



CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI
Directorate of Research and Publications

PUBLIC LECTURE

Blood Suckers: The People's Medium of Expressing the Impact of Inequalities and Anti-Social Behaviours in Malawian Society

SPEAKERS: Anthony Mtuta & Sangwani Tembo

VENUE: ASSEMBLY HALL

DATE: Friday 27TH October 2017

TIME: 2:00-3.30 PM

ABOUT THE TALK

The recent lynchings of strangers and community members suspected to be harbouring blood suckers have shocked the nation, and have made global headlines. The blood sucking scare has also spread to other districts such as Zomba, Chiradzulu, Thyolo and Nsanje. Blood sucking is referred to the extracting of blood from a living person in physical and mysterious ways. This presentation is focused on uncovering the root causes of the blood sucking scare, from an anthropological perspective. According to this perspective blood sucking fears emanate from economic, social and political inequalities that have affected traditional social structures of the society. To what extent is the blood sucking episode a response to socio-economic hardships impact negatively on society? How does the episode challenge existing traditional structures that control extreme anti-social behaviours which destroy the sense of equality and harmony in the society? The argument being advanced is that blood suckers act as a medium on how people express their concerns over what is happening in the society. The presentation raises questions on how developmental projects may create problems that may have an impact on the society. The presentation gives recommendations and discusses limitations on how anthropology can play a role in offering cultural interpretations to contemporary issues.

SPEAKERS' BIOS

Anthony Mtuta is an assistant lecturer in the Department of Anthropology at the Catholic University of Malawi. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology & Sociology from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in Nairobi Kenya, a Diploma in Philosophy & Theology, and is currently pursuing a Master of Environmental Studies degree at CUNIMA.

Sangwani Tembo is an assistant lecturer in the Department of Anthropology. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology from the Catholic University of Malawi. Currently he is pursuing a Master of Environmental Studies at CUNIMA. He has published in the *Journal of the Catholic University of Malawi* (Jocunima).