

A STORY ABOUT

DR BANDA HASTINGS KAMUZU
(THE LITTLE ROOT OF MALAWI)

BY

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FADE IN

EXT. CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

The BRITISH rally and form a human wall as they aim their weapons at the Nyasaland civilians. JOHAN, a JOURNALIST runs through the crowd as they hurl small rocks at the British army whilst avoiding gun shots at the crowd. He grabs KANYAMA, a DELEGATE and future MILITARY ELITIST in civilian attire that fell to the ground and drags him to safety.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - BUIDING - NYASALAND - DAY

Kanyama walks up to the phone booth. He looks around to see if it's safe. He dials out.

EXT. TEA PORCH - CLINIC - UK - DAY

DR BANDA (HASTINGS KAMUZU) is having tea with MRS MERENE FRENCH, his SECRETARY. A young male walks up to Dr Banda.

YOUNG MALE

It's for you.

DR BANDA (To Mrs French)

Excuse me for a minute.

Dr Banda follows the young male.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - CLINIC - UK - DAY

They walk up to the phone booth.

Dr Banda

Thank you young man.

The young male walks off. Dr Banda lifts the phone to his ears.

Dr Banda

Hello.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - BUIDING - NYASALAND - CONT'D

Kanyama gets in closer to the booth.

KANYAMA

Hello, Dr Banda. My name is Kanyama. Do you remember me?

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - CLINIC - CONT'D

Dr Banda

Yes, I do.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - BUILDING - NYASALAND - CONT'D

Kanyama

We need you here in Nyasaland. Things are not good.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - CLINIC - CONT'D

Dr Banda

What are you talking about?

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - BUILDING - NYASALAND - CONT'D

Kanyama

The British, they are fighting our people, your people. We need a spokes person.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - CLINIC - CONT'D

Dr Banda

Surely their must be someone who can take charge of the situation. I'm just a doctor.

EXT. PHONE BOOTH - BUILDING - NYASALAND - CONT'D

Kanyama

There is no one. No one who can help us. That is why I am calling you. Please come back to Nyasaland. If you don't, more people will die. I will talk again.

The phone is heard hung up. Dr Banda pauses for a moment. He walks off.

EXT. TEA PORCH - CLINIC - UK - DAY

Dr Banda walks up to Mrs French.

Dr Banda
Shall we attend to your husband?

Mrs French
Yes.

She stands up and accompanies Dr Banda.

EXT. CLINIC GARDEN - DAY

Dr Banda and Mrs French walk through the garden.

Dr Banda
Your husband is a strong man; however, he will need a nurse during the first couple of weeks to assist with cleansing and providing meds around the clock.
(A beat)
Mrs French, do you understand what I am saying?

Mrs French
Yes, doctor. Am, if its possible, would you consider taking this task upon yourself, at least the evenings. After being diagnosed Williams insisted he receive treatment from you alone.

Dr Banda looks at Mrs French.

Dr Banda
A stubborn man he is as well but yes, I'd be honored and gladly check up on your husband but you understand my other patients need my care as well and traveling is a little far.

They continue walking.

Mrs French
If you are provided with accommodation would that help, at least until he has recovered.

Dr Banda
That is most generous of you. I do understand the importance of this and

(Cont'd)

wanting the best for your husband is understandable.

Mrs French

It would mean a lot to us both if you could oblige.

Dr Banda

Allow me to think about it.

INT. PATIENT WARD - CLINIC - DAY

Dr Banda attends to Mr French who is under medication and recovering in the ward. Mrs French stands on the opposite of the bed holding Mr French's hand.

Mrs French

He seems so weak.

Dr Banda

For now, but he will recover. The effects of the medication is still wearing him down. Soon he will be wanting your full attention.

Dr Banda looks at the time.

Dr Banda (Cont'd)

Please excuse me. I have an interview with a journalist who has been begging me for my time.

Mrs French

I'm sure he will be delighted in hearing your story and progress.

Dr Banda

(As he walks off)

Yes.

Mrs French

Thank you Dr Banda.

INT. CLINIC LOUNGE - DAY

MARK, a BRITISH JOURNALIST accompanies Dr Banda to a table.

Dr Banda
Please, sit down.

MARK
Thank you. Am, if you don't mind, a photo
for the papers before we get started.

Dr Banda
With pleasure. Shall I stand against the
wall or is this spot perfect?

Mark
Am, where you are now will do.

Mark takes a couple of pictures.

Dr Banda
Lovely. May I get you some tea or coffee?

Mark
Tea will be nice, thank you.

Dr Banda
Be with you in a moment.

He sees a staff member (JANE) walking by.

Dr Banda (Cont'd)
Jane, would you mind organizing tea for two!

JANE
Yes, Doctor.

She walks off and Dr Banda returns to the table.

INT. CLINIC LOUNGE - CONT'D

Dr Banda sits down.

Mark
You have an impressive set up here and from
what I understand, you, man alone put this
in place?

Dr Banda

Well, let me say this. Procrastination will get a man no where and I believe in the theory of sowing to reap.

Mark

Certainly. Why the medical field, what drove you into this field?

Dr Banda

Well, I suppose one thing led to another. For starters, I did not like schooling. In fact, I ran away from the Church of Scotland mission. Yes, I headed to South Africa.

Jane walks in and puts the tea on the table.

Mark

Thank you.

She walks off.

Dr Banda

When I got to South Africa I managed to find a job as a hospital orderly and then a water pumper in a Johannesburg gold mine. I think what attracted me to the medical side was the work I did in the hospital and the need to become a success. I suppose helping patients somehow seemed the right choice as well.

(A beat)

However, as said I ended up at the mines and believe me, working in the mines is hard work and dangerous as well. I was fortunate in that I ended up being a clerk and that allowed me to study at night whilst paying for the studying.

Mark

How long did you study for?

Dr Banda

Eight years, eight long years it felt like but I persevered. And it didn't stop there, I was in contact with a Methodist bishop who arranged a way for me to get to the

(Cont'd)

Wilberforce Institute in Xenia, Ohio in which I furthered my studies and then followed onto an Indiana University.

Mark

And from what I read you then graduated from the University of Chicago in 1931.

Dr Banda

Yes, correct and as the only black scholar to pass in that year.

Mark

Dr Banda, you accompanied much in a period of your life, any further plans for a man of your status?

Dr Banda

Well, my interests are directed towards the Labour Party and Fabian Colonial Bureau as well. A man can not afford to slumber when opportunities present it self. In fact, I'm attending a meeting this evening.

Mark

Dr Banda, you are a man of encouragement and I certainly hope many will follow in your footsteps.

Dr Banda

I hope so. We certainly need our young reaching goals and setting new boundaries themselves.

EXT. BUILDING - CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

Tension continues as the Nyasaland people are confronted by the British solders in an effort to disperse the crowd. Kanyama Chiume and three other delegates (HENRY CHIPEMBERE, DUNDUZU CHISIZA, TDT BANDA) take shelter from the chaos.

HENRY

If we can get Dr Banda to come back to Nyasaland, being a man of status and

(Cont'd)

influence, I believe we can fight this evil the British is putting us through.

DUNDUZU

Have you spoken to him?

Kanyama

Yes, but briefly. I will send telegram and explain our situation in detail.

Henry

A sealed letter is best. Perhaps one of you should also visit and speak to him directly!

Dunduzu

I will travel with another delegate. Surely we can find a sponsor from our brothers but this might take a little time though.

Henry

In the meantime, Kanyama, send telegram of our intent on meeting up with Dr Banda. Hopefully we will find a favorable answer from the doctor.

The British move in closer. A couple of gun shots are heard. The men separate.

EXT. CITY STREET - CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

A British general (BENNET) faces the crowd with the British army between them. Next to him a lower ranking officer (SERGEANT CONYARD) stares at the crowd as well.

GENERAL BENNET

These Nyasaland people will be better off if they accepted British rule and policies. Sergeant, see to it that an example is made from this chaos. I expect nothing less.

SERGEANT CONYARD

Sir!

General Bennet

Damn it Sergeant, do I have to spell it out to you!

Sergeant Conyard

No sir.

The Sergeant turns around and approaches the British solders.

EXT. CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

The delegates separately work their way through the crowd to safety.

EXT. CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

British Solders corner several Nyasaland civilians. A couple civilians are forced to the ground and are arrested. Two civilians attack a solder and run off. A solder aims at these two civilians and discharges his rifle. A civilian drops to the ground. Blood stains his shirt.

EXT. CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

Kanyama looks at the fallen civilian. Two British solders check up on the civilian. Kanyama slips into an alley and escapes the violence.

INT. LABOUR DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Dr Banda walks into the hall. Several men of AFRICAN INTELLECTUALS and some esteemed cabinet are chatting to various parties. The CHAIRMAN of the party addresses the crowd.

CHAIRMAN

Gentlemen and esteemed colleagues, I invite you with a warm heart to this wonderful evening and a special welcome to Dr Banda. It is with great honour that we have an established man of your status amongst us and we can only wish you our very best in your future development and journey. Gentlemen, please make your selves at home. We will commence talks in a short while.

PHASE OUT

Super imposed - **THREE HOURS LATER**

INT. PATIENT WARD - CLINIC - NIGHT

The room is half lit up. Dr Banda inspects Mr French. He walks up to the window.

BACK FLASH - EXT. CLINIC GARDEN - DAY

Mrs French
Would you consider taking this task upon yourself, at least the evenings? After being diagnosed Williams insisted he receive treatment from you alone.

PHASE OUT

BACK TO NOW - STORY

EXT. TEA PORCH - CLINIC - DAY

Dr Banda walks up to Mrs French.

Dr Banda
Morning. How are you doing?

Mr Banda sits down.

Mrs French
I'm good thanks. My husband!

Dr Banda
He is doing fine. I kept a close eye on him throughout the night. You way visit your husband any time.

Mrs French
Thank you.

Dr Banda
I thought about your proposal and I accept. As soon as your husband is fit to go home, I will make plans to bring some of my belongings over. Just the basics, don't worry, I won't clog you space.

Mrs French
No no, bring what you need and thank you.

Mr Banda sips his tea.

Mr Banda

By the way, if it is of benefit to you, why don't you assist me, say am, with some general secretary work.

(Cont'd)

This should ease your expenses and help me run my practice more effectively, just a proposal!

Mrs French

Oh, Dr Banda, are you sure, I mean, if it's not an inconvenient then yes. I'd be delighted to assist.

Br Banda

Excellent! We have ourselves a deal.

SUPER IMPOSE - TWO WEEKS LATER.

EXT. MR FRENCH'S HOME - DAY

Two nurses assist Mr French into the house. Mrs French assists with baggage. Br Banda brings in a couple of items as well.

EXT. MR FRENCH'S HOME - CONT'D

Dr Banda walks to the door from the inside as a friend MT SMITH who works at the telegram office visits him.

MR SMITH

Dr Banda. How are you to today?

Dr Banda

Mr Smith, how nice to see you again.

Mr Smith

I took the liberty of bringing you a letter sent to you.

