

THE MALAWI PRISONS SERVICE

The Prisons Department, which is concerned with the safe custody of prisoners or those in conflict with the laws, is historically a much older creation and was formalized earlier than the civil police. This is notwithstanding that from the formal beginning of the police in 1921, prisons service came under the superintendence of the Chief Commissioner of Police who also acted as Chief Inspector of Prisons.

There are a few more pointers that in terms of organization, prisons service was a forerunner to police formalization. For instance, Prison organization first appeared on the statutes in 1905 through Prison Ordinance № 10 of 1905, whereas the first mention of police on the statutes appears in 1909 through Police Ordinance № 7 of 1909.

Secondly, whilst acknowledging that the outbreak of World War 1 interrupted the formalizing of organizations like the police and prison, it was not until 1919 when the prison head, ex-military Jack Archer, was appointed followed a year later by the police Chief Commissioner, another ex-military Maj. Francis Trant Stephens, in 1920. Accordingly, the Prison Ordinance was enacted earlier on in 1920 followed by the Police Ordinance passed on 5th October, 1921.

CREATION OF THE NYASALAND PRISON SERVICE

Historical timelines and discourse for this country, confirm that before the declaration of the Nyasaland as a British Protectorate, there was no formalised criminal justice system; natives used to handle disputes using the customary laws whose ultimate goal was reconciliation. Natives had their own penal system that meted out censure and punishment as appropriate.

As early as 1891 when Sir Harry Hamilton Johnston established the British Administration in Nyasaland, it was soon demonstrated that there were some Africans who were resisting colonialism by defaulting tax payments and resisting land alienation as well as forced labour. There were also groups like the Ngoni, who survived on rampaging and looting from other tribes and had to be tamed.

Determined to put these to an end and bring in justice, offenders were arrested and brought to District Magistrates. Griff Jones (1964) observes that if missionaries caught a criminal, they were not supposed to deal with him but instead to hand him over to the Chief. Missionaries were advised to "... carefully avoid any temptation to act as judges or rulers in the land.

M^cCracken (2012) recounts that in 1895, John Yule, the Assistant Collector stationed at Songwe in Fort Hill, sent his askaris to a neighbouring village to procure women to be "used and molested" by his drunken guests against the protests of their cuckolded husbands. When a missionary complained over the act, the askaris were flogged and sentenced to three months with hard labour.

Similarly, according to Boeder (1980), in the early days, Africans were simply flogged or whipped for nearly every conceivable reason: adultery, asleep on guard, absence from work, assault, attempted larceny, disobedience, insubordination, neglect of duty and indecent assault. As further observed by Boeder, Sir Alfred Sharpe, when he took over from Sir Harry H. Johnston in 1897, tried to end

excessive flogging for petty offences ostensibly by creating a prison at each of the 19 government stations for lock up of offenders, instead of lashes. Accordingly, on 11th May, 1899, Blantyre Town Council engaged two constables as Town Police to supervise labourers on town roads and maintain order. Thus, it is no coincidence that the first prison was set up in 1899 around Wenela Bus Depot in Blantyre, close to the present day Doogles'. The prison was under Mr. Peter David Handyside Shute Piers, as Chief Constable, serving until 1st April, 1913, when the post was abolished.

Meanwhile, the Zomba Prison came under Kings African Rifles commanding officer until 1901 when G.F Manning took over as Officer-in-Charge, same year. Duff says the first stone building erected in Zomba was actually the prison. The prison was sited and located in the cantonment for the Kings African Rifles, now the 1st Battalion of the Malaŵi Rifles. The native Yao called it *Nyumba ja Maganga* – meaning the Stone House, in contrast to surrounding brick structures.

The fact that Duff committed peccant natives to prison by virtue of his position as magistrate, he was himself nicknamed *Maganga* and, as observed by Duff, that became the name for everyone managing a prison around the area, at the time.

The Prison Ordinance of 1905, as the first statute on prison, set apart Zomba Central – in the military cantonment – and Fort Johnston (Mangochi) Prisons, for long sentence offenders while district headquarter prisons were for short sentence prisoners.

Blantyre prison had also opened with limited facilities specifically for Europeans and Asians. Zomba Central Prison began with fifty-four prisoners and the number grew to one hundred forty-two, after a year. Baker (2003) holds that before the First World War, there had been no separate prisons department in Nyasaland, nor any European officer appointed specially to take charge of prisons.

The military cantonment had a prison for long sentences under the control of the Officer Commanding troops. Those locked for less than six months, were kept at district prisons with the civil police acting as warders under the control of District Commissioners.

