

ISSUE 5-FEBRUARY 2021

FLAMES IN HISTORIC AFCON QUALIFICATION

TAPPING MORE

REVENUE

Sulom banks on

Football TV,

SMS promo

Super League

exports to

Europe swell

Chitipa United confident of skipping relegation

Can this be Civo's season?







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EDITOR'S NOTE



Design & Layout: Mayamiko Tambula

Super League of Malawi (SULOM) BOX E66 Post Dot Net Blantyre, Malawi he TNM Super League action returns on April 2 following government's approval of Football Association of Malawi's proposal on how to resume the game under new Covid-19 guidelines, such as playing without supporters and with not more than 100 people.

Super League of Malawi (SULOM) would like to thank government for this gesture and we promise to ensure that all stakeholders adhere to the Covid-19 precautionary measures set by Ministry of Health.

Even before the Presidential Task Force on Covid- 19 gave us the greenlight to resume the league, we had already started preparations for the resumption of football.

These included testing of players and others involved in matches organisation such as referees, stewards and those working at match venues.

The idea of conducting the tests before the league restarts was to ensure that if anyone tests positive, they should have enough time to recover before the action returns.

Some tested positive for Covid-19 and have since recovered. They will be ready to return to action on April 2.

This has ensured that there is fair play for all teams as the TNM Super League returns.

SULOM would like to urge all stakeholders to ensure that they adhere to the Covid-19 protocols in order to protect the game of football

Let me also urge clubs to engage their supporters in the campaign to spread Covid-19 precautionary measures such as practicing social distancing, staying at home and sanitising.

WILLIAMS BANDA SULOM GENERAL SECRETARY

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

TIYA SOMBA BANDA







TAPPING MORE REVENUE:

Sulom banks on Mpira TV, SMS promo

ULOM says the newlylaunched Mpira TV which is on Malawi Digital Broadcasting Network's Kiliyekiliye decoder, will go a long way in unlocking Malawi football's potential.

The television which is on channel 122, was switched on on March 27 for test viewing before it goes full throttle in the coming days once footbal restarts on April 2.

SULOM president Tiya Somba Banda said the league runners are excited with the launch of the pay television.

He said: "At last we now have Malawi football on a national television.

"With supporters not allowed into stadiums, the

Mpira TV will ensure that supporters enjoy the matches in the comfort of their homes"

The launch of Mpira TV follows a consultation meeting between FAM, SULOM and clubs own how best to handle television rights deals.

Unlike in the past when TV rights deals were based on free-to-air model, the stakeholders settled for subscription-based model.

Somba Banda said clubs will now have a chance to earn something through the subscription.

"This is why we would like to encourge clubs to mobilise their supporters to buy Kiliyekilye decoders and subscribe for the channel.

"The more the supporters buy the decoders and subscribe for the channel, the more clubs will earn from the subscription."

Apart from the revenue from the subscription, clubs will also expose their players to international markets, thereas building the local football brand.

The Mpira TV establishment is also aimed at helping government fight Covid-19 by encouraging people to stay home and watch matches.

Malawi Government through the ministries of

and Sports and information played a role in facilitating the deal with MDBNL which is a public entity.

Chief Executive Officer for MDBNL, Denis Chirwa, says his network is ready to bean two matches at time on Mpira TV.

FAM has angaged MBC and Mibawa televisions to produce the content.

In an effort to maximise revenue base, SULOM has also launched an SMS Promotion that will enable fans to predict match scores, vote for player of the month as well as access latest update on the league. "All this is in line with our manifesto promises," explains Somba Banda.

HEALTH IS WEALTH:

Players' Medical Scheme rolls out



o many players' careers have ended abruptly due to poor medical services. Examples are plenty of players ending up crippled because they never got the best medical service when they got injured while on club duty.

But long at last, the football players can concentrate on their careers knowing that when they need medical services, they are fully covered.

