

Zampira

SUPER LEAGUE OF MALAWI MAGAZINE

ISSUE 5_JANUARY 2021



**NEW
GIANTS**
FROM THE
NORTH
EKWENDENI
HAMMERS

**DREAM
START
FOR HIGHEST
SCORING SILVER**



**PLAYER
OF
THE
MONTH**
ROYAL
BOKOSI



Watch Your Distance, Wash Your Hands, Stay Home
#FightingCovidTheSoccerWay



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EDITOR'S NOTE



We are proud to present your favourite football magazine after a long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We have more good news too! Zampira will now be published monthly!

Just like other sports disciplines, football was suspended for eight months, leading to the delay of the 2020 TNM Super League kick off.

Though the league finally kicked off in November, the pandemic has hit us again.

The second wave has once again forced the league to go on recess, just nine weeks into the season.

This edition will feature the events from the time league kicked off in November to the time the league was suspended in January.

It has been an exciting nine weeks of pulsating TNM Super League action.

We have seen some teams struggling to recover from the long break.

We have also seen some teams emerging as new powerhouses.

One interesting thing is the performance of newly-promoted teams—Ekwendeni Hammers, Mafco and Red Lions.

These teams have defied all odds and are in top four on the table.

Actually, Ekwendeni and Red Lions are tied with leaders Silver Strikers at 19 points while Mafco are on fourth position.

This speaks volumes of how these three teams are determined to defend their place in the league.

But it has been tough for the other well-established teams such as giants Be Forward Wanderers, Blue Eagles and Nyasa Big Bullets.

Wanderers have already lost twice at home while Bullets have suffered a defeat inside nine weeks.

Silver started slowly but they picked up quickly and lead the table.

It looks like it's going to be another interesting season. ⚽

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MESSAGE FROM SULOM PRESIDENT TIYA SOMBA BANDA



Ladies and gentlemen we are living in unprecedented times of Covid-19, but football still lives on. We shouldn't live in despair but do some soul searching and adapt to the changes that the pandemic has brought.

This is not time for business as usual as we have to adapt to the new norm that we are faced with.

As Charles Darwin once said in Origin of Species, it is not the most intellectual of the species that survives; it is not the strongest that survives; but the species that survives is the one that is able best to adapt and adjust to the changing environment in which it finds itself.

As we await the resumption of the TNM Super League, let's take advantage of the break and work on how to improve our game so that it is commercialised to the fullest.

We can only do that if we remain positive amidst the pandemic. Yes, we are in difficult times and we have lost our loved ones to the deadly pandemic, but I am still confident that football will return much stronger.

Playing without supporters is one of the new norms in football across the world.

Slowly, we are coming to terms with this arrangement. But one thing that is clear is that it will have devastating effect on our clubs who rely on gate revenue for survival.

But playing without supporters has also presented us with an opportunity to improve on other avenues of reaching out to supporters.

As Sulom, we have already started embracing the changes and our football business model will now focus more on involving the supporter as he is sitting at home at the same time ensuring that any Tambala realised from the game trickles down to teams and eventually, players.

Our key focus areas will be monetising supporter engagement, television and radio broadcast of matches and players' welfare.

Covid-19 is here to stay and we must accept that.

We have passed survival stage and we are now in realisation stage.

Together we can win this war only if we follow the guidelines provided by health experts.

To supporters; Please, watch your space, wash your hands and stay home. ⚽



FAM PRESIDENT MESSAGE ON COVID-19



Malawi is presently faced with serious uncertain times that challenge us all, to unreservedly support the public health Covid-19 preventive measures as prescribed by the Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation.

We must therefore, religiously place our focus on adhering to the laid down guidelines that include social distancing and wearing of masks as the greatest pathway to our wellbeing.

The pandemic is also seriously threatening our economic livelihood hence survival of the clubs and the competitions that were on are facing a major risk.

As President of the Malawi FA, it is my duty to ensure that in times such as these, all football stakeholders such as players, clubs and administrators are safe and not exposed to the plague.

