



***HGA EXCLUSIVE:
HOMMIES GROWN APART***

HGA – united they fall, divided they stand?



For a better part of the period from 2014 to 2017, Malawian hip-hop fans were graced with what is dubbed one of the best hip-hop duos the country has ever witnessed.

With the Daredevilz, a hip-hop duo that rocked the Malawi music scene for a while, making less music than usual – at the time, Home Grown Africa (HGA) gave Malawian hip-hop lovers a new duo to satiate their music thirst – Yankho “Classick” Zulu and Sindiso “Hayze Engolah” Sungama.

Our cover was inspired by the #BringBackHomeGrownAfrican trend that was started by @IncLawani on twitter; enticing a lot of fans to join the comment section wondering exactly what happened between the two as they asked the duo to make more music together.

Well, the twitter discussion sparked a thought to our minds, “United they fall, divided they stand?”

The duo’s fans rooted for the two to make it outside the Malawi music borders. However, inevitably, a debate used to surface every time the two released a song, “who had the better verse?” “Who’s the better artist between the two?” the fans would ask.

Come to think of it, are the artists better off solo or together? We spoke to both Classick and Hayze in this edition of FYI.

With that being said, thank you for taking time to read the second publication of the FYI Online Paper.

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The start of a legacy, meet Praise

BY Chifundo Banda



A new day takes us into a new age. The more time passes, the more people dress differently. The explanation to that is simple, it's called fashion.

The fate of fashion trends lies in the hands of designers who spend a lot of hours being creative enough to make designs people can fall in love with.

Currently, the fashion designing industry in Malawi has a lot of young fashion designers pursuing their dreams. However, without wasting much of your time, let me take you to the old capital city of Malawi, Zomba, to meet the up and coming fashion designer — the founder of Legacy Fashions, Praise Sangwa.

The 21-year-old ventured into designing for one good reason — the love of looking good.

"The fact that designing makes you think outside the box made me join the industry. We are constantly thinking of what new things we can make so I love the challenge and I love dressing up," she said.

Like most rookies, Praise started her career as a hobby — before monetizing the designing talent she nurtured.

"I started my work in 2015 as merely a beading artist before I started tailoring in 2018. I used to sell beaded work at

school and then I began tailoring to complement my work," she explained.

Legacy Fashions have so far showcased their work at the annual Fashion for Change in Malawi for two consecutive years before being nominated at the 2019 UMP Fashion Awards under the Best New Fashion Designer category. The young designer has since established outlets in Zomba to sell the designs made by her brand.

But that's not where the vision ends for Praise who said Legacy isn't just about fashion. "My vision is to empower women through my work. I hope to start an organisation that will educate them about business management — one of the reasons I studied Business Administration at Blantyre International University. Legacy Fashions is just a branch from the tree, you are yet to see a lot of branches," said the designer as she revealed her vision.

It's no secret that young entrepreneurs, especially in a developing country like ours, go through a lot of challenges. Praise describes being underestimated as the biggest setback of her career. However, the designer, who said Lily Afonso is one of her inspirations, expressed that she knows exactly what lies ahead of her future despite all the challenges she goes through.

“**My vision is to empower women through my work. I hope to start an organisation that will educate them about business management — one of the reasons I studied Business Administration at Blantyre International University. Legacy Fashions is just a branch from the tree, you are yet to see a lot of branches.**”

Did you know?

Lake Malawi was once called "The Lake of Stars" by the famed Scottish explorer – David Livingstone (way before the Lake of Stars festival). He named it the Lake of Stars because of the dances that happened across the lake during the day and how the stars reflect in it. Additionally, David Livingstone believed the lantern lights from the fishermen's boats resembled stars at night.

[Fact Source: AFRIKANZA]

How well do you know Malawi?

