

**A COVID-19
EXPERIENCE SHARED...**



**MACHEZA
WITH A
FUNNY
GUY**

**DEALING WITH AN “ANDY”
IN RELATIONSHIPS**

Expressing yourself



An art, at its best. An art creatives understand and value the most. Holding on to a lot of what-you-may-call-it leaves you in a different space mentally.

Most creatives like to live their lives through their art – breathing in whatever thought that lies within their minds into their art.

A comedian will always seem to have a lot of joy within his life. I mean, imagine a less jovial Trevor Noah telling jokes for an hour during a Stand-up show. Thus, the art of expressing yourself through your craft is essential.

Adhering to that, this week's FYI Edition features (cover) a man who loves to express himself through his jokes, using a phone and the internet,

to bring joy to "his fans."

Additionally, in the spirit of "expressing yourself" through your art, I took it upon myself as Editor of this great magazine, to vent out (for a lack of a better word) my Covid-19 experience; having recovered (yeah, the two previous editions were published from quarantine lol). Thought it wise to share my experience for those that may find it useful.

Read all about the aforementioned in the subsequent pages – as you catch up on all the news, online entertainment and gossip of the week.

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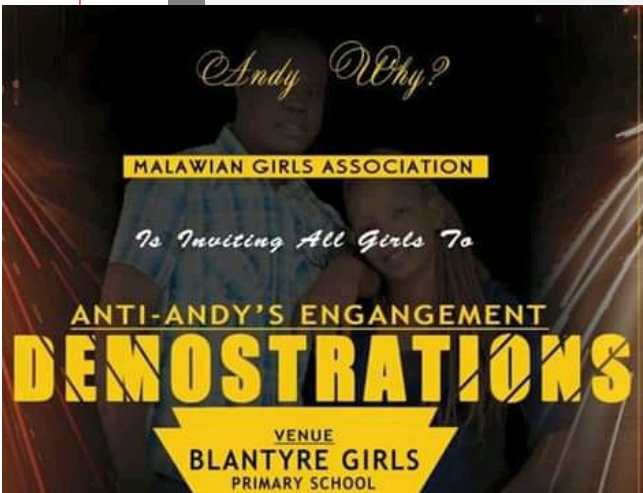
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Covid-19 experience: Anything & everything

BY Gary Samati



The minute I posted on my WhatsApp status that I had recovered from covid-19, I received a lot of “wait, you were sick?” texts followed by “why didn’t you tell us?” Did I have to? I thought. ‘Cause everyone who deserved to know, knew. I explained why it was hard to share (to those I hadn’t been in contact with). But boy, the number of times I wanted to tweet or post about the stress that I was dealing with – knowing I have the virus.

My employer conducted random tests on 17 July at the office. After chickening out at first (mainly cause I heard the test was painful), I decided I might as well get it over with. A few days later, on 20 July, my results came back in and, filled with a lot of confusion and fear going through my body, I was told that my results came back positive. Clueless, I felt. You see, it’s different (not saying better or worse) from being told you have malaria, or, say, the Human Immune Virus (HIV) – ‘cause, as much as the latter has no actual cure (or so they say), you’re still sent home with the antiretroviral drugs (that prevent the HIV from multiplying – by protecting

the cells that the virus would otherwise target), popularly called ARVs.

With the ‘Rona you’re basically told (if your situation isn’t critical), “Hie, you’re sick. We cannot give you anything to treat your disease so go home and see whether you’ll survive or not.” Well, obviously not literally but it sure sounds like it. Thus begins the paranoia.

