

TOPIC : COLONIAL ADMINISTRATION IN RHODESIA

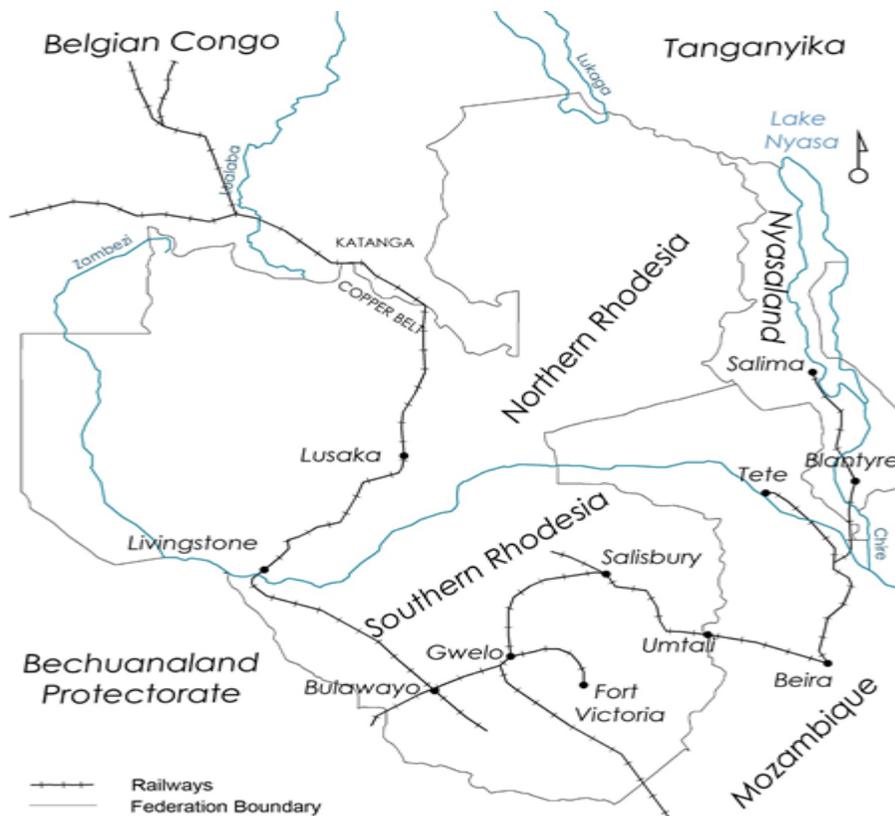
SUBTOPIC: FEDERATION OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

OBJECTIVES

BY THE END OF THE SUBTOPIC, LEARNERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- ✓ Outline the reasons for the formation of the federation.
- ✓ Trace the steps taken towards the formation of the federation.
- ✓ Explain the achievements and failures of federation.
- ✓ Evaluate the reasons for collapse of federation.

Background



Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland

- Federation is an act of uniting different countries.

- In a historical perspective federation is political entity characterized by a union of partially self-governing countries under a central government.
- The federation was a system of government that joined Nyasaland (Malawi), Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and Southern Rhodesia (Zimbabwe).
- The federation was created between August and October 1953 and lasted up to December 1963.
- The seeds of the federation were in the reasons of the scramble and partition of Africa.
- The union of the federation came about as a result of economic, political and social factors.
- The leaders who were involved in the formation of the federation included:
 - Godfrey Huggins.
 - J.H Thomas Creeche Jones.
 - Roy Welensky.
 - John Moffat.
 - Oliver Lyttleton.
 - Reverend E.H Nightingale.

So why was the federation formed?

- The federation was advocated by Godfrey Huggins and Roy Welensky due to the protests of the Boers.
- These protests forced the colonies to join forces and fight the Boer uprisings.
- Elections were made in 1953 and the voting results were in favour of the federation and white man's interest were of importance compared the Africans.

