce new, relevant programs by addressing the interdisciplinary nature of contemporary global challenges.

The Master of Development Studies in Political Economy programme is designed to equip students with both theoretical and practical insights into the complex dynamics of politics and economics. It addresses several training gaps, including regional economic and political challenges, practical policy analysis, and the impact of ethnic and cultural

dimensions on political and economic systems. This program responds to the critical need for expertise in understanding the multifaceted interactions between these domains, which is essential for effective governance, policymaking, and national development.

Students will benefit from a robust curriculum featuring interdisciplinary courses that integrate political science, development studies, economics, law, and environmental studies. The program includes modules on Comparative and International Political Economy, Public Finance Management, Public Policy Analysis and Development Economics, among others. Unique features include a focus on Malawian and Southern African contexts, practical policy analysis, and leadership development. Students will engage in industrial attachments,

case studies, and both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

The program targets early-career professionals, government officials, NGO workers, private sector professionals, international development practitioners, and researchers. Admission is limited to bachelor degree holders in public administration, political science, social sciences, economics, journalism or related studies with a structure spanning 2 years.

This pioneering Master of Development Studies in Political Economy Programme positions UNIMA as a leader in political economy education in Malawi, bridging traditional divides and preparing graduates to tackle contemporary challenges with interdisciplinary expertise.

FROM THE DEAN'S DIARY

Prof. Kayuni Highlights Malawi's Strategic Role in a Shifting Global Order

On 12th March 2025, Professor Happy Kayuni presented a paper at the *Sustainable Horizons Conference* hosted by Addis Ababa University titled “Geopolitical Shifts and Innovative Financing for Sustainable Development – A Malawian Perspective.” The paper examined how evolving global political alliances and financial innovations are reshaping the terrain of



Prof. Kayuni (middle) at Addis Ababa University

development finance. With emerging economies gaining influence, Professor Kayuni argued that Malawi must adopt a strategic approach — including diversifying its funding sources and building institutional capacity

— to effectively respond to these changes. He positioned Malawi at a critical crossroads where global shifts can either accelerate or stall progress, urging policy actors to be both adaptive and forward-looking.

Prof. Kayuni Explores Ubuntu-Inspired Reform in the Digital Age

At the 2025 IIAS–DARPG Conference held on 11th February in New Delhi, India Professor Kayuni delivered a paper titled “Aligning Ubuntu Philosophy with Public Sector Reforms in the Age of Digital Transformation: A Case Study of Malawi.” The presentation explored how ubuntu — an African philosophy rooted in human dignity, community, and shared purpose — could enrich public



Prof. Kayuni presenting at IIAS-DARPG Conference

administration reform in the context of increasing digitalisation. The paper examined how fusing ubuntu values with modern technological processes could foster a more inclusive and resilient public service. Framed around three key questions, the study offered insights into the compatibility of traditional African ethics with contemporary governance challenges.

Prof. Kayuni and Team Present Groundbreaking Insights on Traditional Leadership

On 7th February 2025, at a curriculum development workshop hosted by the Malawi School of Government in Lilongwe, Professor Kayuni, together with Professor Chasukwa and Bernadetta Malunga, presented a co-authored paper titled “Key Research Findings on Traditional Authorities in Malawi and Their Insights for Curriculum Development.” The paper highlighted the critical role of traditional leaders in governance, development, and conflict resolution. It proposed a research-informed training curriculum that equips traditional leaders with competencies in governance, legal frameworks, and

community development. Professor Kayuni emphasised that building the capacity of chiefs through structured training is vital for promoting ethical leadership, social stability, and developmental progress in Malawi’s local governance systems.

Prof. Kayuni Reflects on the Future of Pan-Africanism at Berlin Symposium

During a high-level symposium commemorating 140 years since the Berlin Conference, held on 30th January 2025 in Berlin, Professor Kayuni presented a

paper titled “Pan-Africanist Aspirations Under Threat? Nations, Borders, and Religious Identities as Obstacle or Opportunity for Peace and Security in Africa.” The presentation critically examined how nationalism, colonial-era borders, and politicised religious affiliations continue to challenge the ideals of Pan-African unity. Professor Kayuni discussed how these factors, while divisive in some contexts, could also serve as platforms for renewed integration if approached constructively. He called for a reimagining of Pan-Africanism that embraces pluralism and collective responsibility in the quest for peace and sustainable security on the continent.



Prof. Kayuni presenting in Berlin, Germany

UNIMA Law Students Win Global Lex: Lead Essay Competition



Kathewera (left), Zimba (middle) and Chintolo (right)

Lex: Lead (Lawyers for Economic Advancement and Development) Essay Competition is a global contest hosted annually by Lex: lead, a group of international lawyers promoting economic development in the world's east developed countries. Established with support from the International Bar Association Foundation and working in partnership with the World Bank-supported Global Forum on Law, Justice and

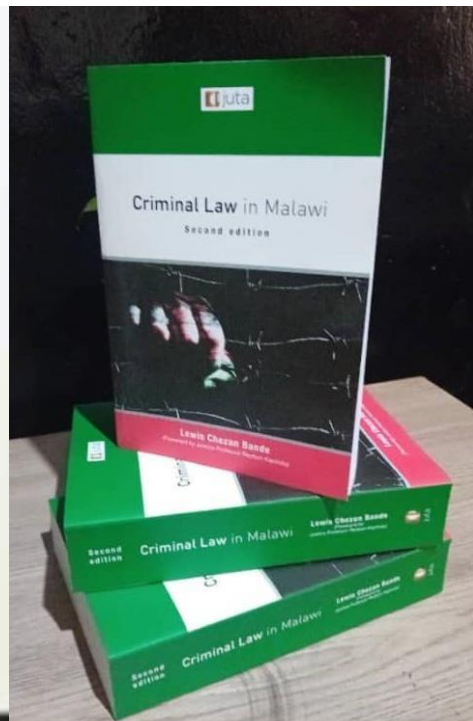
Development, the competition invites students from eligible countries in Africa, Asia, and the Americas to submit essays on law and development topics for a one-time US\$500 award to each winner. The Lex: lead essay competition began in 2010 and has proceeded on an annual basis. In 2015, Lex:lead expanded its program to offer mentorship and internship opportunities with the World Bank and NGOs for its

winners.

For the 2024 cycle, participants responded to the question: *"How can laws regulating climate change and the environment support economic development?"* Three students from the University of Malawi's Departments of Law—Prince Mwai Kathewera (4th year), Victor M'gonjetsi Chintolo (4th year), and Watipa Ellen Zimba (3rd year)—emerged among the 15 global winners. In his essay, Prince argued that over-reliance on command-and-control regulations hampers development by imposing high compliance costs and discouraging innovation. He advocates a transition to economic incentives, transparent information-sharing, and participatory governance to promote sustainability alongside inclusive growth. Similarly, Victor emphasised that robust environmental laws catalyse development through sustainable resource use, green investment, and innovation. Refuting claims that such laws hinder growth, he supports policy coherence and stakeholder engagement.

In a complementary argument, Watipa critiqued fragmented legal approaches, asserting that isolated methods weaken enforcement and public trust. She proposes a holistic, synergistic framework combining regulation, market tools, administrative oversight, and public participation to advance both environmental sustainability and inclusive economic progress.

Associate Professor Lewis Bande Publishes 2nd Edition of Book *Criminal Law in Malawi*



Associate Prof. Lewis Bande (left) and Cover page of the 2nd edition (right)

Associate Professor Lewis Chezani Bande, a member of the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education, has authored the book *Criminal Law in Malawi (Second Edition)*. The book was published by Juta, a leading provider of legal, regulatory, business, and academic content across Africa in June 2025 and contains a foreword written by Justice Professor Radson Kapindu of the High Court of Malawi.

In 1072 pages, the book dissects and illuminates the substantive criminal law of Malawi. It builds on the first edition published in 2017 and incorporates legislative and case-law developments that have happened over the past seven years. The first part of the book

discusses the general rules and principles of criminal law and criminal liability. These include: definition of crime and classifications of crimes; sources of criminal law (both domestic and international); definition, types, and theories of punishment; principles of criminal liability and responsibility (conduct and mental elements of crime, causation, and participation); corporate, vicarious, and strict liabilities; and general defences. The second part delves into major offences under Malawi's key statutes. These include: Penal Code; Corrupt Practices Act; Road Traffic Act; Financial Crimes Act; Child Care, Protection and Justice Act; Gender Equality Act; Trafficking in Persons Act; and Electronic

Transactions and Cybersecurity Act and the Cybercrimes Bill. The book also discusses recent case law from Malawi's High Court and Supreme Court of Appeal and from comparable jurisdictions.

Criminal Law in Malawi (Second Edition) is intended to be a guide to both the theory and practice of criminal law in Malawi and other common law countries in the sub-Saharan region. It is an invaluable and essential resource for legal practitioners, judicial officers, law students and academics, criminal law enforcers, civil society practitioners, legislative and policy makers, and other interested academics and researchers.

Mr. Chikosa Banda presents at the 22nd annual colloquium of the IUCN Academy of Environmental Law

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Academy of Environmental Law focuses on building environmental law education capacity and promoting the conceptual development of environmental law. Every year it hosts an annual colloquium and this year's theme was 'SDGs and Environmental Law: Achievements and Challenges after a Decade of Creation.' Mr. Chikosa Banda, Senior Lecturer under the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education, was part



Mr. Chikosa Banda

of the 2nd Panel which had the theme 'Pedagogical Innovation and Transnational Collaboration.'

His presentation focused on showing how impactful clinical legal education can be in the teaching and advancement of environmental law and he used the partnership between UNIMA and the University of Maryland,

specifically, the co-taught Environmental Justice, Human Rights and Public Health Course as a case study.

Through his presentation, he highlighted the benefits of two universities' deviation from the traditional legal education and adoption of "Grounded pedagogy" which is an approach to teaching and learning that emphasizes real-world relevance, learner experience, and context-based understanding. He was able to show that through this approach, the students from both Universities not only gained hands-on experience addressing environmental and human rights challenges, but they also emerge with a deep understanding of theory, comparative environmental justice, human rights and public health intersections, and practical lawyering for underserved communities.

Law Department Staff and Students Presents at the 'Constitution At 30 Conference'

On the 27th and 28th of May, 2025 the Malawi Law Society, in collaboration with UNIMA, held the 'Constitution at 30' conference at Mount Soche in Blantyre which sought to reflect on how far Malawi has come since the

enactment of the Constitution 30 years ago. The conference also provided a platform for legal practitioners, scholars and researchers to also highlight issues that they have identified with the current Constitution either in its formulation, interpretation or implementation.