BY Rene Santana



- What does the rising sun on the Malawi Flag represent?
 - Dawn of freedom
 - Unity between bordering countries
 - Warm welcoming attitude of the Malawians
 - Freedom and everlasting peace
 - Roses
 - Aloes
 - Orchids
- There are a total of _____ languages spoken in Malawi.
 - 4
 - 8
 - 12
 - 16
- To what colour was the rising sun on the Malawi flag briefly changed to in 2010?
 - Black
 - Red
 - Green
 - White
- What stone-age relics are found in the Central Region of Malawi?
 - Animal mummies
 - Ancient rock paintings
 - Stone statues
 - Ancient coins and currency
- Despite being a small country, Malawi is home to 400 kinds of this famous flower...
 - Lilies

[Source: Children of the Nations Volunteer Writer]

Quiz answers: 1a, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5b

Brief Gossip

Tension between gospel rappers...

It seems Gospel Hip-Hop is not just about spreading the word of God for two Malawian artists who have allegedly thrown shots at each other on separate songs under the gospel hip-hop genre.

The controversial David Kalilani, who's once made a song titled 'Exodus Part II' in which he called out non-born-again Malawian rappers, wrote a verse,



on a song titled 'Manyazi' by Achanza, in which he said *"iwe unaborna zaka zambirimбири, masamba ako adakali biliwili, koma sungandilozele anthu awiri, amene anatenga Yesu chifukwa cha iweyo."*

The concept of the rapper's verse is basically centred on a gospel artist who is doing well but isn't saving souls through his music.

Suffix, in a song titled 'Ndizichita', allegedly responds as he questioned whether [David] expects him to publicise all the Godly-works he is doing. Looks like the two just need to have a Bible study together than taking it to the studio. But then again, rappers will always be rappers — even while doing gospel music.

The brand that conquers

BY **Lyonike Mughogho**



Malawi's celebrated lyricist Hayze Engola has spread the creativity wings further by introducing his own brand tagged KNQR which basically means conquer.

The trademark comes hot on the heels of rigorous social media publicity in the past weeks. According to the artist, KNQR is an umbrella that houses countless innovations that are vital in bettering one's life.

Speaking in an interview with FYI, Hayze said the brand is not solely glued to clothing as the public has been meant to believe.

"Conquer is more than just about

fashion, it is more than just about music. Conquer is a way of life, it is a mind-set, it is a reminder of the potential that we as human beings, especially the youth, have," explained the self-proclaimed modern day Matafale.

Meanwhile, the brand has opened its first clothing store located in Blantyre, Maselema next door to Toyota Malawi in Zainab house, second floor. The brain behind the innovation plans to extend to other parts of the world as well.

"We have opened our first store in Blantyre and it is the first of its kind. Next will be Lilongwe then Mzuzu. Thereafter we will target SADC countries before

extending to other continents."

The musician argues that the trademark has potential to grow as evidenced by the hype so far. He believes its infant stages exhibits potential of a satisfactory growth.

When asked about the motivation behind the project, Engola said the desire to change the mind-set of the youth compelled him to transform an idea into something physical. The KNQR store sells KNQR branded t-shirts, caps, hoodies, sweatpants, and backpacks ranging between K8,000 to K32,000.



Mumatha – 4 the Creatives

Name: Prince Mkanda

Creative Field: Photography

Brand Name: Afoto Prince

Inspiration: "I have been a lover of pictures from a young age."

Vision: "I want to travel to different parts of the world and create the best pictures of the world that are unique - to get the international recognition I need"

Challenge: "I sometimes create pictures that don't really come out the way I wanted them to. Mainly because I have limited gear and partly cause of my environment"

Check out his work on IG & Twitter @a_foto_princie

Ankara: Revolution that fits every size

by Patson Chikaonda—Twitter: @ChikaondaPatson

Famous American psychologist, Abraham Maslow, once compiled a hierarchy of basic human needs in which he placed clothing alongside shelter and food. It's quite hard to believe that this basic need has evolved from leaves which once clothed Adam and Eve, up further to the snakeskin pants up until today where we have the intricate tuxedos and the very go-getting croquet tops that have us speaking French more often than not.

A fashion trend that seems to have seen the life pumped back into it is African Print. Understandably, Ankara (or chitenje) has always been a hit in Africa because of weddings, bridal showers and pretty much all ceremonious events that require one to dress to impress. It would however be quite arrogant of us to turn a blind eye and pretend not to notice the influx of Ankara clothing in today's fashion industry. While we do admire the bold statement being made by the rapid production of Ankara clothing, we dare raise an eyebrow and ask; why all of a sudden?

