

Long ago, they knew the secret of how men become lions when they die. But the new generation does not know. The tradition of transforming into a lion had its own secrets, and the “nyakwawas,” or chiefs of Mbire, knew it. A “nyakwawa” is according to lineage. When someone dies, it is his son’s turn, and then his son’s. It’s not like a president, who is voted in. When we are chosen, all the family members come and decide. They choose which one will hold the position of chief among the children of the deceased “nyakwawa.” They choose the one with the most heart.

as told by Eugenio Almeda Canda
the chief of Canda
August 29, 2009