



**MALAWI POLICE SERVICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE**

NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS
PRIVATE BAG 305
LILONGWE 3

24th JANUARY, 2026.

**POLICE ARREST VILLAGE HEADMAN AND FIVE OTHERS IN DOWA GRAVEYARD TAMPERING
LINKED TO ALBINISM CASE**

The Malawi Police Service (MPS) has arrested Village Headman Khombera and five other suspects in connection with the tampering of the grave of Ms. Maunsamatha Zacharia, a person with albinism. The incident occurred at Khombera Village, T/A Nsakambewa in Dowa, where she was buried in August 2023. Her grave was desecrated on 12 January 2026.

The arrested individuals are:

Village headman Khombera, real name Chitsosa Mangulenje (55), of Dowa District; Tonny Chawando Mwale (56) from Zomba District; Msoloni Makuyira (48); Maliton Maguya (47); Lazaro Gidion (24); and Yakobe Chikadza (32), all from Dowa District.

The MPS believes the suspects jointly participated in the crime. All remain in police custody as investigations continue to identify and trace one remaining accomplice. They will be taken to court soon to be formally charged.

The MPS commends members of the public whose cooperation and information have been invaluable to this investigation.

The Service reiterates its commitment to protecting vulnerable members of society and warns that crimes targeting people with albinism, including grave desecration, will be met with full force of the law.

**Senior Superintendent Lael Chimtembo
Service Public Relations Officer**