



treffpunkt MALAWI e.V. Newspaper

Old partnership refreshed

In October 2020, the meeting point Malawi was pleased to welcome the launch of a new project. He supports an initiative by Father John Moyo from Mzuzu. The project aims to promote women and young people while contributing to greater environmental protection in Malawi. Specifically, it concerns the production and distribution of energy-saving furnaces and reforestation in the areas of Kadete and Kanthete, Mzuzu.



Father Moyo (links) with Daniel Freude on a photo from the Year 2009

Other topics:

- Volunteer's report
- Corona in Malawi
- News from the Kolpingsfamilie Mzambazi
- Virtual Members' Meeting of the German-Malawi society

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Dear members, sponsors and interested parties,

Since March, you and we have been experiencing a situation that has not yet occurred in Germany, Europe or the world, as a matter of time since March, as a matter of the spread of the Corona virus. Something invisible to us has intervened as deeply in our lives as no one could have imagined before.

This also applies to the people of Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world with a very weak health system. Through our constant contacts with our training project in Ekwendeni as well as with the Kolping family in Mzambazi, we were always kept up to date. The good news is that none of our contacts have been infected with Corona. But, of course, the virus has also affected our activities.

Our partners in Ekwendeni have asked us for support to implement a large mask project for the place in Ekwendeni. We were happy to provide this support in order to contribute to the containment of the pandemic. You can find out more about this special project in this issue of our Malawi newspaper.

Due to the requirements of the Malawian government, all schools and educational institutions and thus also our training centre were closed from 20.03. to 11.10.2020. It was all the more pleasing to learn that this year 23 young people were able to celebrate their graduation as carpenters (12) or as seamstresses (11) after two years of training. The number of successful graduates has thus doubled compared to the previous year. With the new school year, which started in October, 52 young people from 17 rural communities around Ekwendeni have started their education.

You can find more information about the activities of the Kolping family in Mzambazi, which we support. Thanks to WhatsApp and e-mail, there is also a constant exchange of information.

New is the cooperation with SPRODETA (www.sprodetamalawi.org), a Malawian aid organisation recognised by the Malawian government. It has set itself the goal of expanding the opportunities of people in remote regions in order to secure their livelihood. The collaboration was initiated by the priest John Moyo, who has known us for many years. A working group consisting of members of the Board of Management has dealt intensively with the projects requested. We now support the production of energy-saving furnaces and a small reforestation programme. More details in a separate report.

We can support the people of Malawi through **your** donations. At this point, thank you very much. Your donations reach the people of Malawi directly through our partners. There is no administrative burden for this. The trusting cooperation between us and our partners has continued. By working with SPRODETA, we are expanding our cooperation.

Please continue to support us. If you have any questions, I am happy to assist you, but also every member of the Board of Management.

I wish you a contemplative Christmas.

August Helmig

Chairman Meeting Point Malawi e.V.



**The current board of the meeting point Malawi e. V.: (from left)
Jürgen Keuter, Rainer Hackenfort, Sandra Wilde, August Helmig,
Fabian Grüter, Lukas Schablitzki, Margret Feldmann, Johanna Entrup,
Miriam Pohl, Monika Schulz, Gudrun Brinkmann, Hermann
Determeyer, Martin Kitten, Maria Determeyer, Jutta Menker**

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Those who follow the work of the meeting place from the beginning may remember Father John Moyo. In the past, there have been joint projects. In the meeting point Malawi Zeitung of 2009, for example, a report by Daniel Gersmeier (nowadays with surname Freude) can be read, who completed an internship with John Moyo in Kaseye.

Meanwhile, John Moyo is back in his hometown of St. Peter's Parish. In the middle of the year, he approached the meeting point with some ideas to support young people and women. The Board of Directors appreciates John Moyo for his drive and reliability and has therefore been very positive about cooperation. A working group was founded: Thomas Schmiemann, Hermann Determeyer and Miriam Pohl discussed his ideas with Father Moyo. There was a lively exchange, at the end of which the proposal "Youth and Women for Sustainable Environment (YAWOSE)" was submitted to the Board for a vote. John Moyo explains: "YAWOSE" is not only the abbreviation of the project name, in the local language the word also says that it is for everyone. The Board of Directors unanimously decided to support the project.