Symptoms

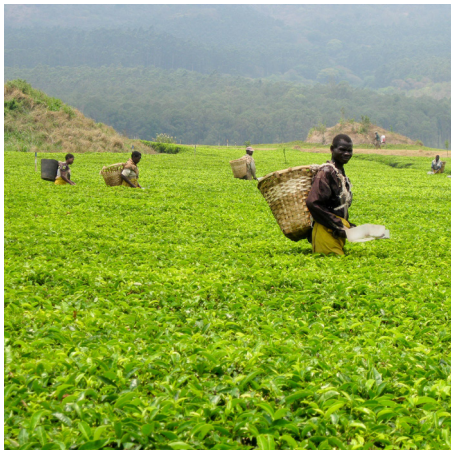
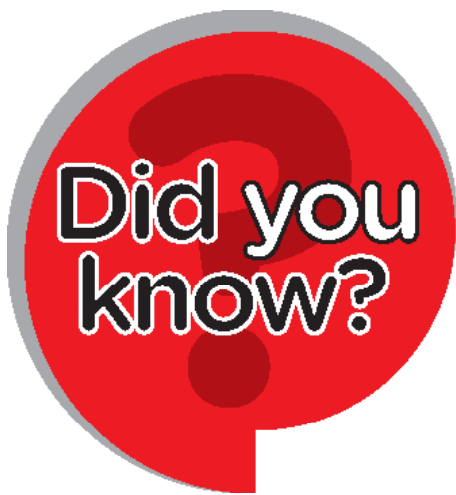
I started developing symptoms day 4 of my quarantine. The only symptoms I actually had (through out my 14 days quarantine) were a mild fever, frequent headaches, sore throat and pains in my left chest. And, well, mentally – I wasn’t in the best place. But I tried to stay positive (no pun intended).

Quarantine & remedies

When it came to remedies, my motto was, “Anything and everything.” Whatever I heard on the socials, long as it wasn’t poisonous (and after a bit of research), I took it. My mood, “Not going to take any chances,” had me drinking anything and everything. During quarantine (at home), first thing I did every morning was gargle hot salt water. Then I’d drink what they call a bomber juice. An interesting concoction

that mainly involves putting together garlic, ginger and onions in tap water – wait for an hour, then drink. Right after that, add tap water to the residues and drink within 2 hours. And then, eat the residues.

Later on during the day, ginger and lemon tea did the trick. The goal, as recommended by health-workers, was to drink as much warm drinks as I could. Imagine taking warm Enjoy? The ghetto, yeah? Well, ‘anything and everything’ – I went a bit far and made sure I’d heat a glass of Enjoy (or whatever drink) in a microwave, to keep myself as warm as can be (this involved wearing warm clothes and covering myself with at least 3 blankets despite the weather of the day or night). Drinking *madzi apapaya* also did the trick. Well, and my personal favourite – steaming (with vix, guava or pawpaw leaves – in the pot). I also took Aspirin, Artemisia Annua Capsules and Vitamin C tablets. There were a few tricks, like having chopped onions in my room (‘coz I saw a video that said this helps), that weren’t really necessary but again, ‘anything and everything,’ – long as it wasn’t poisonous.



**Malawi was the first
African country to produce
tea commercially.**

Brief Gossip

Anti-Andy's Engagement?

It has been quite concerning to the ladies on how a man named Andy disrespectfully ended his relationship with his not-knowing-am-a-side-chick girlfriend.

The girl, in screenshots that went viral during the week, was shocked to find out that Andy was getting engaged to another girl.

The "Andy" trend immediately went



Hie

Don't you help emotional traumatized girls...?am a girl child..someone I don't know has used my pictures pic mixing them with nudes and has asked me to pay money



Please help me😭😭😭

Social Media Blackmail?

A girl, who asked for anonymity, fed us the news, through Facebook, that she received a random text from someone who put her face on a nude photo – demanding money in return for not sharing the picture. She says the issue is at the Police at the moment. "I am trying to trace the number through the police. I sent a warrant to TNM but nothing has happened yet," she said.



viral when the screenshots of how he disrespectfully responded to his not-knowing-this-is-an-entanglement girlfriend; saying he has "no answers to tell her", but whatever she heard concerning the engagement with the other girlfriend was true, considering the response on the conversations which Andy and the girl had.