This follows Football Association of Malawi (FAM), Super League of Malawi (SULOM) and Medical Aid Society of Malawi (MASM) partnership on a 10-year deal to provide Medical Cover to football players.

The scheme, called Econo- Sport is worth K18 million a year and will cover 800 players from the TNM Super League clubs, Women's Regional Leagues and Nationals teams.

For the cover to take off, FAM has paid the premiums on behalf of the clubs and players of K9 million a year while MASM will contribute the other half.

FAM President Walter Nyamilandu Manda says the Medical Cover is aimed at improving the players' welfare. He said: "The signing of this contract gives peace and total assurance to our football players that from today they can now fully commit themselves on the pitch knowing that their health is well covered.

"Our players will now stop begging for help in order to get decent medical treatment whenever need arises.

"What this means is that our players will be guaranteed to get first class professional medical attention by qualified practitioners. I am a very happy person," he said.

Sulom President Tiya Somba Banda said the signing of the deal fulfils SULOM's manifesto promise of humanising the player.

He said: "It's sad when we look at the players' illness cases we had in the past, because we failed our players on access to medical care. We did not look at their humanity aspects but just their on-field exploits.

"This deal moves us towards fulfilling our holistic view of players welfare not in isolated packages where we want them to have professional contracts with Medical cover, mandatory wages and Insurance. We will now explore the other two."

MASM Chief Executive Officer Sydney Chikoti, a football administrator himself for TNM Super League outfit Mighty Tigers, is aware of the challenges players face when they are injred.

Chikoti said MASM wants to ease football players' suffering when they are injured.

"We want to partner with football for a very long time and this will be a long-life deal. But for a start it will be a 10-year partnership reviewed every year.

"Our expectation is that we will get more visibility and understanding of our services not just among football players but the entire football fraternity," said Chikoti.

Football Players Association President Jimmy Zakazaka thanked MASM, FAM and SULOM for the initiative.

"This is a big step in improving the players welfare. Most clubs are struggling financially to pay their players and can't manage to cover medical issues a situation that exposed our members," he said.



Can this be Civo's season?

ilongwe based giants Civo Service United (Civo) is well- known for identifying players from rural areas and schools and grooming them into TNM Super League stars.

Most of the top players in TNM Super League clubs are products of Civil's youth development programmes.

The club's general secretary, Ronald Chiwaula explains that being a hunting ground for other Super League clubs has affected the team's cohesion.

"Almost every season we have one or two players being wanted by the so-called big teams,.

"But we are not in business of selling players. Rather football development".

Chiwaula says now is the time to keep their talent and challenge for the TNM Super League title which they last won in 1987.

He said: "We are so ambitious to win thie title in the 2021 TNM Super League season and if we fail, we should at least maintain position four".

The Civil Servants are so far the only side that remains unbeaten in the top flight.

They have won four, drew four and are on fifth position in the 16-team league.

Civo also have a perfect home record having won two and drawn three this far.

Their away record is also perfect with two wins and a draw.

The results from the first nine weeks of the season before the league was suspended due to Covid-19, has given the Civo hope that this could be their season.

Civo started the 2021 season on a high noted as they reclaimed the bragging rights for the Capital City after beating city rivals Silver Strikers 2-1 in Lilongwe Derby on November 29.

They then drew one all against Mafco a week later, followed by an away 1-0 win to Mzuzu Warriors.

A home goalless draw against Kamuzu Barracks was followed by a another away 2-1 victory at Chitipa United at Karonga Stadium.

The green and yellow Lilongwe giants were held to a 3-3 draw by Red Lions on January 10 before another 1-1 draw against M o y a l e Barracks.

They have scored scoring 12 goals and conceded eight in the process.

But despite the team remaining unbeaten, Civo is aware that draws will not make them win the title, but rather collecting maximum points.

Team manager Gabriel Chirwa said the TNM Super League break due to Covid-19 helped them to polish up some mistakes.

But can the team mantain the steam as the league resumes on April?

