

Blantyre

Malawi

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Dear Tom and Sheryl

Thank you very much for your prompt response. It was nice to hear from you. Yes, I am still working for the Government. A few Civil Servants were asked by the Government to stay on and work for the new Government.

To be honest, the new Government is not harrassing anyone. It is not bringing hardships to people at all. If anything it has changed cause of things in that freedom of speech is now here. Stumbling blocks in terms of business undertakings as experienced before have been removed. Journalists are free to write. Many people here think that the new Government has opened a new chapter which is most welcome.

It is not true that the present Government is busy purging the memory and accomplishments of Dr. Banda. What is true is that the Government was trying to find out how Dr. Banda had accumulated millions of Kwachas in foreign banks. This issue apparently was started by a British Member of Parliament in London who questioned the wisdom of Dr. Banda and other leaders having millions of pounds abroad when their subjects were suffering. Upon hearing that the Government got interested to find out more about the alleged millions. As things are now, the issue seem closed because nobody mentions about it anyway. The other issue was about houses owned by Dr. Banda. Apparently the Government was informed that the so called Dr. Banda's houses were in fact not his but belonged to Government; that Dr. Banda never bought them or merely paid a little deposit. The present Government wanted to find the truth about this. The matter was taken to the High Court and



the ruling was that since there is no documentary evidence that Dr. Banda indeed bought the houses, they should be reverted back to Government to which they belong.

Yes, University of Malawi was closed but not because of the Government. The Chancellor College in Zomba and other educational institutions around Zomba were closed because there was no water in Zomba. This problem of water shortage in Zomba has been there for over 20 years. When rains are inadequate Zomba falls short of water. When the rains came recently, the College and other schools called back students. The Government is now looking for aid to pump water from Shire for Zomba as the present dams on Zomba mountain have not served Zomba residents for years. See the attached report about the Chancellor College from one of the Newspapers.

What Malawians are now desperate for is food. There was drought last year and the year before. Consequently, there is no food in the rural areas and people are suffering. But Government is trying by distributing maize to the most needy while waiting for more maize from donor countries. The other thing Malawians are worried about is the falling down of the Kwacha which means prices have gone up. However, since the Government has been in office for less than 5 months, indications are that given time, things will improve for the better.

Some people here have planted. About fertilizer bills - it's interesting. During the campaign period people were told that the fertilizer they had bought the previous year was meant to be free. Now the Farmers are saying they cannot pay for the fertilizer. But the present government has discovered the fertilizer was not for free. Anyway, some farmers have paid, those who can't the government will subsidize and for the most needy the government will provide them with free fertilizer because it is obvious a person who dying with hunger has no money..

I wish you all the best and good luck. My love to both.

Everson Kalinda