Five 4th year law students presented their papers at the conference. Prince Kathewera provided a critical analysis of digital rights and the correlative state obligation to bridge the

socio-economic divide. Atupele Chiwaya looked at the Constitution's role in addressing climate change while Audetter Masaninga explored at how Constitutionalism can be used as a tool for accountability using the doctrine of public trust. Victor Chintolo focused on the interplay between the Constitution and electoral administration and dispute resolution and Vitumbiko Phiri assessed children's socio-economic rights under the Constitution. Three members of staff also presented their papers at



Constitution at 30 in Pictures: Group photo

the Conference. Dr. Ngcime Mweso, the Head of the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education discussed women's marital property under the Constitution while Samuel

Kanyika, a lecturer in the same department, focused on the concept of presidential immunity with a view to reconceptualise it. Atupele Masanjala, a lecturer in the Department of Private Law, looked

at how the Malawian judiciary has used the Constitution as a tool to circumvent choice of forum clauses in contracts.

Dr. Cyprian Kambili Presents Paper at the Chair of African Legal Studies 5th Year Celebration Conference 'The Law and Belonging as Relational Practice'

The Chair of African Legal Studies, a hub for the teaching and research of "Law in Africa" at the University of Bayreuth, Germany, hosted its 5th Year Celebration under the

theme 'The Law and Belonging as Relational Practice'. The celebration also included a conference. The Conference began with an opening and welcome speech by Thoko Kaime, marking the start of a full day of critical dialogue and shared reflection. Throughout the days, they hosted four dynamic workshop panels exploring key dimensions of our theme: Migration and Minority Rights (Panel 1), Sustainability and Belonging (Panel 2), Theorising Belonging in the Context of African Legal Systems (Panel 3), Citizenship and the State (Panel 4). Dr. Kambili presented under the 3rd

panel and his presentation was titled 'Theorising Relational Legal Consciousness.' Each panel brought together scholars and practitioners to explore how law interacts with identity, community, and state power across various contexts. The conference concluded with the Colloquium 'Sociology, Politics and Law'. Tshepo Madlingozi delivered a compelling talk on Social Movement Struggles for Decolonisation and (re)Constitution from Below, which sparked a meaningful conversation and a wave of questions from the audience.

Moot Trial Exercise for Fourth Year Law Students

The Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education recently held a remarkable Moot Trial Exercise on 16th April 2025, marking a high point in the Clinical Legal Education III module for fourth-year Bachelor of Laws (Hons) students. The moot, held before real Judges of the High Court in Blantyre, offered students a rare and invaluable opportunity to engage in simulated court proceedings under authentic courtroom conditions. The moot trial, a capstone assessment contributing 40% of the students' final grade, is designed to simulate real-life litigation and to cultivate the advocacy, ethical conduct, and professional discipline required in legal practice. In the solemn environment of the High Court, students demonstrated remarkable legal acumen, composure, and mastery of procedure.

This year's exercise was particularly distinguished by the exceptional performances of several students, whose advocacy



skills, legal reasoning, and courtroom etiquette greatly impressed the presiding judges. In recognition of their excellence, one of the judges awarded prizes to the top-performing students, a gesture that not only honoured their hard work but also served to encourage professional growth and ethical conduct in their budding legal careers. As a

Department, It remain deeply committed to producing the best legal minds through real-life simulations, rigorous training, and a steadfast emphasis on professionalism and ethics. These exercises are part of our broader mission to bridge the gap between academic learning and the practical demands of the legal profession.

Staff-Student Seminar on Child Rights

On 13 March 2025, the UNIMA Child Rights Clinic held a Staff-Student Seminar on Child Rights in the Law Boardroom. This seminar was convened to promote meaningful discourse on critical child rights issues in

Malawi, particularly from a legal and socio-economic perspective. It sought to strengthen research dissemination, inspire evidence-based advocacy, and encourage collaboration between students, faculty, and practitioners working on children's rights. The event also aimed to provide a platform for young scholars to present their work and receive constructive engagement from

experienced legal minds and fellow advocates.

Four speakers presented papers at the seminar. Ms. Ruth Mchizi, a lecturer under the Department of Private Law, presented a paper which challenged the current framework governing child maintenance in Malawi, arguing that the laws are outdated and insufficiently enforced. She made a bold but thought-provoking link



Child rights clinic members pose for a group photo after the event

between robust child maintenance enforcement and national economic planning. In her paper, Mtameni Lughano Kamuona, a 3rd year law student, highlighted the entrepreneurial activities of street-connected children in Zomba, such as shoe-shining, selling handmade crafts, and music performance. She argued that these economic engagements, while born out of necessity, reflect untapped talent and resilience. Sunjeni Mkwanda, a 3rd year law student, used her presentation to draw attention to how exploitative child labour often acts as both a cause and consequence of

children living on the streets. She explored how economic hardship forces families to push children into informal or illegal work often under hazardous conditions which can ultimately lead children to flee these environments. Lastly, the Child Rights Clinic itself presented a paper which examined the growing prevalence of online child abuse such as cyberbullying and the distribution of child sexual exploitation materials (such as the Susu case thing). The presenters criticised the current legislative framework for lacking clear provisions on digital forms of abuse and emphasised the

need for proactive cybercrime laws tailored to protect children in the digital age.



Ms. Mkwanda(left) and Ms. Kamuona (right)

Inaugural Men's Conference Organised by Male 4th Year Law Students



Men's conference in pictures: Whayo (left), the audience (middle) and Bandawe (right)

On May 16th, 2025, the University of Malawi held a landmark Men's Conference at the Chief Mwambo Lecture Theatre, organized by the LLB Class of 2025. The event was born out of a growing concern for the silent struggles male students often face—particularly around mental health, stress, financial discipline, relationships, and life after college. While these challenges affect all students, recent trends have shown that male students are often less likely to seek help, yet more vulnerable to isolation, depression, or even suicide. This conference sought to address that gap by providing a safe, empowering, and male-focused space for personal reflection, growth, and honest conversation.

Originally envisioned as a small

gathering for final-year male law students, the idea gained remarkable momentum and evolved into a full university-wide event, made possible through the support and endorsement of the Vice Chancellor, Professor Mkali Idruss Samson Sajidu. Though he could not attend in person, he delegated a representative and expressed his full support for the initiative.

The conference featured dynamic sessions led by respected speakers. Professor Garton Kamchedzera spoke on building healthy relationships and marriage, Professor Chiwoza Bandawe offered practical strategies for mental health and stress management, and Professor Edge Kanyongolo shared insightful guidance on career preparedness

and navigating life after college. Gift Whayo, founder of Zipatso Construction, inspired attendees with a talk on entrepreneurship and the value of self-reliance. The event was free and well-attended by students from across the University of Malawi. It came at a timely moment when mental health issues on campus are a growing concern. The conference sparked meaningful dialogue and a shared desire for such targeted initiatives to become an annual tradition. It was not a space to exclude others, but rather a thoughtful response to the unique challenges young men face—and a call to take ownership of their personal journeys.

UNIMA Disability Rights Clinic Attends the International Albinism Awareness Day Commemorations



The members of the clinic in Ntaja, Machinga

The UNIMA Disability Rights Clinic under the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education was invited by the Association of Persons with Albinism in Malawi (APAM) to commemorate the International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) held on 17th June 2025, at Ntaja in Machinga District. The local theme of the year was "United for Peace and Inclusion: Strengthening the Protection of Persons with Albinism During All Times, Including Elections."

The Clinic, represented by the Patron, Dr Enoch Chilemba, the Clinic President Emeritus Jean Allih, the current Clinic President Albert Kuthemba-Mwale, Secretary Loveness Kumwenda and Clinician Patricia Liwonde,

set up a pavilion which was toured by the Minister of Defence Monica Chang'anamuno. The clinicians carried out a quick socio-legal survey with some of the people who attended. The participants included persons with albinism, community members and law enforcement. The respondents highlighted the essence of hosting the commemoration in Machinga, particularly due to the high prevalence of abductions of persons with albinism in the past. The participants lamented that while persons with albinism continue to face stigma in some areas, they acknowledged huge shifts in the community's perception and treatment. The respondents described clear remedial frameworks for

reporting acts of discrimination and abuse, usually made to local chiefs and law enforcement. A police officer attributed the provision of alarms to persons with albinism as an effective method for deterring potential attacks. The officer further reported that there had been no cases of abduction or murder in 2025, which is quite significant compared to the 2019 election year.

Through this event, the Clinic was able to reiterate its mission to promote, protect, and defend the rights of persons with albinism and provide them with legal information and resources for redress whenever they experience abuse or human rights violations.

Gender Justice Clinic Training (Advocating for Gender Equality and Social Justice)



Gender Justice Clinic members pose for a photo after the training

On the 6th of March 2025, the Gender Justice Clinic at the University of Malawi (UNIMA) hosted a well-attended training session titled "Advocating for Gender Equality and Social Justice," facilitated by Dr. N. Mweso, the clinic's patron. The event brought together a diverse group of students from the Law and other disciplines, aiming to deepen their understanding of gender equality and social justice while equipping

them with practical advocacy skills.

Dr. N. Mweso emphasized key concepts such as the distinction between gender and sex, intersectionality, and relevant legal frameworks, including Malawi's Gender Equality Act and international conventions like CEDAW. Interactive sessions, including case studies, questions and answers session and a quiz allowed participants to apply

their knowledge in realistic scenarios. The training was highly successful, with students gaining a stronger grasp of gender justice issues, improved advocacy techniques, and valuable interdisciplinary connections. The Gender Justice Clinic plans to build on this momentum with further workshops and community outreach initiatives to foster lasting change in the fight for gender equality and social justice.

Public Lecture by Honourable Justice Fiona Mwale

On 14 March 2025, a public lecturer by Honourable Justice Fiona Mwale was held in the Wadonda Lecture Theatre in the Economics Department Building. This public lecture was designed to deepen understanding of the

judiciary's role in advancing the rights of children, with the aim of empowering current and future legal professionals to become more effective advocates for child protection within Malawi's justice system. The event drew participation from across disciplines students - (both secondary and tertiary), lawyers, magistrates, policymakers, and NGO representatives demonstrating growing interest in

justice-sector reforms that prioritise the rights and dignity of children. Q&A session followed, allowing participants to engage directly with the Honourable Justice on pressing challenges on child rights.

Justice Mwale began by reaffirming the foundational principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of non-discrimination, best interests of



Hon. Justice Fiona speaking (left), with St. Mary's girls (top right) and with attendants (bottom right)

the child, right to life and development, and the right of the child to be heard. She reflected on how these principles are and some not currently being integrated into judicial decision-making in Malawi. She acknowledged notable progress but pointed out persistent gaps for instance, children often lack legal representation; proceedings are not child-friendly; and many magistrates and court staff lack

adequate training in handling children's cases. Justice Mwale underscored the need for procedural reforms, including child-sensitive courtrooms, expedited hearings in matters involving children, and mechanisms to ensure children's voices are meaningfully heard in proceedings that affect them. She concluded by challenging the audience particularly students and young lawyers to see themselves

as agents of change who must push for a justice system that not only acknowledges but actively protects the most vulnerable. Justice Mwale's address served as both a call to action and a reminder that the pursuit of justice must always include children—equally, meaningfully, and urgently.

Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education Hosts the African Law Seminar

On the 28th and 29th of April, 2025, the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education hosted the Institution for a virtual seminar organised by the African Institute of International Law (AIIL) under the theme "*Educate an African Fit to Practice Law in the 21st Century*." The two-part sessions were designed to equip students with knowledge on increasingly important areas of African law. The seminars were facilitated by the former UN Officer of Legal Affairs, Virginia Morris and led by two guest speakers: Judge Abdulqai A. Yusuf of the International Court of Justice as well as Professor Hajer Gueldich who served as Legal Counsel of the African Union. Law students and staff from the University of Malawi as well as various

African universities took part in the seminar.

Judge Yusuf facilitated an insightful discussion on the impact of Pan-Africanism on public law in African states and nations, referencing his time as a judge at the ICJ. The session centred on critiquing the Eurocentric nature of international law and paved the way for thoughtful discourse on an international legal order that included as opposed to isolated African states. Professor Hajer led an equally engaging session that introduced the audience to the structure, operation and role of the African Union. Throughout her session, she drew from her experience as AU Legal Counsel as well as a law professor with a specialty in international law.

Her session focused on the evolution of the African Union and traced its mandate to foster regional integration, good governance and development. She also used the opportunity to highlight the need for institutional reforms that accelerate the effectiveness of the AU both in the continent of Africa and in the world..

The sessions were fruitful and charted the path to intellectual discussions over the state of international law in Africa and the potential for reform, development and a jurisprudence that is conscious of Pan-Africanism. This session marked the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education's efforts to provide students with an intellectually rigorous and versatile legal.

Mental Health Seminar Held by the Disability Rights Clinic

On 2nd May 2025, the UNIMA Disability Rights Clinic under the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education held a Mental Health Seminar in the Law Boardroom. The theme of the seminar was "Embracing Change In Mental Health Legislation In Malawi." The seminar brought together students, staff members, mental health advocates, disability rights experts, and persons with lived experiences. The seminar was opened by the Executive

Director of Malawi Council for Disability Affairs (MACODA), Mr. George Chausiwa, who gave commentary of the passage of the Mental Health Bill, calling it a milestone since the draconian 1945 Mental Treatment Act. He however expressed dismay with some of the provisions that undermined the rights of persons with mental health conditions.

The substantive presentation that followed was titled "Towards a Human Rights Based Approach

to Mental Health Care in Malawi: An Evaluation of the 2025 Mental Health Bill" and was made by 3rd year law student Jean Allih and 2nd year law student Albert Kuthemba-Mwale. The presentation focused on the evolution of the legal framework for mental health services in Malawi from the colonial period to the newly assented to Mental Health Act 2025. The presenters analysed the opportunities and the challenges that the act presents,



Group photo (top) after the seminar, Chausiwa, Bismark and Chilemba (from left to right)

particularly in the context of contemporary human rights standards. The keynote address and a testimonial were made by Ms Memory Bismarck, and Mr Simon Thom, who serve as Executive Director and Executive Council Chair of Mental Health Users and Carers Association of Malawi (MeCUHA), respectively. Their presentations highlighted the

importance of humanising persons with mental health conditions, emphasising their inherent dignity and capacity for independent decision making.

The consensus reached was that the now Mental Health Act 2025 is non-compliant with international human rights instruments, including the African Disability Protocol which Malawi recently ratified in December 2024.

These gaps led to a further consultative meeting between the Clinic Leadership, FEDOMA and MeCUHA. A position paper has since been submitted to the government seeking a possible amendment to the law in order to meet the contemporary human rights approach to mental health service delivery.

Data Analysis Seminar: Strengthening Research Through Feedback



Participants out for dinner at the end of the week long seminar

From 8th to 11th April 2025, the Public Law and Clinical Legal Education unit hosted a data analysis seminar for the Women's, Children's, and Nature's Rights in Environmental Governance (WCNREG) master's programme under the School of Law, Economics and Government (SLEG). The seminar took place in the Law buildings boardroom.

WCNREG is a regional online master's programme jointly offered by the University of Oslo, the University of Nairobi, the University of Zimbabwe, and the University of Malawi. The programme is hosted by the University of Nairobi and forms part of a research project funded by the Norwegian Agency for

Development Cooperation (NORAD) through its NORHED II programme. Malawi currently has 12 students enrolled in the programme, all of whom attended the seminar, supported by NORHED.

The event was also graced by Professor Happy Kayuni, Professor Julie Stewart from the University of Zimbabwe and Mr. Dennis Chipao, Commissioner of Research and Planning, who shared his expertise in the grounded theory approach, an approach encouraged in the study of women's, children's, and nature's rights in environmental governance. It was a week packed with learning and vigorous, insightful academic discussions, focusing on

conceptual clarity, data interpretation, and ensuring alignment between research questions and evidence. The seminar came at a crucial time for many students approaching critical phases of their thesis development. As shared by participants, the constructive feedback helped them identify gaps in their research and explore strategies to address them. The enriching week concluded with a dinner at Ku Chawe, offering everyone an opportunity to unwind and reflect on the impact of the week's engagements. We look forward to more opportunities like this to learn, share, and grow together as a scholarly community.

Seminar on The Law of the Sea and Airspace

On the 5th and 6th of May 2025, the Department of Public Law and Clinical Legal Education held a two-part seminar facilitated by the Honourable Justice Prof Redson Kapindu, a justice in the High Court of Malawi and a visiting Professor of Law at UNIMA, under the theme, "The Law of the Sea and Airspace" in the Law Boardroom. The seminar was aimed at bringing the international law governing the airspace and the sea to life for the staff, students and online attendees present. Legal practitioners and other professionals who apply the Law of the Sea and Airspace in the course of their work, attended virtually, whilst Bachelor of Law students and other UNIMA staff members attended in person.

The vibrant sessions created a space for lively discussions over pressing issues surrounding territorial and maritime boundaries, emerging trends in African jurisprudence and the rise of commercial space tourism. Moderated by Justice Kapindu, the students interacted with key principles, treaties and instruments governing the law of the sea as well as gained an understanding of maritime zones, sovereignty at sea and jurisdictional issues. They were also introduced to dispute resolution mechanisms including the role of bodies such as the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) and its role in dispute settlement. The second half of the seminar was centred on the issue of commercial space

tourism. Students and other participants explored the legal uncertainty of space tourism without clear governing legal frameworks or instruments. The session further examined the potential for the commercialisation of space and the possibility of equitable access to it for African states.

Overall, the afternoons equipped the students with international law knowledge necessary for the fulfilment of their coursework whilst also breaking ground in the academic discourse over airspace law and commercial space tourism. The seminar proved to be a success for the department and exemplified its competence-based approach to learning and legal education.

Everything You Need to Know About International Arbitration: Public Lecture by an International Arbitration Expert Hendrik Puschmann

On 24th March 2025, the Department of Private Law hosted a public lecturer by Hendrik Puschmann in the

Law Boardroom. Puschmann is a Partner and Head of the International Arbitration Group at the Trowers & Hamlin LLP, an international law firm in London. Puschmann's presentation was titled 'Everything You Need to Arbitration in just One Hour.'

His presentation touched on the parties to arbitration, characteristics of the arbitration and how it differs from litigation and the process. He infused humour into the presentation while

managing to concisely and efficiently tackle what is otherwise regarded as a complex topic. Needless to say, future arbitration experts in the Law School took home more than enough knowledge, motivation and inspiration.

The Department will continue to create moments like this as we continue to honour our commitment to train world-class legal professionals.

The Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot Journey- By Chisomo Thabwa (4TH Year Law Student)

The University of Malawi, represented by myself and Michael Mwaluka, for the first time joined a 32-year-old tradition by entering and competing at the 32nd Willem C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration Moot (“the Vis Moot”). Our participation would not have been possible without assistance from Africa In Moot, an organisation which

works with African universities in the field of arbitration to enhance both the teaching of the field and the participation of African students in competitions focusing on the field. Africa In Moot kindly provided us with both technical and financial support throughout the competition.

From the publication of the

moot question which provides the hypothetical case to be argued all the way to the main competition, the Vis Moot lasted about 7 months. In that time, we wrote, refined and rewrote our refined our arguments in preparation. The competition involves various pre-competition events known as pre-moot competitions, held online and in different



My experience in pictures

countries before the main competition in Vienna. The University of Malawi team participated in the East Africa Pre-moot hosted by Africa in the Moot in Kenya. The pre-moot in Kenya served as a boot camp to prepare us for the main competition. We were drilled on precise persuasion, making a big point in seconds, hitting the nail on the head with creativity and style that dazzles. Our brilliant performance allowed us to proceed to Vienna, Austria for the main Vis Moot Competition in April 2025. The moot is about learning the different angles to argue the law using the provided facts and the researched authorities. It is

unlike any other moot because it is not before a court; wits can out run the law and one's ability to discern the parties' intentions often carries the day. With hundreds of universities looking at the same question from different perspectives, we became well versed in the art of brevity, thinking on our feet, paying attention to the opposing side's arguments and rebutting to cast doubt on otherwise convincing argument. The competition is a show of wit, knowledge and skills in combining in order for one to paint a picture for the side one represents before the tribunal. Personally, the Vis Moot in

Vienna was an exhilarating experience. The weekends in workshops, the educational series on the art of arbitration, the finesse of finding faults in facts and the crafty points of rebuttal laid before the tribunal all sparked passion, adrenaline and zeal in me. The reworking and refining of our arguments also showed me how much bigger and better one gets as they learn from their flaws. Over and above the competition taught us the invaluable art of networking, of building bonds and connections in the professional arena. We built pillars of knowledge, forged friendship and blazed a trail for future.

Launch of the Oxford Handbook of Malawi Economy



SLEG officials and authors launch The Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy

On May 16, 2025, the School of Law, Economics and Government at the University of Malawi hosted a momentous occasion - *The launch of the Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy*. The ceremony, held at the Wadonda Lecture Theater, brought together esteemed

members of the Economics and Politics and Governance (P&G) Department, underscoring the significance of this publication in the realm of economic studies.

Professor Michael Chasukwa, Head of the Department of Politics and Government, served as the director of ceremony, skillfully guiding the proceedings. In his opening remarks, Mr. Ndau, the University of Malawi's Librarian, who was the guest of honor on behalf of the University's Vice Chancellor prof. Samson Sajidu provided insight into the essence of the book, highlighting its relevance to

Malawi's economic landscape.

Dr. Hope Chavula, the book's editor, delivered an overview of the publication, shedding light on its key themes and contributions to the field of economics.