The three week suspension of Super League games by the Super League of Malawi (SULOM) should therefore not dampen our spirits. It should galvanise us to take extra care to protect our precious lives from the scourge which is roaming and killing innocent souls.

But be assured that sooner than later, we will return to the pitch and enjoy playing or watching this beautiful game from the terraces. It is our intention that you must continue to be part of the game when the situation has eased down.

Together we shall overcome and conquer Covid-19. Stay safe and stay blessed. ⚽



DREAM START FOR HIGH SCORING SILVER STRIKERS





Silver taking on Moyale and Blue Eagles (below) at Silver Stadium

Lilongwe-based outfit Silver Strikers is a team that is associated with class and excellence both on and off the pitch. No wonder, the Bankers have dominated the top-flight league since 2006 when TNM Plc took over sponsorship.

They won the championship in 2008/2009 season as well as the 2009/2010 season. Escom United were champions in 2010/2011 season before Silver won it for three consecutive years in 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 20013/2014 seasons.

But that was the last time the Bankers would sniff at the TNM Super League championship.

Every year during preseason, the Bankers promise to end the title drought but to no avail.

In 2019 season the Bankers finished fourth under coach Abbas Makawa.

But this season, chief executive officer Thoko Chimballi is confident that this is the Bankers' year.

Silver top the table with 19 points from six wins, one draw and one loss this far.

Having hired Zambian coach Daniel Kabwe, the Bankers have strategically reorganised their team as they target to end the six-year league title drought.

Chimballi explains: "We believe we have assembled the best technical panel and squad. The technical team led by Dan Kabwe is top notch, well-versed and we are expecting the best from them."

Kabwe and his assistants McDonald Mtetemela and McDonald Yobe's appointment was a departure from the Bankers' tradition of employing only ex Silver players in the technical panel.

Chimballi confesses that the shift has paid dividends.

"The team started on a very low note, losing to Civo United and then

drew against Wanderers away. In our third game, the team picked up and managed to beat Kamuzu Barracks with a wider margin. We have played six away games and lost two, drew once and played three games at home and won all.

"Actually, this has been our best start in the last four years. In addition, the team has scored more goals in the first nine games ever. So, yes, the team is on the right track."

Kabwe believes team work is contributing a lot to the Bankers' performance.

***We believe we
have assembled
the best technical
panel and squad***

"We train as a team, play as a team and win as a team. So, it's all about team work," says the former Chipolopolo technical advisor, who was club-less after leaving FAZ Super Division side

Lusaka Dynamos over a year ago.

The Bankers are the highest scoring team having banged in 21 goals against seven, with an average of three goals per game.

Maxwell Phodo (5 goals), Stain Dave (5 goals) and Patrick Macheso (4 goals) have formed a lethal and ruthless attacking machinery for the Bankers.

But will they maintain the momentum? Only time will tell. ⚽



Silver Strikers full results

- Blue Eagles 0-1 Silver Strikers
- Silver Strikers 5-1 Moyale Barracks
- Mafco 1-2 Silver Strikers
- Ekwendeni Hammers 1-0 Silver Strikers
- Mzuzu Warriors 0-4 Silver Strikers
- Silver Strikers 5-1 Kamuzu Barracks
- Silver Strikers 3-1 Karonga United
- Mighty Wanderers 0-0 Silver Strikers
- Civil Service United 2-1 Silver Strikers

TNM Super League Champions since 2006:

- **2005-2006** : Mighty Wanderers
- **2006-2007** : Escom United
- **2007-2008**: Silver Strikers
- **2009-2010** : Silver Strikers
- **2010-2011** : Escom United
- **2011-2012** : Silver Strikers
- **2012-2013** : Silver Strikers
- **2013-2014** : Silver Strikers
- **2014-2015** : Big Bullets
- **2015-2016** : Big Bullets
- **2016** : Kamuzu Barracks
- **2017** : Be Forward Wanderers
- **2018** : Big Bullets
- **2019** : Big Bullets

MAFCO, **RED LIONS** BACK WITH A BANG!



