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# **The Academy of Sciences Malawi**

## **Fellows' biography Booklet**

**2026**





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The Academy of Sciences in Malawi is an independent, evidence-based scientific body established by leading scientists to promote science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, natural and social sciences, and the humanities in support of national development and Sustainable Development Goals, including Malawi 2063. It fosters excellence in research, facilitates collaboration among Malawian and international scientists, and provides authoritative scientific advice to the Government on socio-economic and policy matters. The Academy also engages the public with science, organizes scientific forums, and represents Malawi's scientific community regionally and globally. Its work strengthens the role of science and innovation in national decision-making.

## **About This Booklet**

This booklet presents the Fellows of the Academy and highlights their professional biographies, academic achievements, research contributions, and leadership roles. It serves as an official record of distinguished individuals whose work has significantly advanced science, scholarship, and national development. Through these profiles, the booklet showcases the depth of expertise within the Academy and reflects its commitment to excellence, integrity, and service to society.

## **Who Is a Fellow?**

A Fellow is a distinguished scholar or professional who has been formally elected to the Academy in recognition of sustained excellence, outstanding research contributions, leadership, and impact within their field. Fellowship is typically awarded through a rigorous peer-review and nomination process, ensuring that only individuals with demonstrable achievement and high ethical standing are admitted. Fellows contribute to the Academy's mandate by providing expert advice, advancing scientific knowledge, mentoring emerging scholars, and supporting evidence-based policy and national development initiatives.



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## **Dr. Elizabeth Bandason**



Dr. Elizabeth Bandason is a Senior Lecturer at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources specializing in molecular entomology, insect neuroscience, and toxicology. Her research explores insect brain function, neurotoxicology, and behavior to advance sustainable pest and vector control. She invented Gulugufe, an eco-friendly crop protection technology that reduces reliance on insecticides. An early fellow of the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World, she is also an AWARD Fellow and Mentor. Elizabeth holds a PhD from Michigan State University and champions interdisciplinary science and women's leadership globally.

## **Associate Prof. Chomora Mikeka**



Chomora Mikeka is an Associate Professor of Physics (Wireless Communications) at the University of Malawi and former Director of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Ministry of Education. He holds a Doctorate in Engineering from Yokohama National University, Japan. He has served in leadership roles within ARSO, NCST, PMRA, SADC, and the Malawi Space Agency Taskforce. He represents Malawi on UNESCO's AI ethics recommendations and sits on the ITU Global Digital Innovation Board. He has also chaired the African Union STC-EST Bureau and co-led the AU-EU Innovation Agenda.

## **Dr. Artz George Luwanda**



Artz George Luwanda holds a PhD in Statistics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and is Senior Lecturer in Statistics at Mzuzu University, where he has served for over two decades. He previously served as Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Innovation and as a member of the University Council. He co-chaired the Technical Working Group for Public Universities Selection under the National Council for Higher Education. His research focuses on dynamical systems modelling and generalized linear models with missing data in biological, ecological, and health sciences. A founding member of The Academy of Science in Malawi and the International Biometric Society Malawi Region, he has contributed significantly to scientific leadership and capacity building.

## **Prof. Adamson Sinjani Muula**



Professor Adamson S. Muula is a Professor of Public Health & Epidemiology at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHES). He holds academic and professional qualifications in Medicine, Epidemiology and Public Health. Prof Muula has authored or co-authored over 300 peer reviewed articles in high impact journals. He is the current Editor-in-Chief of the Malawi Medical Journal, the Vice President of the Medical Association of Malawi and President for the ECSA College of Public Health Physicians. He has supervised at least 25 PhD students to completion and 123 masters students.

## **Dr. Lewis Keliyasi Eneya**



He is an Applied Mathematician with extensive expertise in research, teaching, and academic leadership. He earned a Bachelor of Education with Distinction and an MSc from the University of Malawi, followed by a PhD in Mathematics from Humboldt University of Berlin. His research interests include optimisation, mathematical biology, climate modelling, cryptography, and mathematics education. He is deeply engaged in education policy, focusing on expanding access to higher education. From 2021 to 2025, he served as Director and Secretary for Higher Education in Malawi's Ministry of Education. He has held multiple academic leadership roles and served on national and international boards.