Yikes, this guy was emotionally and

mentally out of the relationship. The girlfriend's friends allegedly created a WhatsApp group for Andy where they insulted him on how he disrespected and broke the girlfriend's heart. Tricky, will Andy's engagement happen? PS: The fake demonstrations poster; you've gotta love the internet.

Creative of the week



Name: **Jescar “Caramel_drip” Mponda**

Creative Industry: **Up & coming rap artist**

What kind of music are you planning to be known for?

“I haven’t specialised yet but I think I’ll stick with hip hop.”

How can Malawians find your music?

“I just started recording so I only have one song out. However, people can always find my music on Mikozi network.”

What challenge (s) do you face the most as a female up and coming artist?

“I’m just new so not a lot. But, I’ve figured it’s not everyone that will appreciate my music. Some will discourage me but I’m more focused on positive feedback.”

How do you think the Malawian music industry can develop through music selling platforms?

“In Malawi, mostly music is all about fame. But I took a different step with my very first song. You know how people always produce music and distribute it all over? All they get in return are compliments like “nice track man.” The hard work behind the song does not pay them anything and it’s like they’re putting in a lot of effort just for compliments in return. I’m taking a different route as I sold my first song. Everyone who was curious to listen, had to buy it at K500. 2 weeks later, I came up with the link so that those that couldn’t buy could still access it. I think that should be taken seriously. Every song should be for sale!”

The art of matching clothes

BY Mayamiko Chiwaya



So, you don't know how to colour-match your clothes huh? Well, I don't blame you. In fact, that's one of the things I find difficult sometimes to do.

Obviously, everyone wants to dress better but keeping track of colours that match or crash is really hard.

In this edition I thought I should share some of the expert advice on how you can colour-match your clothes, not to get a Christmas tree look in the end and also how to bring out the perfect combinations out of your wardrobe. So let's get started...

1. One fashion expert recommends what I would call a one colour trick. According to him, you can wear a max of one colour in your outfit and you are completely safe from crashes.

2. Contrast is the key. It is highly recommended that you balance the shades of your top and bottom.

3. Neutrals are always the key to outfits and they never crash. You can either go neutral all the way in your outfits or you can combine neutrals with the other colours and trust me, they won't crash.

4. Opt for outfits in plain colours as they are easy to colour-match.

5. Lastly, experiment with your wardrobe. In as far as fashion is concerned, there is no rule of what colour goes together with what. You just have to play with the colours to see if they would go together.



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Warming the underprivileged

by Bernard Mhone



Rapper Fredokiss real name Fred Penjani Kalua will have to wait longer before the court starts hearing his Presidential Election related case following another adjournment to an unspecified date. The hearing of the case failed to take place last Tuesday and was adjourned to this week due to Covid-19 pandemic measures put in place by the courts in Mzuzu.

Magistrates are currently working on shifts as one way of decongesting court premises to avoid the spread of coronavirus.

In an interview, Fredokiss' lawyer, Leonard Mbulo said the court advised them to submit notice of adjournment for it to allocate specific dates for the hearing as the magistrate is engaged with other cases.

"Today, the case has also failed to go for hearing. Despite taking long before the hearing, we will follow whatever direction the court will

give us and we will be waiting for new dates," Mbulo said.

He added: "We also understand that all this is happening because of the situation we are in as regards Covid-19 pandemic. The hearing of our case is set for Monday according to the magistrates' schedule as regards Covid-19 pandemic".

Fredokiss, with two others, is accused of offering handouts during last presidential polls contrary to Presidential and Parliamentary Elections Act (PPEA).

Earlier in July, the three pleaded not guilty to the charge of influencing voters to choose a particular candidate in the Fresh Presidential Elections when they appeared before court when Mzuzu Chief Resident Magistrate, Gladys Gondwe, adjourned the case to July 28.