Well, Africa, as a continent, is trending. In recent years our land has been the place to be for general investment. It is safe to say we are still reaping the fruits of the 2010 FIFA World Cup which was held in South Africa. What more to solidify our image than our dressing?

However, to say Ankara originated from Africa would be deceiving the narrative. Ankara originated from Indonesia in the West Indies where wax was added over clothing to create a pattern or batik as it was then called. Somewhere along the line in the mid-century, the Dutch had brought African men to work in their army; both as slaves and mercenaries. As curious as they were far from home, they took particular liking into the fabric and began to bring some of the material back to their respective countries. The rest is history.

We even had our own modern hero;



The Black Panther, whose African-inspired cast, style and language was on full display for the world to see. The phenomenon that is *The Black Panther* was meant to explain the story of a young male who returns home to the African nation of wakanda to take claim the throne to which he stood as heir but instead transpired into a movement. The timing was nothing less of impeccable as people of African descent decided to show their support by gracing cinemas while dressed in their best African print outfit.

While catching up with a few young

and vibrant African fashion designers, the answer to the question asked at the beginning of this article was quite similar but bold. Every answer pinned to the point that no matter how far you go, you are never too far away from home.

African print, from what I have gathered, is a symbol of a generation of Africans digging deep into their roots and cutting off various branches that have seen their self-definition altered to western liking and is striving to win back what they once held with dignity. .

Miserable Winds from West

by **Chikondi Frank Phuzo**, *Journalism student at the Polytechnic*

Over the ages I stood on
peak mountain Africa

Keenly gazing and
starring all its corners

Only blue winds kept
crippling over my face.

As far as I search,
beating drums day and
night

Calling Africa back; to
no avail.

African ethics have
drowned suddenly

In harsh winter winds
from the west

That brought bizarre
debris flashes.

Pan-Africanism was our
victory song by then

Very sticky weapon for
black unity

Aspired by King Selassie
I, Marcus Garvey,

W.E Du Bois, Mighty
Nkrumah and others

Over the times now,
sorrowful tears still trickle
down my cheeks

Crying for Africa, the
great motherland; but all
in vain:

M'bona and Makewana
has quite annihilated,

Pots have been
embracing strange foods,

The mouth has been
forgotten to cite its own
story,

Nude dressing, what's
preferred the most

Artillery and
ammunitions only to
shoot one another,

Oh...!! Africa has carried
away like chaffs



Dating in Malawi: Reality Check (Part 1)

by Tuto Kalitera



A friend's WhatsApp status recently read "Eh koma dating in Malawi is an extreme sport". That got me reflecting on the dating scene in Malawi and the conversations I've had on the subject. It seems like we are generally quick to point the finger at the opposite sex for their (significant) contribution to the chaos.

Guys often talk about how deceptive and materialistic today's girls are, and the girls talk about how misogynistic, dishonest and trash the men are. The general consensus on both sides is the same though: It's rough out here.

It's also quite complicated. The young girl in an affair with a married man prays for a marriage of her own and she'll probably be a loving mother to her children someday. The playboy who's a ruthless heartbreaker is a mama's boy who wholeheartedly loves his mother and treats her like his queen. Things are not black and white; more like 50 shades of grey.

If you're single and watching all

this unfold from a distance you probably tell yourself "I think I'm good. I'll just do me until the right person comes along". Yet you might feel like you're in the minority. It seems like everybody these days is dating one another – jumping from one relationship to the next; dating different versions of the same person and reliving the same experiences.

Yet perhaps the biggest culprit of all the chaos is our very own culture on which our very values and beliefs are based. Take marriage for example, our society views marriage as a destination and achievement and hence many of us are pressured to marry young long before we even truly know ourselves. Yet for many this seems to be where the problems of life start! You only need to analyse your own (extended) family to see how unhappily married many are.

However God wants you to be happy. He wants you to be in a healthy, loving, and purposeful relationship. A relationship where your house is built on a foundation of Godly love with pillars of trust, loyalty, integrity and honesty to

keep it firmly grounded. Making what He says the standard by which you make all your (relationship) decisions, and not allowing yourself to be influenced by societal/cultural beliefs, unresolved wounds, naivety, or pride is the key to happiness and success in relationships.

