

Malawi Film Festival kicks off next month

BY SAM BANDA JNR

MALAWI Film Festival (Maff), a product of Film Association of Malawi hosts its first edition of its gathering starting on September 1 through to 9.

President Chrispin Viyazyi, who recently screened his documentary *Malawi Awakening* at Zanzibar International Film Festival, said during the festival they will conduct workshops whose facilitators are American film makers Amy and Lisa.

"The festival comprises two main events, workshops and screenings. The festival kicks off with a screening on September 1 at the Public affairs section of the American Embassy auditorium in Lilongwe. Then workshops in Blantyre and Zomba on September 3 and 4," he said.

Viyazyi said the workshop for Lilongwe will be held on September 6.

He said after the workshops, the screenings will continue on September 7 to 9 in several venues including Natural Resources College and Lilongwe Girls Secondary School.

The President also said the

festival is different from Miff and that they will strictly screen Malawian movies from Shemu Joyah's *Seasons of a Life*, *Malawi Awakening*, *Darkest Hour*, *When sparkles are Lost* to Malawi's first movie *The prodigal Son*.

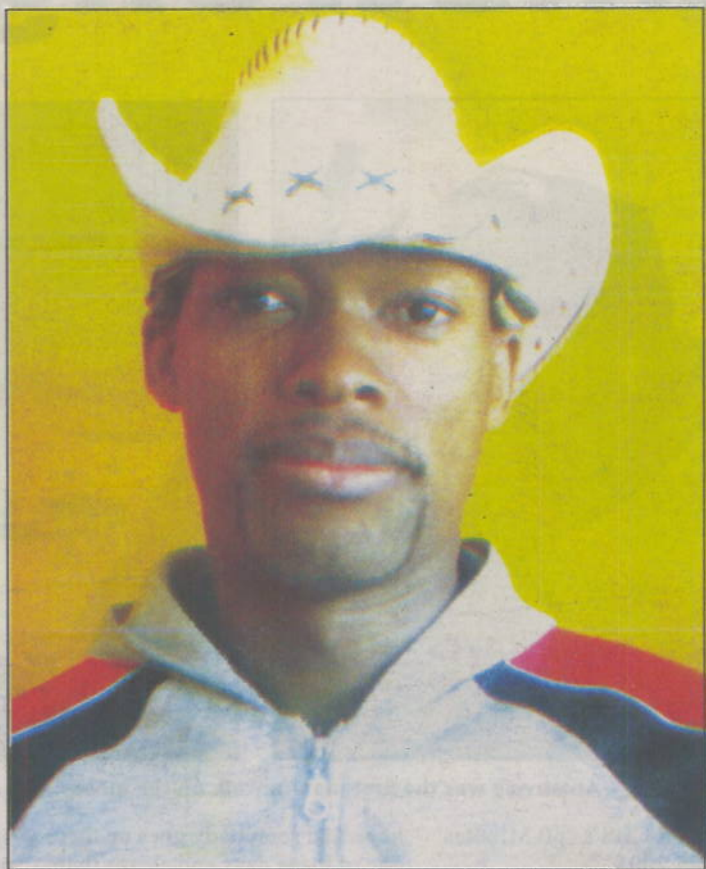
"This festival has been supported by the US Embassy, Public Affairs section. Also the Goethe institute (South Africa) has provided some resources. One of our goals is to create a platform where film makers will express their talent and network," he said.

With the country taking strides in film, Viyazyi said the festival will provide that forum and bring Malawian films to Malawians.

"Through the festival we want to build capacity of our members and that is through workshops which will help to achieve that with a high quality professional training," he said.

With the cinema culture almost dead, the president said they aim to build this and that their venues are targeting the youth.

"If these young people are bent into liking films, then in the long term we have the audience and creating a market for future films because we will have a generation that follows and likes Malawian content," he said.



VIYAZYI—Through the festival we want to build capacity