Sir George Smith who had been appointed Governor of Nyasaland on 13th May 1913, sought to improve further the organisation of both police and prisons. Earlier on in April, 1913, a formal prison service began with the appointment of a Deputy Superintendent at the Central Prison. Following on that, he called for the first Residents (District Commissioners) Conference on police on 9th December, 1913, which recommended that:

- a) The Police Force should be put on a sounder basis with a central station for training
- b) Conditions of service should be made more attractive in order to get a better class of recruits
- c) That the force should be established under European officers who would take their orders from the Resident with regard to their use and;
- d) That policemen should not serve in their own Districts but be transferred from one District to another

Accordingly, after the war, Sir George Smith, KCMG, undertook to propose the reorganisation of the prison by commissioning the construction of the new Central Prison, in 1917. An offer was first put

to Mr. Edgar Herbert Warren as Prison Superintendent. He declined the post aware that he was about to be promoted to a more remunerative post in the customs department. A caretaker head of the Prison, Mr A.C. Hayter took charge until the arrival of Mr. Jack Archer, DCM, who had accepted the appointment on 21st February, 1919. In the offer letter, the Governor, Sir George Smith, KCMG, wrote to him of the important changes that were intended for prisons in Nyasaland:

... it is the intention to make prison life in Nyasaland very different from what it was when you were in KAR. The new building has been designed for this purpose and will be, when completed, as fine an institution of the kind as you will find in any of the British Colonies. I am glad you are to have before you leave some experience of prison work and discipline in England. You have as Deputy Superintendent a good man who has been trained in Prison work in England and his detailed knowledge and experience should be of great assistance to you. However, during your attendance at a convict establishment here, you should make yourself acquainted generally and as far as possible, with all matters of control, discipline and punishments and the books and records kept. The following points should be attended to: 1. Separate or cellular confinement. 2. Close confinement as punishment. 3. The employment of convicts both in 1 and in association. 4. Moral and other instruction of prisoners. 5. Distribution of duties of the Prison staff. Of course there must be a marked difference between what is done in England and what is attempted in Nyasaland, arising partly in the difference in local conditions and in the physical and mental condition of the prisoners concerned, but the more you can learn about prison work in England the better it will be, I am sure, for the discharge of the duties which lie before you. The new house which is being built for you near the Prison will not be ready by the time you arrive but other arrangements will be made temporarily for your accommodation.

On 18th June, 1919, Jack Archer, DCM, reported for duties as Prison Superintendent. Being the first person to accept the position, it fell to him to supervise a good deal of construction work at the Central Prison during his first few years. At the end of the year, construction of the house for his Deputy, William Henry Crosby, was completed with his own completed the following year.

On top of his prison duties, Jack Archer was also made Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum. Before 1910, lunatics were kept in the then central prison at the KAR camp. In that year a small asylum was built at the camp and continued to be in the charge in command of troops. In 1919, the lunatic asylum passed to Archers' charge.

A lunatic asylum was attached to the jail and started out with eight inmates. The asylum was set up as an auxiliary of the prison with the difference that it would hold those that were picked throughout the country as psychiatric and mental cases. Mwakilama (2005), observes that colonial administrators held the view that psychiatric patients (lunatics), disturbed peace and caused problems in their respective communities. They decided that such people should be imprisoned in district prisons and then sent to the Central Prison for Medical Officers to attend to them. This arrangement relieved communities of the problems which the psychiatric patients caused.

THE 1920 PRISON ORDINANCE

With the head of the Prison settled on his post, the Prison Ordinance was enacted in 1920 which formally set up a Prisons Department in Nyasaland, headquartered at Zomba. The department assumed a coordinating function on prison affairs throughout the country. The Chief Commissioner of Police, Major Francis Trant Stephens, was made Chief Inspector of Prisons. Notwithstanding this administrative arrangement, it was Archers' responsibility to introduce the more rigorous discipline that was required by the new rules made under the Ordinance in those Districts where European Police Officers, were in-charge of Police Stations. On 13th January, 1921, Jack Archer discussed the operationalization of the Prison Ordinance with Major Stephens. In the same year, work started on the bigger lunatic asylum and an incinerator was completed at the end of 1921, with the new prison substantially finished in 1922.

At the end of 1927, prisoner statistics at the Zomba Central Prison, according to the Annual Prison Report for the year, posted an aggregate of 265 prisoners who had been disaggregated in different gangs to serve different purposes. For instance, the year under review recorded 150,000 kilns for bricks processed and 129 wicker-work baskets produced by prisoners. In due course, some lockup facilities or prisons, were established to accomplish certain projects utilizing prison labour. Over the years, such prisons were often disbanded once the project got completed; for example:

- 1) Kanjedza Detention Camp also known as Blantyre Artisan Training Centre was abolished and part of it turned into what is now the Police Training School, around 1960.
- 2) In 1941, Mapanga Prison became a holding center for enemy aliens who were used as labour in the macadamia plantations before their release after the Second World War, whereupon the prison ceased to exist. In 1976, the buildings were converted to a training base for the Malaŵi Young Pioneers until 1993, when it was shelled by the Army.
- 3) Chileka Prison, whose prisoners were put to the construction of Chileka Airport in the early 1930s, until the completion and opening of the airport in May 1934. The prison was ultimately abolished in March 1942, and part of it became a police post;
- 4) Chitedze Prison in Lilongwe was established around 1959, to supply labour for crop research;
- 5) Mpyupyu Prison opened for cattle farming to supply beef and around 1941, there were over fifty cattle;
- 6) Limbe Tung Station Prison supplied labour for research farm on tung crop. The prison continued as present day Bvumbwe Prison;
- 7) Mzuzu Prison was established a few years after Mzuzu town was established as a Tung Estate to supply labour, but after tung failed, the labour was redirected to the Public Works Department Tile Factory established near the present day Mzuzu prison;
- 8) Mkhate Prison was established to supply labour force for the Taiwan-Malaŵi irrigation scheme.