Dr Banda receives the letter. He looks at the sender's address.

Dr Banda

Much appreciated. It would seem as if my brothers from Nyasaland miss my presence.

Mr Smith

Then I will say you a luck fellow Dr Banda. Anyway, please excuse me, I need to get back to work.

Dr Banda

My pleasure Mr Smith. Will speak again in the week or so.

INT. LOUNGE/DINING ROOM - MR FRENCH HOUSE - DAY

Dr Banda opens the letter which reads:

Kanyama v/o

Dear Dr Banda. It is with great respect in which we write this letter yet in sadness as well. Your people face uncertainty and unpleasant time under British rule. It is our wish for you to return to Nyasaland and take charge of the situation.

A delegation consisting of Mr Henry Chipemberee, Mr Kanyama Chiume, Mr Dunduzu Chisiza and Mr T.D.T. Banda will visit you in short time at the port of Liverpool to discuss matters urgently. We trust you find this in order.

Yours sincerely.

Kanyama

Mrs French walks into the lounge. Dr Banda puts the letter away.

Dr Banda

I trust everything in order?

Mrs French

Yes. Lunch will be served.

Dr Banda
Excellent.

INT. LOUNGE/DINING ROOM - MR FRENCH HOUSE - LATER

Dr Banda and Mrs French are having lunch.

Mrs French
Suppose I should attend to my husband.

Dr Banda
Yes, you must. Can't leave the poor fellow
hungry can we now?

Mrs French stands up and reaches for the plates.

Dr Banda
Thank you, lunch was divine.

She walks to the passage and looks back at Dr Banda. His eyes make contact with hers. A couple of seconds pass. She continues into the passage.

INT. MR FRENCH BEDROOM - DAY

Mrs French attends to her husband. Special care is given to feeding him carefully.

SUPER IMPOSE - NEXT DAY

INT. LOUNGE/DINING ROOM - MR FRENCH HOUSE - DAY

Mrs French is doing paper work and booking appointments on behalf of Dr Banda.

INT. SPAREROOM - MR FRENCH'S HOUSE - DAY

Dr Banda is examining a patient.

INT. CLINIC WARD - DAY

Dr Banda attends to varies patients.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

We see Dr Banda driving through the street.

INT. CAR - MOVING - DAY

We see Dr Banda driving.

INT. PASSAGE - MR FRENCH'S HOUSE - EVENING

Mrs French looks at a tired Dr Banda walk into his bedroom. She slowly walks up to the door and steps into the dull lit room, the door closes behind her.

SUPER IMPOSE - **2 MONTHS LATER**

INT. LOUNGE - MR FRENCH'S HOUSE - DAY

Mr French tosses a few pieces of office papers onto the table. Dr Banda is staring at Mr French.

Mr French (Angry)

Is this what we call professional courtesy?
Answer me damn it. You were trusted in
caring for the sick; I trusted you and now
my wife is pregnant. What kind of person are
you? I want you out of this house by tonight.

Mrs French walks into the lounge.

Mrs French

William

Mr French turns towards his wife.

Mr French

(Walking up to his wife)

Not one word from you.

(A beat)

I want a divorce; soon, I'm sure your mother
will take a whore into her home!

Mr French walks out.

Mrs French (Emotionally)
William

Dr Banda slowly approaches Mrs French.

Dr Banda
I'm so sorry. I did not mean for this to happen.

Mrs French
No, not your fault.

Dr Banda
I will take my bags, visit a friend tonight, besides, I have a meeting tonight with the labour party. I think the best thing is to send my items to the clinic.

Dr Banda walks out slowly.

INT. PASSAGE - LABOUR DEPARTMENT - NIGHT

Dr Banda walks into the passage.

CECIL
Dr Banda, would you mind stepping aside with me?

Dr Banda walks to the side of the passage whilst a couple of members walk pass greeting respectfully.

Cecil (Cont'd)
Sir, it is with sadness that I bring you news that does not fare well. Rumours regarding your relationship with Mrs French has put you in bad standing. The board members have decided to dismiss you with immediate effect. Am, you are requested to leave London soonest.

Cecil puts his hands around Dr Banda's hands.

Cecil (Cont'd)
Sir, I wish you all the best. Good bye.

Cecil walks off. Dr Banda stares at the walls. Feeling lost and uncertain of events he slowly turns around and walks out.

EXT. BUS STOP - NIGHT

Dr Banda sits staring into the night sky.

EXT. DR BANDA'S FRIEND - HOUSE - NIGHT

Dr Banda walks up to the door. The door opens. A black male looks at Dr Banda.

FREDDY

Dr Banda, please, step inside.

EXT. BED ROOM - DR BANDA'S FRIEND - HOUSE - NIGHT

Dr Banda pulls out a letter.

We phase away into almost full darkness.

SUPER IMPOSE - PORT OF LIVERPOOL

EXT. PORT OF LIVERPOOL - DAY

Henry Chipemberee, Kanyama Chiume, Dunduzu Chisiza and T.D.T. Banda walk up to Dr Banda who is watching the birds.

Henry

Dr Banda.

Dr Banda turns around. They exchange warm hugs.

Henry

You are a difficult man to find.

Dr Banda

Yes, well, I have been a busy man, its tough business running a clinic, but as you can see, I'm here, at your request.

Kanyama

Did you receive all my letters?

Dr Banda removes the letters out of his jacket pocket.

Dr Banda

Each and every letter. What is going on in Nyasaland?

Henry

It's a long story but in short, the British are up in arms against our people thus clashes are breaking out. Our people are

(Cont'd)

dying but we want our freedom. This is what we will fight for. This colonial business serves one purpose which is their own interest.

Dunduzu

We need a spokesman for our people. We believe you are the perfect man for the job.

Dr Banda

You say I'm the man for the job, but if I stood up for our people, will I find a following? A following that will make the difference to the cause?

Henry

I think you will find more than you can ask for. The Nyasaland are desperate for chance.

Dr Banda

Then what are we waiting for?

Henry (In Chewa)

For our people.

Dr Banda (In Chewa)

(Looking at Henry)

For our nation.

EXT. CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

Dr Banda and his colleagues walk across the street. A large group of Nyasaland civilians run from the opposite

direction bumping into Dr Banda and his colleagues. The British soldiers open with gun fire. A civilian, young girl falls to the ground next to Dr Banda. Blood has tainted her shirt. Dr Banda attempts to assist her but is arrested and dragged off as his eyes fall onto a mother MAGOMBO kneeling over her son's bloodied body.

MAGOMBO (In Chewa)
(Emotionally and focused on her son)
No, no, no, please God save my son.

INT. PRISON - DAY

Dr Banda and his colleagues among other civilians sit on the ground.

Dr Banda
Do any of you know what happened to the girl who fell down next to me?

Civilian
If you are shot, you are left for your family to pick you up.

Dr Banda
What are we fighting for?

Kanyama
The Nyasaland fight for their freedom, they fight against oppression. Now you have seen for yourself what we are going through.

INT. PRISON - DAY

The prisoners are fed food.

Kanyama
Not you're every day meal.

The men spot an opportunity in escaping.

Dr Banda
Find President Orton Chirwa. Inform him of our situation.

They look around. Kanyama and Henry walk out. Dr Banda and Dunduzu distract the guards.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

Kanyama and Henry walk into a small group passing the prison.

Kanyama
Find that journalist. Tell him what is happening.

Henry separates from the crowd.

EXT. PRESIDENT HOUSE - NYASALAND - DAY

Kanyama walks onto the premises. Guards stop Kanyama.

Kanyama
I am here to see Acting President Orton Chirwa. It's of an urgent matter. I'm a member of his council.

INT. PRESIDENT HOUSE - NYASALAND - DAY

Kanyama walk up to the ACTING PRESIDENT ORTON CHIRWA.

ACTING PRESIDENT ORTON CHIRWA
A small world we live in. I take it the visit to London was successful?

Kanyama
Yes, Sir, Dr Banda has returned with us but we face a little problem. We bumped into a crowd fleeing the British army thus consequently were put into jail on our return. Dr Banda requests your presence.

Acting President Orton Chirwa
The British never cease to astound me.

President stands up.

President Orton Chirwa (Cont'd)
Butler, a cup of tea for our distinguished quest whilst I prep to for an urgent matter.

EXT. CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

Henry sees Journalist Johan and approaches him.

Henry
Sir, my name is Henry, a delegate of some very important people. How would you like the opportunity to witness the making of history?

Johan
How so?

Henry
A few good men are in jail; your article could change history.

Johan
You sound certain of your convictions.

Henry
Well, why not find out for yourself.

Henry
(Walking off)
The person I speak of is Dr Banda.

Johan
The Dr Banda.

Henry
He is back in Nyasaland.

Johan reaches for his camera and notes. He walks off eyeing Henry for the first couple of seconds.

EXT. PRISON - DAY

President Orton Chirwa vehicle stops next to Johan.

Orton Chirwa
I suppose you are on your way to see Dr Banda?

Johan
Might be!

Orton Chirwa

Well your reputation precedes you. Always wanting an answer of what is hopefully your next break through.

Johan

A man needs to put food on his table.

(A beat)

Besides, any notion of a truth out there bound to bring forth a desired response. Hopefully for the better.

Orton Chirwa

Very true and for that I admire your work and your efforts. Get in; you will need help in passing the security at the gate.

Johan climbs into the car.

EXT. PRISON GATES - DAY

President Orton's vehicle slowly pushes through the crowds at the gate.

INT. PRISON - DAY

President Orton walks up to Dr Banda. Johan follows discreetly taking a few photos.

President Orton

Dr Banda. It is an honour to meet you despite this precarious situation.

Dr Banda

It certainly is but I assure you, short lived.

Dr Banda looks at Johan.

President Orton.

Our journalist. Publicity goes a long way.

Dr Banda

I thank you sir for your interest in our cause. I hope this experience you encounter be worth your effort.

Johan

Thank you sir.

President Orton

I would presume you seek legal council?

Dr Banda

You presume correct. After all, us folk have been scooped up like dogs and shoved into kennels without fair presentation and I speak on behalf of our brethren as well.

President Orton

Let me see what I can do.

Dr Banda

(Holding President Orton's hands)

The other pressing matter would resolve around creating a presence in establishing reason in finding support to our cause and thus would require a certain direction of action; say, what are the chances of you rallying up the masses?

President Orton

Consider it done although I speak out of correction but if an unfavorable outcome this might be your solution, relying on the masses.

Dr Banda

Precisely. We'll keep communication active with a messenger. This way our goals are kept in secret.

(A beat)

Shall we?

The delegates slowly walk towards the kitchen/hall. Johan continues with a couple of photos.

INT. PRISON KITCHEN/HALL - DAY

Dr Banda walks into the hall. Tension has broken out and a guard is taken hostage.

Dr Banda
Brother, brothers, release him.
(A Beat)
I said release him.

The guard is released.

Dr Banda (Cont'd)
People, listen to me. I've witnessed the atrocities our people are going through. Here today in this prison, I stand with you. I can assure you; the time will come when we will walk as free men, free from British colonial dictatorship.