Reasons for the formation

- As stated above the seeds of the federation were fuelled by the scramble for Africa and the colonisation of Southern Africa.
 - There are political, social and economic reasons why the federation was formed.
- 1) The British Empire wanted to protect their territorial interests by forming a union that would block further access into Central Africa. Hence the federation was meant to stop the Portuguese from the east, the Afrikaners from the South, and the Germans from the West.
 - 2) Also the union of the 3 territories would allow the creation of a large and well equipped army ready to defend the interests of the British Empire from other imperial powers.
 - 3) Economically, the vast land, minerals, fisheries among other resources combined from the 3 colonies would allow massive exploitation of resources benefiting Britain.
 - 4) The federation was believed to also socially uplift Africans allowing them to work in partnership with the white man in business ventures. However the native people were always oppressed and inferior.
 - 5) The British also set up the federation in a bid to fulfil self-ego and demonstrate their greatness in comparison to other imperial powers.
 - 6) The federation was also formed in order to control and suppress the nationalist voice. The British intended to monitor and constrict the native ideas for independence by maintaining the resources, and activities of their protectorates under one administered government.

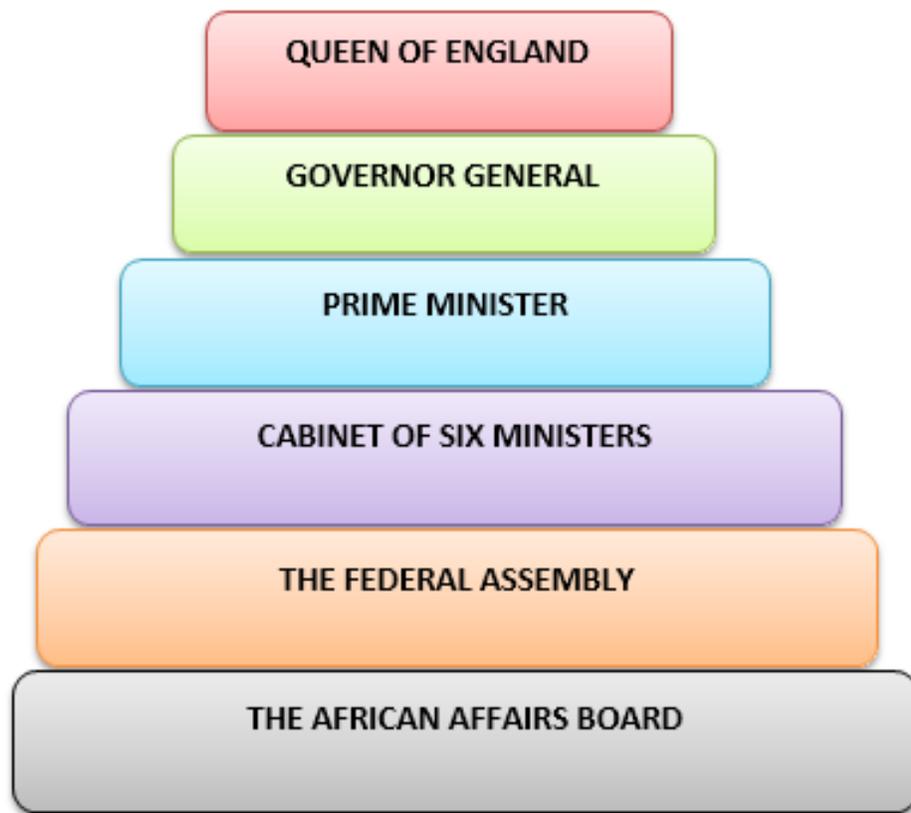
How was the federation governed?

- Each member state had a direct involvement in the federation; governments were allowed to stand alone having their own governing instruments (constitution).

- The federation carried out broader duties as compared to the member state Government as illustrated below:

Federal government	Member state government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The overall economic welfare of the union. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible for specific welfare of economic activities in state such as agriculture, mining among others.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling external trade of goods, and services into or leaving the union. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local administration of the state such as councils, police, tax system among others.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair supply and distribution of resources such as electricity, labour and others within the union 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of basic services for their population such as housing, decent salary, water, as well as efficient roads.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of the union through a combined conscripted army. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of a specific and suitable constitution showing forms of governance as well as law and order maintenance.

System of governance hierarchy



Structure of Federation

Functions of the organs of the federation

The executive

- The executive were made of the 1st four members of the hierarchy.
- The queen chose the governor general who in turn chose the prime minister who elected a government of six members from the legislative assembly.