Chirwa said his team has not lost the rhythm they had before the recess as they did not halt training when the league was called off mid-January.

"We have excellence players that are here to do the job. We will shove every time we play and we will do it to win", he said.

The former Blue Eagles team manager downplayed fears of rustiness among players which might come along with the two months that the league was on recess.

"The momentum is still there. The boys are still in good shape and are look promising as we didn't stop training."

Head coach Franco Ndawa says it will be businees as usual.

However, he confesses that the break could have different effects on diffrent clubs.

He explains: "We have all been dormant due to the fact that we were not playing games.

"Some teams were at the highest peak. Now when the league resumes where will they start from?"

Civo captain Blessings Tembo welcomed the return of the leaguye action after the long break, saying the players were looking forward to doing their job—playing football.

Tembo and other players such as Muhammad Sulumba, Dan Kumwenda, Lawrence Chaziya, Charles Swini and Lanken Mwale are behind Civil's resurrection.

The club has always roped in veterans Jaffalie Chande and Bashir Maunde.

> Civo will be hoping to continue their unbeaten record when they face TN Stars at Civo Stadium in Lilongwe on April 3.

> > On April 4, they will take on Blue Eagles at Nankhaka Stadium. ©



Former Blantyre United coach Marion Gadaga says the move by the three to

True to his ambitions Banda is now

It has not taken Peter much time to

settle down at Sheriff where he is now a

Banda's move takes the number

of Europe-based Flames players to

The other Flames player in

Europe is former Be Forward

Wanderers midfielder Francisco

regular and has already scored a goal.

playing for Moldova's topflight league

outfit Sheriff Tiraspol where he joined

three.

Madinga.

compatriot defender Charles Petro in

"I have watched a number of games this season [before recess] and I have spotted a good number of brilliant players who I believe can easily get signed by foreign teams.

"So let's wait and see what will happen once the league resumes," he explained.

In recent years, the TNM Super League has been a happy hunting ground for South Africa and Mozambique clubs.

Flames captain Limbikani Mzava for AmaZulu, Frank Gabadinho Mhango for Orlando Pirates, Richard Mbulu and Gerald Phiri Jnr for Baroka FC, Khuda Muyaba, Mike Mkwate and Dennis Chembezi for Polokwane City, play in South Africa while John CJ Banda and Schumacher Kuwali are based in Mozambique .

Robin Ngalande was recently sigend by Ethiopia's Saint George. $\ \odot$





FLAMES REWRITE AFCON HISTORY

ootball history was rewritten on March 29 following Malawi's qualfication to the 2021 Africa Cup of Nations after edging overrated Uganda Cranes 1-0 at Kamuzu Stadium in Blantyre.

Malawi's appearance at the final will be the third after making it in 1984 and 2010.

In 2010, Malawi made it with just four points, thanks to Ivory Coast who eliminated Guinea to pave way for the Flames who lost to Burkina Faso in their last qualifier.

But this time around, the Flames did it in style hauling six points in their last two qualifiers against South Sudan and Uganda to seal their qualification.

They have finished the qualifiers with 10 points just behind leaders Burkina

Ironically, the man behind the Flames success is former TNM Stars coach Meck Mwase

After trying several expatriates, Football Association of Malawi settled for Mwase, though still many doubted his capabilities.

But the coach has proved his mettle by succeeding where others failed.

"I always said it that we have plenty of talent in the country. What we only need to do is to have belief in our players.

"When we lost our two back to back qualifers against Uganda and Burkina Faso, people ruled us out. But we had self belief that we can make it."

CHITIPA UNITED CONFIDENT OF SKIPPING RELEGATION

hitipa United interim coach Christopher Nyambose has started his job with a clear message—The team will survive in the TNM Super League.

Nyambose, who has been roped in from Chipiku Central Region Football League side Dedza Dynamos, replaced Alex Ngwira, who dumped the club in February over unpaid arears.

The tactician says his main job with the Northern Region based outfit is to get them out of the relegation zone and to remain in the league.