May this be your turning point. You will not live like those before you and neither will your children ever experience what you went through. Generational curses and cycles are about to be broken with you.

For the longest time our broken nation has been a reflection of our broken homes which consists of broken relationships made up of broken people. However, Malawi's restoration, liberty and healing is only a reflection of what is happening within us as a people. So let us build better relationships and homes, so that we can give our all towards building a better nation.

Next: Dating in Malawi: *Kodi mukwatila liti??* (Part 2) – in the FYI next edition...

HGA: Hommies Grown Apart

BY Gary Samati



A hommie of mine recently reminded me that in this life, we either grow together or we grow apart.

"I've seen people split up and move better," he said. "I've seen even more people stick together and do way better."

Listening to these words come out of Patson Chikaonda's mouth; it hit me that part of growing up means finding your preference. Whether it's a love relationship or the professional relationships, we create with our colleagues as we aim to make it together in this life, finding what works best for you is one thing we can and must do unapologetically.

There's no harm in moving on once you see the goals of the people around you do not align with yours anymore. There's definitely no harm in going a different way once you realise getting your own name out there is better than being under the shadow of what will be seen as nothing but the genius of group work.

A college student feels more satisfied by a distinction earned from an

individual assignment than one earned from a group assignment. An analogy that fits the situation Yankho "Classick" Zulu and Sindiso "Hayze Engolah" Msungama find themselves in? Well, the Malawian rap duo that most hip-hop lovers in the country rooted for went from HGA as an acronym for Home Grown Africa to HGA as an acronym for *Hommies Grown Apart* – or so you'd think.

In an interview with *FYI*, Talumba Chirwa, once manager of the group, said we could hear official statements on the future plans of the duo in a few months to come. But Malawian hip-hop lovers haven't heard anything from the rap group for more than 2 years now. Evidenced by the #BringBackHomeGrownAfrica trend that was started by @IncLawani on twitter; you can tell that the duo's fans not only want the duo to make music together but want to know exactly why the two don't work together anymore.

Classick, who released a solo EP titled *Pisces* in March this year, gave a rather unsatisfactory response as he believes he has made it clear on several

interviews about the HGA situation. "This story is long gone. I think I've made it clear on several interviews," he said. "Nonetheless, you can ask everyone involved so they can give you their side of the story," the *Bola kunthazi* hit-maker concluded.

On the other hand, Hayze Engolah, who is working on a solo EP as well titled *Welcome to the shop*, was rather more open about the situation. "There was no statement saying HGA has split up. It's simply a speculation," he said. "There is no bad blood between the two of us. We might not hang out as much as we used to but we still care about each other." The KNQR brand owner went on to say that the duo owes a project to their fans. "When the two of us come together it's going to be a whole album, a Home Grown Africa album," concluded the rapper.

The rap duo rose to fame in 2014 – despite rapping together since their primary school days. They've made a lot of songs together but the last the Malawian music lovers heard a song from the duo is back in January of 2017.

MALAWIAN URBAN DICTIONARY

WORD OF THE WEEK

Khenge

A word either created or popularised by Fredokiss.

In a nutshell, *Khenge* means good.

Person A:
“Muli bwanji man?”

Person B:
“Tili Khenge man.”

URBAN LANGUAGE MISTAKE

One in the same vs One and the same

When you really sit and think about it, “*one in the same*” doesn’t mean anything at all. The correct phrase “*one and the same*” means that two things are the same.

Correct: *You and I are one and the same*

Incorrect: *You and I are one in the same*

ASK SIBWENI



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

Note:

Your question is published anonymously.

f t i @FYIonlineMW

The Fascinating endeavour

BY Andrew Mtewa—Twitter: @andrew_mtewa, Lecturer in Chemistry – Malawi Uni. of Sci. Tech.



We have all, to a high level of certainty, taken drugs before with the most common reason being to get healed from a disease. But, have you ever questioned what drugs are, where they come from and how they come into being?

Such questions came to me sadly at a relatively later stage of my career but fortunately, I was still at the point where I could make a turn to start focussing on designing and making drugs for a living. This column comes at an opportune time to the young woman and man today in a world where drug development research is a dire need but for many reasons, is hardly known around.