The assembly

- It was one chamber made of one sitting.
- It was made up of 35 members.
- 6 were native Africans while three other Europeans' also worked to safeguard native interest.
- They were chaired by a speaker of the session.
- legislative members were to be elected from any race, but the assembly was often white-man dominated
- Later on the assembly was then amended to allow 59 honourable members in 1957.

The African affairs board

- It was also involved in the assembly.
- It represented the interests of the natives.
- It had 9 representatives (6 blacks and 3 whites).
- It had a chairman and vice, who were selected by the Governor General.
- Their duties included viewing discriminatory laws, upholding native rights fighting for emancipation of natives.

Law, order and maintenance of the union

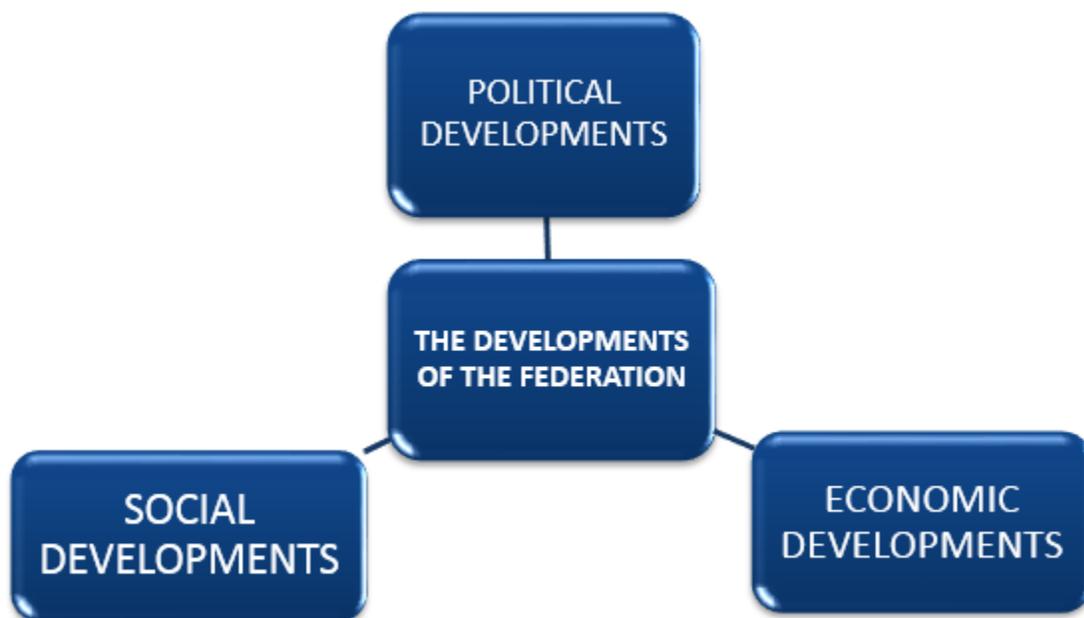
The Judiciary system

- The state had a supreme judicial court made up of the chief justice, his deputies and election petitions.
- Its role was to solve the problems between the federation and a territory as well as problems between territories.

- Member state's courts were tasked with upholding their constitutions; comply with union laws and amendments.

Developments made during the Federation

- The developments of the federation marked the extent in which the aims of the federation were achieved.
- These developments covered the political, social and economic sectors of the federation.



Developments of the federation

A. Political Developments

- The natives were allowed to represent their interests in parliament and Africans were allowed to vote though this was restricted.
- There was centralized control of the union, although Southern Rhodesia had a larger administrative control.

- Amendments to acts such as the Land Apportionment Act allowed natives to operate and practice professional jobs such as teaching, lawyers, and train drivers among others (1955-61).

