

Attachment: Media Coverage and Pictures Quarter 3 2023

Poster Malawi National Para Games 28 December 2023

MALAWI
Paralympic Committee

NATIONAL FINALS

MALAWI
PARA GAMES

28
DECEMBER

DEVELOPING ELITE PARA SPORT AT NATIONAL LEVEL

VENUE: BINGU NATIONAL STADIUM

TIME: FROM 8:00AM

MALAWI
Paralympic Committee

TRANSFORMERS
REPAIRS, SERVICE & MAINTENANCE

Delivered by

In partnership on Para Sport Against Stigma with

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INTERNATIONAL PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE

Loughborough University London

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News and Social Media Coverage Malawi Paralympic Committee (Quarter 3 2023)

Mercy Sikelo sealed Scorchers leakages **PAGE 36**

Playing with Robert Ng'ambi-a dream that came true **PAGE 37**

Transforming youth football **PAGE 38**

Sunday Times

SPORT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2023 | VOL.19, NO. 992 | www.times.mw

CASTEL MASTERS

Bullets continue dominance with third trophy



IT IS A TREBLE—Bullets celebrate—Picture by Emmanuel Dzagahobwa

STORY ON PAGE 36



Para-games give hope

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Sponsor lauds NRFA for sound management

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Published by Blantyre Newspapers Limited, Private Bag 39, Blantyre. Tel.: 01071 101/070/563 Fax: 01 071 233. www.times.mw. E-mail: sundaytimes@bntimes.com

Sports Council commits Support for parasports

SINGAYAZI KAMINJOLO
STAFF REPORTER

Malawi National Council of Sports has assured the Malawi Paralympics Committee (MPC) that government is committed to supporting the development of parasports.

Sports Council chairperson Sunduzwayo Madise made the commitment during the prize presentation of the National Para Games at Bingu National Stadium in Lilongwe on Thursday.

He said: "I would like to assure you that the government, through Sports Council, will continue supporting para-athletics to make sure that they implement programmes that will assist in developing the game.

"At the same time, let me remind the association to keep following the sports association management guidelines that were introduced by the council because that is the only way we can develop and promote sport in the country."



Madise (in cap) appreciates a game of chess

Madise said the incorporation of para-athletics in the Malawi Youth Games is a demonstration that Sports Council wants to see the sport to develop from the grass roots.

He expressed satisfaction with the performance of para-athletes as well as the Malawi Paralympic executive committee and has since

appealed for corporate support.

MPC president James Chiutsi described the national championship as a huge success.

He said: "We surpassed what we wanted to achieve, including identifying athletes for the upcoming international competitions. We also wanted to test our

events managing abilities.

"Further to that, we wanted to show stakeholders that whatever support they are giving to the committee is bearing fruit. So, we are very happy today."

The event drew 120 paraathletes countrywide. Initially, MPC had anticipated 200 athletes to take part.

The athletes competed in field and track, wheelchair basketball, chess, powerlifting and others.

Chiutsi thanked government, K-2 Transformers, British and Irish embassies for their support.

Malawi Sports Schools Association president Blackson Malamula commended MPC for the successful organisation of the event.

He said: "We are impressed because they are targeting schools. Our expectation is that the talent identified today will be nurtured and monitored so that it can represent the country in the future." ■

PHOTOGRAPH: COURTESY OF SPORTS COUNCIL

EXIT 2023 YEAR ENDER ENTER 2024



By Mphatso Malidadi

FCB powers youth football

First Capital Bank (FCB) reinforced its commitment to youth football after increasing the package for the 2023 Katswiri Under-20 League to K45 million from K40 million.

FCB Head of Marketing Twikale Chirwa, speaking during the launch in Mangochi in July, said the bank was committed to continue supporting football development in the country.

FCB has been sponsoring the under-20 league for the past 14 years.

Mangochi-based side Galaxy beat Kababa FC of Zomba 2-0 to mark the start of the championship that starts at district level before going regional and then national.