The integration of politics and economics was a recurring theme throughout the event. Dr. Gowokani Chirwa, Head of the University of Malawi Economics Department, emphasized the importance of understanding the political economy of Malawi in shaping the country's development trajectory. This intersection of politics and economics is crucial in informing policy decisions that can drive economic growth and development.

Dr. Andrew Jamali presented crucial information, delving into the book's policy implications and potential applications. He highlighted the need for policymakers to consider the political context in which economic decisions are made, and how this can impact the effectiveness of policies. Professor Dulani, in his remarks, clarified aspects of

development policy, offering valuable perspectives on how the book's insights can inform decision-making at the nexus of politics and economics.

The "*The launch of the Oxford Handbook of the Malawi Economy*" book is a valuable resource for policymakers, researchers, and students seeking to understand the complexities of Malawi's economy and the interplay between politics and economics. Its launch marks a significant milestone in the University's efforts to promote economic research and analysis, ultimately contributing to the country's development. The book launch is a significant step forward in promoting economic understanding and discourse in Malawi and highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of the relationship between politics and economics in shaping the country's future.

2024 DoE Book of Abstracts Out!



The Department of Economics is pleased to announce the release of the 2024 Book of Abstracts. This collection features recent research from staff and students addressing critical issues in development and offering

fresh insights into economics and policy. The publication reflects the Department's ongoing commitment to advancing knowledge and informing the practice through rigorous academic work.

2025 Annual Academic Excellence Awards

The School of Law, Economics & Government recently hosted the 2024 Annual Academic Excellence Awards, celebrating outstanding research and innovation across disciplines. The ceremony was attended by Professor Cosmo Ngongondo, representing the Deputy Vice Chancellor, along with faculty, students, executive deans, and families from the Schools of Law, Economics & Government, Education, and Humanities &



Members of the DoE posing for the AAEA: Assoc. Prof. Chirwa (middle left) and Dr. Chigaru (middle left)

Social Sciences. The Department of Economics is pleased to acknowledge the recognition of our two dedicated members: Associate Prof. Gowokani Chijere Chirwa was awarded in Best Book Chapter (with Dr.

Tiyesere Chikapa) and Best Journal Publication (with Prof. Michael Chasukwa) categories. Dr Chigaru was awarded Best Entrepreneur. These honors reflect the Department's continued

commitment to academic excellence and impactful research.

DOE “International” Collaborations

UK High Commissioner



Assoc. Prof. Chirwa (far left) with other UNIMA members of staff and the High UK Commission Delegation.

The Department of Economics acknowledges the participation of Prof. Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, Head of Department, in recent high-level discussions with the UK High Commissioner, representing the University of Malawi. The engagement focused on the role of academia in advancing national development and supporting

peaceful electoral processes. It reflects the Department's continued commitment to linking research, policy, and real-world solutions.

IMF and DoE

On 27 May, the Department of Economics hosted high-level delegates from the International



An interface between the IMF delegates and the DoE

Monetary Fund as a key stakeholder in unpacking Malawi's macroeconomic development, challenges, and broader economic outlook.

The meeting served as an important platform for exchanging insights and deepening mutual understanding on critical issues such as devaluation, the dynamics of parallel foreign exchange markets, and the importance of agricultural productivity in generating foreign exchange and addressing systemic challenges.

The DoE's Celebrity Economist: Dr Chikadza named in Wealth Magazine's 100 Inspiring Women in Malawi



Dr. Bertha Bangara-Chikadza (middle) in a panel discussion at the 2025 Youth Summit

Who gets to open the business and economics sections of a newspaper and never bumps into one or two featured commentaries or interviews by Dr. Bertha Bangara-Chikadza?

Currently a Senior Lecturer in Macroeconomics in the DoE, President of ECAMA, member of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) And Board member at Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC).

Dr. Chikadza continues to be the pride of the Department and the nation as she continues to hit milestones for her recent recognitions and contributions to public discourse. Dr. Bangara-Chikadza was featured as one of Wealth

Magazine's:100 Inspiring Women in Malawi, a testament to her leadership in academia and beyond. In addition, she participated in a high-level governance seminar titled "Reimagining the Mandate of the Director of Public Prosecutions: Accountability and Efficiency in Malawi", where she spoke alongside Tusume Mwabungulu (Malawi Law Society), Benedicto Kondowe (National Advocacy Platform), and Ernest Thindwa (Political Science Association). The Department celebrates her continued impact in shaping national dialogue and inspiring future leaders.



Dr. Chikadza on duty at ECAMA

Prof. David Luke: How Africa Trades

The Department of Economics was pleased to host a delegation from North-West University (South Africa) for discussions on a potential PhD student exchange program and future research collaborations between the two institutions.

The Department also welcomed Prof. David Luke from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), who delivered a public lecture titled “How Africa Trades”. From uncovering saddening facts and statistics with clear and captivating data visuals, to unraveling the unanswered questions that as the continent forges into the future. The lecture was followed by a rich discussion on strategies for unlocking Africa’s trade potential. The Department acknowledge the participation of Professor Steven Dunga,



Professor David Luke presenting: How Africa Trades

Professor Zandri Dickason-Koekemoer, Professor David Luke, and Mr. Marius Willemse, whose contributions made the event a valuable step toward

fostering academic partnerships and advancing regional research agendas.

Monetary Policy Shocks, Agricultural Growth, and Food Inflation in Developing Agrarian Economies: Misled Central Banks?

The Department of Economics recently hosted a seminar under the Ben Kaluwa Seminar Series

titled: “Monetary Policy Shocks, Agricultural Growth, and Food Inflation in Developing Agrarian Economies: Misled Central Banks?” Co-authored with John Magombo, and Lucius Cassim, Mr. Edward Leman shared insights on the implications and Challenges of monetary policy in agrarian economies like Malawi. The seminar provided a valuable platform for discussion on macroeconomic policy and its intersection with agriculture and food systems.



Mr. Edward Leman presenting

Fertilizer Price Shocks in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)

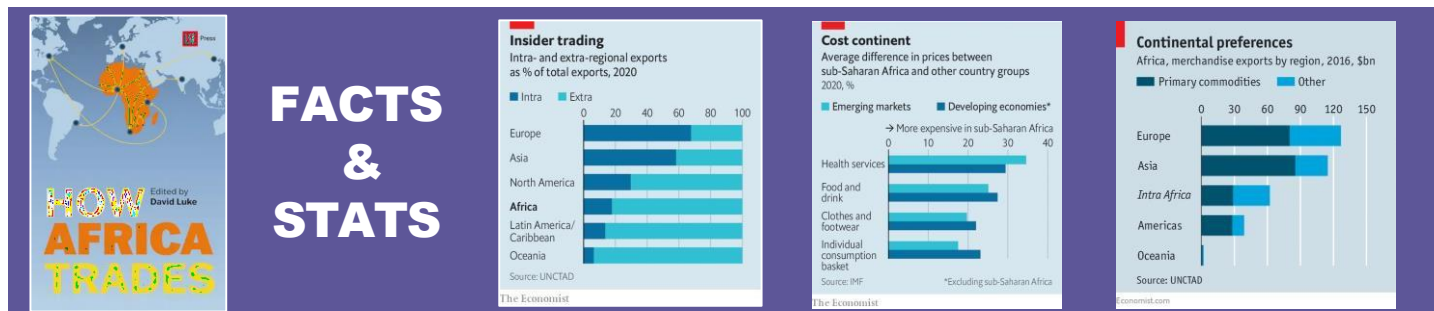
The Department of Economics hosted Prof. Jacob Ricker Gilbert for a seminar at the Wadonda Lecture Theatre, where he delivered a presentation on the causes and consequences of the 2021/2022 fertilizer price spike in Sub-Saharan Africa.

This comes at a critical time looking at the country's agri-economic situation: food inflation triggered by high cost of inputs chief among them being fertilizer. The session provided valuable insights into the economic and agricultural impacts of the price surge across the region, contributing to ongoing policy and research discussions.

Professor Ricker-Gilbert is a full academic and published author in agricultural economics with an h-index of 34 and over 5000 citations. He is an associate interim head of Agricultural Economics at Purdue University. The pleasure of having him cannot be overemphasised.

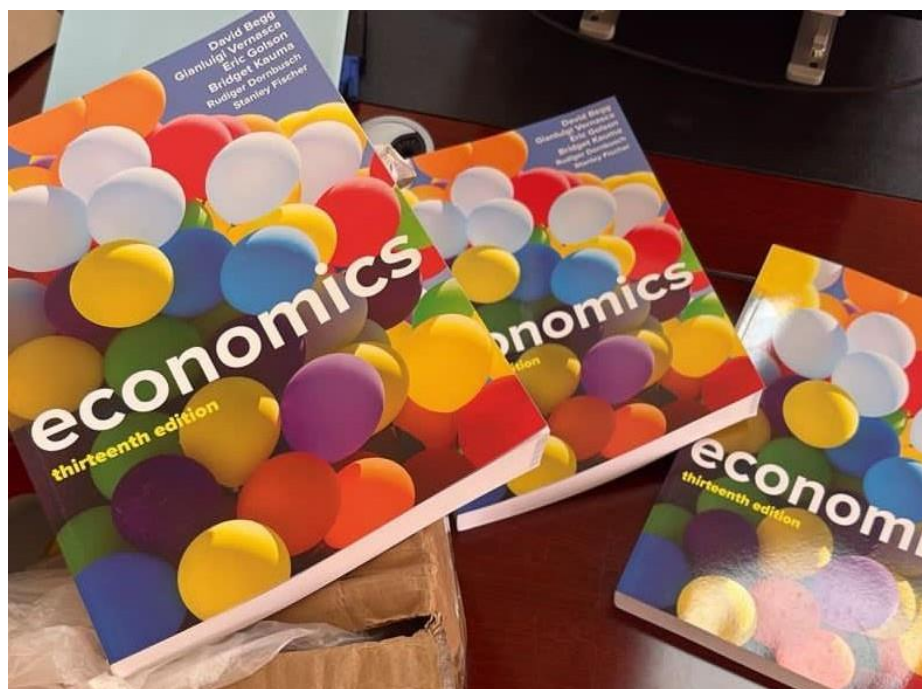


Professor Jacob Ricker-Gilbert



Dr Bridget Kauma donates textbooks to the DoE

The Department of Economics gratefully acknowledges the donation of updated Economics textbooks by Dr. Bridget Kauma, a distinguished alumna and lecturer at the University of Sussex. Dr. Kauma, who completed her undergraduate and master's degrees at UNIMA, co-authored the new edition with David Begg, Stanley Fischer, Rüdiger Dornbusch, Eric G., and Gianluigi Vernasca. We thank Dr. Kauma for this generous contribution to her alma mater.



The donated books

Ms. Sylvia David Kachola selected for EDSD programme

The Department of Economics is proud to announce that Sylvia David Kachola, a Master's student and tutor, has been selected for the 2025–2026 cohort of the European Doctoral School of Demography (EDSD)—a prestigious 11-month program held in Germany and France.