B. Social Developments

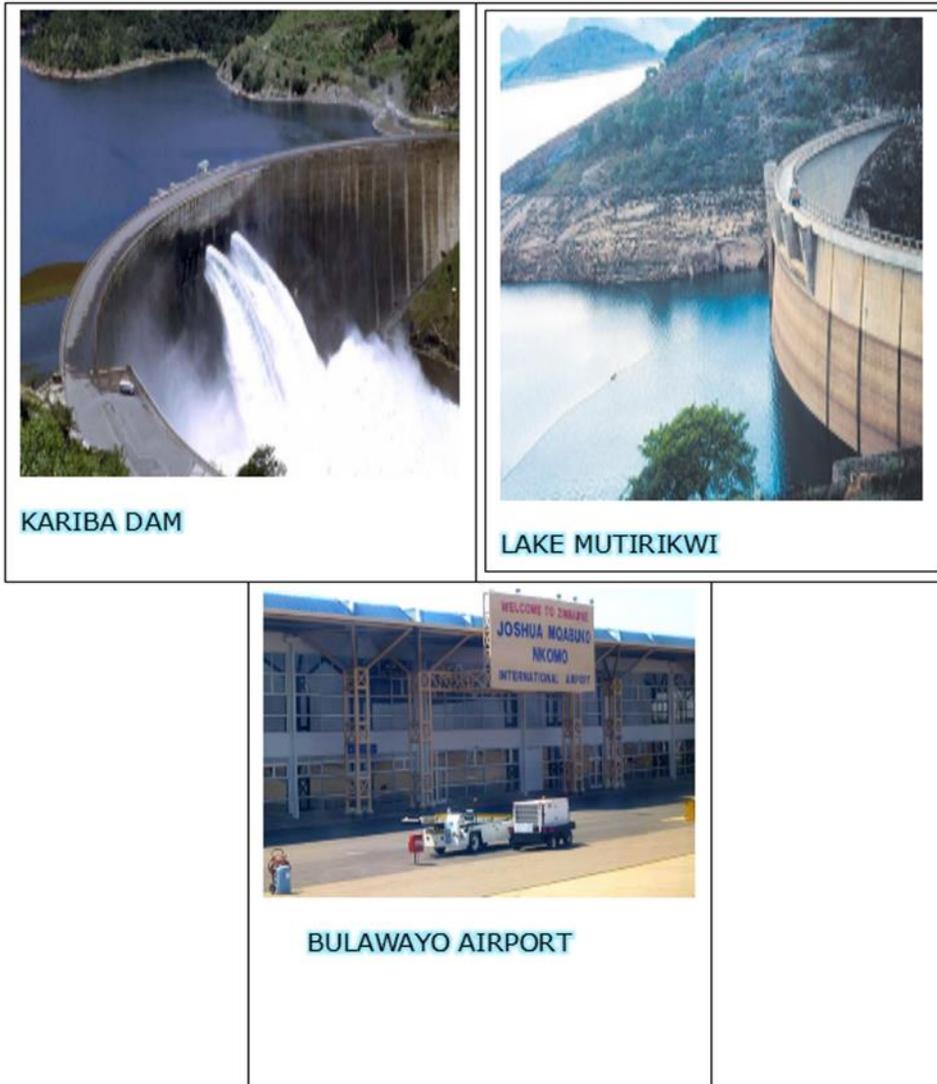
- Education was improved with more primary and secondary schools being built, while Cambridge was administered for examinations.
- To promote social lifestyles parks, theatres and museums', art galleries were established.
- Despite this, the black majority was not allowed to enter certain facilities.
- In the tertiary sector technical schools such as Mkoba teachers' college and university of Nyasaland were established. (1956-1961).



Mkoba teachers' college

- Hospitals, research stations, laboratories were built to eradicate killer diseases such as malaria, small pox, and tuberculosis (1954-1959).
- Nursing schools were also opened which enrolled natives in Salisbury and Bulawayo.