"We have increased sponsorship after observing the impact of the league on the domestic scene. The league is positively contributing to the national team. In recent years the league has produced Flames players including the likes of Lanjese Nkhoma, Peter Banda and Fransisco Madinga," Chirwa was quoted as saying.

FCB Head of Marketing Twikale Chirwa said FCB is excited to see the league bearing



DECORATED—Chicago captain receives the trophy



UNDER DISPUTED TRANSFER—Mwalilino

shine on the national stage," he was quoted as saying.

The FCB Katswiri U-20 national finals featured four teams, with Chicago representing the Northern Region, Factory representing the Central Region while Galaxy FC and Manchester Motor Spares represented the South.

Meanwhile, Manchester Motor Spares lodged a complaint with Football Association of Malawi (Fam) over the crowning of Chicago as FCB Katswiri Under-20 champions.

Manchester alleged that Chicago used an ineligible player Anthony Mwalilino during the national finals.

The side alleged that Mwalilino belonged to Karonga United Reserve.

However, National Youth Football Association (NYFA) General Secretary James Sawerengera said the committee cleared Chicago as they proved that they signed the player from Karonga in August.

"After our initial ruling, Manchester were not satisfied so they appealed to us. We directed them to Fam because on our part we already made the ruling," Sawerengera was quoted.

Nevertheless, Manchester Managing Director Christopher Chikopa, who doubles as Technical Director, said they have enough evidence to prove that Mwalilino was playing for Karonga beyond August when the alleged transfer was made.

"We hope justice will be served. Otherwise, he has been playing for Karonga Reserve in Nyasa Capital Finance," Chikopa said.



LET THE RACE BEGIN—Officials pose after unveiling sponsorship

fruits by producing a number of players who are currently competing on both local and international scenes.

During the national finals, Karonga-based Chicago won this year's FCB Katswiri Under-20 National Youth Football League championship after beating

Factory FC 2-0 in a thrilling showdown at Mpira Stadium in Blantyre on December 2.

Striker Bongani Munthali gave Chicago a deserved early lead before Ernest Mwendete doubled the lead with a minute to half time.

Chicago Coach Diego

Nkhonya expressed excitement at clinching the coveted trophy this year.

"The team has worked tirelessly and today's success is testament to their dedication. Our sights are set on producing young talent and this win is a stepping stone for our players to

MPC lauds regional qualifiers

PARALYMPICS

By Llywellyn Mpsasa

Malawi Paralympic Committee (MPC) emphasized the central role of regional qualifying games ahead of the national finals. MPC Vice President

Joseph Galanje made the remarks at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (Kubesa) Sports Complex after the regions hosted qualifiers on Saturday.

"These games play a crucial role in discovering and nurturing talent among athletes with disabilities."

"The success of the regional qualifying games serves as a testament to our commitment and the broader community to inclusivity and the advancement of athletes with disabilities in Malawi," Galanje said.

Inclusive Education Coordinator for the Southwest Education

Division in the Ministry of Education, Ellard Katantha, took the opportunity to advocate for inclusivity.

"Time is ripe to break barriers and misconceptions. Let us embrace inclusivity and pave the way for a future where everyone can participate and succeed

in the world of sports and education," Katantha said.

MPC Southern Region Chairperson James Mitanga commended parents and guardians in the region for their growing understanding and unwavering support.

"Your efforts in encouraging and

allowing children to actively participate in various sporting events is awesome.

"The commitment is instrumental in shaping a future where every athlete, regardless of ability, is given the opportunity to thrive and be recognised on the sporting stage," he said.

MPC empowers Para Powerlifting technical officials

By Lijewellie Mpana

Malawi Paralympic Committee (MPC) has started training technical officials as one way of developing Para Powerlifting.

MPC Vice President Joseph Galanje said the initiative is aimed at improving the standards of para sports, particularly in the field of powerlifting.