## **Mrs. Gift A. Kadzamira**



Gift A. Matabwa-Kadzamira is Director General of the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), where she leads efforts to strengthen Malawi's national innovation system and governance of science, technology, and innovation (STI). With over 20 years' experience, 12 at NCST, she specializes in research and innovation management. She holds an MSc in Electronic Information Management from Robert Gordon University and a BSc in Biology from the University of Malawi. Her professional training includes programs at Harvard Kennedy School and Lund University. She is currently a PhD candidate at UNICAF University, researching the science diplomacy-innovation nexus.

## **Mr. Kondwani Victor Gondwe**



He is an economist and research specialist with expertise in research management and science, technology, and innovation (STI) statistics. In 2008, he was awarded a Master of Arts in Economics at the University of Malawi and a PG-Diploma in Economics Research at the University of Bath. In 2022, he was awarded a PG-Diploma in Innovation, Transformation and Resilience for Sustainable Development at Lund University. Currently, he serves as an Acting Director of Planning and Resource Mobilization at the NCST, coordinating the Grand Challenges Malawi initiative and supporting the Academy of Sciences of Malawi. He is pursuing a PhD in Transformative Innovation Policy

## **Ms. Faith Mwangonde**



Faith Mwangonde is Research Ethics Administrator and Technology Transfer Officer (Operations) at Mzuzu University under the Directorate of Research. She strengthens research governance systems, oversees ethical compliance, and supports commercialization of research outputs into socially and economically valuable innovations. She also serves as Adjunct Lecturer in Governance, Peace and Security Studies, teaching political science and public policy. She holds a master's degree in Intellectual Property and Development Policy from the KDI School of Public Policy and Management and a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Her expertise spans research management, grants administration, intellectual property, and innovation systems development in Malawi.

## Mr. Ananias Cyrus Zulu



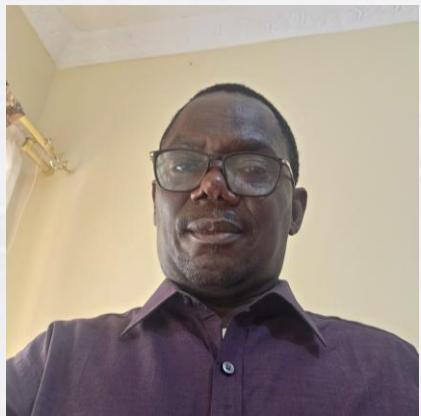
Ananias Cyrus Zulu is a Biomedical and Robotics Engineer with expertise in Micro Electronic Mechanical Systems. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering from the Malawi University of Science and Technology and a Master of Engineering in Mechatronics and Surgical Robotics from Egypt-Japan University of Science and Technology. He lectures and conducts research at MUST, focusing on medical device design, innovation, and mentorship. He has worked as a biomedical engineer at Queens Central Hospital and as a research fellow with RICE 360. Founder of Light Technologies, he has earned multiple international awards and holds a patent for Bank Nkhonde.

## Dr. Kondwani Katundu



Dr Kondwani Katundu is a Malawian medical doctor, clinical nutritionist, and Senior Lecturer in Nutrition and Dietetics at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences. He holds an MBBS from the University of Malawi College of Medicine, an MSc (Med) in Nutrition from the University of Cape Town, a Fogarty Fellowship from the University of California, Davis, and a PhD from the University of St Andrews. He leads the Nutrition, Cardiometabolic Health and Ageing Research Group, focusing on cardiometabolic disease, micronutrient biology, and critical care nutrition among vulnerable populations. He contributes to national nutrition policy and chairs the Young Researchers Forum. His honors include the Emerging Global Health Leader Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

## **Prof. Bryson Gwiyani Nkhoma**



Bryson Gwiyani Nkhoma is Professor of History, Heritage and Development Studies at Mzuzu University and Research Fellow at University of the Free State. He holds a PhD in African Studies (History) from UFS and degrees from the University of Malawi. His research examines agrarian and environmental change, food production and nutrition, diplomacy, migration, and smallholder irrigation. He authored *Bettering their Foods: Peasant Production, Nutrition and the State in Malawi, 1859–2005* (2023). A widely published scholar and award recipient, he serves as Postgraduate Coordinator at Mzuni and leads faith-based and philanthropic initiatives.