As we go on with our interface through this outlet, there is one promise that I will make to you about drug development, ready to be surprised? I think you will be. It is a common thought that drug development studies is a thing for scientists only but I am happy to introduce to you a place for non-scientists in the “art” of making drugs. Yes, I mentioned the word art. We need non scientists probably more than you ever thought we could. This is why the language that will be used in this column will be all encompassing, in the simplest terms possible.

Now being sure that we have taken

the whole spectrum of youths along into the discovery pipeline, we are starting from the right footing. Let’s move on.

A drug is a substance that changes the make-up of the body and/or orientation of the mind when taken. This is usually understood as the physiological and/or the psychological state of being. The effect can be on a very small area or maybe on the entire body systems. It may also be short term and may last a lifetime, all depending on the intention of the drug. In this view, you can see that the use of drugs is not leisure as a drug can cure as much as it can kill.

This takes us to another area of drug misuse and abuse which will be discussed in detail along the way from a designer’s point of view. For lack of a proper term to distinguish between drugs used to heal or prevent a disease and drugs taken to solely induce pleasure; descriptions will be given to the word drug when talking about pleasure inducers.

Drug discovery and development is not an individual’s show, it is one of the most collaborative projects across disciplines. It has many other benefits beyond wellbeing. Apart from lessening the budgetary burden to always be importing drugs, one other aspect that needs to be understood is the place

of drug making in national security which will be discussed later. In the subsequent entries, I will be taking you through what is involved in making drugs and how important it is for the youth to take interest in pursuing careers in drug making.

This is a fascinating world through which together we can make a difference. Again remember, you do not need to be a scientist to contribute to drug development, everyone has a specific role to play, only to different extents.



Drug discovery and development is not an individual’s show, it is one of the most collaborative projects across disciplines. It has many other benefits beyond wellbeing.



Home remedies for acne and pimples

BY Sarah Kachingwe

Facial products are quite of expensive on a low budget. Your skin might also not cooperate with some facial products. Here are some cheap home remedies to try with readily available natural ingredients.

Lemons

Citric acid in lemons helps remove sebum from pores reducing inflammation. It cleanses the skin surface and pore by getting rid of dirt and other impurities. Additionally, lemon juice also fades spots on the face.

How to use: Squeeze lemon juice from fresh lemons, dilute with a little water and apply to affected area. Wash off after 5 minutes with lukewarm water.

Baking soda

Another amazing remedy right there in your kitchen is baking soda. It is a good exfoliation agent that helps remove dead cells. It also balances pH level of the skin. How to use: Take 2 tablespoons of baking soda and blend with 1 tablespoon of lukewarm water to form a thick paste. Wet your face then apply the paste on your face with circular motion. Rinse with water and repeat every day for great effects.

Banana peel

We all throw away banana peels without knowing they're actually good for our skin.

How to use: Wash your face, cut the banana peel into 2 inch strips and rub the inner side of the peel on you're the affected area. Leave over-night and rinse off in the morning with warm water.

Honey

Honey is a good moisturizer for the skin and it reduces black spots.

How to use: Apply honey directly to affected area and wash off after 10 minutes with cold water. Then take a half lemon and put 3 drops of honey on it. Rub the lemon on your face, emphasizing troubled areas. Leave the lemon and honey mixture on your face for 5 minutes and then wash it with cold water.

Ansah finally gives an answer

BY Chifundo Banda



What started as a move made by the Human Rights Defendant Coalition (HRDC) spread like wild fire demanding the resignation of the Malawi Electoral Commission (Mec) Chairperson, Jane Ansah.

The final blow was thrown by the Supreme Court upholding the Constitutional Court's ruling of fresh presidential polls. On record, Ansah assured Malawians that she will resign if the Supreme Court finds Mec's conduct in the May 21 2019 Elections as incompetent. On May 8, 2020 the Supreme Court upheld the Concourt ruling that nullified the 2019 Elections. Additionally, an online petition circulated among the general public with over 5,000 signing the petition – all in demand for the resignation of the Mec Chairperson. HRDC also set May 28 2020 as a day they were meant to lead in massive demonstrations with the aim of forcing Ansah to resign.