The state is expected to parade eight witnesses when the court reconvenes.

Fredokiss was arrested on June 23 at Mulowe in Rumphi District by the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) soldiers who later handed him over to Rumphi Police.

The rapper was granted bail shortly after being formally charged with the offense of using fraudulent means to induce another person to vote for or against a particular candidate or party against Section 115 of PPEA and Section 1 of the Political Parties Act.

The two acts prohibit people from offering money to voters during an election.

The maximum penalty for contravening the section is a charge of K500 thousand and a two year custodial sentence while the Political Parties Act attracts a fine of K10 million and a five year custodial sentence.

Macheza with a funny guy

BY Gary Samati



You've probably watched or shared some of his videos on your WhatsApp status... with his "take it easy... relax" humorous vibes. Or, if you follow the local man on his socials, you've definitely been exposed to his unapologetic love for KFC. But who exactly is Macheza and why did he take the phone comedy train? Well, we caught up with Nigel "Macheza" Kabango:

Q: When off the camera, who's the real Macheza?

"A weightlifting enthusiast, a technician, I am the type of guy that loves music and spending time with loved ones. The KFC is a real obsession. I rely on each word I receive from GOD each morning during my daily morning reading of the word."

Q: How do you strike a balance between "Macheza" and who you are in real life?

"I prefer to gel the two together,

Macheza is me and I am Macheza, he really is no different from the real me. In that, his perceptions are derived from my way of thinking. In actual fact, Macheza is there to express what I cannot in my day to day life."

Q: What inspired you to start doing comedy and how long have you been doing comedy?

"I've been doing comedy for a year now. I was inspired by many aspects. I have always been fascinated by the art of acting, creating characters, story lines and concepts through drama and plays. I am inspired by the likes of Eddie Murphy, Manganya, Winiko, Izeki & Jacob, Kevin Hart, Trevor Noah etc."

Q: What's the vision you have for your brand?

"My vision and mission is quite simple, I aim to make people happy. The world is full of heart ache and problems, most of

these lead to mental health issues amongst people. I find that humor eases that burden, in ways that most people don't realize. My brand represents the idea of **taking it easy and relaxing**, which is a catch phrase I use in my plays. The main thing I use to encourage a culture of relaxation and taking life a step at a time, having a few laughs. Apart from that I aim to tackle real life day to day issues people meet in my plays. My target is relatable content, as a way of also educating the generation."

Q: Are we ever going to get a stand-up comedy act?

"Definitely, but hopefully it will be easier to set that up when this whole covid thing subsides. Laughter is the key to great mental health, I appreciate all my followers and all the people that believe in me, I am forever grateful."

MALAWIAN URBAN DICTIONARY

WORD OF THE WEEK

Mbola.

A word usually used to express that something bad has happened or something/ someone isn't favourable.

"Eh man, mkazi uja ndi mbola."

"Eish mayeso atuluka koma mbolatu."

URBAN LANGUAGE MISTAKE

A couple vs A few vs Several

A = 1

A couple = 2

A few = 3, 4, 5

Several = 6, 7, 8

Many = 10+

A dozen = 12

ASK SIBWENI



Think of Sibweni as the uncle you wish you could get advice from. Send us the uncomfortable questions you have through our social media inbox @FYlonlinemw or WhatsApp **0881 885 512**.

Note:

Your question is published anonymously.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ZIMBABWE?

Easily put: the nation is going through a state in which the government is willing to do whatever it takes to stay in power, reads a News24 article. To say the least, the country is in a deep-rooted economic and political crisis.

Zimbabwean citizens are going through a massive human rights situation where activists and citizens have suffered at the hands of police for protesting and marching for their rights (seeking healthcare, food, jobs and, well, good governance basically).