The project team in Mzuzu was able to start preparations in October. In the first year, 100 beneficiaries will participate in the project. They learn to make the energy-saving furnaces and why it is important to use them.



Meeting of local guides and participants of the project

First, the households of the beneficiaries are equipped with the energy-saving furnaces, then the sale of further furnaces can serve as a source of income. If the outcome is positive, 100 additional participants will be added in the following two years, so that after three years 180 women and 120 young people will benefit from the project. With the energy-saving ovens, significantly less wood is needed for cooking. At the same time, there will be a reforestation project to further tackle climate change.

Malawi has 3.4 million hectares of forest, most of which have been natural. In 2017, the government estimated that 1.8 to 2.6 percent of forests are cut down annually, mainly for charcoal production (see Karen Sanje, Thomson Reuters Foundation, 2017). As in many other places around the world, the grubbing-up also serves the land gain. The project aims to counteract this: 30,000 trees are to be planted by 2023, of which 10,000 are fruit seedlings. The region is particularly thrive: pines, niem trees, guavas, papaya and mango trees.

John Moyo is supported on site by the organization SPRODETA. She helps organize the project and, among other things, handles the writing of reports. Father Moyo takes over the overall management of the project and supervises the quality level and the flow of money.

SPRODETA is a local non-governmental organisation. It was founded in 2009 and recognized by the State of Malawi in 2012. "SPRODETA" is an abbreviation for the Small Producers Development and Transporters Association. The NGO has set itself the task of supporting small producers in rural areas. They want to help people build a livelihood. To this end, SPRODETA cooperates with various development partners who finance the projects. SPRODETA supports many sustainable and agricultural projects, such as vertical gardening or the construction of market halls and grain banks.

The YAWOSE project will employ a field worker to work with the Ministry of the Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and local environmental management organisations.

Due to the current situation around the pandemic, training on the Covid-19 virus will also take place. For this purpose, a converted transporter is available, which is equipped with a PA system. In this way, information can be disseminated widely via loudspeakers without people having to gather.

Those:

Sanje, Karen, Thomson Reuters Foundation (2017): Malawi deploys military to protect its fast-dwindling forests, [online] <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malawi-deforestation-military-feature-idUSKBN16S00T> [27.10.2020].

Author: Miriam Pohl

Virtual General Assembly of the German-Malawi annual Society on 12.09.2020

There is little that has not been influenced by the Corona pandemic this year. This is also the case with the General Assembly of the German-Malawi society (DMaG).

Since the founding of the company in 2009, board members from the Malawi meeting point have participated in the general meetings. These took place mostly in Berlin and were therefore associated with some effort.

Nevertheless, it was always worthwhile trips for the participants of these meetings. This is not so much about the typical accountability and cash report as it is about sharing with other people and communities who are actively working in and for Malawi. This is exactly what the DMaG aims to achieve: network, support and inform.

What to do in times of pandemic? This question was answered very pragmatically and innovatively by the members of the Board of Management. All about 30 members - about 15 of them associations - were invited to a virtual general meeting on the zoom platform. An interview round brought all participants up to date and ongoing projects – such as a German course in Lilongwe – could be reported.



The virtual general meeting

Finally, the Board of Management was given the suggestion to switch to digital offerings, including to Corona. For example the ambassador from Malawi could introduce himself or guest lectures could be presented. However, it also became clear that personal contact will again be important in the future. We remain curious about what. time entails.