Baker (2003) observes that ... by the mid-1930s Archer, the Head of Prison, had established for himself the public reputation of a progressive prison reformer. He abolished unproductive labour as a

punishment for rule infringement and he took many opportunities to visit other prisons to study their methods and particularly the trades that they taught. He also ensured that all long term prisoners left the Central Prison with a skill – bricklaying, carpentry, tailoring, metalwork or weaving – that would help them re-enter society and remain there. At his instigation, four African trade warders were appointed in 1931 and helped a great deal, in this respect. His wife helped by teaching women prisoners and those in the lunatic asylum to knit both as a source of income and as a therapy for them.

Archer remained at the helm of the Prison for the next twenty years retiring on 18th May 1939 aged 67 and had every reason to be proud of the work he had done as a Superintendent of the Central Prison and the Lunatic Asylum. The Nyasaland Times edition of December, 1938, acknowledged him thus:

Although a strong disciplinarian, he has a pronounced human touch, for which he found ample scope for expression in his reformatory efforts and in the personal interest he took in the welfare of the unfortunate inmates of the Lunatic Asylum who look upon him in the character of father and friend. His iron nerve and strong fearless personality, have had a powerful influence on the many natives who have passed through his hands at the Central Prison, and it can be said with truth that there is no man in the country for whom the average native has greater respect.

Three months after the Second World War broke out, Jack Archer, DCM, retired from retirement becoming active again when he was appointed Officer Commanding H Company from 6th November, 1939. From April, 1940 through to June, 1941, he was made Officer Commanding the Garrison and Headquarters Company at Zomba. Most significantly, during February and March 1942, he was seconded as Acting Superintendent of the Central Prison and Lunatic Asylum under the Nyasaland Government, effectively returning to his previous job. Archers' return was to cover for the absence of his successor Mr. George Sanders Paveley, who was on leave until someone could be appointed Acting Superintendent.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, 1943

Whilst the war raged on, the Prisons Department went through some administrative changes. Instead of a Superintendent, there was now a Commissioner of Prisons to head the department, for which Mr. W.H. Ingram assumed duties on 27th September, 1943. Following this development, all prisons in the Protectorate came under the ultimate control of the Commissioner of Prisons and was no longer under administrative control of the Police.

Administratively, the prison had remained under the direct control and superintendence of the Chief Commissioner of Police since, 1921. The status quo remained especially that at the start of the Second World War, Chief Commissioner had the added responsibility as Head of the newly created Political Intelligence Bureau, whose task was to round-up and incarcerate all enemy aliens. As a result, when Italy joined the Second World War on 10th June, 1940, on the side of Germany, fighting the allied forces of Britain, almost immediately, on the same 10th and 11th June, all Italian Nationals were

rounded up by the police and locked up in British colonies, including Nyasaland. Similarly, many German nationals and others considered enemy aliens were arrested, presumably as a wartime measure to check infiltration of allied territory by enemy informants.

These political detainees were obviously a new phenomenon and the Chief Commissioner had to plan for their specialised holding areas other than the regular prison. In this connection, it was coincidental that by 1939, Alberto Sabbatini, proprietor of the Sabbatini Castle nicknamed Macaroni Castle at Mapanga Estates, faced with economic losses year-in and year-out, decided to sell off the estate comprising the castellated mansion (now used as Prison Training School after previously being used as a Malaŵi Young Pioneers Training base). The castle was, during the course of the war, “borrowed” for use as an internment for those held up as enemy aliens like Italians, Germans and Austrian soldiers. They were rounded up and kept in the castle for some years. The castle was also used for women internees amongst whom were Mrs. Sabbatini.

By the end of 1943, the Nyasaland Prison Service classified its holdings into three, as follows:

- Class I: Zomba Central and Mpyupyu;
- Class II: all Regional or Provincial facilities like Blantyre and Lilongwe
- Class III: all District facilities
- Class IV: added in 1945, comprised all police lock-ups staffed by Nyasaland Police constables.

DEVELOPMENTS AFTER THE WAR AND DURING THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

In 1954, the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland came into effect as a result of which several Departments including Nyasaland Prison Service was taken over by Federal Prisons Department headquartered at Causeway in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, present day Zimbabwe. A Federal Prisons Act was prepared to the Federal Assembly in 1955 to provide a uniform prison service throughout the Federation and a modern penal system for the treatment and rehabilitation of offenders, was effected. Henceforth, all territorial prisons were styled with the prefix Her Majesty’s Prison. At country level, the designation, Commissioner of Prisons was suspended with two Officers-in-Charge responsible and now reported to Salisbury where the Director of Federal Prisons was based. Within the Federal Government, prisons came under the Ministry of Home Affairs until 1958 when a cabinet realignment had reassigned prisons Department to the Ministry of Law (Justice).