Red Lions have only lost
once to Karonga United



Mafco stunned Wanderers 1-0 at Kamuzu Stadium

Red Lions and Mafco must have badly missed the TNM Super League following their relegation to the lower leagues in 2018 season.

The Malawi Defence Force (MDF) outfits have returned to the top-flight league with a bang and are currently on position three and four, respectively.

Red Lions are tied with Silver Strikers and Ekwendeni Hammers on 19 points with five victories, four draws and just one loss. Their loss only came from Karonga United.

Red Lions coach Nelson Chirwa, saw his team relegated in 2018 but he managed to extract it back to the top-flight.

He recalls that playing in the lower league taught them a bitter lesson.

"We don't want to go back to the lower league ever. We will take each game seriously," says the coach.

Led by Flames defending midfielder Chikoti Chirwa and goal-

hungry striker Royal Bokosi, who is the current top scorer with six goals, Red Lions have scored 14 goals and conceded 10 this far.

Mafco, on the other hand, have amassed 16 points from four wins, four draws and have lost once.

They were unbeaten for a good part of the nine weeks until they tested defeat at the hands of Silver Strikers.

The Salima-based soldiers showed they mean business as they managed to stun Be Forward Wanderers 1-0 at their backyard Kamuzu Stadium, despite playing with 10 men for a good part of the game following a red card to Stain Malata.

That victory meant Mafco are one of the teams to collect full points from away after the also stunned Ntopwa 2-0 the previous day.

Mafco coach Temwa Msuku says Mafco is right where it belongs and must remain in the top-flight at all cost. ⚽

Red Lions full results:

- Blue Eagles 0-0 Red Lions
- Civil 3-3 Red Lions
- Red Lions 2-1 Kamuzu Barracks
- Red Lions 1-0 Ekwendeni Hammers
- Nyasa Big Bullets 3-3 Red Lions
- Karonga United 1-0 Red Lions
- Red Lions 1-0 Chitipa United
- MAFCO 1-1 Red Lions
- Mighty Tigers 0-1 Red Lions
- Ntopwa 1-2 Red Lions

Mafco full Results:

- Mafco 2-1 TN Stars
- Mafco 1-2 Silver Strikers
- Mighty Wanderers 0-1 Mafco
- Ntopwa 0-2 Mafco
- Mafco 2-0 Mighty Tigers
- Mafco 1-1 Red Lions
- Mafco 1-1 Civil Service United
- Ekwendeni Hammers 1-1 Mafco
- Moyale Barracks 0-0 Mafco



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INTRODUCTION




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AmaGhetto kids believe they are capable of winning the title

NTOPWA GRIND RESULTS AGAINST ALL ODDS

For Ntopwa FC surviving in the TNM Super League is no longer a target in the team's second year in the top-flight league—they are gunning for the title.

The youthful outfit from Ntopwa township in Blantyre has much to the surprise of those that doubted them, kept on grinding results.

They actually topped the table in week one and two.

Nine weeks into the first round of the league, AmaGhetto Kids are on position seven above giants Nyasa Big Bullets and Be Forward Wanderers, having won four games, drew three and lost two matches.

They are the second highest scoring team to leaders Silver, having bagged 18 goals against 12

this far.

This is despite the team sailing through some financial problems that almost forced the team's owner Isaac Jomo Osman to close shop.

But what is the team's secret?

Captain George Nyirenda says money is not everything in football.

"As players we respect the talent that God gave us. So, it's how we use this talent that comes first. Money comes second. We believe that if we utilise this talent that God gave us, we stand a chance to make money. For us, the target is to do well in the league and everything will fall in place."

Left back Josiah Duwe believes the team can finish in top three and even win the title.

"It's a matter of us believing in ourselves.



Osman has pleaded for financial support

So far, so good. We have shown that we are capable of taking on even the top teams in the league. That is what drives us."

But for Ntopwa owner Osman, who doubles as the technical director, the going is getting tougher by each passing match-day.