Galanje made the remarks at Blantyre Youth Centre on Monday, when the association conducted powerlifting training for coaches drawn from the six districts across the Southern Region.

"For us to have exceptional athletes, we need exceptional coaches. The focus of the training was to enhance coaches' skills in scouting, training and producing individuals with physical disabilities who can excel in sports," Galanje said.

He said the training session served as a platform for MPC to empower coaches with the



EQUIPPED WITH KNOWLEDGE—Participants—Picture by Lijewellie Mpana

necessary skills to identify and nurture latent talent within the para sports community.

"We are nurturing the development of para powerlifting talents who will

help the committee identify and groom potential para powerlifting athletes capable of representing Malawi on the international stage," he said.

Galanje expressed optimism

about the positive impact of the initiative, believing that it would contribute significantly to the growth and recognition of para sports in the country.

The training programme

drawn participants from Blantyre, Mulanje, Phalombe, Chiradzulu, Zomba and Machingo.

Speaking on behalf of other stakeholders, Kamuzu University of Health Sciences Sports Complex General Manager George Chitanga, applauded MPC for the effort.

"The organisation has taken the right steps to empower para athletes, ultimately contributing to the expansion of the talent database.

"By investing in the development of coaches, the committee will fortify the foundations of para sports in Malawi, ensuring a continuous influx of skilled and dedicated athletes," Chitanga said.

One of the participants, Gloria Kufunda from Phalombe, emphasised the potential of Malawi to thrive in para powerlifting.

"This initiative has the potential to elevate Malawi's standing in para powerlifting and, with dedicated coaches, we can create a formidable team," she said.

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34 SPORT

THE NATION
THURSDAY, 29 DECEMBER 2022

The rise and rise of Paralympics in Malawi



NINYAZI KAMIRIJOLO
Year-Enders

The Year 2023 has seen the para sport expanding its reach by launching four more sporting disciplines.

For years, Malawi focused on para athletics which has unearthed Taonela Banda as a trailblazer with her exploits on the international stage.

The visually-impaired middle-distance runner represented Malawi at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games at her second successive Games after the Rio Games in 2016.

She finished 10th in the world in the 1,500 metres (m) race. Drawing inspiration from the Tokyo feat, the Malawi Paralympics Committee (MPC) has engaged another gear to develop the sport.

This year, the committee introduced blind chess, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball and para powerlifting.

Malawi also hosted its first-ever national championship that drew over 150 para athletes from all the regions of the country.

In an interview, MPC president James Chitsui said Malawi needs to have more coaches than just athletes at the 2024 Paris Games.

"We want to be represented in powerlifting, sitting volleyball, wheelchair basketball and also



Paralympic athletes participating in a competition



Chitsui: We want to have a strong national team

athletics. We want to have a strong national team and many options in relation to classification," he said.

MPC has introduced a programme supported by the International Paralympics

volunteers. So far, 15 district committees have been formed. These committees have helped MPC reach out to remotest areas. The project has helped MPC train more administrators and technical officials."

There have been several milestones in the Paralympic sport as MPC strives for equal treatment with non-disabled Olympic athletes, but there is a large funding gap between Olympic and Paralympic athletes.

Central Region Paralympics Committee chairperson Paul Malunga said: "Unlike other sports disciplines, para sport is very expensive because each athlete has to be accompanied by a guardian. If you have 50 athletes then in terms of logistics you have to prepare for 100 people. It's expensive, that's why we need more corporate support. That's the biggest challenge we face in the country."

But the good news is that the sport has started enjoying

corporate support with the coming in of the South Keesan company K-2 Transformers with sponsorship that includes training centre, hostels, equipment and money.

In an interview with The Nation, K-2 Transformers president Tra Yang Kim said he was committed to supporting the sport.

"We are committed to support the MPC to achieve its objectives of developing the sport in the country and representing Malawi in international tournaments. This is a long-term commitment. Apart from the financial contribution, we also want to use our international connections to link MPC with other organisations to get technical support and exposure," he said.