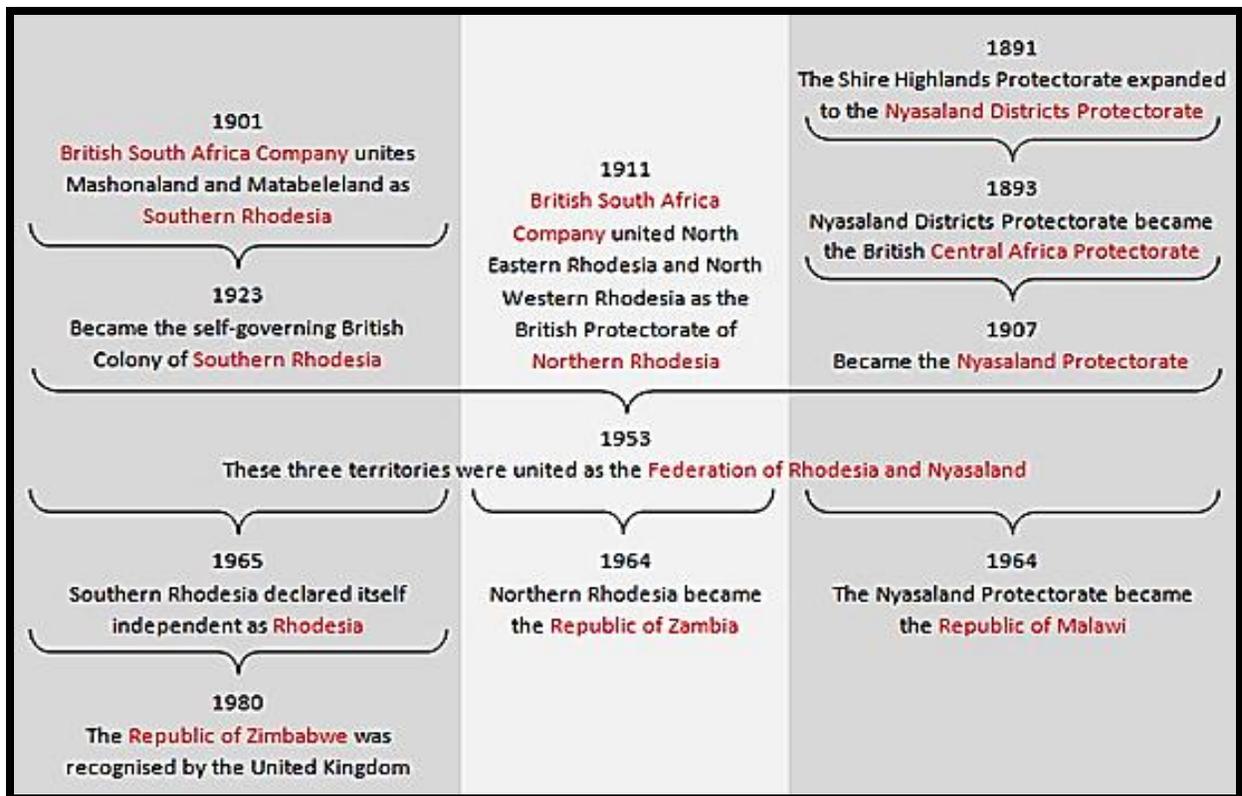
C. Economic developments



Economic developments

- Major projects such as the **Kariba** hydro plant, Lake **Mutirikwi**, **Bulawayo airport** were all done during the federation (1956-59).
- The productivity and wealth of South Rhodesia grew immensely (80% of all union manufactured goods).
- Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland provided cheap labour, raw materials as well as a market for finished goods.

- There was massive urbanization and construction of buildings, towns, roads electrification, (mainly in Southern Rhodesia).
- There was massive crop production of wheat, maize as well as tobacco in Nyasaland and Southern Rhodesia. This brought foreign currency and created employment for the black people.
- Plantations included Hippo valley, Mazoe orange estate, Rice plantations in Kafue flats.



Timeline of events

The collapse of the federation

Failures of the Federation

- In spite of the several positive developments highlighted above brought by the federation, there were several build-up factors that led to the short-lived success of the union. These include:
- The natives were always suppressed and never equally viewed as members of the federation for example unfair representation in parliament, voting rules, the use of pass system for natives.
- Political activists such as J.M Nkomo, R .G Mugabe, Kenneth Kaunda, Kamuzu Banda, led to massive nationalism interests. They severely opposed the federation and called for independence.



Joshua M Nkomo



Kenneth Kaunda

- The unfair balance of power and wealth distribution within the union led to the federation growing unpopular with Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Southern Rhodesia was the capital, produced 80% of all industrial manufacturing, and headed the railway system.
- The British Empire on realizing the economic unworthiness of Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland as compared to Southern Rhodesia voluntarily

ceded colonial rule in the two territories' leading to the breakup of the union in 1963.