The Prison Department after the dissolution of the Federal Government

The status quo reverted to the pre-federation after the dissolution of the federation on 31st December, 1963 to become Nyasaland Prison Service. At independence in 1964, all officers who had been serving under the Federal Government, were retired and those that wished to continue in service had to forgo drawing their pension and were re-engaged under the terms of the Malaŵi Government. The name accordingly changed from Nyasaland Prison Service to Malawi Government

Security Prison, still under an expatriate Commissioner, Mr. J. Keohane. Meanwhile, like was the case with the police, a deliberate arrangement was being made to localise the senior posts in most government agencies following the policy of Africanisation or Localisation which had been adopted.

Mwakilama (2005) notes that at the eve of independence, Europeans comprised the top brass while lower ranks were filled by Africans, invariably because Africans had low educational qualifications for higher office and would have to learn from the Europeans, slowly. The colonial officers would, therefore, remain in their senior positions for a much longer time to be understudied by local officers. Most senior from Superintendent downwards, included: Superintendent J.J. Simbeye; Assistant Superintendents G. Upindi; M.M. Chikhasu; S.A. Mhango; H.G. Makumba; G. Chipote; P.R. Nachipo; P. Kumukumu; J. Odilo; B. Mathumu W. Kanyenda; Gaolers: D. Mpokwe; L. Namadwala; B. Mkwanda; B. Likambale; H.E.E.M. Phiri and H. Chausa who, years later, became the first Malawians to take over from the colonial officers.

Mwakilama (2005) further notes that as at 6th July, 1964, gender featured in the Prison structure in that out of 429 employees, the first seven women were recruited as Wadresses. These were N^o F/1 Ms. L. Malola; N^o F/2 Ms. L. Nyagondwe; N^o F/3 Ms. U. Umali; N^o F/4 Ms. E. Useni; N^o F/5 Ms. A. Chinomba; N^o F/6 Ms. A. Kunenga and N^o F/7 Ms. L. Masamba.

On the attainment of Republican status, 6th July, 1966, the prison service became officially known as the Malaŵi Prisons Service and Mr. J. Keohane continued as head in the rank of Commissioner until retirement in 1968. Senior Superintendent Alan Davison acted as Commissioner for the next three years before he was formally confirmed as Commissioner of Prisons from 16th June, 1970. He retired in 1975 handing over the mantle to the first Malaŵian Commissioner, Mr. Hector Chausa.

In 1971, a prison recruits training school was established at Lilongwe Prison. In 1972, the Training School in Lilongwe continued with forty members of prison staff who underwent a twelve weeks extensive training in prison administration. From 1982, the Malaŵi Prison and Malawi Police were amalgamated and their recruits received similar training at Kanjedza Police Training School and Police College in Zomba, for junior and senior ranks, respectively.

With that development, some senior police officers were transferred from mainstream police ranks to Malaŵi Prison to facilitate efficiency in the Prison general administration. In the same year, a Welfare Branch was introduced responsible for the welfare of all prison personnel and their families, throughout the country. A Welfare Officer from the Malaŵi Police Force was posted to the Prison Department to run the Branch. The first Malaŵian Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. Hector Chausa commented on the developments saying "... my officers are now being trained at the Police Training School and Police College facilities which were not accessible before the amalgamation."

On 7th January, 1983, the Inspector General on Police, Mr. M^cJ Kamwana welcomed 28 Prison Warders, 82 policemen and three policewomen into the Malaŵi Police Force after their successful pass out at the Kanjedza Police Training School. Following this harmonisation, Malaŵi Prison abolished the rank of Corporal for which holders became 2nd Sergeants; and 2nd Sergeants rose to 1st Sergeants with 1st Sergeants becoming Gaolers and in turn, Gaolers rose to Inspectors.

Subsequently, the head of Prisons was renamed as Chief Commissioner of Prisons with Mr. Jermoth Chikanamoyo as the first holder of that title. In the same year 1983, two Prison Officers formed part of an eighteen strong group of Cadet Officers that completed their six months commanding Cadet course at the Police College at which the Inspector General took the salute on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief.

A few years later, in 1986, the Malaŵi Police Magazine, a quarterly mouthpiece of the Malaŵi Police Force, carried a first centerspread of promotions that included Malaŵi Prison Officers like: Mr. Z.A. Mwambala, Mr. S. Maluwa, Mr. M.S. Banda and Mr. W.T. Mwale (to Assistant Commissioner of Prison); Mr. B. Kasanje and Mr. B.R. Mabeti (to Senior Superintendent), Mr. E.D.M. Chipili, Mr. R.A. Makawa, Mr. Manyusa, Mr. D. Mpokwe and Mr. H.L. Mbwana (to Assistant Superintendent).

THE CREATION OF A POLITICAL PRISONERS DEPARTMENT: 1964 – 1994

In 1939, a new branch was created in the Nyasaland Police; the Political Intelligence Bureau which over the years evolved into Special Branch before it got detached from the police after the 1994 elections, to become what is now the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB). At its creation, the purpose was to check on enemies of the state, both perceived and real. At the time, those perceived to be enemies of the state were those suspected and confirmed to be collaborators of the enemies of the state in the wake of the Second World War, which had just broken out.

The issue, however, was that prior to 1939, the notion of political enemies of the state did not feature that prominently and therefore, none of the existing prisons held any political prisoners.