Author: Rainer Hackenfort

My time in Malawi and the premature farewell due to Corona

My 11 fellow volunteers and I are sitting at the airport in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. And this already on 23.03.2020, although the planned return was not planned until late August. Yes, the Coronavirus/Covid-19 had now reached us in our everyday life in the "Warm Heart of Africa" and, despite the fact, had not even had a first confirmed case. Nevertheless, in our organization Kolping and the BMZ decided to bring all the volunteers from every corner of the planet back to Germany. For us at this moment still completely inexplicable: Why should we leave our safe Malawi and return to the cave of the lion, where the virus was raging? Public air traffic was collapsing more and more, citizens of certain nations were even denied entry, so the safe journey home could not be maintained for much longer. So with this very abrupt journey home (we learned the date two days before departure) my nearly seven-day stay came to a sad end. Months, in which I have learned to like and appreciate my fellow human beings, surroundings and time in Ekwendeni.

For those who didn't know it yet: My name is Cédric Rashidi, 19 years old, soon a student and due to the current situation, the last volunteer at St. Michael's Skills Development Centre.

At that time I was accepted-by my host family as an 18-year-old boy, who stood fresh after his Abitur. "Cädric!", I heard my mentor on arrival shout, "So, so happy to have you here!!". Even six months later, Stuart had lost none of his kindness. Neither he, my "mother" nor my boss, Michael. Every morning he sat in our office grinning and talked to me and colleagues about school, politics, football or upcoming outings. Even, if I had once slept or if my bike had broken down into all the individual parts on the way to work. This atmosphere ran through the entire working life in the center. From the English and math classes to our training sessions in foot and basket ball. At the end of my voluntary service, despite conditional deficiencies, I was able to lead our team against the opposing teams as a proud captain.

Outside of work, I enjoyed my travels through and around Malawi. Here it sometimes took me to Zambia and to the Indian Ocean in Mozambique. A two-week trip to South Africa was also planned during the Easter holidays, but this was ruined due to the ever-expanding pandemic.



**Cédric Rashidi und der Manager
of the project, Michael Mughandire,
in front of the centre**

experience would never have been possible.
Thank you!

At least I spent my last weeks at home, in Ekwendeni.

Although I was unable to attend the graduation certificate, I saw some positive developments at the Center: The „second years" were assigned to their internships, great steps were taken to state recognition of the institute and Michael, the manager, announced his engagement. So I couldn't go home with tangible results, saw, however, that even without me, the center was on a great way.

I would also like to thank you in hindsight for your active support during my voluntary service.

Without him, this great

But even now we see ourselves, and by this I mean in particular the St. Michael's Skills Development Centre posed by the coronavirus a huge task. Their participation is now, perhaps more than ever before, much in demand and desired.

With these words, I thank you for a „"successful" 2020 and wish you a happy and healthy year 2021.

Author: Cédric Rashidi

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To think and change:

Aspects of the necessary change of the traditional 'Children's Blessing' in Africa

The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the United Nations World Hunger Aid; ein wake-up call for all of us, more importance of regional self-nutrition and the moral responsibility of all peoples to preserve their habitat to the best of their ability. It is certainly not part of the UN's work that, in addition to natural disasters, it is only silently trying to compensate for the market-economy and political failures of the rich countries with food feeds. In addition to basic needs, this would also deprive the disadvantaged of the motivation for the necessary change and give their administrators harmful power. As is customary with any tax system, the winner of a company should pay compensation for all unclaimed values in addition to the prize money, or take on proportional cultural responsibility for environmental and social sustainability, even for his own reasons.

If there were an innovative theological teaching league, one would develop more specifically 'heavenly beliefs' in such a way that even common experience of happiness (such as B. stabilized climate change or development to the small family in Africa, India ...) through the Internet and other cultural experiences, can become a reality. Being Christian, Jewish, muslimisch could already mean together today: dialogical, solidarity, ecological, if Especially for Africa:

Is it really enough just to wait for a higher education to make people feel the benefits of successful family planning, especially in rural areas? There are many ways on many levels to give the young couples more encouragement in order to move away from the old traditional abundance of children.

Only in this way will a rapid change from fate to the partnership offensive be achievable, both privately and socially, to the outside world.



