

Media Landscape in Malawi (1964-1994)

Presentation to 2nd Year Students of Media Studies at MUBAS
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Lost History Foundation

The landscape (1964-1994)

➤ *“Life in the 70s was a matter of persecution and perseverance for journalists. The same could be said of intellectuals at the University of Malawi, or of any other persons whose sensitive professional activities were kept under constant surveillance by the police and other intelligence organisations of the state. They did this for up to 30 years...”* - (Alaudini Osman, 4th December, 2018)

Cabinet Crisis of 1964

➤ What was it?

➤ How did it impact on:

1. access to information
2. generation of knowledge

Case studies

1. Control of content and areas of research
2. Criminalization of topics
3. Censorship
4. Ownership of media houses ie

MBC radio

Malawi News Agency (MANA)

Daily Times (1973)

Malawi news (1959)

5. Arrests of 8 journalists in May 1973

Levison Lifikilo, Austin Mmadi, Victor Ndovi, Mathews Ndovi, Lloyd Piringu, Douglas Chikwawa (Times). Author/freelancer Edison Mpina, Roy Manda (journalist at the Ministry of Information)

6. Exile of Editor-Times (Aldini Osman) in 1975

Case studies

7. Dismissal/arrests of 3 journalists at MBC radio in March 1985

Jonathan Kumtambila (Editor, Times); Sunday Kuwali (Editor Malawi News); Paul Akomenji (Editor, MANA).

“Man cannot live without a woman...”

Bertha Mweso (MBC radio) detained for 4 months for protesting

8. Brown Mpinganjira, Deputy Director of Information (1986)

9. Murder of a journalist, Mkwapatira Mhango in Oct. 1989 in Lusaka

10. Foreign journalists squeezed and deportations ie Julian Burges (1972); Mike Hall and Melinda Ham (1990)

Democratic transition of 1992/1993

- Independent newspapers outside and role of fax machines
- The Democrat by AFORD and others smuggled in
- Proliferation of independent newspapers inside 1992/1993

Independent newspapers inside 1992/1993

- 1. Financial Post by Aldini Osman (former Editor at Times)
- 2. Michiru Sun by Edward Chitsulo (former Editor at Times)
- 3. UDF News
- 4. The Nation by Aleke Banda (first to run Malawi News)

➤ Others:

Independent Enquirer,

Monitor,

New Express

New Voice

Financial Digest

Hit of the Week

➤ By March 1994, over 20 newspapers on the streets

References

<https://books.google.co.bw/books?id=ZyIpVV3FZlAC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Where+Silence+Rules:+The+Suppression+of+Dissent+in+Malawi&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwir6qrXwOjMAhWLlcAKHXN5CywQ6AEIGjAA#v=onepage&q=Where%20Silence%20Rules%3A%20The%20Suppression%20of%20Dissent%20in%20Malawi&f=false>

<https://popula.com/2018/12/04/malawi-first-daily/>

Google cabinet crisis of 1964