* Understand the gravity model
* Do some of your course
* Make the baby of the website
* Put your code on github properly
* Do the BSA starter for Malawi

During a heated conversation, my sibling once referred to our country, and I quote, as a

“tobacco plantation that was given a parliament”

So, let’s look at some verified sources and see how right we were!

INTRODUCTION

Hello there. I am an economist and this is my blog; Postmortem Economics. This is where I will write about economics related topics, particularly about the country I am from: Malawi.

Why do I do this?

Find an economist in your life and ask them why they entered this field. Half of them (particularly if you pick someone who works in development or policymaking) would probably tell you that they were inspired to make positive changes in this imperfect world we live in. The other half would say that they are in it for the money or job security.

My motives are a little different. You see, I fear a great many things.

(an image from the sound of music)

Needles and strangers, the death of my loved ones. Earthquakes, rejection, insurgencies, rapists.

Pressure cookers that may blow off my face.

These are a few of the scariest things.

I do not think I am alone in this feeling. See, the world is imperfect, uncertain and oftentimes unfair. In response to this, it is tempting to make decisions that neither benefit you nor those around you.

One of the things I wanted to be when I was a child was a pathologist because I thought that I’d be good at being a person that can take a body (something that makes people feel sad or terrible) and extract truth. I am not a pathologist. I am economist. But I still have the same purpose. To look at something complicated and often unfair (the world we live in) and be one of the people who can help understand what the heck is going on so we can all make better choices.

The thought of this makes me less afraid. Thank you for taking this journey with me. I hope it is educational and fun for you too.

MALAWI

I would like to address the elephant in the room. I am an economist from Malawi and it is a country that is (euphemistically) a little wacky

Itty bitty GDP Committee

With that said, I personally find it a little reductive how Malawi is discussed in economic spaces. Sure, there is a lot we could have done better as a country and I want to show that. Meanwhile, there are things that we actually did appropriately and I would like to document that

MALAWI HISTORY

I once told a professor of mine that I wanted to understand better how Malawi became the country it is today; the good and the bad. She then asked me what I thought I could do that has not already been done.

I suppose that’s a valid question.

I think one under-explored element in Malawi is the history of the country particularly among its policymakers and upper class. Topics like the overarching influence of Apartheid South Africa over the countries post-colonial history, its relationship with the former Rhodesia and the influence of totalitarianism. While a lot of these topics have been explored in the humanities, I believe the economic understanding of Malawi in the context is limited. And I believe it’s a little unfair to talk about our economic challenges without also talking about everything we have all been through.

I do not say this in defense of the millstones holding us all back as a country. Y’all suck. Do better.