## **Dr. Kondwani Richie Msango S.**



Chief Scientist at the Agricultural Research and Extension Trust, he holds a PhD in Agricultural Sciences (Insect Physiology and Molecular Entomology) from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, an MSc in Insect Ecology from North Dakota State University, and a BSc in Agriculture (Crop Sciences) from Bunda College of Agriculture. A crop protection specialist with over 20 years' experience, he focuses on pest management, variety development, and agronomy. His 2024 article in *Scientific Reports* examines gut bacteria variation in scarab beetles. Research interests include insect-pathogen interactions, toxicology, eco-friendly pest control, and ecosystem management.

## **Don Pascal Mathanga**



Don Mathanga is an infectious diseases epidemiologist and Professor in the School of Global and Public Health at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS), Malawi. In addition, he is the Director of the Malawi International Center of Excellence for Malaria Research (ICEMR), one of the ten NIH funded global centers, mandated to understand why malaria remains intransigent in Malawi and globally. The center is also pioneering interventions that target the determinants of Plasmodium transmission and malaria disease in Malawi. He is a principal investigator on several grants, building the necessary KUHeS field infrastructure, molecular laboratory capacity, and data capture and analysis expertise to undertake epidemiological, parasitological, and environmental research on malaria and other infectious diseases. These studies have provided on-the-job mentorship to postdoctoral students and young researchers, both from Malawi and abroad, leading to hundreds of published peer-reviewed articles

## **Dr. Paul Stone Brown Macheso**



Dr. Paul Stone Brown MACHESO is a Lecturer in Electronics in the Department of Physics and Electronics. He holds a PhD in Engineering Sciences with Highest Honour Distinction from the Euro-Mediterranean University of Fes, Morocco (2025), specializing in Optics and Photonics. He also earned an MSc in Internet of Things (Wireless Intelligent Sensor Networking) with First Class Honours from the University of Rwanda (2020) under the African Center of Excellence in IoT, and a Bachelor of Education Science in Physics and Electronics from the University of Malawi (2018). His research focuses on intelligent sensing, photonic technologies, advanced communication systems, plasmonics, Fiber Bragg Gratings, IoT, and embedded systems.

## **Associate Prof. Davies Emmanuel Mweta**



Associate Professor Davies Emmanuel Mweta is Executive Director of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Authority, providing strategic leadership in radiation safety, nuclear security, and atomic energy regulation. He holds a PhD in Interdisciplinary Chemistry and Plant Sciences from the University of the Free State, and MSc and BEd degrees from the University of Malawi. His leadership includes serving as Executive Dean at the Malawi University of Science and Technology and Deputy Principal of Domasi College of Education. A recipient of the African Union-TWAS Young Scientist Award, he advances STEM education, research, policy, and innovation in Malawi.

## **Prof. Fanuel Lampiao**



Professor Fanuel Lampiao is a distinguished biomedical scientist and academic leader renowned for his pioneering research in male reproductive health. With a career spanning over two decades, he has significantly advanced understanding in areas such as fertility, oxidative stress, and metabolic regulation, earning international recognition for his scholarly contributions. Currently serving as a professor of physiology and a mentor to numerous young scientists, Professor Lampiao's commitment to scientific excellence and capacity building in Africa has made him a respected figure across the global scientific community. His inauguration as a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences marks a milestone achievement, honoring his impactful research, leadership, and dedication to advancing science for societal benefit.

## Dr. Steven Wandale



Dr. Steven Wandale is a Lecturer in Electronics (Statistical and Array Signal Processing) at the University of Malawi. He earned a Doctorate of Engineering (D.Eng., 2023) and a Master of Engineering (M.Eng., 2020) from Yokohama National University, Japan. He is a recipient of MEXT scholarships (2018, 2020), a 2023 TAF Grant awardee (NTT, Japan), and a 2024 UniPod “Sciencepreneur” Grant Awardee (MUBAS; UNDP timbuktoo). His research spans statistical and array signal processing, convex optimization, and AI/ML for signal processing, with over 20 publications.