INT. LEDGE OVERLOOKING THE PRISON KITCHEN/HALL - DAY

The general warden (JAMES) hastily walks up to the ledge over looking the crowd.

JAMES - GENERAL WARDEN
What is this?

INT. PRISON KITCHEN/HALL - CONT'D

Several prisoners walk a little closer up to Dr Banda.

Dr Banda
Every man has the right to a dignified life. Every man has the right to a life in which he can make a difference in the lives of others and to his own family. In the words of Patric Henry, we mean to be masters and if that is treason, make the most of it.

The crowds cheer Dr Banda followed by chaos. Johan continues with photos.

INT. LEDGE OVERLOOKING THE PRISON KITCHEN/HALL - DAY

The General Warden still looking at the crowd.

General Warden
This is outrageous.

INT. PRISON KITCHEN/HALL - DAY

President Orton and Johan are asked to leave.

Dr Banda
I will see you again.

President Orton and Johan are accompanied out.

SUPER IMPOSE - THREE MONTHS LATER

INT. HIGH COURT - DAY

President Orton stands up and addresses the court.

President Orton
Sir, I'd like to bring to the attention of the court the manner in which several delegates including Dr Banda, a man of reputation has found their time wasted behind bars when their only good intention is that of serving humanity. Surely, in the light of events and I say this with respect, when a man like Dr Banda has the following of his people behind him, his release will aid in the stability of current affairs.

Johan is seen taking a couple of photos.

JUDGE OF THE COURT
I have read the reports from both parties however, when I look at the reactions and the manner in which Dr Banda's followers behave, it raises concern. On the other hand, I am also aware of the situation and the influence Dr Banda has over his people.
(A beat)
The court will convene on this matter and with feedback in due time. The court will settle for a date in a forth night.

The judge slams the gavel down.

SUPER IMPOSE - 1960

EXT. PRISON - DAY

We see Dr Banda and several delegates walk out of prison. The crowds are ecstatic. Singing and chanting fill the air.

EXT. CITY - NYASALAND - DAY

Dr Banda in an open vehicle waves at his people as they continue to rally around him. He climbs out of the vehicle and walks onto higher ground. An interpreter by the name of YATUTA CHISZA translates Dr Banda's message in Chichewa.

Dr Banda

For too long, we the people of Nyasaland have been victims of a foreign invasion. An invasion that has come upon us like a thief in the night, they came only to benefit from those who have not and offered empty promises. They even tried to put an end to our own colonies but I assure you, this rule of theirs will end. We the Nyasaland people will become an independent nation and this is the message I will take to the British people myself.

The crowds cheer on. Johan takes a few more pics.

Super Impose - LONDON

INT. CONGRESS HALL - LONDON - DAY

The British delegates walk into the hall and take a seat. Several seconds pass. Dr Banda stands up.

Dr Banda

Fellow members. It is with honour that I stand here amongst you all. I thank you for allowing me this opportunity. Today, I speak on behalf of the Nyasaland people. For a long time, almost sixty-five years the Nyasaland people have been under British rule. Fellow members, I am here to call for Nyasaland's independence.

The members mumble amongst them selves.

SUPER IMPOSE - 1964 - NYASALAND'S INDEPENDENCE

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GARDENS - NIGHT

Johan passes through security check.

SECURITY
Where is your invitation?

Johan reaches for his invitation.

Johan
I'm a Journalist, invited by Dr Banda
himself.

Security
Journalists are not on the list. Go home.

Banda points at the security. Banda's right Hand, Henry Chipembere signals security to allow Johan in. Banda's team of Delegates and close acquaintances - Kanyama Chiume, Dunduzu Chisiza, Tdt Banda, Orton Chirwa - Acting President, and his party, Hon. Ismael Surtee, Cecilia Kadzamira, Dick Matenje, Mt Chiwanga, Aaron Gadama and Mr Sangala, John Tembo including British dignitaries and Nyasaland people number to 3000 plus.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GARDENS - CONT'D

Dr Banda walks onto the stage. Henry walks up to Johan.

Henry
Dr Kamuzu requests you take as many photos
as you can.

Henry walks off. Johan stares at the crowd wondering what the smoke is all about ahead of him.

Johan (To a by stander)
What is happening?

BY STANDER

We are celebrating a change which is upon us. From the old to the new in the form of a funeral, a cremation. There was little mourning for the deceased Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

Henry joins Dr Banda on the stage. Johan looks around. Despite the morning by several, the atmosphere is lively in spirit and expectation.

EXT. STAGE - PRESIDENTIAL GARDENS - CONT'D

Dr Banda and Henry cheer on the crowd.

Dr Banda

Today is a day that will never be forgotten amongst the Nyasaland people. I said that I would go to Britain and speak about independence for this country. Your country, my Country, our country.

(A beat)

Today, we stand tall, today; we start anew, a new beginning for us all. Let this be known, that no man will ever again take away from us which is our inheritance, Nyasaland.

(A beat)

But on this day July 6, 1964, I declare Nyasaland and country - Malawi.

I say again, from Nyasaland to Malawi.

(A beat)

And to the white settlers I say, accept majority rule or pack up and leave. Accept the way of a new government as it will be applied to the Malawi peoples.

Dr Banda raises his arms and dances for several seconds...

Dr Banda

Malawi, Malawi, Malawi.

The crowds cheer on. Johan is taking photos in the crowd. Orton Chirwa takes the stage.

Orton Chirwa

Fellow citizens, as Dr Banda has said, today is a day we will never forget. Dr Banda, we

(Cont'd)

the people and my self owe you a gratitude.
We can not thank you enough for what you
have done for your people.

Orton lifts Dr Banda's arm high. The crowds cheer on.

Orton Chirwa

Let us celebrate. Tonight we dine but
knowing that tomorrow is a new Malawi.

EXT. STAGE - PRESIDENTIAL GARDENS - CONT'D

Whilst dignitaries are being seated under tents and meals served, Johan is brought before Dr Banda Orton Chirwa.

Orton Chirwa

Dr Banda informs me you a journalist and if
I recall, we met before. I hope you find
this event interesting. It's not everyday a
journalist witnesses the independence of a
country.

Johan

Thank you Sir. This is quite exciting. And
thank you Dr Banda for having me over.

Dr Banda

All I need you to do is share this occasion
to the world. In fact, Malawi is about to
make changes which the world will marvel
about. Why don't you come and work for me. I
will make sure you are well looked after.
You will have the latest in camera equipment.

Johan

Am, thank you Sir. Am.....

Dr Banda

There is nothing to think about. If you have
family, invite them to live with you here,
tell them it's an invitation from me
directly.

Johan

No family as yet Sir.....

Dr Banda

Then it is settled, no need to think about it. But for now, please excuse me. I got matters to attend to.

Dr Banda and his team walk off. Johan sees a young white British male been dragged off by security. He follows from a distance.

INT. SECURITY BUILDING - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - NIGHT

Johan sneaks into the building. The young male is receiving six lashes. A receipt/fine is stuffed into the male's pocket.

Security

You got ten days to pay this fine or you will be locked up.

Johan is spotted and pushed out of the building.

Security

You don't belong here. Your matters are with the doctor. Now get out or you will get the same treatment.

EXT. SECURITY BUILDING - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - NIGHT

The British male is dragged out of the building. Johan is side tracked by a young lady named CHISOMO.

CHISOMO

You shouldn't be this side. Either you are very brave or stupid. The security staff do not take kindly to foreigners.

Johan

I just wanted to know what was going on.

Chisomo

That young man was caught throwing stones at a portrait of the prime minister. Such treason is punishable with a fine and six lashes.

Johan

Right right.

Chisomo
Are you not going to join in the party? I
hear the food is good. Come and join me.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - NIGHT

Johan and Chisomo walk along.

INT. TENTS - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - NIGHT

Chisomo' assists Johan dish up his meal.

Johan
Thank you. You are most kind.

They sit down. Johan looks across the party of dignitaries.

Chisomo
It's impolite to stare.

Johan (Looking at Chisomo)
I'm curious to know who all the dignitaries
are!

Chisomo
Well that lady over there is Cecilia
Kadzamira. She is to become Dr Band's
official government hostess. She was a nurse
who gave up here life style and even
marriage in her pursue of growth for a
career under Dr Banda leadership as a doctor
but nominated by Hon. Ismael Surtee.

Johan
Seems to be a case of who you know get one
the job.

Chisomo
Who invited you here?

Johan
Dr Banda.

Chisomo
Well then you a lucky man.

Johan

I wouldn't say that. Right place right time
kinda thing.

The fire work display starts lighting up the night.

EXT. TENTS - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - NIGHT

Chisomo and Johan walk into the open staring at the show,
an opportunity in taking photos, including that of Dr Banda
who is staring into the colourful displays.

Super Impose - **1966 - PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION OF DR BANDA**

(Continue with the fire works in the back ground)

EXT. STAGE - PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - NIGHT

Loud cheers slowly soften as President Banda (Kamuzu) steps
up the mike. He raises his arms. The crowds cheer on again.

President Banda

They say my people love me and I would be
naïve to deny it. Fellow Malawians, you have
asked for a leader, you have voted and
selected me, Dr Hastings Banda Kamuzu, now
your president. You have asked for change.

(A beat)

My team of delegates and I have sat long
into the night on many occasions planning
for the future of Malawi. You will see
growth in many departments. I will bring to
order a system that must benefit all people
in this country. Make no mistake, the road
is long, but we will take one step at a time
and achieve our goals, a Malawi for its
people.

PHASE INTO DAY

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Johan walks along reading the papers displaying President
Kamuzu. "THE LONG AWAITED PRESIDENT OF MALAWI HAS ARRIVED
FOR A BETTER FUTURE"

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Johan jogs up to Pres Kamuzu and team. Yatuta turns towards Johan.

Yatuta
You're late.

Johan hands Yatuta the paper.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Pres. Banda, accompanied by Yatuta and Johan are escorted to the presidential vehicles by the VIP security team. From a side Pres. Banda's presidential servants including Cecilia and John Tembo watch as the vehicles drive off.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

The streets are pretty active. Old and young watch their newly president drive pass. Some kids playing in the dusty streets slowly make way for the escort as the lead vehicle hoots at them.

EXT. STREETS - CONT'D

We see Pres. Banda look out of the window staring at the dress code of the young girls. A handmade soccer ball hits the side of Pres. Banda's vehicle.

INT. MAIN PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE - CONT'D

Pres Banda's POV - looking at the kid. Behind the kid several adults are carrying parcels and preoccupied.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

The presidential vehicles pull up. The VIP team climb out and secure the area. Pres. Banda and team join him.

INT. RECEPTION - HOSPITAL - DAY

Johan takes photos of the condition of the hospital. The

INT. WARD - HOSPITAL - DAY

Pres. Banda walks up to a patient.

Pres. Banda

I heard that you have been waiting for a miracle. Let me just tell you, I am here to ensure that conditions will improve. I want you to be strong.

Pres. Banda inspects the conditions of the patient.