The development of Africa from 1950 (links) to the present day (far right) from the author's point of view

1. The shock effects of climate change should be used holistically to re-create a **reserve harvest**, as in prehistoric times, because state and public structures are less and less likely to provide the security of the illusionary, unnatural, public food supply, including through imports from Europe. They often disrupt local markets.
2. In principle, priority should be given to **small-scale food production** as long as corruption among foreign people cannot be significantly reduced and hidden unemployment persists. Lobbyists, of course, hold different views.
3. The responsibility **of the number of children** should also be made culturally clear in order to frown on private old men's allures at community expense. When parents don't have food, the instinct and faith and their school knowledge should help them quickly turn away from an outdated tradition. With 3 percent of the population, food consumption doubles every 15 years with less water, wood, humus and (barely female) land ownership through grabbing.
4. The **women's rights to be strengthened**, but also the personal

emancipation of each girl, can also be bundled into a public campaign of all media and institutions in addition to school. In addition to the ecological fraternization of all denominations, a feminine sisterization (in Münster's theology workshop) should take place here. Practical equality could be made as consistent as the Corona Control or the Fridays-for-Future-B.I.-for-Future-B to the last village within a few months. Violations of the law could also be punished with a fine.

5. The high birth rate on degrading biotopes in climate change opens up a gap in misery, with women fleeing and poverty justifying clear countermeasures, similar to Covid 19 as a state of emergency.
6. All monotheistic religions know the ideal biotope called paradise; this should be further developed as a template for all, in order to dedicate true development goals not haphazardly to (national) capitalism, but to the **limitless-possible growth of eco-social values**. Those who can explain a paradise and make it more realistic will rightly get full places of worship. Here, theologians, sociologists and ethnologists should network in order to find suitable ways in healthy competition.
7. Women quickly realize that school fees, food, transports, and their own profession, ... make children more expensive, thus making hard arguments against men and with a personal emancipated 'no' can gain elementary freedom of thought. This is not wanted and not skilful in all herea ic systems.
8. From this only the necessary ability to engage in dialogue develops into their more competent environment, so they are real partners to the men, create **balances of power**, thus security, land ownership with eco-social requirements and happiness for the ecosocially threatened species of person. Unfortunately, the thread of solidarity is getting thinner and thinner.
9. Since men and women are very similar in the sum of their hard- and software-properties, it is worth making this aware in all cultural areas: in kindergarten, in the school subject of cultural economy, where old and new structures are compared.
In media articles, where the disregard for opportunities for strengthening women's rights was to be published, Oscar award ceremony for the **ostracism of the diverse male supremacy**, appreciation of female **role models** especially in places of worship.

Slavery has been politically banned, equality will follow the more clearly a more feminine image of God is developed into an eco-social-spiced soul food. -By whom only, of men, rather not, as history teaches us?

10. Each Council of Elders must accept three women, otherwise these men will no longer be cared for by women. (Proposal for Village Committees, Rome, Riyadh)
11. In biology, maths and drama, special tasks are set to make the small family with facts and figures the symbol of **sustainability, progress, emancipation**, especially for sustainable low-input-security of the village.
12. In order for the AfD, as the reaction party to liberal immigration, to emerge male rejection patterns rather than female support patterns in the countries of origin, it becomes clear what explosiveness lies hidden in this cultural stagnation. When ten people ask for the same work, the hourly market wage falls immorally low, as is unfortunately visible everywhere. Blunt culturally isolated globalization will fail.
13. Hungry children learn worse, girls stay disadvantaged first. This cycle of problems must and must be dealt with from the outside; it is not a taboo private matter of other strangers, but the partnership theme No. 1 in the North-South relationship. Here all **theologians** have an extremely heavy **responsibility** here !
Denying them is not courage, but failure before all of us, before God!
14. Those who have ideas for improvement should end their silence with blessed dialogue and, for example, in the internet or other institutions.

Author: Hermann Determeyer Ing. agr., former development aid worker in Ghana

Covid-19 in Malawi:

The worst has been spared the country so far

When the Covid 19 pandemic reached its first peak in Europe, there was hardly any mention of Corona in Malawi. At the same time, German media headlined already in the spring: "Africa stands alone on the precipice" (Süddeutsche Zeitung, 04.04.2020) and virologists like Christian Drosten feared "that people will die from it [Covid-19] on the streets in Africa" (stern.de, 22.03.2020). Bill Gates even feared that 10 million people on the

African continent could die from a Covid-19-infection. The good news in advance: this has not happened!