"Since Chitipa is in the relegation zone, we cannot say that we want to compete for the title. The main task at hand is to get Chitipa out of the trap and propel it to the position it truly deserves," he says.

The former Karonga United coach sounded confident in swaying the doubters by saying he is optimistic with his current charges.

"I have belief the team will mount a serious challenge despite being written off by many people."

Currently, Chitipa United anchor the 16-member league with four points from nine games.

"I am much optimistic the team will bounce back because it's only nine games into the season," Nyambose explains.

Meanwhile, Chitipa United general Secretary Duma Ngoma says they are confident of Nyambose's credentials and that he will revamp the team to be a winning side once again.

"Having in mind the experience Nyambose has and what he has done to the



Malawian game, we are sure that he is going to deliver and rescue the team.

"We have set targets for him and we are ready to give him all resource necessary in the quest of making this team regain its lost glorye," Ngoma explains.

However, sports analyst Gracian Mbewe, warned the lions of Chitipa to put their house in order quickly as off pitch distractions have so far derailed their season.

He said the coming in of Nyambose is a big boost to the club as his experience and know-how in the topflight stands them in good stead as the league which was suspended in January resumes.





he waiting is over. Football is back. The **Presidential Task** Force on Covid-19 has approved the restart of football activities, but without spectators.

Ministry of Health Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda said government's decision follows a proposal from Football Association of Malawi submitted to the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 through Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Super League of Malawi (SULOM) president Tiya Somba Banda said they are more than ready to restart the league.

"As you are aware, we already started preparing for the restart of the league by testing players, referees, stewards and other officials involved in matches organisation.

"Following the approval of the proposal to restart football, SULOM executive committee met to come up with the date when the

But Somba Banda urged all stakeholders to safeguard the league by following government's set Covid-19 precautionary measures at match venues.

Football Players Association (FPA) general secretary Ernest Mangani thanked government for allowing football to resume.

"As we anticipate another surge of the pandemic going into winter, there are chances that the number of Covid-19 cases may rise and therefore, it is important that everyone one should be serious.

"We should not take chances. We will take appropriate measures and follow the protocols so that we flatten the curve. if football is to continue being played.

"If we relax the numbers will shoot and we will be affected again if football is stopped. We will talk to our members to take this

"Actually, we will take part in civic education to encourage the members of the public to follow precautionary measures."

FIXTURES OUT SULOM has since released fixtures for first round as matches resume on April 2.

Third-placed Red Lions will set the pace as they host Mzuzu Warriors at Chiwembe's Mpira Stadium in Blantyre.

Civil Service United will be hoping to contiue their unbeaten record when take on TN Stars at Civo Stadium in Lilongwe.

Mighty Tigers and Ntopwa FC clash at Kamuzu Stadium in Blantyre.

Defending champions Nyasa Big Bullets, currently on position eight on the log table with 12 points from seven games, will host Mzuzu Warriors at Kamuzu Stadium on Saturday, April 3, before

playing away to Mighty Tigers at Mpira Stadium in Chiwembe on Monday, April 5.

Bullets will then travel to the Central Region to face fourth-placed MAFCO at Civo Stadium on April 10.

The team of the moment Ekwendeni Hammers will host Mighty Wanderers at Mzuzu Stadium.

MAFCO take on Karonga United at Karonga Stadium as Kamuzu Barracks host Blue Eagles at Civo Stadium.

On Sunday, Eagles take on Civo at Nankhaka Stadium while Wanderers will wrap a trip to the North against Moyale Barracks at Mzuzu Stadium.

Leaders Silver Strikers return to action on Monday against TN Stars at their home Silver Stadium in Lilonawe.

Silver Strikers chief executive officer Thokozani Chimbali said they can't wait to return to action.

He said: "We are more than ready. We have been

21

waiting for this. We never stopped training."

Ekwendeni Hammers coach Etson Kadenge Mwafulirwa admits that their match against Wanderers will be tough.

