

**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)**

Communication is vital in any organisation. It not only enhances operations, but it also simplifies work. Having a secure centralised communication channel is a bonus. Malawi Police has no online, automated, and centralised communications. Information is shared via transporting documents, fax and phone calls which is obsolete communications of the 21st. Considering their line of work, the police should be able to communicate and access information such as missing people, wanted suspects and lost items from anywhere effectively and the public should have access to some of the info as well.

“Police Criminal Arrest Application System” was developed by a previous scholar at NACIT. Its main aim was storage of criminal details after arrest. MWCS is a very different as it is a bigger system that’s has storing criminal details as just one of its functionalities.

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 so as to help in tracking and location of these people and items. To add more effect to 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 provision of certain police services such as updates on missing items or relatives and reported missing items is necessary plus information they wish to share to the public in a fast way e.g. a killer out on a killing spree. The community should also have access to up to date police news and statistical reports concerning crime rates and security. They can get these reports via phone, email or on the MWCS site.

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 regional 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 pdf report generation available for download in individual reports or as collective units in one zip file in addition to document sharing will make information sharing and message 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. It will use MySQL database for storage, SMS GATEWAY ME for SMS functionalities and PHP Mailer for emails. It will additionally use encryption where necessary.