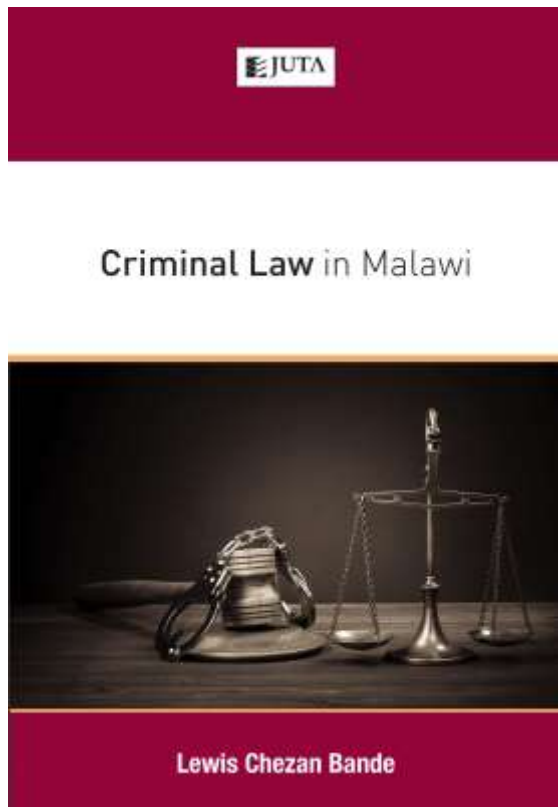


## **Book Review**



## **CRIMINAL LAW IN MALAWI**

by Lewis Chezan Bande

(885 pages)

Juta & Co (Pty) Ltd  
[www.jutalaw.co.za](http://www.jutalaw.co.za)

***"The law: it has honoured us; may we honour it."***

– Daniel Webster (1782-1852)

This monumental work on every aspect of criminal law in Malawi fulfils the need for a resource that covers in context the recent changes to the country's criminal law, as a result of the review of the Penal Code in 2012. It is an authoritative exposition of the substantive legal rules, principles and doctrines that constitute criminal law in Malawi.

Legal practitioners, judicial officers, law enforcement agencies, policy and legislation makers and members of civil society will welcome the detailed treatment of specific offences. Both common law and statutory offences are logically grouped and explained. These range from child pornography to managing hazardous materials, from abduction to arson, from money

laundering to terrorist financing. Statutory offences include those under the Gender Equality Act of 2012, the Child Care Protection and Justice Act of 2010, and the Trafficking in Persons Act of 2015.

This work is however far more than a practical handbook for hard-pressed lawyers. It also highlights and discusses the theories, policies and values underlining and animating the criminal law. This is particularly valuable in understanding the justification and purpose of particular rules and principles and will assist in guiding future development of the law.

While the focus is on the law as contained in Malawian statutes and interpreted and applied in Malawian courts, the book also comparatively discusses statutes and case law from other selected common law jurisdictions, notably England, Canada and Australia. There are also references to the law from other Southern Africa Development Community Countries, particularly South Africa and Zambia.

The author, Lewis Chezan Bande, LLB (Hons), LLM, is a graduate of the Universities of Malawi and Stellenbosch, an admitted practitioner of the High Court and Supreme Court of Malawi, and a lecturer at the University of Malawi. He is currently in Belgium, where he is a doctoral candidate, conducting research on international co-operation against cybercrime.

Publisher Juta deserves high praise for embracing the impressive talents, insight and industry of the author in producing an all-encompassing treatise of this nature, which is all the more valuable in a relatively small jurisdiction such as Malawi. It constitutes a significant contribution and encouragement to the Rule of Law, academic endeavour, and professional proficiency in that country.

*Review by Louis Rood BA LLB (UCT), Consultant at Fairbridges Wertheim Becker Attorneys.*