Sylvia is supervised by Assoc. Prof. Gowokani Chijere Chirwa and Dr. Ben Malunga, with mentorship from Dr. Susie Lee at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. She has also been selected as a mentee in the ARTEMIS Mentorship

Programme, further in demography strengthening her global development and academic engagement.



Ms. Sylvia David Kachola



The old and new executive committees of the society pose with the Head of Department

The End of an Era, the Genesis of Another: The UNIMA Economics Society Gets a new Executive Committee

The Economics Students Society held its leadership transition ceremony with Associate Professor Gowokani Chijere Chirwa, Head of Department, in attendance. Outgoing executive members were awarded certificates of appreciation for their service, while the newly elected team officially assumed office. Prof. Chijere commended the student leaders for their dedication and encouraged the incoming team to uphold a spirit of excellence and active engagement.



Outgoing (left) and incoming (right) Presidents with HoD

DoE Students Bag Executive Dean's List Certificates and Vice Chancellor's Academic Excellence Award



The DoE Executive Dean's list awardees pose for photos

On the 20th April, the University of Malawi recognised students that made to the Executive Dean's list (scoring not less than 3.75 GPA in the first semester of the 2024/25 Academic year) and bagged the Vice Chancellor's Academic Excellence Awards (scoring not

less than 3.90 GPA in the same period).

The Department of Economics extends its congratulations to all students who have made it onto the Dean's List.

The Department also acknowledge Ms. Steria Mumba and Mr. Hope Chikakuda

for receiving the Chancellor's Award, a recognition of outstanding academic performance in university examinations. The Department takes pride in celebrating the accomplishments of its students.



Speakers, the HoD and students pose for a group photo at the end of day 2 of the workshop

EXIT WORKSHOP: UNIMA DoE Class of 2025

On 8th and 13th May 2025, the DoE organised the second edition of the Exit Workshop. Featuring industry experts like Associate Professor Winford Masanjala, Associate Professor Ronald Mangani, Mrs. Audrey Mwala, Mr. Edward Leman, Mr. Alexander Mtembenuzeni, Mr. William Mpinganjira, and Dr. Edister Jamu, the workshop was nothing but transformative.

The speakers brought unmatched energy and expertise, sharing hard-won lessons from the world of finance, entrepreneurship, and personal development.

During the workshop, Mr. William Mpinganjira recognised students that were actively engaging in the sessions by



Active participants walking away with Ekhaya FC jerseys

awarding them Ekhaya FC Jerseys.

The DoE started organizing Exit Workshops for the undergraduate final year students in 2024 to empower them with knowledge as they prepare for life beyond

university. This year the workshop was held in two days, spelling out the DoE's commitment to growth.

Stand up for the Champions!!!: Economics Society Crowned Champions of the 2025 Dean's Trophy



The Dean (second right) presenting the cash prize to the patron and the President of the Economics Society

The Economics Society emerged champions of the 2024/25 Executive Dean's Trophy, excelling in football, volleyball, Chess and athletics.

The Society scored first position in football, Volleyball, Chess, Men's Relay Race, Men's Sprinting, and Women's Sprinting.

They were runners-up in Basketball and Women's Sprinting.

Precious Thete, from the Economics Society, was crowned player of the tournament as he amazed

everyone with his well-rounded and unapparelled sportsmanship



The Economics society sports teams show off their trophies and medals after the awards ceremony

and stellar performance.

The competition started in 2023 and organised by the School of Law, Economics and Government (LEG), promotes student interaction and teamwork. According to the Chairperson of the organising committee, Christopher Thobowa, this year's cash prizes amounted to a total of about MK10 million, which is over three times what was in the inaugural year, 2023.

The award ceremony was attended by Prof. Happy Kayuni, Dean of SLEG who applauded students' sportsmanship and unity. This year's tournament ended without a record of violence among the competing teams and their supporters, a feat that testifies to the students' commitment to upholding peace and a family spirit in the School.



Some of the students pose for a photo outside the RBM headquarters in Lilongwe

A Date with the Central Bankers: The Economics Society Visits the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) Headquarters

Students from the University of Malawi Department of Economics, through the Economics Society, visited the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) as part of efforts to deepen their understanding of the real economy through direct engagement with the central bank.

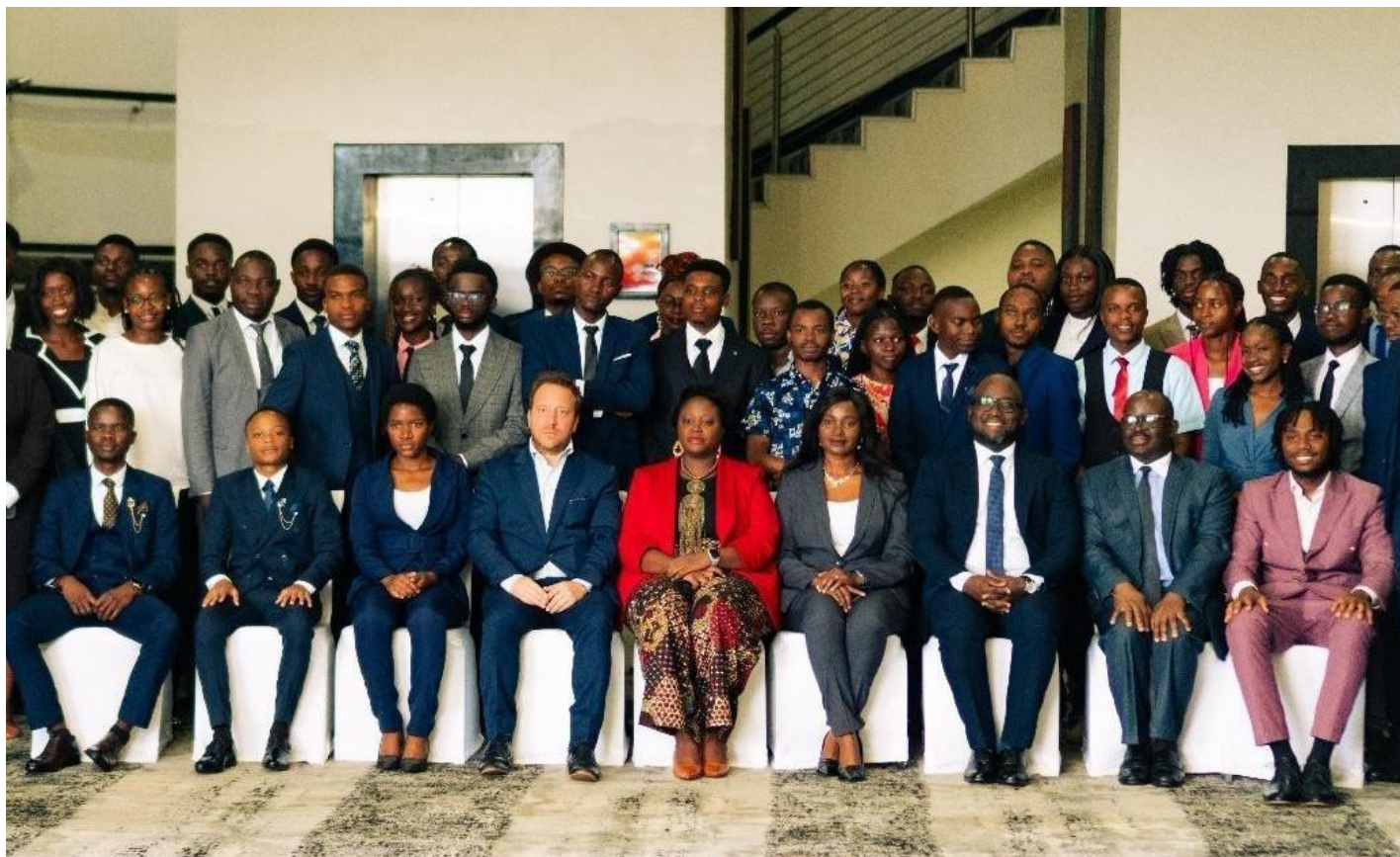
The group was accompanied by one of the members of staff Mr. Edward Leman, who represented the Head of Department. The visit provided practical insights into monetary policy, financial systems, and central banking operations. The Department

extends its appreciation to the RBM team, Mr. Leman, and the leadership of the UNIMA Economics Society for facilitating a successful and informative experience and looks forwards to more meaningful engagement with the bank.



Students listening attentively to one of the lectures

2025 UNIMA Economics Symposium



Guest speakers, lecturers and students pose for a group photo at the symposium

On 25th April, the DoE hosted this year's edition of the UNIMA Economics symposium for the Class of 2025. Held on the theme “*Malawi's inclusive Economic Transformation*,” the symposium attracted the presence and presentations from high-level stakeholders such as the World Bank, the Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA), Old Mutual Group, the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM), and the Deposit Insurance Corporation (DIC).

This annual event gives students a unique opportunity to interact with practitioners, sharpening



Press Corporation PLC hands over its sponsorship

their research and presentation skills. This year's was sponsored by Press Corporation, the World

Bank, ECAMA, Old Mutual Group, RBM and DIC, among others.

The Department of Politics and Government Collaborates with PSA in the launch of The Malawi Journal Of Politics And Public Affairs



Delegates pose for a photo at the PSA journal launch

On the 9th of May 2025, the Political Science Association (PSA) in conjunction with the Department of Politics and Government, launched the first issue of *The Malawi Journal of Politics and Public Affairs* (MJPPA). The journal was launched under the theme “Reflections on governance, Trust and policy Horizons in Malawi”.

MJPPA was developed by PSA as a way of pursuing its objective of generating and disseminating knowledge. The editorial board comprises of Professor Happy Kayuni, Dean of the School of Law, Economics and Government (SLEG), Associate professor Boniface Dulani, the editorial adviser is Prof. Blessings Chinsinga, Professor of Political Science at the Department of Politics and Government. The

focus of the journal is primarily on evidence-based articles and research outputs that address politics and public affairs.

The guest of honor at the event was the Deputy Vice Chancellor of UNIMA Dr. Sunduzwayo Madise who presided over the main launch ceremony, the keynote speaker was Professor Blessings Chinsinga who made a presentation on the topic “Reflections on Governance, trust and Policy Horizons in Malawi”. PSA was represented by the Association’s president Dr. Henry Chingaipe, Secretary General Mr Makhumbo Munthali and other members, while the Department of politics and government was represented by the HOD, Prof Michael Chasukwa, staff members and students of the department. The event was equally attended

by various institutional members of PSA such as the Center for Social Research and CUNIMA.

The key activity at the event was a panel discussion by some of the contributors: Dr. Mweso, Ms. Masininga and Dr. Alfazema presented their papers while Mr Chunga and Dr. Kabisala played the role of discussants. Mr. George Mhango of MZUNI moderated the session while Ms. Maureen Kapanga of UNIMA directed the whole event.