Despite these strides, discrimination has been one of the challenges hampering the sport's development.

As one way of lobbying for para games support, the International Olympic Committee has pledged its commitment to equal access to athletics for all people into its charter.

Recalls the charter in part: "The practice of sport is a human right. Every individual must have the possibility of practising sport, without discrimination of any kind and in the Olympic spirit, which requires mutual understanding with a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play. Any form of discrimination with regard to a country or a person on grounds of race, religion, politics, gender or otherwise is incompatible with belonging to the Olympic Movement."



National Paralympic Games start today

SINGAYAZI KAMINJOLO
STAFF REPORTER

National Paralympic Games are scheduled to start today at Bingu National Stadium in Lilongwe with 200 para athletes expected to participate.

Malawi Paralympic Committee president James Chiutsi said people should expect a competitive event.

He said: "This is the biggest para games event domestically and athletes will compete in wheelchair basket, sitting volleyball, para athletes, blind chess and para powerlifting.

"We have athletes from every corner of the country and they will compete in five sports disciplines. We want people to come and watch the growth of the para sport in the country. The theme of the games is Developing an Elite Para Sport at National Level."

Chiutsi thanked sponsors such as International Paralympics Committee, K-2 Transformers, Loughborough University, AT 2030, Malawi



PHOTOGRAPH: SINGAYAZI KAMINJOLO

Para athletes set for the games

National Council of Sports and University of Malawi for their financial and technical support in organising the event.

Qualification games were held last weekend at regional level.

MPC treasurer Patricia Njikho, who presided over the regional qualifiers last weekend,

said the best has been selected.

"Every athlete was eager and willing to make it to national games because they knew that if they perform badly at the qualifiers, they would not make it. So people should expect tough competition," she said.

Central Region Paralympics

Committee chairperson Paul Malange expressed optimism that his region will dominate.

"Last time, we dominated and I believe from the preparations we have had, we will do well again. We have had good preparations and we are ready," he said. ■

Malawi Paralympic Committee introduces para throws

SOLOMON MANDA
STAFF REPORTER

The Malawi Paralympic Committee (MPC) has introduced para throws as a way of diversifying its sporting activities for people with disabilities.

MPC vice-president Joseph Galanje said during the training of athletes and coaches at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (Kushe) Sports Complex in Blantyre on Monday that they would like to give every person with disability a chance to take part in sports.

Para throws add to existing disciplines for para athletes in the country such as para powerlifting, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

"We are trying to give para athletes a range of

sporting activities they can comfortably engage in. Throws such as javelin, shot put and discus are vital to the physical health of our para athletes. We believe they will develop the skills and enjoy the games," he said.

One of the trained para throws, athletes Tapiwa Kamanga said she was happy to have learned a sport she likes.

"I believe I have now found a sport that I can excel in. I will work hard to polish my skills and become a super star," she said.

Facilitator of the International Paralympic Committee-funded training, AicheMtambalika and IPC-accredited para athletes classifier Jacqueline Pahuwa, advised the para athletes and coaches to keep on training to develop their skills. ■



PHOTOGRAPH: SOLOMON MANDA

One of the trainees attempts a javelin throw during the launch

Malawi Paralympic Committee
16 December 2021 - 08

Malange, Chairperson of MPC Central Region, Urges Athletes to Strive for Excellence

In a recent address, Paul Malange, Chairperson of the Malawi Paralympic Committee (MPC) Central Region, passionately urged participating athletes to intensify their efforts as they strive for excellence in the upcoming national games scheduled for December. Malange emphasized the significance of the qualifiers as a pathway for selecting the cream of the crop to represent the region at the national level.

Addressing a gathering of dedicated athletes at the regional qualifiers held at Kamsuzu Institute for sports, Malange emphasized the importance of hard work and dedication in achieving success in the highly competitive field of Paralympic sports. He remarked, "I encourage all participating athletes to channel their focus towards the upcoming qualifiers for the national games in December. This is a crucial opportunity to showcase your talents and determination."