Nevertheless, these were, of course, the news and fears that drove me and my work colleagues and friends in March and April.

I have been living in Malawi since 2015 and am currently working for a German organisation in the capital Lilongwe. Of course, we followed the German media from the beginning and friends and family from our homeland kept us informed about the developments.

Since the pandemic was already much more tangible for us, through our contacts with Europe, than for many Malawians (who were partly convinced that the Covid 19 pandemic in Malawi was only a plot to prevent new elections in June 2020, see article "Malawi writes electoralhistory" in this issue), we also took precautions early on: avoid contacts, disinfect hands, wear mouth-nose protection.

At the beginning of April, Malawi was one of the last countries in the region (and also globally) to register the first Covid-19-case. But as early as the end of March, the Malawian president declared a national emergency. A massive covid-19 outbreak would be a disaster for the already ailing health system. In

April, Malawi had only 30 intensive care beds and significantly fewer ventilators for more than 18 million people.

In March, crowds of more than 100 people, such as funerals, weddings or religious gatherings, were banned and schools and universities closed. The number of cases in Malawi also increased very slowly. The president announced a three-week "hard lockdown" in mid-April, as many countries in the region have already done at this point. Had. The communication to the lockdown and its detailed rules was chaotic. It was not clear whether one could even leave the house



Hand-washing stations were set up on markets and schools.

during this time. So we stocked up on food supplies for three weeks, probably in the knowledge that we were among the privileged five percent of the population, who can afford such a large grocery shopping in the first place. The vast majority of the population feeds on their own agriculture or, as day laborers, tends to make ends meet rather poorly than quite. Precisely for the latter reason, a Malawian court also prohibited the implementation of the lockdown. Because with a lockdown, the majority of the population, especially in the urban centres, would have had no income opportunities. Malawi took a very different approach than many other countries in the region, such as Uganda, South Africa or Rwanda, where very strict curfews were in place.

At the same time, the President announced in April that the country's borders, including the international airport in Lilongwe, would close in mid-April. This was a shock to us at first, because we were more or less closed off from the rest of the world. At that time we also did not know that the airport would be officially closed for a full five months and that there would only be special charter flights at absolutely horrendous prices about every four weeks.

Even the announcement of the lockdown, and probably also the increasing number of infections and the lack of customers (many foreigners who otherwise visit the higher-priced bars and restaurants in the capital had left the country shortly before the airport closed) led to many remaining restaurants and bars closing for the first time. And the increasing number of infections also meant for us in the coming months: home office, hardly any contacts, no sport in groups and closed rooms, etc. At that time, I too experienced in my "Malawian environment" that friends or colleagues lost family members through Corona. Covid-19-infections peaked in July. Since then, the number of infections has decreased. As of 06.11.2020, Malawi officially had only 5.942 Covid-19-infections and 184 deaths. In September, a video posted on social media, showing elderly singing and dancing doctors and nurses celebrating the dismissal of the last Covid-19-patient from one of Malawi's largest hospitals.

There are currently only between zero and ten new infections per day. Of course, it must always be borne in mind that a country such as Malawi has significantly less testing capacity than, for example, Germany. Nevertheless, the trend seems realistic. And why are so few people infected here? The answers I have seen so far are manifold: is it because of the young population,

a lifestyle that is mostly outside, or because of the warm temperatures and high UV radiation? Or are there simply few confirmed cases because relatively few tests are carried out?