Pres. Banda - Cont'd

I know what your condition is. We will have you sorted out in no time.

Pres. Banda writes a description on a note pad.

Pres. Banda - Cont'd

Nurse, ...nurse, see to it that this patient receives these meds. I want him to receive the best treatment you can give him.

Johan continues taking Photos. The President walks ahead followed by his team.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

Pres. Banda walks around the hospital.

EXT. HOSPITAL - DAY

They climb into their vehicles and drive off.

EXT. FARM LAND - DAY

The team arrive in a nice quite piece of land. They climb out.

Pres. Banda

Johan, are you taking photos of this land?

Johan

Yes, Sir, as always.

Pres. Banda

This land reminds me of my youthful days. Of course not every day in my life was as peaceful as today.

(A beat)

Malawi has a lot to offer but to bring this country in line, to compete with first world countries, we need the current generation to learn the skills required. Only then can we grow.

He walks on.

Pres. Banda - Cont'd
But its leader too must be strong willed.
Do you understand what I am saying?

Johan
Yes, Sir.

Pres. Banda
I will show you what it takes to build a country.

Yatuta
Sir, you have a meeting with several parliament members. We need to go.

Pres. Banda
Right.

Johan takes a couple of photos. They climb into their vehicles.

EXT. STREETS OUTSIDE THE CITY - DAY

The escort drives along.

EXT. STREETS - CITY - DAY

On the return a couple of disgruntled youths, close to adulthood attack the escort with pistols.

INT. MAIN PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE - CONT'D

Johan puts his camera to work despite the chaos.

EXT. STREETS - CITY - CONT'D

By now the rear vehicle / response team have engaged in a short skirmish with the attackers and have killed the one, wounding the second.

INT. MAIN PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE - CONT'D

Still capturing photos Johan witnesses the second attacker being shot in the head.

EXT. STREETS - PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

The back up VIP vehicle catches up as the team turn into the presidential grounds.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

The team pulls up along side the presidential house. Pres. Banda and are assist out of the vehicles. Pres. Banda hurries into the building.

INT. PASSAGE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

Pres. Band's bodyguard's driver ... Steps up to Johan.

Driver

I saw you take photos of the incident.

Johan glances at

Johan

The rearview mirror your second set of eyes?

Driver

Absolutely.

Johan

I'll see what I can do.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL STATEROOM - DAY

Pres. Banda points to Johan.

Pres Kamuzu.

This event, make it head news and how they failed.

Pres Kamuzu (Pointing at Yatuta)

Handle the press.

INT. CABINET - DAY

Pres. Banda walks into the cabinet meeting. He looks around and then walks up to the stand.

Pres. Banda

I will be brief. I bring to this council some important matters that need attending to. For starters, I will establish a school in which the best students will attend from the different provinces will be selected on the bases these students meet the required level of satisfaction.

(A beat)

Aside from this, I am establishing the MYP - Malawi Youth Pioneers program in which our youth will learn skills and become an important element to this country.

(A beat)

Some other minor concerns will be the dress code of our people which will apply to both male and female.

(A beat)

When the president's escort enters a rural area or town, their shall be absolute respect from all residents of that area. However, these are just some of the factors that need attending. I call for a meeting with my head of security in order to address certain matters in the interest of its country's president and overall concern.

Pres Kamuzu looks around. He steps aside and walks off. His VIP team escorts him followed by his military commander GENERAL GRACIONO MATEWERE.

INT. PASSAGE PASSING PRESS ROOM - DAY

Banda, accompanied by his team walk pass the door to the press room. Pres Kamuzu's POV - Yatuta is addressing the journalists.

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

Johan is developing the photos.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE - DAY

Kanyama Chiume accompanied by Henry Chipemberee and Dunduzu Chisiza walk into the office. Pres Kamuzu turns towards these men.

Kanyama

You requested our presence President Kamuzu.

The door to the office is closed by security.

Pres Kamuzu

My escort comes under attack and you are no where to be found!

Kanyama

Sir!

Pres Kamuzu

Let me assure you, if you or any of your friends are up to any foul play during my term, you will be dealt with.

Kanyama

We are your supporters; we called you in the beginning. Here we are, still at your service.

Pres Kamuzu stares at these men. General Graciono Matewere opens the door. Pres Kamuzu walks out followed by his VIP team and commander.

INT. CECILIA'S OFFICE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

John Tembo stares out of the window. Cecilia paces slowly across the office.

Cecilia

Why are you procrastinating in taking position as spokes man?

John

It's not that easy. Our president has his favorites and runs a strict discipline.

Cecilia
Surely you realize there are ways in
bringing effect into action that's in favour
of our cause?

Pres Kamuzu stops outside the door.

Cecilia
President Kamuzu.

John turns around.

John
I will catch up with our talks a little
later.

John walks out.

INT. PASSAGE OUTSIDE CECILIA'S OFFICE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE
- DAY

Henry Chipembere bumps into Cecilia as she walks out of
her office.

Henry
Apologies Mam.

Cecilia
Suppose so. I thought you left the job?

INT. PASSAGE OUTSIDE CECILIA'S OFFICE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE
- CONT'D

They walk along.

Cecilia
Eventually Yatuta will find himself replaced
with a successor. Every person is
replaceable. You served your purpose. No
need for you to remain in the service of the
president.

Henry
I'm not too sure where you are coming from!

Kanyama walks up to them.

Kanyama

What she means is; there is speculation of her role in planning the public trial and hanging of Albert Muwalo! A cleaning up campaign.

Cecilia

Kanyama, Henry, you boys are treading on dangerous grounds.

A moment of silence fills the air as Cecilia walks off. Her facial dislike of these men expresses and evil gloat as she glances out of the windows.

Henry

We need to warn Yatuta of her devious plans.

They walk off.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL LOUNGE - DAY

Johan walks into the lounge. He is stopped by security.

Pres Kamuzu

Let him in.

Johan

(On presenting the photos)

You see the fellow in the corner. Whilst the attack hit us, this man was orchestrating the attack from the side.

General Graciono reaches for the photo.

GENERAL GRACIONO

Sir, allow me to find this man and bring him to justice.

Pres Kamuzu whispers in General Graciono's ear. General Graciono responds and walks out. Pres Kamuzu turns towards Johan.

Pres Kamuzu

I'm impressed. Your skills have become more than handy in serving your President, well for an outsider that is.

Johan
Just doing my part.

Pres Kamuzu
Join me tonight at my table. I'm having a
couple of guests over.

EXT. RURAL AREA - DAY

A crowd of boys and girls have gathered around Yatuta.

Yatuta
You young men and girls are the future of
Malawi. Don't think for one moment that you
are not of value to anyone. We all serve a
common goal.

(A beat)

The president of Malawi offers the youth of
today, yes, you all standing here and you,
the future youth of tomorrow, soon to be
young adults a better future, a better life.
How, by training you in the many different
jobs you could possibly dream of. Look
around you. What do you see, farm land, road,
what are you wearing, think about it? Also,
every house needs the help of our young men
and women so there are plenty of
opportunities and within the government
department as well.

Yatuta reaches for a handful of pamphlets.

Yatuta (Cont'd)
Here, hand these out to all your friends.
Tell everyone to come and join us at
tomorrows youth rally.

A couple of military and police vehicles pass. The youth
disperse.

Henry
Our president has his men preoccupied.

EXT. RURAL AREA - CONT'D

Yatuta looks at his friends.

Yatuta

And what brings you men around here?

Kanyama

I'm afraid bad news. Our names are on the chopping block.

A beat

Henry

Aren't you going to ask why?

Yatuta

Well, this is unusual ...

Kanyama (Overlapping)

Let me help you. Yes, unusual but real. Cecilia has it in for us. She intends on replacing you as spokesman and am, shall we say, disapprove of our graceful assistance we brought to this country.

Yatuta

Well that wouldn't surprise me. So we been sold out.

Kanyama (Cont'd)

More than that. Our friend and president blatantly accused us of failing him. And of cause you heard of the other rumors.

Henry

Couple of us have decided to move on. Get out before we become the useless kind in the eyes of chaos.

Yatuta

And you wondering if ill be joining you? I'll run my course. Call me optimistic but yeah.

(A beat)

When will you be leaving?

Henry

Couple days' time under the cover of night if not tonight.

Yatuta
Tonight's a better option. The president is
hosting another evening function.

Rifle shots are heard in the distance.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - BUSH - DAY

The military and police chase down one man. Several rifle
shots kill him. After inspecting him he is left to rot.

EXT. RURAL AREA - DAY

The military and police drive past our boys. Our boys stare
at them.

Henry
Those boys ain't friendly looking.

Yatuta
No. You men take extra precaution when
crossing the border! I have a couple of
contacts that might ease the journey. We'll
keep in contact.

The men shake hands and depart - Yatuta his way and the
others their way.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Pres Kamuzu's escort arrive to another public meeting with
delegates tasting drinks etc. Johan joins the team. The
presence of JACK MAPANJE - LECTURER, NOVELIST and RADIO
PRESENTER has accepted an invitation to join this meeting.

Pres Kamuzu
Johan, allow me to introduce you to Jack, a
man of integrity and am, well you know what
they say, fortune favours the brave and
hence stories to be told. The two of you
will find common ground. Jack is a novelist
and radio presenter himself.

Pres Kamuzu looks around.

Pres Kamuzu (Cont'd)
Gentlemen, please excuse me. Do enjoy the event.

Johan reaches for a glass of juice.

Jack
The president speaks highly of you. He recons you quite handy with the camera.

Johan
I wouldn't exaggerate. I'm just an ordinary man like any other trying to earn my wages.

Jack
Modest I see.

Johan
Tell me more about yourself.

Jack
Well, as the man mentioned, novelist and radio presenter but I'll add to that. I'm a lecturer, but it's a task in itself when half your students ain't interested in learning the material. Makes one wonder if it's worth while doing the job.

Johan
That's why I avoid trying to convince the world of what's important. Well let's put it this way, the articles I write, nobody is forced to read it. I take it you here to absorb and take some good news to the world.

Jack
Pretty much so. A new president to a country always makes for a wanted story internationally and to our fellow country men.

Johan
Thought that was my job.

Jack
Well you do what you do and ill stick to my
side of the job.

Johan
Swell...

Johan walks into the crowd.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Johan bumps into Chisomo. She stares at him.

Johan
We meet again.

Chisomo
Hey, how are you.

Johan
Good good, I'm good.

Chisomo
The usual visit for you, I mean, looking
after the president's interest?

Johan
Haaa, usual thing I guess. Nothing to it
really, it's all about being in the right
place at the right time.

Chisomo
Oh okay.

Yatuta slides through the crowds.

Yatuta
Why don't you lovers put that camera to use?
Take an excursion to the cross road, foot
path. You might just find something worth
the effort.

Chisomo
We not lover's sir.

Johan

Oh never mind him.

(Looking around)

But hey, it does sound like an interesting idea. I'll see if I can find a map to that area.

Chisomo

I know the area and I'm free tomorrow.

