

**MALAWI POLICE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM**

Connecting the police and the people



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to be developed by:

Ernest M’mame

**MALAWI POLICE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (MWCS)**

The Malawi Police has no online automated means of communication. It uses offline communication methods such as transporting documents, fax and phone calls which makes it rather difficult to perform effective and up to date information sharing amongst police departments and to the public. For Instance, information on missing people, suspect details, police reports, stolen items etc. is not centralised leading to tedious processes whenever information retrieval is required. Considering their line of work, the police should be able to communicate and access information from anywhere effectively and so should the public.

“Police Criminal Arrest Application System” was developed by a previous scholar at NACIT. Its main aim was storing criminal details after arrest. MWCS is very different and bigger as storing criminal details is just one of the functionalities. MWCS aims at enhancing communication among police departments and to the public.

The community plays an important role in Police duties hence require a more efficient way to communicate with the police. The Police at times require assistance from the community which brings in the need for people to be able to gain access to certain information e.g. wanted suspects, missing people, crime rate statistics etc. To add more effect to the police services, the community should also be able to receive direct messages from the police via the site, personal phone numbers and emails in cases where certain police services such as updates on their missing items or relatives. They additionally should have access to news on current police business and statistical reports concerning crime rates and security issues in various parts of the country. They will be able to subscribe to get the reports mailed to them and receive critical information as text messages on their handheld devices.

This system will contain Mzuzu, Blantyre and Lilongwe police departments linked to the main Malawi police site. Each department will provide similar functionalities that support their local police and the Malawi Police site will be the headquarters that corelates all the data from the departments.

The use of SMS alerts, emails, on site messaging and report generation ready for download as individual reports or as a collective unite as a zip file and document sharing will make information sharing and messages exchange more effective and centralised to both the public and the police.

The system will be a dynamic role based web application that will be developed in object oriented PHP using the object-oriented methodology under the MVC design pattern and will use HTML 5, and JavaScript to develop the front end. The end product will be a web based application that uses the MySQL database, SMS GATEWAY ME for SMS functionalities and PHP Mailer for emails.