Malange highlighted the committee's commitment to identifying and nurturing exceptional talent within the Central Region. "The committee will need to pick the cream of the crop – those athletes who exhibit outstanding skills, dedication, and a strong spirit of sportsmanship," he stated. The national games in December serve as a platform for athletes to not only represent their regions but also to inspire others and contribute to the growth of the Paralympic movement in Malawi.

The Chairperson acknowledged the challenges and obstacles that athletes with disabilities may face but stressed that overcoming these hurdles is a testament to their resilience and determination. "Each one of you has the potential to make a significant impact, not just in your personal achievements but in inspiring a generation of athletes who dream of following in your footsteps," Malange added.

As the regional qualifiers unfolded, Malange actively engaged with athletes, offering words of encouragement and support. He emphasized that the MPC Central Region is not only focused on developing top-tier athletes but is equally dedicated to fostering a sense of community and camaraderie among all participants.

In conclusion, Paul Malange expressed his confidence in the abilities of the athletes and their potential to shine on the national stage. "Believe in yourselves, work hard, and give it your all. The MPC Central Region is proud to be part of your journey, and we look forward to witnessing your achievements, not only in the qualifiers but also on the grand stage of the national games in December," he concluded.

The words of encouragement from Paul Malange resonate as a motivating force for athletes to push their limits, embody the spirit of competition, and strive for success in the upcoming qualifiers. The MPC Central Region's commitment to identifying and nurturing talent reflects the broader mission of the Paralympic movement in Malawi – empowering athletes to reach new heights and inspiring the nation with their remarkable achievements.



Malawi National Council of Sports
28 December 2023 at 09:00

The opening ceremony of the 2023 Para Games national finals is currently underway at the Bingu National Stadium. Over 100 athletes will compete in different events including Chess, sitting volleyball, weightlifting, and athletics



Malawi Paralympic Committee President live on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation explaining the 2nd edition of the Malawi Para Games

Paralympic body lobbies for funding increase

SINGAYAZI KAMINJOLO
STAFF REPORTER

Malawi Paralympics Committee (MPC) has requested government to triple the annual subvention it gets through Malawi National Council of Sports.

During the opening of the inaugural National Para Games yesterday at Bingu National Stadium, MPC president James Chiutsi said the body caters for people with various degrees of disabilities.

"Each para athlete needs a helper or sometimes two helpers. So, when budgeting you need to focus on an athlete as two or three people in terms of food, accommodation and transportation. We ask government to increase the allocation we get," he said.

Chiutsi said despite submitting an annual budget of K40 million they were allocated K10 million.

"We appreciate government support, but we believe they can do more because our sport is complex. We want them to triple the annual budget to reflect the needs of Para athletes," he said.

Chiutsi said the games, are so raising awareness of Paralympics against stigma project. Sports Council vice-board



A sitting volleyball game underway at Bingu National Stadium

chairperson Charles Ulaya has promised that they will consider the request.

"Paralympics Games are very important in as far as the development of Para sports is concerned. At the Region 5 Games, Paralympics athletes won many medals.

"As per our mandate, we are here to promote inclusive sports and will continue

supporting the Paralympics," he said.

Ulaya has since called on athletes taking part at the games to take sports seriously.

"Sports is a career. Gone are the days when sports was just for fun. Nowadays people are earning a living because of sports.

My advice to administrators is to come up with creative strategies on how Paralympics can grow

in the country and motivate the athletes," he said.

The Para Games have attracted over 100 athletes from all regions of the country. The sports disciplines being competed for include, powerlifting, athletics javelin, sitting basketball, blind chess and seven aside football.

The official sponsor are K2 Transformer, a South Korean Company operating in Malawi.



Gama: The tournament is exciting

NBM Central Region Hockey set to start

SOLOMON MANDA
STAFF REPORTER

The K1.5 million National Bank of Malawi (NBM) Central Region Eight-A-Side Hockey Tournament will start tomorrow at Kamuzu Institute of Sports in Lilongwe.