The responsibility rested with Criminal Investigations Department (CID), under the Commissioner. When Italy joined the war on 10th June, 1939, the next day, all resident Italian and German nationals were rounded up by the police and locked up in British colonies including Nyasaland for being perceived to be enemy informants and were interned specially at Blantyre or Mapanga Estate in the Sabbatini castle. Additionally, the internees' premises elsewhere within the country were sealed and placed on police guard. All aliens over the age of sixteen were required to register from 15th October, 1940 and thereafter, to carry a registration card. Later, 94 Jewish refugees, mostly German or Hungarian nationals from Cyprus, were accepted and accommodated at Nankumba Estate. Eventually, after the war, these were unconditionally released but the branch which had now become Special Branch, continued to exist.

Large arrests by the Special Branch became common especially following "Operation Sunrise" in 1959, which precipitated into the State of Emergency where the branch had been keeping lists of potential detainees, who were in fact perceived to be enemies of the state. Mwakilama (2005) says Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda, sent a warning shot on 26th July, 1964, in a speech on return from OAU pointing out that he was for: "one party, one leader, one government and no nonsense about it"

A few weeks later, some Cabinet Ministers who fell out with Dr. Banda, went into exile and were immediately perceived to be potential political threats and a Preventive Detention Bill was introduced in 1964, followed by the Public Safety Regulations Act in 1965. Following on that, several detention

centres for political threats, such as, Dzeleka (after m'dzaleka meaning "you will repent"), were established. This detention camp operated as any other prison prior to its conversion into a place at which political prisoners were incarcerated. Mikuyu and Nsanje prisons were also added to host political prisoners to facilitate easy detention, containment and ostracism of government critics.

Head of Prison Service

A PROFILE OF JACK ARCHER, FIRST HEAD OF THE CENTRAL PRISON IN NYASALAND: 1920-1942

Jack Archer, who had a long and richly varied life, was born into a modest farming family in Essex in 1871. He joined the Rifle Brigade on his 18th birthday and served in Mashonaland in 1896; with Kitchener at Omdurman in 1898; at Ladysmith and elsewhere during the Anglo-Boer War, 1899 - 1902; in Crete and Malta, 1902-5; and India from 1905 to 1908. He was then seconded as Regimental Sergeant Major to the 1st Battalion of the Kings African Rifles in Nyasaland. With the outbreak of the First World War, he rejoined his parent Regiment and three weeks later in France was seriously wounded and taken prisoner for the remainder of the war. He left the army in 1919 and was appointed Superintendent of the Central Prison in Nyasaland. He held this post, by mid 1930s proving himself the public reputation of a progressive prison reformer, until retiring in 1939. He ensured that all long term prisoners left the Central Prison with a skill that would help them re-enter society and remain there: bricklaying, carpentry, tailoring, metal work, weaving. On retiring, he moved to Naiwale in Zomba, for settlement. On the declaration of the war in 1939, he rejoined the KAR and was commissioned at the age of 68. He retired again in 1947 and died in 1954. As a young man, he was an extraordinarily successful athlete and sportsman and throughout, virtually the whole of his life, he was a remarkable rifle marksman. He was awarded 16 campaign and other medals, including the DCM, at Ladysmith and the MBE, for his prison work in Nyasaland.

CHRONOLOGY OF COMMISSIONERS AND CHIEF COMMISSIONERS OF PRISON

1. **Mr Allan Daveson (the last Colonial Officer)**
2. **Mr Hector Chausa:** Mr Hector Chausa, the first Malaŵian Prison officer to attain the rank of Commissioner and head of the Department was born to Mr Jameson Mulekano Chausa and *Mayi* Jesse Chausa in 1932 at Namulu Village, Traditional Authority Kadewere in Chiradzulu District. He went to Namulu Primary School for his early education and later Providence Industrial Mission before joining the Nyasaland Prison Service in 1953 through the Zomba Central Prison. **Enlistment:** He had in fact wanted to join the police (around the same time Mr M^cJ Kamwana was joining Nyasaland Police in 1953) but was rejected on account of falling short on height. He therefore accepted enlistment in the Nyasaland Prison Service in the same year 1953. He thereafter devoted his time and committed himself to the job slowly rising in ranks through the following career path: 1953-57- he was at the Central Prison when prisons came under Federal responsibility; 1957- he was posted to Her Majestys Mphuyuyu Prison Farm before returning to Her Majestys Zomba Central Prison in 1960; In 1962- he was

transferred to Her Majestys Ntcheu Prison until 1964 when he, like the rest, retired from the Federal Prison Service and got back to Zomba Central Prison getting re-engaged under the Malaŵi Prison Service effective 1st January 1964; 1965 –remained at the Central Prison appointed as Quartermaster until late 1972 when in the rank of Assistant Superintendent he was placed to understudy the colonial officer, Commissioner Alan Davison. On retirement of Commissioner Davison in 1975, Mr Chausa took over, as Superintendent signing off as Acting Commissioner.¹ In 1979, he had been sent to the United Kingdom for advanced course in prison administration. Thereafter, in June 1981 he was confirmed into the substantive rank of Commissioner of Prisons a few months after M’J Kamwana’s designation was retitled to Inspector General. In 1982, Malaŵi Prisons was amalgamated with Malaŵi Police under the overall headship of the Inspector General and recruits from both trained together at Police Training School as well as upgrading courses at Zomba Police College² On retirement in March 1986 which was ahead of normal retirement owing to medical grounds, he settled in Namadidi, Traditional Authority Mulumbe in Zomba. In May 1986, Mr Chausa passed on and was laid to rest in Namadidi