Ntopwa FC Full Results:

- Nyasa Big Bullets 1-1 Ntopwa
- Ntopwa 1-0 Karonga United
- TN Stars 2-1 Ntopwa
- Kamuzu Barracks 2-2 Ntopwa
- Ntopwa 0-2 Mafco
- Chitipa United 2-5 Ntopwa
- Ntopwa 1-2 Red Lions
- Ntopwa 4-1 Blue Eagles
- Ntopwa 3-0 Moyale Barracks

"The team needs support and, I alone cannot manage. These players have families who rely on them.

"You have already seen what the team is capable of achieving with just the little that I support it with. Imagine what it can achieve if it gets more help," he said. ⚽

HAIL EKWENDENI HAMMERS!

There is a new giant from the Northern Region and its none other than newly-promoted Ekwendeni

Hammers.

As the league is on recess, the new kings of the Northern Region are joint leaders with Silver Strikers with 19 points, apiece.

They are on second position due to an inferior goal difference having scored 17 goals and conceded seven against Silver's 21 (GF) and seven (GA).

They have won six, drew once and lost twice just like the Bankers.

Their victories include a surprise 1-0 triumph over Silver at Mzuzu Stadium.

Boasting of young talent in their squad under the guidance of experienced ones, Ekwendeni are undeniably the team of the moment.

They signed discarded defender Harry Nyirenda [from Be Forward Wanderers], Maneno Nyoni [from defunct Masters Security], Zikani Kasambala [from Silver Strikers] and Eric Kaonga [from Mlatho

NEW GIANTS FROM NORTH?



Ekwendeni now have the bragging rights in the North

Mponela] before the start of the season.

But they also maintained nine players from the squad that won the Simso Northern Region Football Association Premier Division championship to earn Super League promotion.

But coach Etson Kadenge Mwafulirwa is not over the moon with the results from the first nine weeks of the season.

He described the team as 'work in progress'.

"We are coming from the Simso Northern Region Football League where the style and purpose for playing compared to that in the Super League are quite different. We were used to getting composed and playing that good passing game, but only to register bad results. So, we are trying to quickly adapt to the type of

play which is yielding results now," he explains.

To prove that they are indeed new kings of the North, Ekwendeni have managed to beat Mzuzu Warriors (3-0), Chitipa United (3-1), Karonga United (3-1).

Only Moyale, whom they are yet to play, stand in their way to claiming the kingship, but for now, they already have the bragging rights in the Northern Region. ⚽

...MZUZU WARRIORS, MOYALE, LOSING THE GRIP?

Meanwhile soccer lovers in the city of Mzuzu are still waiting for a time when the soldiers of Kaning'ina Moyale Barracks FC will get this year's TNM Super League title and survival challenges on course.

The Mzuzu based outfit, have of late become punch bags in the top flight League, having managed just one win, three draws and five losses.

They are on position 13 with just six points.

Head coach Collins Nkuna blamed his charges for showing no commitment.

"Our players are not serious enough. Imagine the goals we are conceding. Surprisingly, most of these things happen when we are just coming from the dressing room. Our counterparts can exchange passes and score while our defenders are just watching them.

"We always create scoring chances but we do not utilise them. May be the players have something in their hearts, but they are failing to express themselves because what we train is totally contrary to what is

being implemented during games," Nkuna laments.

But thing are even worse for once a force to reckon with Mzuzu Warriors who are on position 15 with five points having won once, drew twice and lost four matches.

The side's tactician, Gilbert Chirwa blamed the team's poor performance on poor officiation an poor playing surface.

Chirwa believes if his team was playing on good pitches and with fair officiation, the Warriors would have won most of their battles. ⚽

Ekwendeni Full Results:

Karonga United 1-3
Ekwendeni Hammers
Chitipa United 1-3
Ekwendeni Hammers
Mzuzu Warriors 0-3
Ekwendeni Hammers
Red Lions 1-0 Ekwendeni
Hammers
Mighty Tigers 2-3
Ekwendeni Hammers
Ekwendeni Hammers 0-1
Kamuzu Barracks
Ekwendeni Hammers 1-0
Silver Strikers
Ekwendeni Hammers 1-1
Mafco
Ekwendeni Hammers 3-0
TN Stars

Meet

ETSON KADENGE MWAFULIRWA, EKWENDENI COACH

After a hugely playing career during which he won not pretty much trophies, Kadenge is now in his prime season as a coach and trying to use the lessons he has learned from his time in football to build capable of winning more in football and in life.