But the coach insists whichever result comes, it will not determine the race for the Super League.

"We still have 20 matches to go. The result on Saturday will not be the end of the race for the top finish.

"It is of big importance. I hope we can show up with the same mentality and attitude like the tough challenges we have had so far."

With games set to be played without supporters, Kadenge says Hammers can capitalise on that.

He explained: "I am pretty sure Mighty



Wanderers will miss their fans.

"I know from experience the impact the Nomads

crowd has on their team.

'Yes, they have dropped points, many times not deservedly and they have had some unlucky results.

"They are one of the best and big teams in the country but we are confident we can welcome them here and do what we have to do to win"..

Bullets coach Callisto Pasuwa said the defending champions are ready to relaunch their title defence after starting slow when the season kickd off back in November 2020. ©



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BOKOSI READY TO FIGHT ON FOR GOLDEN BOOT

NM Super League current top goal scorer Red Liosn striker Royal Bokosi says he is optimistic that he will continue banging goals in his guest to win the Golden Boot Award.

Bokosi announced his arrival in the league with a bang and he now tops the scorers' chart with seven goals from 10 games for Red Lions.

His exploits earned him the TNM Super League Player of the Month for December which was later iced with a debut national team call up in February.

Bokosi, who has featured in all the 10 games for the Zomba-based Malawi Defence Force outfit says now his focus will be to help his team to win more games as league resumes. more goals because one of my targets this season is to help my team to finish on a good position in the league.

"I also want to see myself winning the Golden Boot Award at the end of the season," he explained.

Bokosi also shares hsi experience from his maiden Malawi national team call up.

Despite missing out on the final list of 16 locally based players that Flames Coach Meck Mwase picked for the two African Cup of Nations qualifiers against South Sudan and Uganda, Bokosi says he learned alot.

"It was a big honour for me to be in Flames camp with some players I grew up idolising,".

that I grew up watching and now calling them teammates in a new environment was a dream come true." recalls Bokosi.

A younger brother to former Super League Golden Boot Award winner, Innocent, Royal says he believes that if he is considered in the next national team call up, he will be able to make the final grade.

"My three weeks stay at Chiwembe has sharpened my career and I believe if the opportunity rises for me again, I am sure I will be able to secure a place in the final squad."

Royal scored an impressive 43 goals in the 2019 ThumbsUp League to help the Lions re-gain promotion into the top flight Super League after getting relegated in 2018. ©





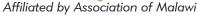
SUPER LEAGUE OF MALAWI (SULOM)

BOX E-66, POST DOT NET, BLANTYRE



President: Tiya Somba Banda Vice President: Lt. Col. Gilbert Mittawa General Secretary: Williams Banda







Vice General Secretary: Zachariah Nyirenda Treasurer: Malinda Chinyama Legal Advisor: Innocent Kadammanja

TNM Super League Fixtures

Date	Teams	Venue	Region
02-Apr-21	Red Lions vs Mzuzu Warriors	Chiwembe	S
02-Apr-21	Civil Service F.C vsT N Stars	Civo	С
02-Apr-21	Tigers F.C vs Ntopwa F.C	Chiwembe	S
03-Apr-21	Karonga United vs MAFCO F.C	Karonga	N
03-Apr-21	Kamuzu Barracks vs Blue Eagles	Civo	С
03-Apr-21	Nyasa Big Bullets vs Mzuzu Warriors	Kamuzu	S
03-Apr-21	Ekwendeni Hammers vs Be Forward Wanderers	Mzuzu	N
04-Apr-21	Blue Eagles vs Civil Service F.C	Nankhaka	С
04-Apr-21	Chitipa United vs MAFCO F.C	Karonga	N
04-Apr-21	Moyale vs Be Forward Wanderers	Mzuzu	N
05-Apr-21	Silver Strikers vs T N Stars	Silver	С
05-Apr-21	Tigers F.C vs Nyasa Big Bullets	Chiwembe	S
10-Apr-21	Tigers F.C vs Civil Service F.C	Chiwembe	S
10-Apr-21	Kamuzu Barracks vs Karonga United	Civo	С
10-Apr-21	Moyale vs Ekwendeni Hammers	Mzuzu	N
10-Apr-21	MAFCO F.C vs Nyasa Big Bullets	Civo	С
10-Apr-21	Be Forward Wanderers vs Chitipa United	Kamuzu	S
			1
11-Apr-21	Ntopwa F.C vs Civil Service F.C	Chiwembe	S
11-Apr-21	T N Stars vs Karonga United	Kasungu	С
14-Apr-21	Be Forward Wanderers vs Ntopwa F.C	Kamuzu	S