A Harvard trained investigative journalist, Hopewell Chin'ono, who had earlier exposed corruption scandals by those that surround President Emmerson Mnangagwa's circle, was arrested on Monday July 20 for reporting on calls that were made by an opposition politician for a nationwide protest. The charge? "Inciting public violence through the report," they said. A charge that Jacob Ngarivhume, the opposition politician, was subjected to as well.

A lot of similar arrests were made prior to the "National protests against corruption and political challenges," themed nationwide protests that were scheduled on 31 July, 2020.

Katerina Chingola - Poet

BY Ameze Okoro



What sparked your passion to do poetry?

"I started doing poetry because I enjoy the art that is in it. The same words one may label 'ordinary' become an art in poetry. The words are full of love and they have an impact on our emotions."

How do you think the poetry industry can improve in Malawi?

"I feel we are scared to share with each other because we think we may steal the work, or that if someone is better than you, you see them as a threat instead of an asset. You can learn from them and end up improving. We are also stubborn and don't take time to

ask for some help to improve our weak areas or come together to make some beautiful poetry. We really need to change these things so that we improve."

Do you make money from poetry?

"This is my first time making money from poetry because of my book, The Vagina Diaries. There are poems in each chapter."

Katerina Chingola one of the emerging Malawian writers of 2020. Author of The Vagina Diaries, a must read.

FINANCING SMEs

BY Mphatso Mwale



In the last paragraph of his inaugural speech, the president, Chakwera, said, “I will challenge all of you as citizens to work hard, work hard, work hard, work hard, and work smart.”

This reminded me of what I wrote earlier this year that building an economy is a collective action, which requires collective efforts; you do, I do!

The growth of Malawi’s economy will be engineered by the vibrance of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which you and I can do. Research has shown that one of the challenges leading to an indolent MSMEs sector, which does not spur the desired economic growth, is Financing; Yes, Financing! Most businesses require money to grow or as startup capital.

In Malawi and other economies, credit is the readily available source of finance for most MSMEs. Credit stimulates the growth of an economy by keeping

MSMEs in operation.

Accessing a loan in Malawi is not easy, either because the borrowers do not meet the criteria to access the loan or because the interest rates are too high, which scares most borrowers. Banks and other Financial Institutions do not just give loans anyhow, to avoid default risks.

Loan Requirements in Malawi

Outlined below are some of the many requirements to access a loan in Malawi.

1. Register your Business, more so with the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA)

- Get started and your business should remain in operation. Your focus should be on boosting the capital.

2. Have a Bank Account

- To access most loans, you need to have a Bank Account for purposes of loan assessment by the lender. They do assess you based on your bank

statement. The Bank Account is also for receiving the loan (disbursement). This is especially for personal or institutional loans, unlike group lending where some exemptions apply.

3. Have an ID

- This is important regardless of the amount, purpose, and type of loan. In this case, it is a national ID for Malawians and a passport for non-Malawians.

James Surowiecki, an American journalist, said, “You can’t fuel economic growth with indiscriminate credit. You can fuel it with well allocated, long-term investment.”

If the government is allocating money for loans, do not be afraid to access some, and make your contribution towards the growth of our economy!

WEEKLY NEWS RECAP!

Here is a recap of the 4 things that happened this week.

1. **Cash Madam was denied bail and later on granted bail by the Lilongwe Chief Resident Magistrate Violet Chipawo, together with Mera CEO Collins Magalasi and 2 other Mera officials. They are being accused of money laundering and fraud.**
2. **Fredokiss' case was adjourned again, to an unknown date.**
3. **Ben Phiri, who is the current Member of Parliament and the former Minister of Local Government (during APM's regime) was arrested this week for fraud and money laundering allegations.**
4. **The Malawi Government made various changes in ministries and departments, that resulted in at least 11 senior staff being changed at Capital Hill.**

Reflection hour

BY Godfrey Maulidi



Deep in the night when it is silent,
When a daytime whisper morphs into a shout.
When the stars become so visible,
and the skies look like an opulent city from afar.