Johan

Okay, then we on for a day of collecting scenery pics.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - EVENING

We see several women hold up a couple of banners - WOMEN'S RIGHTS. Yatuta gets Johan's attention.

Yatuta

Word of advice, stick close to the president and as his photographer, do not disappoint the man but more so, his people. You might just serve a worthy cause.

Yatuta nudges Johan forwards.

Yatuta

Tomorrow is an exception, take the day off.

Johan briefly looks at Yatuta as he approaches the women. He sees Pres Kamuzu walk up the women and takes some pics.

Pres Kamuzu

(Repeated in Chichewa by Yatuta)

In a world in which women are neglected.

(A beat)

Here me my fellow delegates and friends. I say again, in a world in which women are subjected to lesser equality, I your president say no. Every woman has the right to be loved in the home, respected in the work place, recognized for who she is.

The crowds applaud.

SUPER IMPOSE - **TWO HOURS LATER**

EXT. BORDER PASS - NIGHT

Henry, Kanyama and Dunduzu pull up at the border. A lightly armed approaches the vehicle. Henry shows him a piece of paper.

Henry
Friend of a friend.

This official shines his torch into the vehicle.

OFFICIAL
Friend of a friend.

The official waves the vehicle through. In the shadows a pair of eyes observe the men pass through.

EXT. ACROSS THE BORDER PASS - NIGHT

Henry looks into the rear view mirror, and the boys look through the rear window.

Henry
Well that was easy.

Kanyama
We can't stay on this path for long.

Dunduzu
We should find shelter for the night not to far from here.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - ACROSS THE BORDER (EXT - MOVING CAR) - NIGHT

They continue to drive on.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - NIGHT

Several MYP - Malawian Youth Pioneers stand before the crowd in the newly designed uniform.

Pres Kamuzu

Ladies and gentlemen, without delay, here before your very eyes stand the future generation of tomorrow.

The crowds applaud again.

Pres Kamuzu (Cont'd)

(Repeated in Chichewa by Yatuta)

I present to you the Malawian Youth Pioneers. This am, effort is not taken lightly. These young men and women will not only help shape the future of Malawi, but more than that.

Pres Kamuzu walks off the stage. The crowds applaud again. Yatuta receives a message. He sighs.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - NIGHT

A MYP member CHUNO walks up to a friend SEBE and gives him the pamphlet.

CHUNO

Ain't you considering yourself for candidate to the MYP movement?

SEBE

I don't know.

Chuno

The way I see it, free education and possible prospects.

Sebe

All very nice and ..., thing is my parents have plans for my future?

Chuno

Hey, our president became a doctor and his king of a country but it took him a lot of years and contacts. We not in his shoes.

Sebe (In Doubt)

I don't know.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - NIGHT

Chisomo walks up to Johan.

Chisomo

So what do you think about the efforts of our president?

Johan

Am, well he certainly has got his ducks in the row, for now.

Chisomo

Yes. Looks like it. So am, I will see you tomorrow?

Johan

Yeah, say ten am.

Chisomo

Okay, perfect. Wear something comfortable.

Chisomo walks off. Jack walks up to Johan.

Jack

Are you joining me in talks with the president?

Johan

Aah no, you go and stroke your ego in the lounge of fame.

Jack

Cocky aren't you. Jealousy at its best!

Johan

No, but you enjoy yourself.

Johan walks off.

Jack

Feel free to hand over some footage. I'll sure know what to do with it.

Johan throws a zap sign whilst walking away.

Jack (Cont'd)

Mmm, well he ain't no help to me.

INT/EXT. WINDOW ROOM ACROSS THE DINING ROOM - PRESIDENT'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Johan helps himself to a glass of campaign as the waiter passes him.

WAITER

You're welcome sir and good night.

Johan stares at Jack in the presence of Pres Kamuzu and team.

Johan

Odd man or is it just me.

INT. DINING ROOM - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - NIGHT

After settling down, the Pres Kamuzu walks up to Jack.

Pres Kamuzu

So tell me, what kind of news will you take to the world?

Jack

Well Sir, I believe in the now, the present. Current affairs entertain the masses. Every good story has its own angle which in itself is a magnet to the listening ear.

Pres Kamuzu

I see. Suppose you have a point. Let's say, some one tried to assassinate the president...

Jack

Mmm, let's hope nobody does but I'll be sure to write a good article. You should hire me as your private journalist, I mean, what's that fellow's name, Johan, where is he?

Pres Kamuzu

He has proven himself already and am, I'm not convinced you could replace him. Help yourself to the banquet, it's on the house. Please excuse me.

INT. DINING ROOM - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - NIGHT

Several ministers surround Pres Kamuzu. In the background Jack mingles with a few other folk.

Pres Kamuzu

Some times one wonders about the journey one has to travel. The path is never easy, if it was, well I suppose I wouldn't be here. I do not regret for a moment the path taken thus far. Yes, many will rise up against me in that every person views a situation from his own perspective. The thing is, every man believes his views will result in a favorable outcome which is best for a country, and so on.

Reaching for a glass of wine.

Pres Kamuzu (Cont'd)

The question is, are you all in support of my goals, my rule, the Malawi I wish to establish! For the sake of Malawi, I hope so.

A couple of waiters walk in with additional snacks and light meals. Pres Kamuzu helps himself.

INT. PASSAGE LEADING TO THE PRESIDENTS BEDROOM - NIGHT

Pres Kamuzu, accompanied by a member walks down the passage.

Pres Kamuzu

I haven't seen my main journalist this evening. Have him come to me!

INT. KUMUZA'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Johan walks in. Pres Kamuzu faces him.

Pres Kamuzu

I thought you be joining me in the dining room?

Johan

Am, I needed some time to myself.

Pres Kamuzu

The day was a long day, yes.

(A beat)

I am glad you joined on as a personal journalist. It was a brave stunt to pull off, taking those photos. If it wasn't for your bravery, we would have never known who the leader of those attackers were.

Johan

Glad I was able to assist.

Pres Kamuzu

Running a country can be a scary thing. But if anything, I've learnt to persevere.

Johan

You established your own practitioner within the UK and I'm sure the discipline towards your studies contributed to your development. I can't think of any reason why anything should hold you back.

Pres Kamuzu

Yes, thank you. Tell me, your feelings towards Jack?

Johan

I hardly know the man so it's a bit hard to, personally I dislike him. Time will tell though.

Pres Kamuzu

Yes, time will. A present from a foreigner. I'm not really into games but perhaps you could show me?

Looking at the board.

Johan

It's not really my game but why not.

INT. KUMUZA'S BEDROOM - CONT'D

We see the two men attempt their luck at the board game.

Super Impose - **TWO HOURS LATER**

INT. PASSAGE LEADING TO THE PRESIDENTS BEDROOM - NIGHT

We see Johan walk along.

PHASE NIGHT INTO DOWN

INT. DINING ROOM - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

Johan walks into the room. He helps himself to breakfast. Yatuta walks in several seconds later. They sit down at table.

Yatuta
Early morning for you?

Johan
No no, it's the normal time for me.

Yatuta
You still meeting up with that girl, what's her name again?

Johan
Chisomo and yes, should be a nice outing. Fresh air.

Yatuta
Good. Well if you find anything of interest I'm sure I'll hear from you?

Johan
Absolutely.

Two of Pres Kamuzu's security men (MADALISTO and FREDSON) approach the table.

MADALISTO
Sir, the president would like to see you, immediately.

Yatuta looks at them.

Yatuta
See you later and am, enjoy.

Yatuta is escorted out of the dining room. Johan watches and continues with his breakfast. Several seconds pass. He

seems a tad restless. Wiping his mouth he gets up and leaves.

INT. PASSAGE PASSING THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE - DAY

Johan stops as he spots Yatuta and security in the office.

General Graciono
Our men inform us that Henry Chipemberee,
Kanyama Chiume and Dunduzu Chisiza crossed
the border at night.

Pres Kamuzu
I'm told you assisted with this arrangement?

Johan is seen and the door closed. Johan walks on.

INT. THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE - CONT'D

Pres Kamuzu reaches for a photo of the border security,
killed after allowing his friends through the border.

Pres Kamuzu
These men were in question but now they are
unreachable.

Yatuta
Sir, with all respect, those men were your
friends, those men came to you looking for a
savior of our beloved country. Don't you
think you are being a tad paranoid? Why
would your close friends betray you?

General Graciono
I served under the British, now under
president Banda Hastings Kamuzu and I am
honored to do so. But let me tell you
something, as long as I am commander under
our president, I take matters very seriously
that may jeopardize the safety of our
leadership and ruling of Malawi.

Yatuta
Am I under interrogation? Am I being charged
with a crime?

Yatuta's eyes follow Cecilia as she stands up and walks out of the room.

General Graciono
(Reaching for the photo)
All I'm saying is, there is no room for error.

General Graciono hands the photo to Yatuta.

Pres Kamuzu
You may leave now.

The door is opened. Yatuta is shown the door. He walks out with the photo.

EXT. ROAD - HOUSE - DAY

Johan and Chisomo walk pass the house.

INT. LOUNGE - MR G CHIMBALANGA'S HOUSE - DAY

Sebe's father MR GANIZANI CHIMBALANGA walks into the lounge. His wife follows.

MRS CHIMBALANGA
Sebe, we are your parents, we planned for your future, surely this counts for something?

Sebe
Chuno has already joined. You saw him at the president's function, remember. He was standing with some of his friends in front of everyone. They will look after us, the government.

MR and MRS KAMBWIRI with their son Chuno walk up to the door.

Mrs Chimbalanga
Hi, come inside.

Sebe
See you later?

Mrs Chimbalanga
Sebe, this conversation isn't over.

Sebe and Chuno run off.

INT. LOUNGE - MR G CHIMBALANGA'S HOUSE - CONT'D

Mr and Mrs Barbwire enter.

Mr Chimbalanga
Our boy has it in mind to join the MYP.

Mrs Chimbalanga
These new challenges seem worthwhile to our nation but taking our boys away from their parents at such an early age.

Mr Chimbalanga
Please sit.

MR KAMBWIRI
I wouldn't call our boys of young considering their age. Its time they become men and I couldn't think of a better opportunity for our young men. Some discipline makes a man strong.

Mrs Chimbalanga
Strong headed boys if you ask me. Look at that, running off without their parent's consent.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - BUSH - DAY

Johan and Chisomo stroll along. The occasional pic of her is taken and of surroundings.

Chisomo
One could live in an area like this for a life time. It's so beautiful and relaxing.

Johan
That it is.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - BUSH - Later

Johan and Chisomo stumble upon the dead body (resistance fighter against Pres Kamuzu's movement).

Johan takes a couple of photos.

Chisomo
This is gruesome.

Johan
Yeah. We'll report this to the police.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Yatuta sees Johan and Chisomo walk into the police station. He walks over to the station.

INT. POLICE STATION - DAY

Yatuta enters the building. The police aren't interested in hearing Johan's report. They turn around.

Yatuta (Discreetly)
You got a better chance of being sold out.
Best not waste your time here.

They walk out.

EXT. POLICE STATION - DAY

The three walk off.