Date	Teams	Venue	Region
17-Apr-21	Kamuzu Barracks vs Moyale	Civo	C
17-Apr-21	Chitipa United vs Tigers F.C	Karonga	N
17-Apr-21	Nyasa Big Bullets vsCivil Service F.C	Kamuzu	S
17-Apr-21	Red Lions vs Silver Strikers	Chiwembe	S
17-Apr-21	Mzuzu Warriors vs MAFCO F.C	Mzuzu	N
18-Apr-21	Karonga United vsTigers F.C	Karonga	N
18-Apr-21	Ntopwa F.C vs Silver Strikers	Chiwembe	S
18-Apr-21	Blue Eagles vs Ekwendeni Hammers	Nankhaka	С
24-Apr-21	Ekwendeni Hammers vs Nyasa Big Bullets	Mzuzu	N
24-Apr-21	Blue Eagles vs Be Forward Wanderers	Nankhaka	С
24-Apr-21	Kamuzu Barracks vs Tigers F.C	Civo	С
25-Apr-21	Moyale vs Mzuzu Warriors	Mzuzu	N
25-Apr-21	Silver Strikers vs Tigers F.C	Silver	С
01-May-21	Kamuzu Barracks vs Chitipa United	Civo	С
01-May-21	Mzuzu Warriors vs Ntopwa F.C	Mzuzu	N
01-May-21	Red Lions vsMoyale Chiwembe S		
01-May-21	Be Forward Wanderers vs Nyasa Big Bullets	Kamuzu	S
02-May-21	Silver Strikers vs Chitipa United	Silver	С
02-May-21	Ekwendeni Hammers vs Ntopwa F.C	Mzuzu	N
02-May-21	Karonga United vs Mzuzu Warriors	Karonga	N
08-May-21	Moyale vs Karonga United	Mzuzu	N
08-May-21	Blue Eagles vs MAFCO F.C	Nankhaka	С
08-May-21	Silver Strikers vs Nyasa Big Bullets	Silver	С
08-May-21	Be Forward Wanderers vs Red Lions	Kamuzu	S
20.11	W D 1		
09-May-21	Kamuzu Barracks vs MAFCO F.C	Civo	С
09-May-21	Ekwendeni Hammers vs Civil Service F.C	Mzuzu	N
14-May-21	Chitipa United vs Mzuzu Warriors	Karonga	N
14-May-21	Nyasa Big Bullets vs T N Stars	Kamuzu	S
14-May-21	Civil Service F.C vs Be Forward Wanderers	Civo	С
,			
15-May-21	Mzuzu Warriors vs Kamuzu Barracks	Mzuzu	N
15-May-21	Red Lions vs T N Stars	Chiwembe	С
			_

Any correspondences regarding this matter must be addressed to the General Secretary.

SUPER SUPER

SULOM EX CO PROFILES



President: Tiya Somba Banda



Vice President: Lt. Col. Gilbert Mittawa



General Secretary: Williams Banda



Vice General Secretary: Zachariah Nyirenda



Treasurer: Malinda Chinyama



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Chimwemwe Nyirenda



EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Michael Chemere



LEGAL ADVISOR: Innocent Kadammanja

Ex co members:



Allie Mwachande



Charles Manyungwa



Henry Banda