The Hammers head coach went into great detail on what he thinks is important to succeed at the highest level in sport, focusing on why he has found it vital to take full responsibility, while avoiding the temptation to blame others when things don't go your team's way. Excerpts:

"One thing I've seen in football, from being a young man trying to make it playing, to now

managing, is a kind of blame culture. I hear it a lot. Part of the way I am is that I never want to look at things that way.

"As a player it was very easy to look at it and say it was the back-four's fault or I'll blame the strikers because they didn't finish my chances. But generally I'm always looking at myself. I was always my own biggest critic. On the pitch and off the pitch, I of course made loads of mistakes, but if you want to get better you have to take responsibility."

"It's of upmost importance to me as a coach and it's a message that you really have to drill home, because it's very easy when you're a coach and you've been there and had your career and you know you made a million mistakes, when you sit at the top of the tree, or in my office at Hammers, not to think like the 21-year-old who's making those mistakes you made and just think you're above it."

"You have to get on the level of these players and they all have different thoughts, they all have different reasons, something at home, on the training pitch, how they see things. So I can't think that my morals or my values just transmit to everybody and then everyone will be a great trainer

like I was and make the most of their talent. Because I didn't, I made mistakes.

"I have to be very open to that. So, for the players to try to take responsibility, is a daily chip away at trying to create something that feels that way and we're in that process at Ekwendeni Hammers. I'm not going to lie, we've not won that battle yet, because it definitely takes time, particularly with a younger squad and we have a lot of young players.

"My view now as a coach is that I am responsible and I think that the only way you can create an environment that looks like you're asking for everyone to be 100 per cent responsible is by them seeing that from yourself. So I don't think it's a problem to show weakness. I don't think it's a problem for me to try to prepare a team for a week and work on a shape and then you come up and it doesn't work at the weekend, to be a bit open with the players.

"One of my things that I really try to do is look at myself and say; what could I have done there, I can't blame the players for that performance. At moments you'll sit down with reflection, and of course you look at how the squad looks, but I must make myself 100 percent culpable as well.

"I want us to be a group of good people as well as good players and a good team. I think you have to have respect among each other and you definitely at the top of the club set that tone. That is definitely on me, I'm 100 percent responsible for that one, and you try to promote that regularly in



how you train, how you act, and if you see things that you don't like within the group you have to act upon them. I want players that can rely on each other when they go out on the pitch, that are going to be tough and back each other up at the right moments.

"There are so many things tactically so I won't touch on that because I think there is a big part of that, but probably the one of personal relationships with the players and the group relationship you have with them. Trying to strike that right balance, because for me a high-performing group or team, it has to be a balance between being really positive but being slightly on edge. So, I think I try to create that kind of balance and I'm still striving for that. I still think a lot about that and go over it myself. I think you do have to keep analysing that one because it's always different, but I think that's the thing that I've learned, that you can't neglect that side of it." ⚽

Source: Ekwendeni Hammers FC



ROYAL BOKOSI:

PLAYER OF THE MONTH

TOP SCORER

Red Lions striker Royal Bokosi was named Player of the Month for December after an impressive showing in the first month of the 2021 TNM Super League season which saw him topping the scorers chat with six goals.

His goals include a hat trick against Nyasa Big Bullets in 3-3 draw.