3. **Mr Jermoth Chawanda Chikanamoyo (1989-1990):** Mr Jermoth C. Chikanamoyo came from Kansonga Village, Traditional Authority Kalumo in Ntchisi. He was born on 1st July 1940 and went to Kamsonga Junior Primary School then Ng’ombe Senior Primary School. Enlistment: on 1st July 1961, he enlisted for basic Police training through Kanjedza. On 1st February 1968 he rose to 2nd Sergeant. His next promotion to 1st Sergeant came through on 1st November 1971 before being elevated to Gaoler on 1st April 1974. On 28th December 1978, he earned promotion to Assistant Superintendent. The next elevation in rank came on 1st December 1979 when he became Assistant Commissioner of Prisons. The next year, he rose to Deputy Commissioner of Prison on 1st June 1980. Six years later, on 21st May 1986, he rose to Commissioner. Ultimately on 1st February 1989 he got to the top spot of Chief Commissioner of Prison. **Professional attainment:** In 1985, he attended a Conference on Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders in Milan, Italy. Went to Police College, Zomba for command courses. **Responsibilities:** most postings were based at Headquarters but in 1982, he was Regional Prison Officer-Centre. In 1986, he was Commissioner at Prison Headquarters before heading the Prison Department as Chief Commissioner from early 1989. **Retirement:** He retired from the service on 27th April 1990 and went to resettle at his village. He passed on 25th November 1992 and was laid to rest with military honours.
4. **Mr Whiskies Thomas Mwale (1990-1997):** Mr Whiskies Thomas Mwale was born on 17th April 1940 and hailed from Kayeya Village, Traditional Authority Kaomba in Kasungu. He underwent basic recruit training at the Police Training School in Limbe in 1960 as part of the inaugural squad when PTS opened. After pass out, he was attested Prison Warder on 1st July 1960 and earned his next promotion to 2nd Sergeant on 1st November 1973. On 1st February 1978, he was elevated to Gaoler. His next promotion to Assistant Superintendent came on 1st February 1980. After three months he rose to full Superintendent on 1st June 1980. On 1st January 1982 he moved to Senior Superintendent before rising again to Assistant Commissioner of Prisons on 1st December 1983. His next promotion to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Prisons came on 21st May 1986. On 1st February 1987, he rose to Deputy Commissioner of Prisons. On 1st February 1989 he was made Commissioner of Prisons before ultimately rising to the top spot of Chief Commissioner of Prisons on 1st June 1990.

Professional attainment: In 1984 he attended the Special Command Course at Police College, Zomba and proceeded on many other in-house courses. **Responsibilities:** OC Blantyre Prison (1982); Central Region Prison Headquarters (1982-84); Regional Prison Officer for the Centre (1984-90); Chief Commissioner (1990-97). **Retirement:** on 31st May 1997, Mr W.T. Mwale retired from the service.

5. **Mr Liwewe Inuru Chimanthula Mahamudu (1997-1999):** Mr Liwewe I.C. Mahamudu hailed from Nkhono Village, Traditional Authority Malengachanzi, Nkhota kota. He was born on 4th April 1944 at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe, formerly Southern Rhodesia before he returned home to Malaŵi and enrolled at Nkhotakota Primary School from 1951 through to 1958. In 1959 through to 1963, he went to Nkhota kota Secondary School. Thereafter, he joined the Malaŵi Young Pioneers Movement from which he earned Diploma in Leadership. **Enlistment and Career:** On 1st January 1968, he joined as Prison Warder through Police Training School at Kanjedza. He earned his next promotion to 2nd Sergeant on 1st October 1972. Seven years later on 1st September 1979, he was promoted to 1st Sergeant. On 1st March 1983, he was promoted to Gaoler. On 1st June 1986, he earned promotion as Inspector. His next promotion to Assistant Superintendent came on 1st January 1988. On 1st April 1990 he rose to full Superintendent. Two years later on 1st September 1992 he was elevated in rank to Senior Superintendent. The next year on 1st March 1993, he rose to Assistant Commissioner of Prisons (ACP). His next promotion to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police came on 30th January 1996. Ultimately, on 22nd May 1997 he was appointed Chief Commissioner of Prisons. **Professional attainment:** In 1995, he attended a Trainer-of-Trainers for Custodial Corps in Kampala, Uganda. In June 1999, he attended the International Human Rights and Instruments Conference for Africa. **Responsibilities:** Mr Mahamudu had variously served as OC Thyolo (1979); Nkhate (1980); Welfare Officer Headquarters (1983); OC Nsanje (1986); Chichiri (1987); Nsanje (1988); Dzaleka (1990); Station Officer, Lilongwe (1991); Mpyupyu (1992); Zomba Central Prison (1993); Mzuzu (1993); Regional Prison Officer-North (1994); Regional Prison Officer-South (1996); Chief Commissioner of Prison (1997). **Family:** In 1967, aged twenty-three, he married Amina Lunda with whom he sired nine children; seven girls and two boys. **Retirement and Death:** Chief Commissioner Mahamudu retired from service on 31st July 1999 and sadly passed on 28th November of the same year and was laid to rest in accordance with Islamic rites at Nkhono Village, TA Malengachanzi, Nkhotakota
6. **Mr Winston Daisi Manyera (2000-2004):** Mr Winston Daisi Manyera was born 31st December 1949 to Mr Joseph Daisi Manyera and *Mayi* Iness Chausa. The parents hailed from Chatha Village, Traditional Likoswe in Chiradzulu. Young Winston went to Nguludi Boys Primary School before moving on to formerly Zomba Boys Primary School now known as Sacred Heart Primary School. From here, Winston was selected for form one at Chiradzulu between 1964-65 before transferring to Henry Henderson Institute between 1966-67 where he emerged with a Cambridge Certificate (O Level). **Enlistment:** Mr Manyera enlisted into the Malaŵi Police Force through Police Training School on 5th August 1969. From here he passed out as a Prison Warder and built an illustrious career rising to Chief Commissioner of Prisons through the following career path: On 1st July 1976, he was promoted to 2nd Sergeant. On 1st July 1979, he rose to 1st Sergeant. He moved to Gaoler on 1st May, 1981. On 1st March 1985, he rose to Inspector after which on 1st January 1988 he became Assistant Superintendent. On 1st September 1992 he was confirmed in the rank of full Superintendent. His next promotion