The Malawi Journal of Politics and Public Affairs will soon be calling for submissions for its second issue, various researchers, scholars and students are encouraged to submit their papers to the journal.

Dr. Boniface Dulani attends a High-Level Dialogue On Democracy at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation Conference Center in Pretoria



Dr Boniface Dulani at FOCAC in China

On June 19th and 20th, Dr. Boniface Dulani, Associate Professor of Political Science attended a high-level dialogue on Democracy that was held at South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Conference Center in Pretoria, Held under the theme "Re-imagining Democracy in Africa: Comparative Experiences from the Global South," the conference brought

together more than 70 democracy experts from across the globe to deliberate and discuss democratic achievements and reflect on the challenges of advancing democracy in the Global South as part of thirty-years anniversary of International IDEA.

In his presentation at the gathering, Dulani, who also serves as Director of Surveys at the Afrobarometer and leads the

Afrobarometer Survey Support Unit at the University of Malawi, observed that the challenge of democracy in Africa appears to be one of supply rather than demand

Dr Boniface Dulani participates in the China-Africa think tanks forum

Dr. Boniface Dulani, Associate Professor of Political Science in the Department of Politics and Government, joined a team of African and Chinese scholars and researchers at the 14th meeting

of the China-Africa Think Tanks Forum in Kunming, China from 21st to 24th May 2025.

The China-Africa Think Tanks Forum is coordinated by the

Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and brings together Chinese and African exchanging ideas and knowledge on the gains of Chinese modernisation by providing

momentum for Africa to independently explore the development paths and for the Global South to move towards modernisation.

The 14th convection of the China- Africa Think Tanks Forum in Kunming, Yunnan province, was convened under the theme:

“China-Africa Governance Experience Exchanges and Chinese Modernisation.” More than 50 leading African think-tank leaders and their colleagues from China attended the 2025 forum which was organised along four sub-topics, namely : i) Achieving Just and Equitable Modernization through Governance Experience Exchanges and Mutual Learning; ii) Spearheading Open and Win-Win Modernization with Joint Implementation of the Global Development Initiative; iii) Advocating People-First, Diversified and Inclusive Modernization by Deepening Exchanges and Mutual Learning among Civilizations; and iv) Promoting Peaceful, Secure and Eco-Friendly Modernization via Sustainable Development Experience Exchanges.

In addition to serving as a discussant on one of the panels, Dulani gave a presentation entitled “Beyond Borders: African Attitudes Toward International Issues and Powers.” This presentation drew on Afrobarometer survey data to highlight the views and perceptions of African citizens on the role of major global powers in their countries. Among the key



Dr Boniface Dulani at FOCAC in China

highlights of his presentation, Dulani, pointed out that among 8 countries/international bodies that citizens from 30 African countries were asked to rate in 2024 and 2025, China was ranked as the most influential actor, with an aggregate of 60% of African citizens saying China has a positive influence on their country.

Among the countries holding the most positive view of China in Africa include Cabo Verde (88%), followed by Cote D'Ivoire (81%), Liberia (79%) and Sao Tome and Principe (79%). Although only 41%

of Malawians consider China's influence to be positive, nearly as many (39%) say that they do not know enough to say whether China's influence is positive or negative.

In addition to the presentations and debates, the delegates to the Kunming Summit were also taken on several field visits that highlighted Chinese development transformation, with particular focus on poverty alleviation, Chinese modernization and the building of community for Chinese nation.

Reflecting on 60 Years of Malawi's Political Culture: Maureen Kapanga Share Groundbreaking Insights

On 4 June 2025, Maureen Kapanga and Professor Happy Kayuni presented a co-authored paper titled “Sixty Years of Continuity and Change in Malawi's Political Culture: A Historical Institutional Analysis of Malawi's Political Landscape, 1964–2024” during the Malawi at 60 Governance Webinar Series organised by the Scotland–Malawi Partnership.

This enlightening webinar series is a precursor to the publication of an authoritative, interdisciplinary volume that marks six decades of Malawi's independence. The book, *Malawi at Sixty: A Political and Economic Analysis*, is edited by Gift Wasambo Kayira, Kenneth R. Ross, and Hermann Yokoniah-Mvula. Kapanga and Kayuni's paper will be included as a key chapter in this volume.

The broader aim of the book and the webinar series is to offer a critical, well-rounded account of Malawi's progress and setbacks since independence. Topics include national identity, constitutional development, governance, political evolution, economic transformation, public



The graphic is a blue rectangular banner. At the top left are two logos: 'ScotlandMalawi PARTNERSHIP' and 'Malawi 60'. The main title 'Malawi at 60 Governance Series Webinar 1' is centered in white. Below it, a white box contains the text: 'Sixty Years of Continuity and Change in Malawi's Political Culture: A Historical Institutional Analysis of Malawi's Political Landscape, 1964–2024'. Further down, three white rounded rectangles contain event details: '04 June 2025', '9:30 Uk / 10:30 MW', and 'Online'. On the right side, there are two circular portraits. The top one is of Ms. Maureen Linda Kapanga, and the bottom one is of Prof. Happy Mickson Kayuni, with their names printed below each portrait.

“political loyalty in exchange for access to state resources has remained a dominant feature of Malawi's political landscape, albeit adapted to suit different governing contexts over time”

finance, the judiciary, civil society, cultural change, regional and ethnic identities, natural resource governance,

development ethics, religion, language, and the arts.

Kapanga and Kayuni's contribution uses a historical institutionalist lens to examine how elements of political culture, particularly patronage and clientelism, have remained central to Malawi's governance system. Their analysis traces these features from colonial administration, through the one-party era to the democratic transition of 1994. The paper argues that political loyalty in exchange for access to state resources has remained a dominant feature of Malawi's political landscape, albeit adapted to suit different governing contexts over time.

Their findings add an important voice to ongoing conversations about the roots of Malawi's governance challenges and the prospects for reform in the years ahead.



Dr. Mbuyiseni Ndlozi delivering his speech

UNIMA PAS Society Hosts Powerful Public Lecture on “People over Politics”

The Political and Administrative Studies (PAS) Society at the University of Malawi (UNIMA) recently held a high-impact public lecture under the compelling theme “People Over Politics.” Organized in collaboration with Hon. Eng. Vitumbiko Mumba, Malawi’s Minister of Trade and Industry, the event attracted a vibrant and diverse audience from across the country and beyond.

The keynote speaker and guest of honor was Dr. Mbuyiseni

Ndlozi, a renowned South African political activist and former parliamentarian. His presence lent continental weight to the occasion, drawing interest from political leaders, academics, traditional authorities, and youth representatives from various institutions.

In his opening remarks, Professor Michael Chasukwa, patron of the PAS Society and Head of the Department of Politics and Government at UNIMA, praised the student-led

initiative for facilitating a timely and relevant dialogue. “This lecture has captured the attention of millions both within and beyond Malawi’s borders,” he said. He also thanked Minister Mumba for choosing UNIMA as the venue for his first public lecture, marking a historic moment for the University. Professor Chasukwa highlighted the significance of such forums in academic settings, especially for students



Professor Chasukwa (left), Professor Kayuni (middle) and Patience Namadingo (right)

preparing for leadership roles. “These lectures offer students a rare opportunity to engage directly with policymakers and thought leaders. The knowledge shared here is not only informative but practically transformative,” he added.

Minister Mumba delivered a forthright and passionate address centered on the urgent need to prioritise citizens in governance. “For the past 61 years since independence, Malawi has often placed politicians above the people they are meant to serve,” he said. “This has hindered our development. It’s time to put people first.”

His message struck a chord with attendees, particularly the youth, who are increasingly

vocal in national debates around governance and development.

Dr. Ndlozi followed with a rousing Pan-African message, calling on young people to embrace unity and resilience. “Africa’s future hinges on its unity,” he declared. “Pan-Africanism is not just an ideology—it is a necessity for development. To the Malawian youth: do not give up on your country. Change is possible, and it begins with you.”

The lecture was attended by a wide array of dignitaries, including the UNIMA Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, Deans, Heads of Departments, lecturers, chiefs, religious leaders, artists, and a large contingent of students from UNIMA and neighboring institutions

UNIMA and neighboring institutions.

The energy in the auditorium reflected the urgency and relevance of the theme, as well as a shared hope for a more people-centered political and developmental path for Malawi and Africa.

This landmark event reaffirmed the PAS Society’s dedication to promoting critical discourse and equipping students with the insights and exposure necessary to lead societal transformation. Where experience meets youthful ambition, the Society continues to bridge academic learning with real-world action.

UNIMA PAS Society Academic Visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and FHI360

The University of Malawi's Political and Administrative Studies Society recently undertook a transformative academic trip to Lilongwe, designed to bridge classroom theory with real-world application. The excursion included insightful visits to two key institutions: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at Capital Hill and the international non-profit organization FHI360 Malawi.

Aimed at deepening students' understanding of public administration and international relations, the trip provided participants with a rare opportunity to interact directly with seasoned professionals and policy. The visit was particularly timely and relevant for third-year students preparing to study international relations. Representing the Department of Politics and Government, Mr. Ernest Pondani accompanied the students on behalf of Professor Michael Chasukwa, the Department Head and Patron of the PAS Society. He extended gratitude to the Ministry for the in-depth briefings and hospitable reception.

"These kinds of experiences are rare and highly valuable," Mr. Pondani remarked. "Today's visit will serve as a strong reference point for our third-year students as they progress into international relations coursework. It's a through research, advocacy, and

powerful way to complement classroom learning and prepare our students to become impactful contributors to Malawi's development."

After the Ministry visit, students proceeded to FHI360 Malawi, where they learned about the organization's efforts to tackle global development challenges



PAS students at the Ministry

The FHI360 team shared their approaches to addressing inequalities, improving health systems, and responding to humanitarian crises—all through evidence-based interventions. Students were visibly inspired by the hands-on learning experience. Soft Victoria, a first-year student, shared her excitement: "I'm really happy about this trip. It has introduced me to new knowledge, and I now understand what FHI360 does and why it matters." Franklin Sakala, a third-year Public Administration student, reflected on the relevance of the

Ministry engagement: "The presentations were excellent. I now have a clearer understanding of how Malawi engages with other countries and how foreign policies are formulated."

The PAS Society's commitment to experiential learning through academic excursions is a crucial step in preparing students for future roles in governance, diplomacy, and development. These engagements empower students to connect theoretical frameworks with practical realities and build networks that



Mr. Pondani (middle) and students at FHI360

will serve them beyond university life.

By facilitating visits to institutions that shape national and global policies, the Department of Politics and Government—through the PAS Society—ensures that students graduate not only with academic qualifications but also with the contextual insights and professional exposure necessary to contribute meaningfully to Malawi's development and global presence.