TOP SCORERS

6 GOALS

Royal Bokosi (Red Lions)

5 GOALS

Clever Kayira (Ekwendeni)
Maxwell Gasten Phodo (Silver)
Stain Dave (Silver)
Hendrix Misinde (Ntopwa)

4 GOALS

Chiletso Zoya (TN stars)
Peter Kasonga (Mafco)
Patrick Macheso (Silver)
Hassan Kajoke (Bullets)

3 GOALS

Zikani Kasambala)
(Ekwendeni)
Chifuniro Mpinganjira (Blue Eagles)
Mphatso Magaleta (Ntopwa)
Arthur Moffat (Ntopwa)
Taniel Mhango (Mzuzu Warriors)
Potipher Likoswe (Ntopwa)
Duncan Nyoni (Silver)
Maxwell Salambula (Blue Eagles)
Gastin Simkonda (Moyale Barracks)
Ranken Mwale (Civo)
Muhammed Sulumba (Civo)
Zeliat Nkhoma (KB)

2 GOALS

Blessings Singini (Ekwendeni)
Joseph Mbewe (Ekwendeni)
Sammy Phiri (Ekwendeni)
Gaddie Chirwa (Blue Eagles)
Mphatso Kamanga (Karonga)
Clement Nyondo (Karonga)
Sheriff Shamama (Karonga)
Muhammed Biyasoni (Chitipa)
Vincent Nyangulu (Wanderers)
Mike Mkwate (Bullets)
Peter Banda (Bullets)
Zicco Mkanda (Bullets)
Brown Magaga (Moyale)
Walusungu Mpata (Mafco)
Stain Malata (Mafco)
Gift Chunga (TN Stars)
China Chirwa (TN Stars)
Blessings Tembo (Civo)
Raphael Phiri (Civo)
Ronald Pangani (Red Lions)

The 2021 TNM Super League has come with surprises but none expected that seasonal campaigners Blantyre-based giants Nyasa Big Bullets and Be Forward Wanderers would be outside top six this far.

Nine weeks into the season Wanderers, who are on position 12, have managed just seven points from seven games.

They have won just one game and drew four times and lost twice at home. The Nomads have gone three consecutive games at home without scoring a goal.

Their results include shocking home losses to Mafco and Karonga United at Kamuzu Stadium.

The Nomads have managed just five goals this far and have also conceded the same.

While the Nomads have attributed their bad patch to financial problems following the departure of sponsors Be Forward Limited, Nyasa Big Bullets's excuse for their poor start to the season is on injuries.

But with or without injuries, Callisto Pasuwa's Bullets have not impressed this far and, are a shadow of themselves.

The swift passing football is gone.

The People's Team are on position eight, having won three, drawn three at home and lost once away to Karonga United.

Meanwhile, pressure is mounting for Nomads coach Bob Mpinganjira to help his charges rise above the financial problems which climaxed with suspension of training during the break while other teams are still active.

Soccer analyst George Chiusiwa warned Bullets and Wanderers of more surprises unless the giants pull up their socks.

He said: "One thing is for sure; the present realities are not uncommon in a progressively changing football environment. Things will be tough for teams that handle football matters in a business as usual fashion." 🏴

WITHER BLANTYRE GIANTS?

"One thing is for sure, the present realities are not uncommon in a progressively changing football environment. Things will be tough for teams that handle football matters in a business as usual fashion."



Wanderers have struggled in the first nine weeks of the season

Nyasa Big Bullets:

Nyasa Big Bullets 1-1 Ntopwa
Nyasa Big Bullets 3-1 Kamuzu Barracks
Nyasa Big Bullets 5-1 Moyale Barracks
Nyasa Big Bullets 3-3 Red Lions
Karonga United 1-0 Nyasa Big Bullets
Chitipa United 0-2 Nyasa Big Bullets
Nyasa Big Bullets 0-0 Blue Eagles

Wanderers Full Results

Mighty Wanderers 0-0 Mighty Tigers
Mighty Wanderers 0-2 Karonga United
Mighty Wanderers 0-1 Mafco
TN Stars 0-3 Mighty Wanderers
Kamuzu Barracks 1-1 Mighty Wanderers
Mighty Wanderers 0-0 Silver Strikers
Mzuzu Warriors 1-1 Mighty Wanderers

Relief was the prevailing emotion when the TNM Super League kicked off on November 28—eight months after the last league match of the 2019 season.

Initially, the league was supposed to kick off in March, but the Covid-19 pandemic led to the suspension of all contact sports, including football.