## Dr. Russel Chidya



Dr Russel Chidya holds a PhD in Analytical and Environmental Chemistry (Water Resources & Environmental Management) from Hiroshima University and an MSc in Applied Chemistry from the University of Malawi. A recipient of the MEXT Scholarship, he is Deputy Dean and Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Environmental Sciences at Mzuzu University. With over 20 years in academia, he has led and contributed to international research initiatives and serves in technical advisory roles with government ministries. He has published more than 31 articles, supervised over 24 postgraduate completions, and mentors more than 50 students in water resources, environmental management, WASH, climate adaptation, and public health.

## **Mr. Master R.O. Chisale**



Master R.O. Chisale is a Senior Lecturer at Mzuzu University, within the Faculty of Science, Technology, and Innovations, in the Biological Sciences Department. He is pursuing a PhD at the University of Dundee's School of Life Sciences in Scotland, UK, focusing on drug discovery against *Cryptococcus neoformans*, with a particular emphasis on target identification and biochemical validation. Chisale holds a BSc in Biomedical Sciences and an MSc in Medicine, and has published more than 30 research articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has secured numerous research grants to promote innovation and policy-making. His leadership roles include serving as a journal editor and reviewer; HoD, Programme and research coordinator at Mzuzu University; Young Ambassador for the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in Malawi; Head of Microbiology, Research, Publications, and Quality at Mzuzu Central Hospital.

## **Associate Prof. Elijah M.M. Wanda**



Elijah M. M. Wanda, PhD, is an Associate Professor in Chemistry at Mzuzu University, Malawi, and Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Science, Technology and Innovation. He earned his PhD in Nanotechnology and Materials Chemistry from University of South Africa. His work focuses on advanced materials, nanotechnology, food systems, environmental systems, and green chemistry. He serves as ESS Coordinator for World Bank funded ACENUB project and has led THES research and innovation champion. Formerly Director General of the National Commission for Science and Technology, he also served as the First Vice President of the African Union's Scientific Research and Innovation Council.

## **Associate Prof. Gowokani Chijere Chirwa**



Dr Gowokani Chijere Chirwa is Associate Professor of Economics and Head of Department at the University of Malawi. He earned his PhD in Economics from the University of York in 2020. His research spans health economics, multidimensional poverty, inequality, impact and economic evaluation, and microeconometrics. He has contributed to Malawi's Multidimensional Poverty and Child Poverty Reports and advises government ministries on evidence-based policy. He is Extraordinary Associate Professor at North-West University and a STAARS Fellow at Cornell University. With over 67 publications, he has consulted for World Health Organization and UNICEF, among others, while actively mentoring emerging scholars.

## **Mr. Pocha Samuel Kamudumuli**



Pocha Samuel Kamudumuli works with the Center for International Health, Education and Biosecurity (CIHEB), the Malawi laboratory implementing partner, where he serves as the National Laboratory Implementing Lead. In this role, he oversees HIV Viral Load (VL), Early Infant Diagnosis (EID), and responses to emerging and re-emerging diseases. He is a Biomedical Scientist and a PhD Fellow at the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, focusing on the diagnosis of neglected fungal infections, improving testing algorithms, and integrating fungal disease activities into existing health programs. Mr. Kamudumuli holds a Master of Science in Medicine (MSc Med) and has made recognized contributions to the development of health policies and guidelines in Malawi. He is passionate about research and has published at least 14 papers in peer-reviewed journals. He has also secured both merit-based and research grants locally and internationally. In addition, Mr. Kamudumuli serves as Malawi Ambassador for Global Action for Fungal Infections (GAFFI), where he is dedicated to raising awareness about fungal infections and improving access to diagnostics and treatment for serious fungal diseases, contributing to efforts to reduce the more than 1.5 million deaths attributed to fungal infections each year.



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