

**BRIEF**

# Man jailed four years for theft

Limbe Magistrate's Court has sentenced Mphatso Salimu, 28, to four years imprisonment for stealing a cellphone. Limbe Police Station spokesperson Patrick Mussa said Salimu stole a Tecno Spark 9 worth K110 000 from a car driving along Blue Bird Street in Limbe on April 14 this year. He said the convict with his accomplice who is on the run, tricked the driver that he had a flat tyre and stole the phone. "In court, Salimu denied the charges, but the State paraded two witnesses to prove its case," said Mussa. Salimu comes from Nthukuso Village, Traditional Authority Malemia in Nsanje.—THE NATION

# Chikwawa gets development plan

MERCY MALIKWA  
STAFF WRITER

Chikwawa District Council has received a physical development plan formulated under the Physical Planning Act of 2016. The plan gives the council power to manage land in the district.

Speaking on Monday when she handed over the plan to the district council, Deputy Minister of Lands Abida Mia said land was important in socio-economic development.

She said: "The plan is not only for the people of Chikwawa, but also for everyone who intends to develop in Malawi."

"The plan proposes irrigation schemes and supporting industries that will attract investors to the district and its neighbours."

Mia said the ministry started preparing the plan in January last year



Mia (L) hands over the plan to Gwede

with funding from World Bank through the Shire Valley Transformation Programme.

She said various stakeholders were consulted and their input was incorporated.

Ministry of Local Government chief director

Esmie Kainja said the physical development plan was part of decentralisation.

"The plan will enable the council to manage the land and help government sectors to work in collaboration for development," she said.

Chikwawa District

Council chairperson Gerald Gwede said the plan included sustainable

management and utilisation of land and natural resources which will give opportunity to communities to use the Shire River to address food challenges. ■

PHOTOGRAPH: MERCY MALIKWA

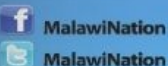
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# Girls in Mulanje demand by-laws

BLACKSON MKUPATIRA  
MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

Girls from Traditional Authority (T/A) Juma in Mulanje want by-laws to protect them from marriages.

They said this on Saturday during a meeting Malawi Girl Guides Association organised in the area.

A Standard Seven pupil at Namphungo Primary School, Jenipher Lipekwa said lack of by-laws was fuelling teenage pregnancies and child marriages.

"Men sexually abuse girls because there are no by-laws," she said.

Chief Juma said he was pleased that government has allowed expectant girls to sit for their Primary School Leaving Certificate of Education examinations.

On his part, Mulanje district assistant social welfare officer Biswick



Some of the girls listen to a presentation

Nchenga said about 1 832 girls are pregnant while others are married in the district.

"We are working with various stakeholders to end the marriages and send them back to school,"

he said.

Malawi Girl Guides Association official Paul Chasukwa said the meeting sought to give the youth an opportunity to voice their concerns to duty-bearers. ■

PHOTOGRAPH: BLACKSON MKUPATIRA, MANA