Government finally lifted the ban on sports in October after a slant in new cases of the pandemic that has claimed over two million lives in the world and over 856 in the country.

The launch match was played at Kamuzu Stadium with defending champions Nyasa Big Bullets taking on Blue Eagles of Lilongwe.

Though played with half capacity, the fans that witnessed the return of football gleamed with excitement every minute and second of the game.

Launched under the theme NdiZotheka or It is Possible, sponsors TNM Plc hope the 2020/21 Super League season will create a platform for the return of life to normalcy in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and open up to a pool of life-changing possibilities.

TNM Plc Acting Chief Executive Officer, Arnold M'bwana says Malawi's pioneer mobile technology provider would like to use the Super League as a gateway to unleashing endless possibilities and potentials.

"We realise that football touches many lives, and in different ways. In the 2020/21 season, we are looking at the league

SUPER LEAGUE SPONSORS TNM Plc OFFER HOPE AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC



providing a platform for engaging people socially and economically.

"For example, those in the media can plug into the league for content advertising opportunities, those in retail trade can take advantage of actual games to bring their products closer to fans, and in the social sector, an opportunity will be provided to raise awareness on national causes such as is the case this year whereby we would like to use the games as a medium to spread knowledge on how to stay safe in the wake of the global Coronavirus pandemic," he said.

M'bwana said the

2020/21 Super League season will provide a pedestal on which TNM plc seeks to avail to its customers the greatest affordability and connectivity opportunities in voice and digital services.

Customers should be able to realise their social, business and professional needs using TNM's services based on their affordability depths.

The continuous growth and customer excitement with TNM's fastest 4G network has immense possibilities and therefore, will continue to increase its footprint to all corners of the country.

"Our 4G network offers

customers the option of plugging into the game to watch highlights, and live games through streaming," he added.

The 2020/21 season marks the 14th year of TNM's long-term sponsorship of the league and the contract will be extended soon.

"This season fans should expect more buzz and excitement as we will be coming with initiatives to improve the game," said M'bwana.

The Acting CEO said the 2020/21 season will strive to enable football stakeholders achieve great things in their daily endeavours, hence the theme NdiZotheka. 🏆

For TNM Super League players who earn their bread and butter through football, the year 2020 was hell on earth due to the devastating effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

It has never happened in the history of Malawi football to have the league completely suspended for eight months.

But Covid-19 made it necessary, leaving players stranded.

At first, Covid-19 was like a myth in Malawi.

For several months Malawi was one of the few countries in the world with no Covid-19 case.

The first case of Covid-19 was confirmed on April 2.

Malawi government on March 22 announced Covid-19 prevention guidelines that effectively banned all contact sports activities.

The partial lockdown came just a day before the 2020 TNM Super League season was about to kick off.

Some teams were already on the road to fulfil fixtures.

The ban on football

FRIEND IN NEED FAM CUSHIONS CLUBS

meant over 16 TNM Super League teams were deprived of gate revenue which they rely on to pay players.

But thanks to Football Association of Malawi (FAM) for the Covid-19 Relief for the Super League clubs and player.

World football governing

the affected victims.

Super League clubs were allocated K10 million each for the 2021 season while Super League of Malawi got K15 million from FAM.

FAM Covid-19 Task Force chairperson Chimango Munthali said all teams got the first chunk of K5 million and are supposed

million.

"As you are aware, it's a 'comply-and-access' process. We are working on having thorough reconciliation for those who submitted but don't meet the requirements and encouraging those who are yet submit to do that."

But the battle is not yet over.

In October, government directed that games should resume with half capacity and later on without fans.

When the second wave hit the country, government drafted new laws restricting public gatherings, including football to just 50.

These means we are back to square one--no football until the situation improves.

Munthali said: "We are aware teams are going through tough times and any penny in their direction will make a difference hence our swift release of the funds a few days after we got the money from Fifa." ⚽

The Covid- pandemic has resulted in unprecedented financial problems on Super League clubs who rely on gate revenue for the operations for the clubs.

body Fifa splashed \$1.5 million (about K1.2 billion) to each member association to cushion them from the effects of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, FAM had already reached out to

to get the remaining after reconciling their expenditure of first funds.