In everyday life in Malawi, Covid-19 has now faded into the background. In my professional context, strict precautions are still in place and in supermarkets or banks, for example, wearing a mouth-nose protection is also mandatory. While large posters in the city still remind you of the regular hand washing and the importance of keeping distance, the danger of the pandemic seems far away ... at least at the moment. However, it is not yet clear what social and economic consequences the pandemic will have on the country and its citizens. Of course, the Malawian economy was not spared the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. The tobacco trade, which is so important to the economy, is strongly influenced by the pandemic and the Malawian tourism industry is also likely to change significantly as a result of the pandemic. There is no state aid for the economy. And how do the restrictions of the last few months affect the young people here? Schools only reopened in September after a six-month closure, and home-schooling is simply unthinkable in Malawian schools. At the same time, Malawian media report many premature school dropouts and teenage pregnancies.

It is to be hoped that Malawi and the whole region will be spared a second wave of pandemics, as Europe is currently experiencing.

Author: Katharina Feldmann

Corona-Pandemic in Malawi

Meeting point financed mask production in the training center

The Corona virus has been shaping life for three-quarters of a year now, not only in Malawi in East Africa. The possibilities for combating this pandemic have been and are very minimal compared to Germany, in line with the wealth gap in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world. However, similar measures have been taken.

In Germany, after Chancellor Angela Merkel's speech, all schools were closed on 16 March 2020. In Malawi, the government declared a state of disaster on 20 March 2020. As a result, all schools and other educational institutions were

closed from 23 March 2020. The training centre for seamstresses and carpenters in Ekwendeni, supported by the meeting point Malawi, had to close.

In Malawi, too, the wearing of masks was strongly recommended to contain the pandemic. However, Malawi does not have the capacity to produce large numbers of masks for its 18 million inhabitants. The main problem, however, is the poverty of people who cannot afford to buy such masks.

On 17.04.2020 the meeting point reached the project application of our partners in Ekwendeni to finance the production of face masks. The production was to be run by 15 students in training and two teachers. The reusable fabric masks should be distributed free of charge to poor families, the elderly, members of the Kolping family Ekwendeni, students, widows and

orphans as well as members of the Christian and Muslim Churches. A total of 12,000 potential beneficiaries of this aid were mentioned in the project application. The seamstresses should sew as a limit of 50 masks per day and receive a small remuneration for this and per mask. The Board of Management has approved this and two other proposals.



Masks-Production in the training center

Because there was a great need for masks in and around Ekwendeni. Two further project applications were submitted. The last of the Three Production phases ended on 25.08.2020.

A total of around 20,000 masks were produced. This project has thus had a broad and profound impact not only on the population.

Government agencies have also contacted the training centre to get masks.

Among other things, 1,500 masks were made to prison inmates, 2.000 masks to the local infirmary and 1.000 masks handed over to the police free of charge. The local newspaper reported a special report, including pictures, of the masks being handed over to the prison.

Thanks to the initiative of our local partners, especially through the personal commitment of the seamstresses, the training centre in Ekwendeni was able to make a very special contribution to the containment of the pandemic. This is only because, thanks to you, our donors, we have had the financial opportunity to finance this special project as well.

The training centre was able to reopen on 12.10.2020. At the end of the second year of training, 23 students (12 as carpenters and 11 as seamstresses) were able to successfully celebrate their graduation. At the beginning of the school year, 52 new pupils were admitted, including for the first time a disabled pupil. He has problems running and using his right hand. The training is free of charge. The selection is based on social criteria with the participation of the churches, local contacts and organisations that work for the disadvantaged. This year, the students come from 17 rural communities.

Author: August Helmig

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Malawi makes electoral history

Malawi, the 18.5 million inhabitants landlocked country in south-east Africa, schrieb 2020 political history. After Kenya in 2017, Malawi is only the second African country to have a presidential election annulled by a court. And Malawi is the first country on the African continent where the opposition won re-election.