When children float in their dreams,
And parents are drowning in their beds,
Sinking endlessly but still alive,
That it becomes impossible to tell reality and constructs of the mind apart.

When nocturnal animals come out and dominate the earth and possess its heart,
Ruling it like a power hungry tyrant who just usurped power after a long period waiting,
I stare at the ceiling contemplating.
Punishing myself for my failures,
And not acknowledging my success like an ingrate.

Slowly, the memories I strive to keep at bay flood my mind,
One by one they impress themselves on my brain like a hot piece of metal on livestock,
And I become a tiny burning island in the middle of a sea.
Scarred by my past and fighting my present,
Tortured by a future that might not even exist,
I stay surrounded by all the help I need,
But shame sews my lips shut and I burn silently.
The inevitable end, of course, is me becoming ash.



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Feeling or Fueling Station?

Imagine this. Your Math teacher is trying to prove how dumb you – by making himself look smart.

He gives you the following multi-choice problem to solve:

What's 1+1?

- A. 5
- B. 4

And he is not even joking.

Same energy with the “it’s called fueling station not feeling station,” tweet. Two options to pick from that are both wrong.

Social media dumb opinions are always hilarious. PS: Filling Station.

Apolisi munthu uja wayambanso kumwetulira. 🤣🤣🤣



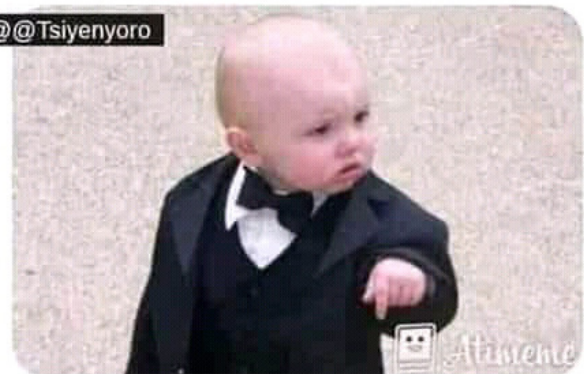
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Stop giving your Children Bible names without giving them bible lessons. Yesterday i was robbed by Abraham.

@Tsiyenyoro



GIRLS' FOOTBALL TEAM OWNER

BY Precious Hemah

Robson Shabana had a desire to see young people, mostly girls, being involved in Football. Eventually, he pursued his dream and took an opportunity to help young girls in Blantyre after seeing a gap in Ndirande as far as football is concerned. He subsequently introduced a girls' football club.

"I saw a huge gap in Ndirande concerning women so I decided to involve girls in football as well. As such, I formed an under-17 girls' football team called Badgers F.C, named it after the honey Badger."

Shabana says the team has had a couple of achievements so far: playing in 3 leagues: the FIFA Under-20 League in 2017, The presidential Cup in 2017 and 2018, and Southern Region Women's

Football League in 2019 and the Presidential Cup in 2018 which the team of girls won. "Winning the presidential cup was something special considering the fact that the age of the girls at that time was 14, coming against much older teams. The greatest thing for me was to take the ordinary girls from Ndirande community and give them a chance through football to make something of their lives. We managed to take girls, who might have otherwise been on a wrong path, to focus on school and football."

Shabana also described the challenges he has had to deal with, citing funding problems as a lead challenge.

"The biggest obstacle since I started was sponsorship. I had to self-sponsor the team

in terms of buying boots, a football, jerseys, travelling and accommodation costs. The other challenge was getting the girls to learn about football. It was time involving."

The team owner further expressed how he's felt like giving up a lot of times but his vision keeps him going.

"My Dream is to create a Football Academy exclusively for girls in disadvantaged societies. I would like to see at least half of the players represent the nation on the women's national team, and become models to inspire other girls out there."

Robson Shabana who stays in Nyambadwe, studied IT at The Polytechnic and he has a Diploma in computer Networking.