Central Region Hockey Committee (CRHC) chairperson Clair Chevayama Gama said eight men's and four women's teams have registered for the showdown.

The men's teams are Capital Braves, Bunda, Ailbone, Nsural Resources College, City Wolves, Lilongwe Admin and Veterans.

In the women's category, competition will be 2700g City Wolves, Bunda Sticks, Lilongwe Admin, Capital Braves and Moyale Barracks from the North.

100 athletes to take part in Para Games

SINGAYAZI KAMINJOLO
STAFF REPORTER

National Paralympics Games start today at Bingu National Stadium in Lilongwe with 100 athletes scheduled to take part.

In an interview on Wednesday, Malawi Paralympics Committee vice-president Joseph Galanje, who is the games' coordinator, said athletes will compete in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair volleyball, sitting volleyball, powerlifting, athletics, chess and five-aside football.

He said: "So far, everything is on track. The athletes will be accompanied by guardians or helpers to make them comfortable. We are grateful to, among others, K2 Transformers who are our official sponsors, Malawi National Council of Sports and Malawi Schools Sports Association for supporting the event."

Sports Council regional officer (Centre) Wiza



Paralympics sitting volleyball game at Kamuzu Institute for sports

Msowoya commended MPC for contributing to the development of the sport.

"Malawi Paralympics Committee has demonstrated commitment to see the sport grow at national level. From one sport discipline to now six sports codes, that's tremendous growth. We

promise to develop inclusive sports across the country," he said.

Massa president Blackson Malamula pledged to support Paralympic athletes in schools.

"We will ensure learners with disabilities in our schools are given an opportunity to take up sports of their choice.

We will work with them during the games and beyond to ensure the sport grows and as many learners as possible get to take part," he said.

The games will also be used to select a team to represent Malawi in Ghana in September where the 2024 Paris Games qualifiers will be held. ■

Other Media Coverage Quarter 2 2023



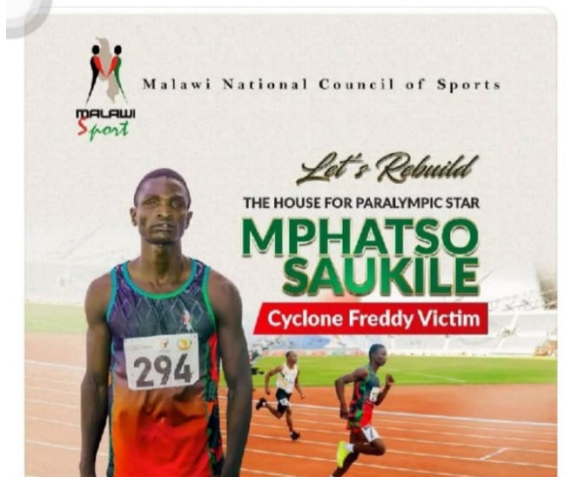
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Malawi Paralympic Committee
 @Mw_Paralympian

 Heartfelt Gratitude to @MalawiSportsBoard Chairperson Dr. Sunduzwayo Madise for the Timely Donation towards Building a Home for Mphatso Saukire.

 We Remain Committed to Rebuilding and Supporting Mphatso and other parathletes.

 #MalawiParalympicCommittee
 #CycloneRecovery



Pictures

Photo Credit: Malawi Paralympic Committee

Malawi regional qualifier events in Central and Southern Regions





Malawi: Athlete training camp activities





Malawi Para Games 28 December 2023





Ghana Paralympic Committee - Pictures

Photo credit: Prince Nyarko

Talent Identification camps and trainings in Bono Region, Kumasi (Ashanti Region) and Accra







Para Powerlifting World Championships in Cairo, Egypt, 30 October - 6 November 2023: Tahiru Haruna (107kg) and Isaac Obeng (59kg) pose with their bronze medals



