

**BRIEFS**

**Mob burns man in Chikwawa**

A mob in Chikwawa District has burnt an unidentified man on suspicion that he was a cattle rustler. Chikwawa Police Station spokesperson Dickson Matamba said the incident happened on Friday night at Mologeni Village, Traditional Authority Maseya in the district. He said post-mortem conducted at Chikwawa District Hospital indicated that death was due to burns. "Investigations are underway to arrest the perpetrators. We also ask people not to take the law into their own hands," said Matamba. Mob justice cases are on the rise in the district, especially in cases of cattle theft.—MARTIN GELA JNR, CONTRIBUTOR

**Communities urged to protect children**

Zomba district social welfare officer Christopher Ndaona has asked community members to protect children from abuse. In an interview, he said children face many challenges; hence, the need for community members to support them. "Many people do not know that children have rights that should be protected," said Ndaona. On her part, Zomba first grade magistrate Jennifer Kalinde said it is important for communities to know the laws that protect children because they are vulnerable and need protection.—HAWA MALISACHE, MALAWI NEWS AGENCY

**Women in Zomba urged to deliver in hospital**

**HOLYCE KHOLOWA**  
CORRESPONDENT

**Z**omba District Health Office (DHO) has urged pregnant women to deliver in hospital to reduce maternal deaths.

Zomba DHO communications officer Arnold Ndalira made the call on Saturday at Chinseu Trading Centre in Traditional Authority Nkapita during a meeting with chiefs and community members on safe motherhood.

He said that in 2020, six women died from labour complications while delivering at traditional birth attendants in the district.

"But records indicate that from 2018 to 2021, the district has not registered maternal deaths for women who went to health centres



PHOTOGRAPH: HOLYCE KHOLOWA

**Ndalira: Maternal deaths are preventable**

early for labour," said Ndalira.

Group village head Mikundi I attributed the failure by pregnant women to deliver in hospital to their negligence.

He said they formulated by-laws that pregnant women should get a letter

of recommendation from the chief to the hospital to access antenatal services.

Said Mikundi: "We will encourage pregnant women to start accessing antenatal services which help them know the status of their pregnancy.

"If a woman chooses

to deliver at a traditional birth attendant, she risks her life because the attendants cannot carry out operations if needed."

One of the women, Meria Majidu, who usually visits the hospital for antenatal services when pregnant, urged her fellow women to deliver in hospital.

She said: "Antenatal services include check-ups, counselling and tests for some diseases.

"As a pregnant woman, one should know what is needed to be done before delivery."

Another community member, Atite Ndepele, also encouraged her fellow women to go to hospital early for delivery.

"There is a tendency by most women to delay to go to hospital for delivery. This is dangerous as others end up giving birth on the way," she said. ■



**OUTAGE IN SOME AREAS OF LILONGWE**

We would like to inform our valued customers in some areas of Lilongwe that we shall carry out maintenance works on **Friday, 8th October 2021, Saturday 9th October 2021 and Sunday, 10th October 2021.**

Customers at **Malikha, Airport Transmitter, Cilcom Quarry and Chiwamba** will, therefore, have no power supply on **Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm.**

The works scheduled for **Saturday** will affect power supply to **Nanjiri Trading Centre, Nayele Trading Centre, Kalumbu, Mazengera, Nathenje Trading Centre, Chiwoza Trading Centre, Kamphata Trading Centre, Matapira, Chamadenga, Nkhoma Hospital and Nkhoma Trading Centre from 9:00am to 5:00pm.**

On **Sunday**, the works will affect power supply to customers at **Bwaila Hospital, Lilongwe Main Market, Simama Hotel, Area 1, part of Falls, Upper Biwi and part of Kaliyeka from 7:30am to 3:30pm.**

Customers in the aforementioned areas are, therefore, advised to switch off all their electrical appliances as power supply may be restored earlier than stated.

We apologise sincerely to our valued customers for any inconvenience the works may cause.

**MANAGEMENT**

**5TH OCTOBER 2021**



PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GELA JNR

**Nkusa-Nkhoma being briefed at the project's**

**Ministry touts Shire Valley irrigation project**

**MARTIN GELA JNR**  
CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Minister of Agriculture Agnes Nkusa Nkhoma says the Shire Valley Transformation Programme will address food security in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts.

The project includes constructing a 130-kilometre canal from Kapichira Dam in Chikwawa to Bangula in Nsanje District.

Speaking on Saturday during a media tour to appreciate the progress of the canal, the deputy minister said the project will enhance food

production.

"Smallholder farmers in the two districts are affected by drought and floods. But when the project is complete, farmers will be able to grow crops throughout the year through irrigation," said Nkhoma.

Shire Valley Agriculture Development Division manager Taurayi Mulewa said the canal will also benefit livestock farmers who will utilise the water.

Sande Irrigation Scheme lead farmer Beaton Mapepa asked the Ministry of Agriculture to support them with water pumps.

He said: "Farmers are

failing to cultivate the whole 56-hectare scheme because they use treadle pumps.

"However, I am optimistic that farmers will soon migrate to modern farming through the Shire Valley Transformation Programme."

The first phase, which is expected to be completed by December 2023, is funded by the World Bank, Africa Development Bank, the Global Environment Facility, Opec Fund for International Development and the Malawi Government to the tune of \$223 million (about K8.1 billion).■