But right from the start: In May 2019, the sixth free elections were held in Malawi constitutionally. It is not just the president who should be elected there. The population was also called upon to cast their vote in the parliamentary and local elections. The election for president included some political outsiders, Malawi Congress Party theologian Lazaurs Chakwera, and Saulos Chilima, a former vice president (who founded his own party after a rift with the president). In addition, then-President Arthur Peter Mutharika stood for re-election for a second term. The Mutharika family has been an integral

part of Malawi's political elite for many years. Mutharika's brother Bingu wa Mutharika was president of the country from 2004 until his death in 2012. During his brother's second term, Arthur Peter Mutharika, who previously worked as a law professor at various universities in Africa, Europe and the UNITED States, has already served in various ministerial positions. Even on Election Day, the electoral processes were controversially discussed. At some polling stations, employees of the Malawian Electoral Commission were accused of influencing and falsifying the election results. Correction fluid (Tip-Ex®) was also used on some ballot papers, which led to the election in Malawi and beyond becoming known as the "Tip-Ex-Election". Although allegations of voter fraud grew louder, 78-year-old Mutharika was declared the winner with 38.66 percent of the vote about a week after the election. By 2019, a simple majority would be enough to win the presidency. A day after the election result was announced, Mutharika was sworn in for a second term. There were just under 160,000 votes between him and the runner-up Chakwera.

In the months following the election, demonstrations continued to take place in many parts of the country, especially in the larger cities. With the support of the election losers Chakwera and Chilima, the protests of the demonstrators were not only directed against the election result. They also called for the resignation of the head of the Electoral Commission. Unfortunately, the protests did not always remain peaceful. There were partly lootings of shops along the demonstration routes as well as deliberate destruction of business and government buildings, among other things through targeted arson. Clashes between demonstrators and security forces resulted in the use of tear gas and casualties on both sides. Public life was repeatedly restricted by the demonstrations, as shops and offices remained closed. In October 2019, the protests slowly abated. But this should not mean that the Malawian people had accepted the election result.

Immediately after the election result was announced, the two opposition leaders, Chakwera and Chilima, began to contest the outcome of the



The author Katharina Feldmann lives and works in Malawi since 2016.

elections. The country's highest court has applied for the election results to be annulled. Countless witnesses were interrogated for months.

In February 2020, the Constitutional Court actually ruled that the elections in May 2019 were not conducted freely and fairly and must be annulled. According to the court, Mutharika not legitimately elected and no longer president. A similar event had previously occurred only once in Africa: 2017 in Kenya. The court ordered a new election within 150 days and also ruled that the current system of relative majority voting is not in line with the Malawian constitution.

Instead, a presidential candidate must now win at least 50 percent of the vote to

emerge as the winner of an election.

Within a record-breaking 150 days, the new Malawian electoral committee actually organised new elections. The two opposition parties of Lazarus Chakwera and Saulos Chilima joined forces to form a coalition with Chakwera as the presidential candidate and Chilima as his vice president. And in June, something was actually happening: after months of protests and the annulment of the election result, the former opposition politician Chakwera was elected the country's new president with 59 percent of the vote. After filing some complaints against the election result, which were quickly rejected by the court, the election loser Mutharika accepted the result. On a continent where the rulers of many countries have held on to power for decades without democratic processes and which is partly characterised by state fragility, this result is all the more significant.

Malawi has shown that people's perseverance in standing up for their democratic rights is a functioning and, above all, independent judiciary and an army that is firmly behind the constitution, rather than behind a ruler, are fundamental pillars of a democratic system of government.

The new government now weighs on the hopes of a generation: 43 percent of malawian's population is under the age of 15, and there are few prospects for the future and work for young adults. The estimated unemployment rate is over 25 percent, and the majority of the population lives on subsistence or casual jobs. The Covid-19-pandemic poses even greater challenges to Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world by gross domestic, product. Two of the main promises of Team Chakwera/Chilima are the fight against the rampant corruption in the country and the reform of the ailing public sector. The term of office of the President is five years.

Author: Katharina Feldmann

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Cohesion at all levels

The Kolping family (KF) Mzambazi has launched several projects in the last two years. Here is a brief overview of what has happened in 2020:

1. Community garden:

It is important for the KF to work as a team, each member must participate and work together to achieve a good return. This concept seems to be working. The KF has planted maize on two leased fields and carried out the basic fertilization. After a productive rainy season, a successful harvest was obtained in June, the KF received about 1. 200 kilograms of corn grains. These were stored by the chairman of the KF, Phillipina Mzulama, and are not sold until prices rise.

