

Story of Change

“FROM LIVING FOR SELF TO LIVING FOR CREATION: A STORY OF FAITH, SAVINGS, AND RESTORATION” — Kazolo Chimjumengi Story

“FLORESTA has taught me that we are called to live in harmony with God’s creation.”



Figure 1: Mr Kazolo Chimjumengi in the backyard garden

Kazolo Chimjumengi was born and raised in Yavundika Village, Traditional Authority Thula, in Nkhata Bay District of Malawi’s Northern Region. Nkhata Bay is a scenic and culturally rich area, shaped by fishing, trade, and tourism, where the Viphya Mountains meet the waters of Lake Malawi. It is here that Kazolo has built his life, his faith, and his commitment to his community.

In 2004, Kazolo married his wife, Madalo, and together they are raising three children, two boys and one girl. That same year, Kazolo first heard about FLORESTA’s work in his area. After learning about the program, he made a personal decision to join and become actively involved.

Kazolo became a member of the Alinafe Purpose Group and went a step further by encouraging his church, Zion Christian Church (ZCC), to partner with FLORESTA.

Within the church, Kazolo serves as Secretary and also acts as a Church Facilitator supporting FLORESTA’s activities. His involvement bridges faith, community leadership, and environmental stewardship

Reflecting on the changes in his life, Kazolo explains how practical knowledge has translated into tangible improvements.

“FLORESTA has really impacted my life in such a way that I can apply some farming techniques, which have resulted in bumper yields,” he says. “In addition to that, FLORESTA has taught me how to establish tree nurseries, and I am glad that I can do this with my church community, members of my community, but also at the household level.”

Through participation in a Village Savings and Loans (VSL) group, Kazolo describes a deeper shift in his mindset around money and planning. *“Through the VSL group, FLORESTA in Malawi has taught me the culture of saving. Before the coming of FLORESTA, I did not really pay attention to saving. All I knew was spending all the proceeds from my small shop, which I own,”* he shares. *“I am really glad that the money which I got from my savings in December has helped to boost my small business. Apart from boosting the business, I have used part of the money in purchasing fertilizer and paying school fees for my Form 3 boy.”*

Kazolo also highlights the transformation he has witnessed within his church. *“Zion Christian Church uniquely does its things,”* he explains. *“I thank FLORESTA because through its spiritual renewal department, my church has learnt the importance of working together with other churches. FLORESTA has taught us that it is the role of the church to take a leading role when it comes to creation care.”* As a result of this training, the church has taken concrete steps toward environmental action.

“Through FLORESTA, our church has been trained on tree nursery establishment, and I am glad that this year we are going to have a tree woodlot at our church. I will also have the chance of establishing a tree woodlot at my premises,” Kazolo says.



Figure 2: Mr. Kazolo Chimjumengi (Right) with Mr. Timothy Mwase SRO (Left) sharing knowledge

Beyond practical skills, Kazolo describes an inner transformation that has reshaped his relationship with others and the environment. *“Through the trainings, FLORESTA has also shaped my way of thinking, because back then, I was just living my life for myself. FLORESTA has taught me that life is all about relationships and that we are called to live in harmony with God’s creation.”*

Outside his formal roles, Kazolo enjoys spending time with his church family, watching football, and reading. He works closely with Village Headman Yavundika and remains deeply engaged in community affairs. His vision for the future is clear: to see his community flourish as trees are planted, relationships are strengthened, and creation care is practiced collectively by both the wider community and the church.



Figure 3: Mr. Kazolo Chimjumengi hoeing his garden

Kazolo’s story reflects how restored relationships between people, faith, and the environment can become the foundation for lasting change.

Disclaimer: This story uses a pseudonym for confidentiality.