arrived on 15th September 1994 as Senior Superintendent. On 30th January 1996, he became Assistant Commissioner of Prison. His next promotion to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police arrived on 9th January 1998. On 25th January 1999. The next year, on 27th February 2000 he rose to Chief Commissioner of Prison. **Education and Professional Qualifications:** In 1995 he participated in the Training of Trainers for Custodial Corps held in Kampala, Uganda. In 1996, he attended the Conference on Human Rights besides several command courses. **Responsibilities:** As Warder, he served in Administration at Headquarters then was posted to teach at the Chilwa Juvenile Approved School in 1969. He later served as OC Nkhata By; Mulanje; Mikuyu; Thyolo; Mzuzu. In 1995, he was National Prison Sokesperson before becoming Regional Prison Officer-Centre in 1996. In 1999, he was Commissioner Administration after which he rose to the very top. **Retirement:** Mr Manyera, a devout Catholic who had for a long time served as Church Council Chairperson, retired on 30th June 2004 as head of the Malaŵi Prison Service in the rank of Chief Commissioner of Prisons. He resettled at Mpunga location, TA Chikowi within the municipality of Zomba. **Family:** Mr Winston Manyera found love in Ester Matewere and took her hand in marriage in 1973. Over the next thirty-two years of their married life, they had together been blessed with nine children and several grandchildren at the time Mr Manyera was recalled to the Lord on 12th July 2005. He was laid to rest with military honours at the Zomba Cathedral Cemetery.

- Mr McDonald Chaona (2005-2012):** Mr McDonald Chaona was born on 23rd March 1954 and hailed from Balamanja (Kapita-apa) in Traditional Authority Mlumbe in Zomba District. After school, he enlisted through basic Police Training at Kanjedza on 3rd December 1971 and passed out as a Prison Warder. On 1st April 1980, he earned his first promotion to 2nd Sergeant. Next on 1st April 1984, he was promoted to 1st Sergeant. On 1st November 1986, he rose to Gaoler then on 1st December 1990, made it to Inspector. His next elevation came in the rank of Assistant Superintendent on 1st April 1993. On 2nd June 1994, he rose to full Superintendent. His next rise to Senior Superintendent arrived on 30th January 1996. On 12th November 1997, he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Prison before rising yet again to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Prison on 15th February 1999. On 5th May 2000, he rose to Commissioner of Prisons responsible for Operations. His next rank, Deputy Chief Commissioner arrived on 11th November 2003. Ultimately, he was appointed Chief Commissioner of Prison on 22nd June 2005. **Professional Courses:** He underwent various refresher courses at the Police College, Zomba in 1986. In 1988, he attended Responsibility Courses at the Malaŵi Prison Training School thereafter, Cadet Course at Zomba Police College in 1990. In 1995, he participated in a Senior Management Development Course at the Department of Correctional Services in South Africa. **Responsibilities:** As Gaoler, he served as Secretary to the Chief Commissioner in 1987. In 1988, he was Discipline Officer at Dzaleka Prison. Between 1991-94, he was Instructor at the Police Training School responsible for prison syllabi. He served variously as OC Chitipa (1994); Mzuzu; Lilongwe; Station Officer (1995); OC Lilongwe (1996); Zomba Central Prison (1997); Regional Prison Officer-East (1998); Regional Prison Officer-Centre (1999); Commissioner Operations (2000); Deputy Chief Commissioner (2003); Chief Commissioner (2005). **Family:** He married Felista Maplago with whom together, raised eleven children. **Death:** He passed on 21st April 2012 and was laid to rest with full prison honours at Balamanja Village, TA Mlumbe, Zomba.