PAS Society Invited to the Child Rights Clinic Seminar

The PAS Society was invited to the annual seminar hosted by the UNIMA Child Rights Legal Clinic on March 13, 2025. The seminar, titled "Do Children Matter in Malawi's Justice System," aimed to spark conversations on child justice, legal protections, and the role of law in safeguarding children's rights. President Mr. John Peter and other executive members of the PAS Society represented the organization at the event.

The seminar was held in the Law Department Boardroom at the University of Malawi and featured speakers such as Ruth Mchizi and dedicated Child Rights Clinicians. The discussions highlighted key areas, including the importance of child-centered justice systems, legal protections, and collaboration and advocacy. These insights will undoubtedly inform the PAS Society's future initiatives and advocacy efforts, enabling them



PAS Society President, John Peter, at the Seminar

to better promote children's rights and well-being.

The PAS Society plans to prioritise children's rights in its advocacy efforts. This will involve

amplifying children's voices by creating platforms for them to express their concerns and opinions. The organization will also advocate for policy change by pushing for laws and policies that protect children's rights. Furthermore, the PAS Society will build partnerships

With like minded organizations to promote children's rights and hold duty-bearers accountable.

The seminar was a valuable opportunity for the PAS Society to engage with the UNIMA Child and other stakeholder. The organization would like to extend its gratitude to Mtameni Kamuona, the UNIMA Child Rights Clinic President,

for organizing the seminar and inviting the PAS Society to participate. By working together, the PAS Society and the other organizations can create a brighter future for Malawi's children

PAS Society Partners with IPE to Host Financial Literacy Masterclass



IPE, PAS Society and attendants at the Financial Literacy Masterclass

On March 29th 2025, the Political and Administrative Studies (PAS) Society partnered with the Institute for Prosperity and Education (IPE) to host a dynamic financial literacy masterclass under the *Breaking Poverty Barriers* campaign. Held at the Wadonda Lecture Theatre at the University of Malawi, the event marked a significant milestone in advancing financial empowerment and education among students and

young professionals.

The masterclass was designed to equip participants with essential knowledge and practical skills in personal finance management, budgeting, saving, and investment strategies. It brought together attendees from various academic and professional backgrounds, all united by the goal of improving their financial well-being and

contributing to broader economic stability within their communities.

The success of the event was rooted in the strong collaboration between IPE and the PAS Society. The two organizations worked closely to plan and deliver an engaging and impactful training experience. By combining their respective strengths in civic education and youth engagement,



The Financial Literacy Masterclass in session

the partners ensured a well-rounded and accessible learning experience.

Notable speakers included Khumbo Benjamin Mabaso, Director at IPE; Judge Alfred Banda, Programs Associate at IPE; and Binuel Ace, Youth and Community Engagement Associate at the Art & Global Health Center Africa. Each shared insights into financial discipline, long-term planning, and overcoming socio-economic challenges through informed financial decision-making.

One of the key highlights of the session was its empowering message: that financial literacy

is not just a personal asset, but a tool for breaking systemic poverty and building more resilient communities. Participants left the session better equipped to take control of their finances and pursue financial independence with confidence.

To recognise the participants' commitment to financial education, certificates of completion were awarded at the close of the training. This symbolic gesture reinforced the value of lifelong learning and responsible financial management.

The event forms part of IPE's broader mission to expand financial literacy programming across Malawi. Having already conducted sessions at the

Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and now at the University of Malawi, IPE plans to extend its reach to more campuses and community spaces in Blantyre, Zomba, and beyond.

The Financial Literacy masterclass underscored the power of partnerships in achieving shared goals. Through this collaboration, the PAS Society and IPE have taken a meaningful step toward equipping the next generation with the knowledge and confidence to lead financially secure lives. Together, they are proving that breaking poverty barriers begins with education, empowerment, and action.

Representing UNIMA abroad: Chrissy Ulemu's Academic Journey in the United States



Chrissy Ulemu shows off Malawi flag at CSUB, USA

Earlier this year, Chrissy Ulemu had the incredible opportunity to represent the University of Malawi through the Global UGRAD Exchange Program at California State University, Bakersfield (CSUB). Her semester abroad was a deeply enriching academic experience that challenged her to grow intellectually, adapt to a new academic culture, and demonstrate the strength of the academic training she received at UNIMA.

While at CSUB, Chrissy enrolled in four upper-level courses that were intellectually demanding, featuring weekly assignments, presentations, and critical essays. Despite the rigorous academic

environment, she excelled, completing the semester with an impressive GPA of 3.9.

Chrissy's success reflects the solid academic foundation laid by the Political and Government Department at the University of Malawi. The Department's commitment to global-standard academic training in writing, research, and analytical thinking made her transition to the American system smooth and empowering. Having been well-prepared for tight deadlines, in-depth analysis, and structured academic writing, Chrissy was able to contribute actively in class, write comprehensive policy

evaluations, and present ideas confidently in a diverse academic environment.

Throughout her time abroad, Chrissy remained closely supported by the Political and Government Department. Several lecturers regularly checked in on her academic progress and well-being, providing encouragement and guidance that ensured a smooth transition to CSUB and an efficient credit transfer process. Even while far from home, Chrissy felt connected and supported by her Department, which remained a steadfast anchor throughout her experience.



Chrissy Ulemu at CSUB main entrance

Upon returning to Malawi, Chrissy successfully completed her final semester at the University of Malawi, graduating with a GPA of 3.75. She reflects on her journey with deep gratitude and pride, viewing her achievements both at home and abroad as a testament to the quality of education and mentorship provided by the Political and Government Department.

Looking ahead, Chrissy does so with a renewed sense of purpose and confidence. The knowledge, skills, and perspectives she has gained during her studies and international experience will continue to guide her as she pursues leadership, policy, and community development work. She remains committed to using her education to make a meaningful impact and is determined to continue carrying the name of the University of Malawi forward with honor.



Politics and Government Department Signs Landmark MoU with NEEF



The Department of Politics and Government at the University of Malawi has entered into a strategic partnership with the National Economic Empowerment Fund (NEEF) Limited following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering academic-industry collaboration.

The signing ceremony on July 5 brought together key stakeholders from both institutions. Representing NEEF were Chief Executive Officer Mr. Humphreys Mdyetseni and Senior Legal Counsel, while the University of Malawi was represented by Professor Happy Kayuni, Executive Dean of the School of

Law, Economics and Government (LEG), and Professor Michael Chasukwa, Head of the Politics and Government Department. Ernest Pondani, a lecturer from the Politics and Government Department, played a key role in facilitating the agreement.

One of the major highlights of the MoU is the establishment of a student internship program. Under the agreement, the Politics and Government Department will send up to 20 students to NEEF for internship placements, enabling them to gain practical experience and insights into real-world workplace dynamics that complement their academic learning.

The MoU outlines a comprehensive framework for collaboration, including:

1. Joint research and development initiatives to stimulate innovation and produce policy-relevant insights.
2. Training and capacity building through workshops, skill development programs, and knowledge transfer activities.
3. Knowledge and information sharing to promote best practices, research findings, and institutional learning
4. Cooperation on special projects and initiatives of mutual interest.
5. Exploration of additional areas of collaboration, including participation in conferences and other strategic engagements.

During the event, Professor Kayuni highlighted the importance of bridging the gap between theory and practice, while Mr. Mdyetseni regarded the partnership as a timely opportunity to engage young minds in the processes of economic empowerment at the national level.

This MoU marks a significant step toward strengthening academic-public sector ties, enhancing student exposure to professional environments, and supporting national development through collaborative research and innovation.

Samantha Soyibo Mosiwa Represents University of Malawi at Regional Workshop on Entrepreneurship Education



Mosiwa presenting at a conference in Maputo Mozambique

entrepreneurship programmes at their institutions.

As the delegate from the University of Malawi, Samantha actively engaged in discussions, sharing the University's experiences and insights while learning from the diverse approaches adopted across Southern Africa. Her participation not only contributed to the regional dialogue but also ensured that the perspectives and aspirations of the University of Malawi were well represented.

The workshop aligns with regional and continental priorities, including the African Union's Agenda 2063 and UNESCO's Operational Strategy for Priority Africa 2022–2029, both of which underscore the importance of empowering youth through entrepreneurship education as a pathway to sustainable development.

Samantha Soyibo Mosiwa recently represented the University of Malawi at a regional workshop on entrepreneurship education at the tertiary level held in Maputo, Mozambique from 31st March to 2nd April 2025. The workshop, convened by UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNESCO ROSA) in partnership with the UNESCO Maputo Office and the National Commission of Mozambique to UNESCO, brought together participants from nine SADC countries to address the

critical role of entrepreneurship education in tackling youth unemployment and fostering economic growth.

The workshop focused on mapping the status and challenges of entrepreneurship education across universities and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions in the region. It also provided a platform to identify priority areas for support and to build the capacity of key personnel responsible for

Samantha returned with valuable lessons and ideas that will inform ongoing efforts to strengthen entrepreneurship education at the University of Malawi, ensuring that graduates are equipped with the skills and mindset needed to innovate, create employment, and drive national development.

PAS Society Hosts Institute for People Management



IPMM session in progress

Management Malawi (IPMM) is a non-profit organization established in 1984 to represent human resources and people management in Malawi. IPMM aims to enhance professionalism among HR management practitioners and contribute to the growth, profitability, and sustainability of businesses. With a membership base of 271, IPMM provides resources and training for HR professionals, including consultancy services, staff recruitment, and staff training.

The event provided University of Malawi students with valuable insights and practical tips to enhance their career prospects. By partnering with IPMM, the PAS Society aims to provide opportunities for its members to grow and develop their skills. The PAS Society looks forward to hosting more events and initiatives in the future, building on the success of this event.

The event was organized in collaboration with Mr. Henry Mphande, Marketing & Business Development Officer at IPMM, and the PAS Society team. Effective communication and teamwork were key to bringing the event to life in under 9 days. The partnership between the PAS Society and IPMM demonstrates the power of collaboration in creating opportunities for professional growth and development.

The PAS Society, in partnership with the Institute of People Management Malawi (IPMM), recently organised a successful event on IPMM membership and career development. The event was held in under 9 days and featured two esteemed presenters: Mr. Limbani Nthambi Chakhoma, Chairman of the Marketing Committee and Executive member of IPMM Council, and Mr. Willy Nkhoma, IPMM Executive Director.

Mr. Limbani Chakhoma highlighted the benefits of IPMM student membership, including connections with various organizations and institutions, networking opportunities, and

participation in celebrations and recreational activities. This presentation provided valuable insights into the advantages of being an IPMM member, particularly for students looking to enhance their professional networks.

Mr. Willy Nkhoma shared expert advice on effective career development strategies, focusing on crafting winning application letters, writing effective CVs, and acing interviews. His presentation equipped attendees with practical tips and techniques to improve their job prospects and succeed in their careers.

