

Reversed Roles

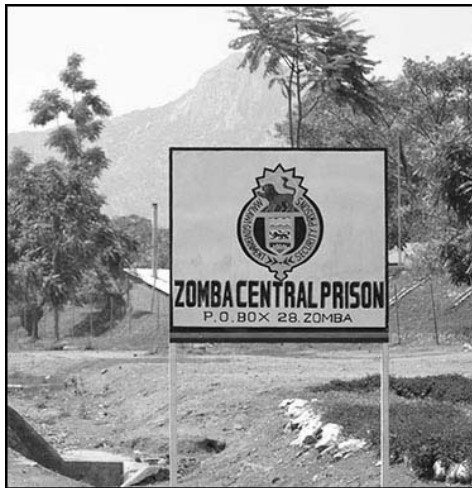
By Barry Thorne

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An episode of interest at the Zomba Central Prison was my being introduced to Henry Chipembere, one of the country's leading African political activists who had been imprisoned during the Emergency period, which had occurred shortly prior to my arrival in the country. Though certainly not condemned to death, he was accommodated in relative comfort in two cells on 'death row', and would stand to attention when I visited him and was polite and most articulate when spoken to.



This experience and my own (what he later considered 'decent') attitude towards him, was remembered a year or so later, when 'internal self-government' was given to Nyasaland, and Chipembere was appointed a Minister in Prime Minister Banda's cabinet, and I again met up with him. Only on that occasion it was I who stood to attention while giving him a smart salute!



From Detainee to Parliamentarian