8. **Mr Kennedy A.L. Nkhoma (2013-2015):** Mr Kennedy Alex Laudesi Nkhoma was born on 26th September 1969 and hails from Chimoka Village, Traditional Authority Chitukula, in Lilongwe. **Enlistment:** Mr Nkhoma enlisted through Police Training School in Kanjedza and passed out as Best Recruit. He was first appointed on 1st September 1990 and placed in personnel department for four years, responsible to the Chief Commissioner of Prisons on matters relating to personnel, Administration and welfare of the officers within the Department of Prisons. His career progression went through the following promotions: 2/Sgt PS7, S/Insp. PS5, Insp, PS4, A/Supt. PS3, Supt PS2, S/Supt PS1, Assistant Commissioner of Prisons P7, Senior Assistant Commissioner P5, Deputy Commissioner P4, Commissioner P2, Chief Commissioner (Grade C). He was then reassigned duties to serve as Chief Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security. **Responsibilities:** Throughout his service in the Prison Department, Mr Kennedy Nkhoma has been in key positions most significantly in training and administration. In 1996 he was appointed Deputy Commandant when Mapanga Estate had just been handed over to the Prison Department for conversion and use as a Prison Training School. Three years later in 1999, he was appointed Commandant and Service Training Officer for the next five years. On 4th June, 2020 he was appointed Commissioner of Prisons for Operations and in the next two years was appointed Acting Chief Commissioner on 14th May 2012 before being confirmed in the position on 5th December in the same year. He served in the position until 31st December 2015 when he was reassigned as Chief Director in the Ministry of Home Affairs with effect from 1st January 2016. **Medals:** In his entire career, Mr Kennedy Nkhoma became a recipient of four medals of meritorious honour as follows: PSM - Presidential Service Medal; MSM- Meritorious Service Medal; Gallant Fighter Medal and Long Service & Good Conduct Medal **Academic and Professional Attainments:** Mr Kennedy Nkhoma always believes in adding value to himself and as such throughout his service higher responsibilities were attained out of recognition of his capability illustrated through the following: In 1990 he earned the Best Recruit Award; in 2001 he earned a Diploma in Business Administration from, in 2003 he was awarded an Advanced Diploma in Business Administration and in the same year became a Trainer of Trainers in Kenya; in 2006, he earned a Certificate in Security Studies from the Witwatersrand University of South Africa; the following year, 2007, he obtained an Executive Masters in Business Administration from the Eastern and Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI)

9. **Dr Little Dinizulu Mtengano (2015-2017):** (*Acting Chief Commissioner of Prisons*). Little Dinizulu Mtengano hails from Gowampingo Village, Traditional Authority Kaphuka, Dedza. He was born on 11th March 1960 at Domasi Rural Hospital in Zomba. He went to Domasi Government Primary School then moved to Mtendere Primary School in Dedza from where he got selected in 1978 for post-primary education at Umbwi Secondary School. In 1982, he obtained his Malaŵi School Certificate of Education and went on to enrol with Namitete Technical College from where he obtained a City and Guilds of London Advanced Certificate in Brick/Blocklaying and Concreting. **Engagement with Prison Service:** on 19th January 1988 he joined the Malaŵi Prison Service on engagement terms and recommendation as Technical Officer and was made in Charge of the Prison Project taking over the construction on the New Domasi Prison from Ministry of Works. A year later, on 1st January 1989, he was integrated into the mainstream Prison Service in the rank of 1st Sergeant even without the initial basic training. On 1st September 1990, he was promoted to GIr Sub Inspector of Prison on recommendation of Mr Benard Likoko a visiting Commissioner of Botswana Prison Service when he paid a visit to the Project Department. On 1st October 1993,

he was promoted to Inspector of Prison after completion of an Officer Cadets Course at Police College in Zomba. On 2nd June 1994, he was elevated to Assistant Superintendent. On 12th September 1997 another promotion to Superintendent PS2 followed. On 16th November 2001, he was promoted to Assistant Commissioner of Prison. Three years later, on 4th May 2004, he was promoted to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Prisons. On 8th March 2008 he earned promotion as Deputy Commissioner of Prison. On 30th October 2015 he earned accelerated promotion skipping the rank of Commissioner to Deputy Chief Commissioner. Barely a month, he was appointed Acting Chief Commissioner of Prison and held fort for a year and nine months. On 26th July 2017 he was deployed to Ministry of Defence as Director of Administration retiring on the post on 10th March 2020. **Education and Professional Qualifications:** as a certified Technician, he spent all his time in Projects Department and upskilled himself through Malaŵi Institute of Management where he earned a Certificate in Project Management in 2000. In 2009, he received an Advanced diploma in Project Management. In 2014 he became a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate in Criminology, Reformation and Rehabilitation of Offenders from the University of Texas, USA. In summary, he served as Prison Projects Officer for sixteen years; Regional Commanding Officer for thirteen years and one year ten months holding fort as Acting Chief Commissioner of Prisons. **Family:** Dr Mtengano, a Presbyterian of the Nkhoma Synod is happily married and has four children

10. Ms Wandika Phiri (2017 – Present)