Chisomo
I can't believe we were ignored.

Yatuta
Young lady, you must realize that when ever a new power hungry individual comes into play their is bound to be opposition which will be met with consequences. The police won't interfere with Pres Kamuzu's dealings, so expect the unexpected.

Chisomo
This is totally crazy.
(Turning towards Johan)

See you later.

Johan

Sure. I'll develop the photos for you.

Chisomo

That will be nice. Goodbye sir, nice meeting you again.

Chisomo walks off. The two men walk on slowly.

EXT. STREET CORNER - VILLAGE - DAY

Johan and Yatuta stop in their tracks.

Johan

You sent me on this path for a reason. You knew about the deceased.

Yatuta

Yes, and I hope you will respect the courtesy of confidentiality.

Johan

This mornings meeting or shall we call it interrogation?

Yatuta

Our president doesn't trust his men. The very men that called him to fight for freedom.

Johan

Where do I come into this picture?

Yatuta

For now, collect evidence, be the journalist you can be. Some day you will find yourself elsewhere with a story to be told. But for now, remain a low profile. Best we are not seen together.

Yatuta walks off.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

A presidential vehicle pulls up along side Johan. He opens the passenger door.

THOMAS

I take it you on your way to the presidential house?

Johan climbs into the vehicle. The vehicle drives off.

INT. VEHICLE - MOVING - DAY

Thomas

The president is planning another outing.

Johan

Oh!

INT. PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE - DAY

Johan walks in.

Pres Kamuzu

Where have you been my man? We are leaving in a couple of minutes.
(Banda lightly embraces Johan)
My photographer.

Johan

Am, let me get my things and I'll be with you in a bit.

Pres Kamuzu

Hurry up.

Johan walks out.

INT. DEVELOPMENT ROOM - DAY

Johan loads a new real into his camera and dumps used in a safe container.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL KITCHEN - DAY

Walking through the kitchen Johan reaches for an apple.

MADALO (Female kitchen staff)

Hey!

Johan

A man has to eat.

Madalo

Use the dining room.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Johan runs out to the presidential vehicle.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - SLOW MOVING VEHICLE - DAY

Pres Kamuzu

How have you found your stay here so far?

Johan

Am, okay, interesting.

Pres Kamuzu

Good. If there is anything you need just ask. You know, life has a funny way of throwing things at one. I never want you to think you isolated. I'm here to listen.

Johan

Well there is one concern I came across.

Pres Kamuzu

Which is?

Johan

Came across a dead body whilst taking pics.

Pres Kamuzu

Oh!

General Graciono

Don't worry about that. I'm sure that will be taken care of.

Pres Kamuzu

Did you take photos of that?

Johan

Yes.

Pres Kamuzu

Distribute your photos of anything good but the death of resistance parties, that is not good publicity unless I deem so. Do you understand?

Johan

Sure.

EXT. RURAL AREA - DAY

We see the presidential escort move along.

INT. LOUNGE - MR G CHIMBALANGA'S HOUSE - DAY

Sebe and Chuno return to the house.

Mr Chimbalanga

Good, both of you are back. Sebe, here's the deal. If we allow you to join the MYP, we expect results.

Mrs Chimbalanga

But on provision, you agree to continue with your studies in the next year or two.

Sebe

Thanks dad, mom, you won't regret this.

Mr Chimbalanga

Grab your things.

The boys walk into the passage excitedly.

EXT. KAMUZU ACADEMY - DAY

The presidential vehicle arrives on location. The door is opened and Pres Kamuzu climbs out. A team of building inspectors and senior developers await the president. Pres Kamuzu team joins him.

EXT. KAMUZU ACADEMY - CONT'D

Pres Kamuzu stares at the building which is close to completion. He approaches the building contractors. Johan is taking photos.

Pres Kamuzu

I am proud of this development. A project close to my heart as the others but this is special. A selection of the brightest students will attend this academy.

Pres Kamuzu looks around.

HEAD CONTRACTOR

Allow me to show you around Mr President.

EXT. KAMUZU ACADEMY - CONT'D

The head contractor takes Pres Kamuzu and team on a tour of the site.

EXT. KAMUZU ACADEMY - CONT'D

The team get together.

Pres Kamuzu

I am impressed. What I see here... This school will meet the requirement the European schools dream of. Without delay I will name this academy after my own name, Kamuzu academy.

The contractors and few important public figures applaud.

EXT. MYP ENLISTMENT SCHOOL - DAY

Sebe and Chuno run ahead. Their parents follow in the background.

EXT. MYP ENLISTMENT SCHOOL - CONT'D

The number of enrolling students are impressive for the first day. Mr and Mrs Chimbanga join Sebe as they approach the tables. Forms are handed over to the parents.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

Pres Kamuzu escort cruises along the road.

EXT. MYP ENLISTMENT SCHOOL - DAY

Pres Kamuzu escort enter the premises. The crowds are excited.

EXT. MYP ENLISTMENT SCHOOL - CONT'D

The President walks among his people. Johan takes photos. Johan bumps into Sebe.

Johan
Hey young man.

Sebe
Hello.

Johan
What's your name?

Sebe
Sebe. And yours?

Johan
Johan.

Sebe
Are you friends with the president? I think I've seen you at a previous event.

Johan
You may have. You can say I'm in the good books of the president. His personal journalist if you will.

Sebe's parents approach him.

Sebe
My parents are here. Nice meeting you sir.

Johan
The pleasure is mine. Hey, why don't I take a photo of you and your parents?

The photo is taken.

Mrs Chimbanga
Thank you sir.

They walk into the crowds. Johan continues taking photos of Pres Kamuzu with the new MYP candidates.

EXT. MYP ENLISTMENT SCHOOL - CONT'D

Pres Kamuzu turns towards the parents and candidates.

Pres Kamuzu
Ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure and honours to see such fine young men and women joining the program. The concept will allow training to the young generation and at the same time growth which this country needs.

Few more photos are taken.

Pres Kamuzu (Cont'd)
I hope you all will be looking for these photos into tomorrow's papers. But now as your president, it's another schedule ahead of me. Allow me to depart. God bless.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - DAY

We see the escort drive along.

INT. DEVELOPMENT ROOM - DAY

Johan enters the room. He finds Jack running through his photos etc.

Johan
What are you doing here?

Jack
Oh come on, have you never heard of partnerships with a fellow journalist?

Johan
This is a private room and contains confidential material.

Jack
You know what?

Jack slips a couple of photos into his pocket. Johan pulls him out of the room.

INT. PASSAGE TO DEVELOPMENT ROOM - DAY

Security sees Johan and Jack scuffle and intervene.

INT. LOUNGE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

Securities search Jack. Pres Kamuzu walks in. Jack discreetly pushes the photos deeper into his hidden pocket.

Pres Kamuzu
I invite you over as journalist and radio presenter and now I see you are digging into private affairs. Also, I don't see you at some of the other functions which I expected you to follow through with. You are dismissed with immediate effect. Do not return to these grounds or I will have you thrown in jail for a long time.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Jack is shoved into a security vehicle with his bag. The vehicle drives off.

INT. LOUNGE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

Pres Kamuzu and Johan stare out of the window.

Pres Kamuza
Once again you have proven yourself. I'm beginning to think I should make you my official intelligent officer.

Johan
Am, I don't think I'm the man for such a job Sir!

Pres Kamuzu
First time for everything. I know you will think about it. But now, I have some
(Cont'd)

delegates over, come, take photos and dine with us.

INT. DINING ROOM - DAY

Pres Kamuzu and several delegates are dining. Johan takes a couple of photos and then dines with them.

EXT. DINING ROOM - CONT'D

One of Yatuta's trusted sources in the presidential house walks up to him and whispers in his ear. Yatuta signals Johan to hop over to him.

Yatuta
Join us, this might be of interest.

They walk out.

EXT. PUBLIC AREA - TOWN - DAY

Yatuta finds their associate Albert Muwalo hanging. Johan takes a few photos.

Yatuta
Take him down.

Albert's body is put in a vehicle.

Yatuta (To the driver)
Take him to the burial grounds but first have the boys prep him for a respectable burial.

INT. DEVELOPMENT ROOM - DAY

Johan enters the room and preps to develop the photos.

INT. PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE - DAY

Yatuta stands at the presidents table.

Pres Kamuzu
What evidence can you bring to the table?
After all, these are serious allegations.

Yatuta

I've visited the town myself and found the body. I had Albert taken down and a decent burial will be given him.

Cecilia

You are illusional. I have nothing to do with this but I can assure you that any allegations brought up against me will be dealt with.

Pres Kamuzu

Enough, all of you! As I've said. I need solid evidence.

Johan walks into the office and hands the photos to Pres Kamuzu. Cecilia walks out. Pres Kamuzu sits down.

Pres Kamuzu

These matters will be looked into.

(A beat)

It's late. I need to prep for tomorrow.

Yatuta and Johan walk out.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - SUN SET

Yatuta and Johan stare at the night sky.

Yatuta

You know, the funny thing about politics, we never know who's the bigger demon until it's too late.

Johan

Guess so.

INT. LOUNGE - LOW RENTAL HOTEL - NIGHT

We see a not too happy Jack typing and scribbling on some pieces of paper. He stares across the lounge and then continues typing.

EXT. RURAL AREA - NIGHT

We pan across the night sky.

EXT. TERRACE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - NIGHT

We see Pres Kamuzu relaxing, staring at the night sky.

PHASE INTO DAY

EXT BURIAL GROUNDS - DAY

Yatuta and Johan including several other delegates attend Albert's funeral.

INT. PRINTERS - DAY

We see Jack speaking to the printers about his planned book/manuscript. Behind them we hear a soft buzzing sound from a medium sized printing press which is in idle mode.

INT. CECILIA'S OFFICE - PRECIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

Cecilia slides a piece of paper over to an associate OJ (Mercenary in her private books)

EXT. MYP TRAINING FACILITIES - DAY

Pres Kamuzu and several other delegates are observing the young men put through their space in cadets and discipline. In the background, off the MYP premises OJ and team drive pass.

INT. RURAL AREA - MOVING CAR - DAY

OJ, in the passenger seat spots Yatuta.

OJ
Over there.

EXT. RURAL AREA - CONT'D

The vehicle chases after Yatuta and Johan.

EXT. RURAL AREA - CONT'D

Yatuta and Johan come under gun fire. They run for cover. Yatuta manages to disarm a mercenary and returns gun fire.

Yatuta

This is good bye my friend. If I were you,
I'd do the same. Things are not what they
seem to be.

Johan

We will catch up won't we?

They split and run off. OJ and team do a quick search the
area.

INT. JOHAN'S ROOM - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - DAY

Johan enters his room. The room has been ransacked. He
grabs a few items and walks out.

INT. DEVELOPEMNT ROOM - DAY

Johan grabs a few photo items etc.

INT. PASSAGE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

Johan walks down the passage.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - DAY

Johan slips off the property.

EXT. STREETS - DAY

Johan, walking on the sidewalk sees the presidential escort
pass.

EXT. SHOP - DAY

Johan dashes into the shop.