The Institute of People

PAS Society Wins Heated Debate against Law Enforcement Society



The Dean and faculty members from the department pose with the winners in the debate

On April 4, 2025, the Political and Administration Society, (PAS) at the University of Malawi hosted a debate against the Law Enforcement Society at the Great Hall. The debate theme, "Is Malawi's Continued Membership in SADC Misguided?" sparked a lively discussion between the two teams.

The PAS Society team, comprising Samuel Iwalani, Memory Munthali, Tatenda Chiuye, and Fatches Hussein, argued against the motion, while the Law Enforcement Team, consisting of Chisomo Anderson, Henderson Mpembedza, Paul Mzamu, and Memory Ligowe, argued in favor of it. After a heated discussion, the PAS Society team emerged victorious, earning more points than their opponents.

This win maintains PAS Society's undefeated record in debates on campus, solidifying their reputation as a formidable debating team. Fatches Hussein, chairperson of the debate committee at PAS Society and chief opposer, expressed excitement about the win, attributing their success to teamwork and dedication.

The debate was attended by notable figures, including Professor Happy Kayuni, Dean of the School of Law Economics and Government; Dr. Tiyesere Chikapa, Head of the Leadership and Management Skills Department; Mr. Ernest Pondani and Miss Maureen Kapanga, representing Professor Michael Chasukwa, Head of the Politics and Government Department.

Miss Kapanga praised the students for organising the debate, highlighting its importance in shaping students' capacity to think critically and gain confidence in public speaking. "The debates are crucial as they shape the capacity of students to think beyond what they are taught in class," she said. "It also helps students gain confidence in public speaking and follow current affairs."

The PAS Society was awarded a trophy for their victory, recognizing their exceptional debating skills and teamwork. This achievement showcases the society's commitment to intellectual discourse and academic excellence.

UNIMA PAS Class of 2025 Symposium



Guest Speakers, lecturers and students take a group photo at 2025 PAS Symposium

The Political and Administrative Studies (PAS) Class of 2025 held a powerful and enriching symposium on Friday, bringing together distinguished speakers to speak on the role of civil society in promoting accountable and transparent governance. The event, hosted at Kalipano Lodge in Dowa, was themed “Shaping the Political and Administrative Sphere for an Accountable and Transparent Government.”

In his keynote address, the European Union Ambassador to Malawi, His Excellency Rune Skinnebach, challenged students to embrace their role as democratic actors beyond just the ballot box. He emphasized that education is merely the foundation—not the finish line—and that young people must uphold democratic values such as transparency,

accountability, and active citizenship. “PAS students, you must understand your role in safeguarding democracy,” he said. “This generation carries the responsibility of building a democratic culture that will benefit future generations.”

Adding to the theme, Linda Harawa, Country Director of Emerging Public Leaders (EPL), urged students to adopt a cooperative approach when advocating for change. She warned that while passion is important, strategy is essential. “Not every issue needs confrontation,” she said. “Know what to challenge, and when. Youth must not lose hope—because when they do, society is at risk.” Speaking on practical advocacy tools, Makhumbo

Secretary General of the Political Science Association of Malawi, shared his personal journey and encouraged students to use regional platforms, the constitution, and networks to push for good governance. He reminded the finales that impactful advocacy requires courage and readiness. “You must be prepared. Sometimes, you’ll be the only voice in the room. Be bold,” he advised.

From a different angle, renowned entrepreneur Napoleon Dzombe focused on self-reliance and innovation, encouraging students to think beyond traditional employment and embrace entrepreneurship. “Let your goals guide you. Plan carefully and think outside the box,” Dzombe

said. “Entrepreneurship is not only a survival strategy—it’s a tool for national development.”

UNIMA lecturer Ernest Pondani offered an academic lens, presenting on the intersection of research and governance. He emphasized the importance of critical thinking in addressing governance issues and reminded students that not everything should be accepted at face value.

The symposium also gave one of the student, Tatenda Chiuye, an opportunity to give a presentation. Chiuye presented a thought-provoking concept ‘new watchdog for democracy: the need for a political party council in Malawi’. Her central message was that introducing new watchdog for democracy: the case of political council in Malawi an initiative that will bring jobs for PAS students. Organizing committee member

Georgina Jana, who is also a fourth-year class representative, said the event was designed to connect academic knowledge with real-world application. “The main reason was that the symposium would allow students to network with organizations and market themselves to potential employers, so that they might not struggle to find a job.” She said.

Students expressed gratitude for the experience and shared how it had reshaped their perspectives. Public Administration major Innocent Kalonga noted, that “Academic excellence is not enough. We must also be ethical and intentional in our conduct.”

Political Science student Cynthia Mwalwanda added, “This event reminded me that my degree is just one of many tools I can use. I’m now inspired to pursue

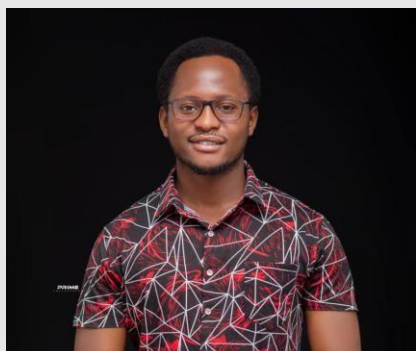
entrepreneurship as well.”

Closing the event on behalf of the Head of the Department, Mr. Gift Mbwele expressed appreciation to both the speakers and students. He commended the initiative and creativity that made the symposium a success and encouraged the class to carry forward the lessons learned.

The event concluded with a light-hearted awards segment where students received certificates in categories such as Best Yaza of Our Time, Best Male Class Rep, and others—adding colour and camaraderie to the occasion.

On Saturday, the celebrations continued as the class took a trip to Sunbird Waterfront in Salima to unwind and enjoy the scenic beauty of Lake Malawi—a fitting end to a productive and inspiring academic event.

Mr Ernest Pondani Attains Second Master's Degree



Mr. Ernest Pondani

The University of Malawi's Department of Politics and Government proudly celebrates the academic success of Mr.

Ernest Pondani, a Lecturer in the Department, who has earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a specialization in Operations Management from Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India.

Mr. Pondani graduated with First Division honors, demonstrating his dedication and academic excellence. Although he graduated in absentia during the convocation

held on May 8th, 2025, the Department celebrates this milestone as a significant addition to its pool of expertise.

Mr. Pondani holds a Master of Arts in Politics (International Relations) from Jawaharlal Nehru University, India. His newly attained qualification further enhances his ability to contribute meaningfully to both teaching and administrative responsibilities within the Department.

The future of HR Profession: Career Prospects and Opportunities in a Dynamic World

On February 28th, 2025, the University of Malawi hosted a guest speaker under the Human Resource Management (HRM) program. The focus of the event was a timely and thought-provoking topic: “The Future of the HR Profession: Career Prospects and Opportunities in a Dynamic World”. This insightful discussion explored the evolving landscape of the HR profession, highlighting current challenges as well as the promising career opportunities available to students

pursuing a future in the field.

The guest speaker was Mr. Limbani Chakhoma, a seasoned HR professional working with National Bank of Malawi as Employee Benefits Manager. With years of experience in the field, Limbani’s expertise provided valuable perspectives into the future topography of resources and its human growing importance across industries.

Limbani began his address by highlighting the pivotal role Human Resources plays in shaping organizational culture particularly through strategic talent management and embracing technological advancements. He underscored the need for modern HR professionals to be agile and

forward-thinking, blending foundational HR principles with emerging trends. “The world is changing rapidly,” and “HR must evolve with it. We’re no longer just recruiters we are strategic partners guiding organizations through an ever-shifting landscape.” One of the key takeaways from the event was the growing importance of continuous learning and professional development. Limbani encouraged students to seek out internships, certifications and networking opportunities to stay ahead of the curve. “It’s not enough to graduate,” he advised, “you must continue learning and adapting to the changes around you. HR is a career that requires constant growth.”



*Dr. Chikapa (front row, 7th from left), Mr. Chakhoma (front row, 8th from left)
and the students after the event*

Dr.Tiyesere Chikapa Appointed as Deputy Editor for the Journal of Public Administration and Development Alternatives

Dr.Tiyesere Chikapa was in April, 2025 appointed as Deputy Editor for the Journal of Administration Public and Development Alternatives. The Journal is indexed by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training(DHET) through Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) and is published by Batalea Publishers, a publishing company based in Polokwane, South Africa.As a Deputy Editor, Dr.Chikapa Administration and Development Alternatives.



Dr.Chikapa returns to SOAS for her Post-Doctoral Residential Component

As part of her Post-Doctoral Fellowship journey under The Gender Equitable and Transformative Social Policy for Post-Covid-19 Africa (GETSPA) Project, Dr. Tiyesere returned to SOAS, University of London in July. During her stay, Dr.Chikapa spent time attending to seminars, reading sessions and conducting the review of literature on her project titled “Austerity, Precarity and the Changing Nature of Work in Malawi’s Health sector Post the Covid-19 pandemic.”



Dr.Chikapa at SOAS, University of London

UNIMA HRM Class of 2025 Closes Its Transformative Chapter



HRM Class of 2025 and Dr. Chikapa (standing eighth from left)

The University of Malawi's Law Enforcement Society successfully hosted its much-anticipated 2025 Symposium on May 12 at Chikowi Lecture Theatre under the theme, "Knowing Our Capabilities" – Strengthening the Role of Law Enforcement in Economic Governance". The events brought together students, academics, professionals and institutional stakeholders with shared vision: to reimagine the future of law enforcement in Malawi.

Proudly sponsored by FDH Bank PLC, Malawi Police Service and the National Economic Empowerment Fund (NEEF), the symposium aimed to promote the Law enforcement, Management and Leadership Program under the school of Law, Economics and

Government. The events provided an opportunity to clarify the Program's goals, correct misconceptions, and showcase its significance in the broader national fight against corruption, financial crimes and inefficiencies in the justice system.

Among the key invited institutions were the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC), Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA), and several law enforcement bodies. All were given a platform to speak on matters pertaining to modern, scientific law enforcement, focusing on evolving challenges such as money laundering, corruption, bribery, cybercrimes and economic fraud.

The highlights of the day were the powerful address by Guest of Honor, Anita Mankhambo, Director of Compliance and Prevention at Financial Intelligence Authority. In her remarks, "There is always an outcry that law enforcement lacks capacity in terms of skilled staff, as criminals are constantly ahead. But this program at UNIMA is a bold and timely response"

Speaking on behalf of the students. Memory Ligowe, a final-year student expressed optimism and readiness to serve: "With knowledge and skills, we have acquired, we are confident that we will deliver in both the public and private sector. We are ready to contribute meaningfully to the nation".

2025 LAW ENFORCEMENT SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM



Law enforcement symposium

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