Well, it seems Malawians have finally received the answer they were looking for as the Mec Chairperson, on 21 May 2020, said she had written the

appointing authority (President) asking to be relieved of her duties, following the presidential case.

Despite the decision coming at a time when there were growing demands from the public regarding her resignation, Ansah pointed out that it has nothing to do with the demonstrations staged by the public but solely based on the Supreme Court of Appeal ruling.

Evidently, much has been proven regarding the incompetence of Mec commissioners. We cannot however deny that Ansah has proven to be a strong woman throughout her tenure. With all the Women Empowerment movements going on in the world, her resilience will definitely go down as one for the books. So will her incompetence.

Kudos to her for keeping her word by finally handing in her resignation after the Supreme Court of Appeal ruling as per the promise she made prior to the ruling.

“Well, it seems Malawians have finally received the answer they were looking for as the Mec Chairperson, on 21 May 2020, said she had written the appointing authority (President) asking to be relieved of her duties, following the presidential case.”



Side nigga drama, but lest we forget...

Social media was a drama-filled platform for Malawians this week. Well, in all honesty, social media is always a drama-filled platform, but this week was special! A video circulated around involving a man named Alick who caught his wife at a hotel with her side-nigga. While a lot of Malawians were consumed in the drama discussion, a twitter user, @mynassah, who's fond of tweeting about politics, reminded Malawians not to let the 'Alick drama' distract them from what is an alleged story – about the Attorney General 'abusing' the authority of his office to pay K11 billion to Mulli in a bogus compensation settlement.



Mikozi
Yesterday at 10:41 • 🌐

ONESIMUS Akukanitsa kuti si wine akumwayu. Anafunsidwa Chifukwa anthu amadabwa kuti ah ah munthu wayimba nyimbo ya gospel yabwino koma akutsogozanso mowa. Nde adakakanabe kuti si mowa

#OnRepeat ONESIMUS - Here With Me
<https://mikozi.net/onesimus-here-with-meon/>



Mikozi instigating as usual

Mikozi Network, a Malawian social media page famously known for their controversy tendencies, had Onesimus on their hit-list this week as the gospel artist posted a picture that looked like he was drinking wine. The Easy Baby hit-maker posted the picture on his twitter page (@OnesimusMuzik) as a way of promoting his new song Here with me with the caption "calculate the drink and win yourself 2GB worth of data, reply with #herewithme and name the drink..." Well, Mikozi definitely helped out with the promo.

Weekly Fitness Routine

BY Sibongile Wengawenga

Working out must be in fashion these days. I mean hey, which girl doesn't want to have a Khloe Kardashian body? And gents show me one who doesn't want to have a body like Omari Hardwick (Ghost, Power)? But how do we get our body goals while the average (or lack of) pocket money cannot allow us to afford monthly gym memberships? Most of us do not even have cars to take us to and from the gym in good time. Well, here is a workout routine that is achievable even in your backyard – considering gyms are closed amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mondays

Mondays could be used for light jogging as this could serve as a warm up for the exercises coming up during the week. Jog around your area of residence probably from 5am to 6am. Light jogging is the best way to start your day – helps keep you alert for the busy day ahead. What better thing to ask for than an exercise that is benefitting both the body and the mind?

Abs Tuesdays

For this, you need to start with 30 jumping jacks which will work all your muscle groups. The main point of the exercise is to burn tummy fats so get yourself that flat tummy hey.

Mid-Butt Wednesdays

Yes. You read right. 'Butt Workouts' are actually a thing. Ladies, we all want a behind that looks great with every outfit! Men too want round butts nowadays to look sexy in those sweats so pay attention! Main exercises in this case are the butt kicks, lunges, donkey kicks, classical squats and butt bridges. However, at the beginning of this exercise you might want to start with 30 seconds of high stepping to liberate your body.

Full-body Thursdays

You could perform a full body work out on Thursdays as a recap for the work you have been doing all week. This can include a selection of a number of workouts for different parts of the body. Even the simple ones will do.

Friday and the rest of the weekend I suggest should be rest days. For more detailed workouts, the internet has made things easier for all of us; you can simply download an app and your life could change without spending money or worrying about gyms being closed cause of the on-going pandemic.