INT. SHOP - DAY

Johan stares out of the window. Once the presidential
escort has passed his slips out.

EXT. SHOP - DAY

Johan walks off.

INT. DEVELOPEMNT ROOM - DAY

Pres Kamuzu walks into the room and looks around.

Pres Kamuzu
Mmm, be interesting to know where you ran to!

He walks out.

INT. PRES KAMUZU'S OFFICE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

Tea is served. Pres Kamuzu sits down.

Pres Kamuzu
How is it that within a short period of time,
I'm hearing about situations that could
possibly ruin my reputation? Have I not
suffered enough, fought hard enough to bring
this country into the liberation it needed?
(A beat)

All of you here in this room fall under my
rule. I am the ruling figure of this country
and I will be the only president to rule
this country as long as I live. I hope I
have make myself clear. I do not want any
situation slipping through the vines. I
assure you, if I need to enforce stricter
rules, it will be done. Now leave me.

The president's ministers walk out. Cecilia hesitates.

Pres Kamuzu (Cont'd)
Are you exempt from my rules, cause if you
think you are, their will be consequences!

Cecilia
Sir, if there is one person you can rely on
in your cabinet, well I believe I'm this
person.

Pres Kamuzu crosses his fingers.

Pres Kamuzu
You are excused.

Cecilia walks out.

EXT. BORDER - NIGHT

Yatuta assists Johan across the border.

INT. ROOM - FOREIGN COUNTRY - NIGHT

Yatuta hands Johan a couple of clothing items etc.

Yatuta

It won't be long before things change.
Selling out one's closest friends is a
remedy for disaster. Anyway, my friend here
will get you to where you need to be.

Yatuta and Johan hug goodbye.

Yatuta (Cont'd)

Stay safe my friend.

Johan hands over raw footage.

Johan

Duplicates.

Johan grabs his items and is lead by Yatuta's friend PETER.

Super Impose - **SIX MONTHS LATER**

INT. PUB - ANOTHER AFRICAN COUNTRY - DAY

Johan, with a glass of beer stares at the wall looking at
the photos. He turns around and zones in on the
conversation couple patrons SEVIE, SEVIE, BILLINGS & KUWALI
in conversation.

SEVIE

I heard that if a person was caught in
disrespectful conversation regarding the
president, the MYP members would beat them.

BILLINGS

Mmm, rumours travel far and I like to
question facts.

KUWALI

Well what if I told you Henry Chipemberee,
Kanyama Chiume and a couple of others went
into exile.

A beat.

Kuwali (Cont'd)

Those were the very people who sought to
bring the humble doctor into power.

Sevie

So am, a dictator now rules. That should
summon it up?

Billings

And you heard this via?

Sevie

Well you know, some things are to remain
confidential.

Billings

Just like that, confidential? What a load
of

Johan walks out.

PHASE INTO

EXT. PUB - CITY STREETS - MALAWI- DAY

We see a patron dragged out of a pub and beaten by MYP
members. A civilian walks by observing this. The
president's escort drives by.

EXT. PUB - CITY STREETS - MALAWI (INT. MOVING CAR) - DAY

Pres Kamuzu stares out of the window. Again he observes the
behavior of his people but this time he is shown respect -
civilians standing still observing the motorcade pass. A
couple of minor issues are addressed - a young girl in a
mini skirt receives a beating.

EXT. BARBOUR - CITY STREETS - MALAWI (INT MOVING CAR) - DAY

Pres Kamuzu sees a mid aged man LAMOR with an untidy hair style confronted by the MYP members.

Pres Kamuzu
Stop the car.

EXT. BARBOUR - CITY STREETS - MALAWI (EXT. CAR) - Cont'd

Pres Kamuzu climbs out of his vehicle. His body guards join him. He approaches Lamor who is surrounded by the MYP members.

Pres Kamuzu
Sir, judging from your attire, you seem to be in need of assistance. Allow me. Shall we start off with a hair cut?

Lamor
Sir!

Pres Kamuzu pulls out a few notes and puts it into Lamor's pocket. He shows him the door to the barber. Lamor enters the barber.

INT. BARBER - DAY

The barber SYLVERTER, amazed stares out the window observing the president walk off.

SYLVERTER
(Turning around)
Please, sit.

Sylvester attends to Lamor.

EXT. TIMES BOOKSHOP - DAY

Pres Kamuzu walks into the shop. MR SACRANIE turns towards Pres Kamuzu.

MR SACRANIE
Look at you. I've been wandering if I'd ever see the day you would walk through that door again!

Pres Kamuzu
I am here now.

Mr Sacranie
By chance, yes.

Pres Kamuzu
Don't be hard on an old friend, besides,
this job keeps a man busy besides from
giving me grey hair.

Mr Sacranie
I suppose you got a point. Oh, this book is
doing its rounds. Can't say you popular
judging from the read.

Pres Kamuzu takes the book from the friend. Pres Kamuzu
quickly runs through the pages.

Pres Kamuzu
Guess not. I heard about it, now it's
confirmed.

Mr Sacranie
Well, I'm sure the time will come when you
will be appreciated by all.

Pres Kamuzu
I bloody will hope so. Anyway, I need to go.
You should pop in some time.

Looking at the book.

Mr Sacranie
Keep it, a gift of sour notes.

Pres Kamuzu
Cocky as ever I see.

Pres Kamuzu turns around a walks out. He stops at the door.

Pres Kamuzu
Hey, that lady you dated?

Mr Sacranie

Whilst you were running for election, we got married.

Pres Kamuzu

Invite her over as well when you visit.

Pres Kamuzu walks out.

INT. STREETS - MOVING CAR - DAY

A newly published book is handed over to Pres Kamuzu.

Pres Kamuzu

(Browsing through the pages)

So this is the newly novel on the streets about my life which concludes a definition of their president as a tyrant. How far are we in sorting this matter out?

John Tembo

I believe this matter is being taken care of as we speak.

INT. PUB - DAY

We see police arrest Jack and drag him out.

EXT. PUB - DAY

We see Jack loaded into the police vehicle. We pan over to a secret agency member watches every thing.

INT. JACK'S OFFICE - UNIVERSATY - DAY

Several police members trash the office as they search and confiscate manuscripts and other material. Jack is dragged out of the office.

INT. SECURITY BUILDING - PRESIDENTIAL BUILDING - DAY

Jack is tied up to a chair. Couple of military men are present. President Kamuzu and his security walk into the room.

Pres Kamuzu

So here we are once again. I've never seen such a waste of talent in all my life. You will reap the out come of your deed.

President steps back. Jack receives a whipping and President Kamuzu walks out with his team.

EXT. PRESIDENTIAL GROUNDS - DAY

President Kamuzu faces Jack been dragged to a police vehicle in the distance.

INT. HIGH COURT - DAY

We see the Judge signing off the case documents.

JUDGE OF THE COURT

The high court of Malawi finds you guilty in your crimes against the state and sentences you to four years in prison.

The judge slams down with his gavel.

INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

Ministers of parliament, DICK MATENJE, MT CHIWANGA, AARON GADAMA, MR SANGALA stand up as Pres Kamuzu and Cecilia walks in.

Pres Kamuzu

Sit down.

Looking at Cecilia.

Pres Kamuzu (Cont'd)

Will you arrange the tea for everyone in this room?

Cecilia steps out.

DICK MATENJE

Mr President, the reason why we requested this meeting and as per our letter, there are certain matters which have not been addressed accordingly.

Pres Kamuzu
Esteemed Gentlemen, I am,
(A Beat)

The matter you referring to would normally be brought before the larger committee but I understand your concern and why you would want to address this with me first and for that I thank you all. However, I would still need some clarification on the issue at hand.

MR SANGALA

Sir, we understand why you are running a strict policy. Without you we would still be under British colonial rule but when members of the MYP, young members at that start assaulting fellow citizens and so on, it draws on negativity which might not sit well with your supporters. Adding to that, we would like to address the procedure in which the up and coming election process will be dealt with.

Cecilia returns. A kitchen staff member follows in with the tea. The tea is served.

Pres Kamuzu
When a man puts his all into planning the future and stability of its country, you will always find certain issues which many will not approve of. I wouldn't be too concerned about this matter. Should you wish to address this matter again, please consult my secretary? Now regarding the second matter.....

EXT. LOUNGE - YATUTA'S FRIENDS HOUSE - TANZANIA - DAY

Yatuta walks into the lounge. Couple of his associates are already settled down.

Yatuta
Thank you for being here. Yes, the stories you heard are true. I'm fortunate to be here. Our friend and President of Malawi has turned on some of his trusted colleagues. I'm not the only person to have gone into exile.

JANUUS

What are you going to do about it? I mean, his people are under a form of unpleasant dictatorship by the looks of it and of course we hearing stories.

Yatuta

There is nothing I can do. It's out of my hands as it is for many.

INT. PRESIDENT'S OFFICE - DAY

The ministers walk out. Cecilia looks at Pres Kamuzu. He hesitates.

Pres Kamuzu

Do what you need to do.

EXT. FOOT PATH - SECLUDED AREA - NIGHT

The ministers - Dick Matenje, Mt Chiwanga, Aaron Gadama and Mr Sangala are ambushed and killed by several men in dark uniform. Their bodies are dragged off.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - AWAY FROM VILLAGE - NIGHT

The minister's bodies are put into a car. The killers drive off.

EXT. RIVER - NIGHT

The vehicle the bodies were put into is pushed into the river.

EXT. RIVER BANK - DAWN

A young male (JAMES) is walking along the river's edge stumbles upon the vehicle. He investigates. In fright he stumbles out of the river bank. After several seconds of staring at the vehicle he runs off.

INT. Cecilia's OFFICE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

OJ steps into the office.

Cecilia
I take it all went as planned?

OJ
Yes, mam.

Cecilia slides another envelope over to OJ.

Cecilia
This matter must never be spoken of, do I
make myself clear?

OJ
Yes, mam.

Cecilia
I'm sure you know your way out.

OJ puts the envelope into his pocket as he walks out.

INT. PRES KAMUZU'S OFFICE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

Cecilia steps into the office.

Pres Kamuzu
And what can the president do for you?

Cecilia
The loss of our ministers will be felt
within the cabinet and public. My guess is
you already thought of who will be replacing
those ministers?

A beat.

Pres Kamuzu
I have. And note; no cabinet member will
question my authority again. Newly selected
and established members will follow the
rules of the council which the president
sets in stone or reap the same consequences
as well.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD ON THE BOADER OF A VILLAGE - DAY

James runs up to some elderly men (LAWRENCE and FRANK). We
see him report his findings. These men climb into their

vehicle as the young man runs into the village. We see the vehicle drive off.

EXT. RIVER BANK. - DAY

Lawrence and Frank manage to remove the bodies from the vehicle. Police arrive and close off the area.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

ESNAT approaches Lawrence and Frank.

ESNAT

We need answers. Too many ministers are dying. Unless we speak up, things seem to be getting worse. Are you coming?

LAWRENCE

Where are you going, with what support?

