

# Govt. presents two witnesses against journo

 By [Gregory Gondwe: @Kalipochi](#)

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Government says it has identified two witnesses to testify against journalist, [Ernest Mahwayo](#), in a case where he was accused of conduct likely to cause breach of peace.

Mahwayo, who works at Catholic media firm, Montfort Media, was arrested on 12 September 2011 for taking pictures of the multi-million kwacha palace belonging to Malawian President Bingu wa Mutharika.

Lusungu Gondwe, the lawyer representing the Mahwayo, says two police officers will parade as state witnesses in a case whose hearing is expected to start Tuesday 25 October 2011, in the Dalton Road Magistrate courts in Blantyre, Malawi.

Police are of the view that Mahwayo should have sought permission before going to President Bingu wa Mutharika's Ndata Farm.

Mahwayo was doing a story for the Montfort Media's vernacular newspaper, *Mkwaso*, where his intention was to contrast the poverty present in people, surrounding the private estate of the president, and the wealth oozing from the recently developed property that also include his wife's multi-million kwacha mausoleum.

Mahwayo soon after his arrest pleaded guilty, changed his plea after staying for hours in detention and denied the charge before magistrate Anne Chikhadzula.

Currently on bail, Mahwayo in his court appearance on Wednesday 14 September 2011, submitted that he was changing his plea from 'guilty' to 'not guilty' through Gondwe.

## ABOUT GREGORY GONDWE: @KALIPOCHI

Gregory Gondwe is a Malawian journalist who started writing in 1993. He is also a media consultant assisting several international journalists pursuing assignments in Malawi. He holds a Diploma and an Intermediate Certificate in Journalism among other media-related certificates. He can be contacted on [gregorygondwe@gmail.com](mailto:gregorygondwe@gmail.com). Follow him on Twitter at [@Kalipochi](#).

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