The gardens of the recipients of donations from last year were supervised by the committee. He visited the parishioners regularly and gave tips on growing corn.

Also this year there were corn donations to needy families of the parish. Each Kolping member donated 40 kilograms of their own harvest to a total of 30 other families. Two families per district received 20 kilograms of maize.

In the vegetable garden, the previously erected bamboo fence has now been replaced by a wire fence. This ensures long-term protection against intruders. The cultivation of various vegetables such as tomatoes, lettuce, onions, radishes and chinese cabbage has become an integral part of the course of the year. Depending on the season, regional varieties are grown.

2. Kolping Sports Club



The Kolping chairwoman presents balls and jerseys to the schools on site.

The netball and football teams of KF Mzambazi are gaining more and more notoriety. After a hiking cup was purchased, several tournaments took place. The prize money/winner award was used to buy several new balls and whistles. The referees also got a little thank you for the good work.

Because of Corona other sporting activities have failed. Nevertheless, the primary school and the community day school in the village were supported by the KF. After donations in the spring, a purchase in Mzuzu new uniforms for the school's football team will be purchased in September. The jerseys for the women's team were not in stock and are now sewn by a tailor. A total of 50 jerseys and football nets were donated to the students.

3. Bees:

The KF has found two different customers for the honey. On the one hand, a forest official made contact with Kwithu Kitchens, a supermarket. He buys from local farmers. Another contact is a private from Nkhata Bay. This pays a higher price and wants to support the KF to market the honey properly. In the future, a label for the bottles will be created in order to be able to sell to larger shops.

The harvesting of honey cannot take place in all 50 hives at the same time, as there are only two protective suits. The members of the KF thus alternate. In this September/October, six members have a total of 55 Kilograms Honey harvested.



Some beehives of the Kolping family

4. Pigs:

The pigsty, which has been in use for about two years, is located on the grounds of the parish.

Since the adjacent Teacher's College is being expanded and a canteen is to be built right next to it, pig farming on the grounds of the parish is no longer desirable. The stable is demolished, but a general meeting of Kolping members has revealed that each member should keep his own pigs at home. The piglets are then handed over to poorer members of the congregation.

Father Martin Kumwenda also shows great interest in the Kolping family Mzambazi as successor to Father Charles Ndhlovu. He tries to establish contact with Kolping families in Karonga.

It has been shown that the KF stands on its own two feet and continues the projects independently of the current priest. This is important for cooperation and exchange with the meeting point Malawi.

The difficult corona-related situation in May was well bridged by the KF and supported needy families. It is very remarkable how important the KF Mzambazideis social coexistence, various groups of the community benefit from the activities of the Kolping members. The cohesion of the only 16

members shows the common goodwill and a stronger coexistence at all levels – be it sports, agriculture or church activities. In a place as remote as Mzambazi, these values are all the more important.

As a meeting place we appreciate the good contact and are happy to continue to turn Malawian ideas into deeds together with the Kolping family Mzambazi and to be a pioneer of the Kolping families in Malawi.



Handover of corn donations

To the place:

Mzambazi is located west of Mzuzu, about two to three hours away and is hardly accessible. The nearest town is Euthini, about three kilometres away. Mzambazi is the part of Euthini, where the African missionaries White Fathers settled and built up a church congregation. At that time there were still many wild dangerous animals such as lions and snakes, today it is no longer dangerous there. Nevertheless, the municipality is struggling with problems such as inadequate electricity and water supply.

About Phillipina Mzulama



Phillipina Mzulama in front of her farm

- Ceo Kolpingsfamilie Mzambazi, retired teacher
- Home village Nkhata Bay
- Manages a large farm: 20 pigs, piglets are sold every two to three months, goats, cattle, ducks, chickens and pigeons
- Is very committed and a role model for the other members of the ward
- Son studies business

administration in the final year in Lilongwe

- She finances her son's studies through the business of animals and hopes that her son can open his own business, but a certain share capital is required for this



The Corn Committee of the Kolping family examines maize and advises.

Author: Johanna Entrup

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