Esnat

Don't worry, we will have our support.

Esnate leads the way.

EXT. VILLAGE STREETS - DAY

We see Esnate leading followed by Lawrence and Frank and a following building up.

EXT. GATE - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - DAY

We see Esnate and his following chanting at the gate. Additional security members rush up to the gate within the premises. Several MYP run up to the gate on the outside and attempt to chase the crowd away but conflict breaks out.

Esnate

We demand answers. Our ministers are being targeted, we want to know why and what our government is doing about it.

John Tembo walks up to the gate.

INT. GATE - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - DAY

Looking at security.

John
Open the gate.

Security
Sir!

John
Open the gate.

EXT. GATE - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - DAY

The crowds turn towards John.

John
Fellow citizens. Speak to me. What's the purpose of this gathering?

Esnate
Our ministers have been targeted. They come into power and now four dead. Also, the hanging of Albert Muwalo! To date there has been no report regarding this matter.

John
I hear your concern and I thank you for your appeal. Yes, these matters will be looked into and regarding the loss of our brethren, Albert Muwalo, I will speak to the relevant parties. You deserve answers and rightfully so. Please, allow me time to look into these matters and I myself will make sure the people of Malawi receive feed back.
(A beat)
Can we agree on this?

Esnate
How long, how long before we are given answers.

Johan
As soon as I get back to my office, I will start the process of looking into these matters. You have my word. An official statement will be brought out covering what needs to be looked into.

Esnate

Two weeks, other wise we will be back.

The crowds walk off. John enters the premises. He sees Cecilia and General Graciono looking out of the window.

INT. PASSAGE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAY

General Graciono accompanied by Cecilia meets up with John in the passage.

General Graciono

And what did those clowns want?

John

Answers, answers to the incident pertaining our recently deceased ministers and the death of Albert Muwalo.

Cecilia

If you like, I'll draft up a document.

John

No no, I'll attend to this.

John walks off.

SUPER IMPOSE: **TWO WEEKS LATER**

EXT. STREETS - DAY

We see several civilians walk along, few of them with the article John put out. Esnate walks up to Lawrence and Frank.

Esnate

You see, one has to stand up to those in charge. One has to remind them they serve the community.

Lawrence

This news is going to spread far, to Zimbabwe and other neighbouring countries.

INT. OFFICE - TANZANIA - DAY

Several of Yatuta's friends are gathered around him. These men (LAMECH, AMIN, etc) once served in a military scenario before. Yatuta lifts the article John has written on the loss of some ministers.

Yatuta

These deaths are unacceptable. This article is fast. Gentlemen, I myself fought for my life when members of the military attempted to take my mine.

LAMECH

What do you propose?

Yatuta

A rebellion. Take out those members who have been doing the killings. By doing so we will be sending a message to the head of the state that there are those who will not stand up for an evil dictatorship.

(A beat)

True, once a good man, but power changes one even if such a man believes he is doing it for the good of his country.

Yatuta drops the article onto the floor.

Yatuta (Cont'd)

Who is with me?

Lamech

I for one am.

Yatuta

How about you men.

They agree to Yatuta's cause.

EXT. PUB - TANZANIA - DAY

Johan sees the article on a table. He reads it.

Johan (Under his breath)

Fuck me. What's next?

FLASH BACK - Ransacked development room.

Johan (Cont'd)
Shit, the photos of Chisomo, she could be in danger.

Johan pays for his drink and walks off.

INT. HOTEL ROOM - TANZANIA - DAY

We see Johan packing a couple of his belongings.

INT. OFFICE - TANZANIA - DAY

Johan walks into the office. He sees the men pack the gear for a bush excursion.

Yatuta
What are you doing here?

Johan
Have you seen this?

Yatuta
Yes. You shouldn't be here. Forget about this and go home.

Johan
Chisomo's life could be in danger.

Yatuta
She's a big girl, I'm sure she can look after herself.

Johan
You don't understand.

AMIN
The white boy has a conscience!

Yatuta
Where we are going and what we are doing could cost us our lives.

Johan
Just get me across the border, that's all I ask.

Yatuta
Sure, but if you die, it's on you, not me.

The men head for the door.

EXT. OFFICE - TANZANIA - DAY

The men climb into three vehicles. Johan joins Yatuta. They drive off.

EXT. ABANDONED LOOKING GARAGE - HOUSE - TANZANIA - DAY

The vehicles drive into the garage.

INT. ABANDONED LOOKING GARAGE - HOUSE - TANZANIA - DAY

The men are given some weapons and pistols.

Amin
Tell me white man, have you ever operated a
pistol before?

Johan
It won't be necessary where I'm going.

Amin pushes a pistol into Johan's bag.

Amin
Don't be a fool. You never know if you might
need to.

That climb back into there vehicles.

EXT. GRAVEL ROAD - TANZANIA - EVENING

We see the vehicles drive along.

INT. INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT - EVENING

Several men in military wear are preoccupied with info of a secretive nature. DAVID CHIMBAYO receives a piece of paper. On browsing this he walks out hastily.

EXT. GATE - PRESIDENTIAL PREMISES - EVENING

David drives up to the gate with an escort. The gate opens and they drive in.

INT. PRESIDENTS OFFICE - NIGHT

Pres Kamuzu walks into the office.

Pres Kamuzu
Gentlemen, I hope this is worth my time.

DAVID
Sir, our sources inform us of a resistance militia enroot to Malawi.

Pres Kamuzu
How certain are you of these facts?

David
Our men have held an accurate account of operations for some time now.

Looking at General Graciono.

Pres Kamuzu
You are my Commander in this field. Follow up at once.

David accompanies General Graciono.

EXT. BUSH - TANZANIA - NIGHT

Yatuta and his men continue driving.

Super impose: 1967 MWANZA DISTRICT - MALAWIAN BORDER

EXT. BUSH - TANZANIA - NIGHT

Yatuta and his men arm themselves.

Amin
White boy, just remember the first man to pull the trigger is the first man to live. I'm Russian trained, we know no mercy.

Anyway, I wish you well. I hope to see you again some day.

Yatuta hands Johan a small map with directions.

Yatuta

You will need this. What ever you do, don't get caught, they will kill you. Another thing, when it's crazy, stay low and out of sight.

EXT. BUSH - MALAWI BORDER - NIGHT

Yatuta and his men start advancing.

EXT. BUSH - MALAWI BORDER - OPPOSITE SIDE - NIGHT

General Graciono gives the command for his men to advance.

EXT. BUSH - MALAWI BORDER - CONT'D

The men come to a stand still. Gun fire opens up. The men engage from both sides.

EXT. BUSH - MALAWI BORDER - CONT'D

We see a couple of injuries as the fighting intensifies. Couple of men take a direst hit, including Yatuta who takes two bullets in his chest killing him.

EXT. BUSH - MALAWI BORDER - CONT'D

In fear Johan crawls up to Yatuta. He stares at him; there is nothing he can do.

Johan

Not like this, not like this.

Johan reaches for his rifle, he glances at Yatuta one more time and then advances.

EXT. BUSH - MALAWI BORDER - CONT'D

Johan is spotted but he quickly opens gun fire killing the opposition. He runs off into the night light.

INT. OFFICE - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - DAWN

A report is brought to Pres Kamuzu.

Pres Kamuzu

And?

David

The leader of the coup happens to be one of your ex ministers, Yatuta Chisza. He died in this fight. Few others succumbed as well. A couple were captured and are being escorted to a high facility prison.

Pres Kamuzu

Were their losses on our side?

David

From what we know at this moment, we lost two generals.

Pres Kamuzu

Keep me posted.

Davis salutes and walks out.

EXT. CHISOMO'S HOUSE - DAY

Johan sees Chisomo being dragged out of her house by three MYP members, Sebe in charge of the assault. Johan interacts. He fights off the boys. Sebe takes a bullet to his head in further altercations. The others run off. Chisomo hugs Johan.

Chisomo

Rumours are you left Malawi!

Johan

I did, long story. You need to get your things; it's not safe here for you.

INT. CHISOMO'S HOUSE - DAY

Chisomo packs her essentials. She walks out with two bags.

INT. STREETS - MOVING CAR - DAY

We see Johan and Chisomo taking a lift.

EXT. STREETS - CONT'D

The vehicle drives along.

INT. LOUNGE - MR G CHIMBALANGA'S HOUSE - DAY

Chuno walks into the lounge. With tears running down his cheeks he hands a piece of paper to Sebe's parents. Mrs Chimbalanga screams out with tears.

Mr Chimbalanga (Emotionally)
How, how could this be? My son, why my son,
my only boy!

EXT. BORDER - DAY

Despite military and police presence the driver giving a lift to Johan and Chisomo manages to cross the border with ease. This was due to a distraction down the line of several vehicles.

EXT. BORDER - CONT'D

We see Johan and Chisomo looking back through the rear window as the vehicle drives off.

EXT. PORCH - PRESIDENTIAL HOUSE - NIGHT

We see Pres Kamuzu standing and staring across the garden. We pan out.

PHASE TO CURRENT TIMES

INT. PRESIDENTIAL LOUNGE - DAY

We see the current president DR LAZARUS CHAKWERA of this period 2021 or longer writing an email to his friend.

PRESIDENT'S V/O
You know Tom, years back; we responded to
situations pretty much in a way we thought

we knew best in handling it. I can't say this method has changed for the most of us. People will always be who they are, influenced by their up bringing and rounded

(Cont'd)

off from life's blows and achievements. And here's why I say this.

(A beat)

I don't know if you ever read up on the history of Malawi's independence but I've been doing some myself on Dr Banda Kamuzu, president to his people between 1966 to 1964. I look at letters I received over time from various people who were willing to depart of a priceless piece of paper, priceless in that it dates back to a time which captures a moment in history, well certainly to the thousands of followers who needed a savior in the time of need. Not without fault though, a man who achieved much as a doctor and who sought to transform a country under British rule. You can understand the value of such a man to its people. But as with many of those in power and keen to hold onto their authority, it brought along unpleasant times as well. Opposition was removed swiftly

President Chakwera hesitates. He turns towards his collection of letters and other valuable collection pieces.

CONTENTS ON TABLE

Letters - A letter academicians have in possession dated 8 October, 1938, Kamuzu says as much as he respected women from Nyasaland, as Malawi was known then, he could not marry any of them because they could not match his educational and social standards.

"I still respect our women highly but I have to admit the fact that our women are backward and could not, by any means, make me the type of home to which my education, training and experience entitle me," says the letter in part.

Another article - "-Hastings Kamuzu Banda, first president of Malawi, as quoted in David Lamb's The Africans, New York, 1985.

President Chakwera turns back to his laptop.

PRESIDENT'S V/O Cont'd

Discipline was the norm dealt with in uncertain measures at time. But one thing stood out, this man created what the people

(Cont'd)

needed, opportunities for education, hospital treatment, women's right were stood up for, the list goes on. Allow me to send you some photo states I collected along with other reading material. I hope you find the time to browse. My warm regards to your wife.

Your friend Dr Lazarus Chakwera

FADE OUT