"Seven teams that successfully reconciled their first payment have received their final payment of K5













FAM met captains of all Super League clubs to discuss how they can help the players in the wake of the pandemic



tnm
SUPER
LEAGUE

HOW THEY STAND AS AT 18/01/2021

TEAMS / STATISTICS	HOME							AWAY							TOTALS								MP
	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PT	
 SILVER STRIKERS	3	3	0	0	13	3	9	6	3	1	2	8	4	10	9	6	1	2	21	7	14	19	82
 EKWENDENI HAMMERS	4	2	1	1	5	2	7	5	4	0	1	12	5	12	9	6	1	2	17	7	10	19	82
 RED LIONS	3	3	0	0	4	1	9	7	2	4	1	10	9	10	10	5	4	1	14	10	4	19	79
 MAFCO F.C.	5	2	2	1	7	5	8	4	2	2	0	4	1	8	9	4	4	1	11	6	5	16	79
 CIVIL SERVICE F.C.	5	2	3	0	7	5	9	3	2	1	0	5	3	7	8	4	4	0	12	8	4	16	82
 T N STARS	6	4	0	2	8	9	12	4	1	0	3	4	8	3	10	5	0	5	12	17	-5	15	75
 NTOPWA F.C.	6	4	0	2	14	7	12	3	0	2	1	4	5	2	9	4	2	3	18	12	6	14	77
 NYASA BIG BULLETS	5	2	3	0	12	6	9	2	1	0	1	2	1	3	7	3	3	1	14	7	7	12	81
 KARONGA UNITED	5	2	1	2	5	6	7	4	1	1	2	6	7	4	9	3	2	4	11	13	-2	11	74
 BLUE EAGLES	4	1	2	1	7	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	8	5	10	2	4	4	11	12	-1	10	70
 KAMUZU BARRACKS	2	0	2	0	3	3	2	6	2	1	3	7	11	7	8	2	3	3	10	14	-4	9	75
 BE FORWARD WANDERERS	4	0	2	2	0	3	2	3	1	2	0	5	2	5	7	1	4	2	5	5	0	7	76
 MOYALE	3	1	1	1	2	2	4	6	0	2	4	6	18	2	9	1	3	5	8	20	-12	6	69
 TIGERS F.C.	5	1	1	3	5	7	4	3	0	1	2	1	4	1	8	1	2	5	6	11	-5	5	71
 MZUZU WARRIORS F.C.	5	1	2	2	4	10	5	2	0	0	2	1	3	0	7	1	2	4	5	13	-8	5	74
 CHITIPA UNITED	4	1	0	3	5	9	3	5	0	1	4	3	12	1	9	1	1	7	8	21	-13	4	67
															49	20	49	183	183	0	0		

- Pisfor games played, Wfor games won, Dfor games drawn, Lfor games lost, GFfor goalsscored fortheteam, GAfor goalsagainst/ conceded bytheteam, GDfor goaldifference between GFand GA, PTfor pointsthe team accumulates from the games played.
- MP denotes maximum points and shows how many points a team can attain if they were to win all their remaining games.
- GD is the internationally accepted yardstick of separating teams which tie up on PT.
- When GD is the same then the team that has the highest GF is judged the better team. When both GD and GF tie up then the two scenarios will separate the teams
 - If the tie is between two teams, you look at the games that the team played against each other. The one who won or had a higher aggregate between those two teams is judged the better team.
 - If there are more than two teams, lots are cast to judge the better team.

SULOM

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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**Tiya Somba
Banda**



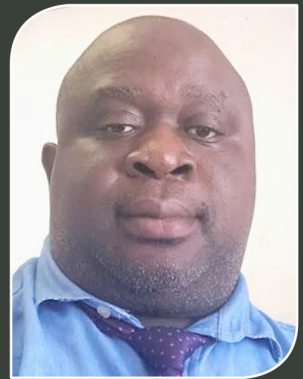
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