



1st NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

**'Beyond Political
Freedom to
Inclusive Wealth
Creation and
Self-reliance'**

27 – 28 August, 2020

Bingu International Convention
Centre (BICC), Lilongwe,
Malawi

CONFERENCE REPORT



Conference Report

Prepared by



**NATIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION**
SPEARHEADING WEALTH CREATION FOR ALL



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Acronyms

ACB	Anti-Corruption Bureau
ADMARC	Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
ATI	Agriculture Transformative Initiative
BICC	Bingu International Convention Centre
CONGOMA	Council of Non-Governmental Organisations in Malawi
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
ESCOM	Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Growth Domestic Product
HRDC	Human Rights Defenders Committee
ICT	Information & Communication Technology
LDFs	Local Development Funds
MCCCI	Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MEPD&PSR	Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms
MSU	Michigan State University
NDC	National Development Conference
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NPC	National Planning Commission
NT2063	National Transformation 2063
OPC	Office of the President and Cabinet
OVP	Office of the Vice President
PAC	Public Affairs Committee
PPPC	Public Private Partnerships Commission
SAPP	Southern Africa Power Pool
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises

Message from the Director General of the National Planning Commission

The National Development Conference (NDC) was a landmark initiative by the National Planning Commission (NPC) and its partners.

The Conference will be an annual event where experts will come together to take stock and discuss how to accelerate our agreed national development priorities, with the participation of, and feedback and contributions from different stakeholders, including the general public.

This year's inaugural Conference was held under the theme: *'Beyond Political Freedom to Inclusive Wealth Creation and Self-reliance'*, which directly spoke to what is emerging as the new Vision for Malawi. The Conference provided a platform where various experts, citizens, state and non-state actors and development partners

discussed the emerging Vision, its pillars and enablers as extracted from the consultations for the development of the National Transformation 2063, the envisioned successor to Vision 2020.

Engaging as many Malawians, including experts in different spheres of development, is a multi-stakeholder approach to development planning, implementation and monitoring that the NPC is championing. This approach will ensure inclusive and evidence-based national development planning. Realising a future of inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance requires that Malawians take an active part in defining their own destiny, while courting the support of the private sector, development partners, as well as that of state and non-state actors in executing the development strategies.

The theme and proceedings of the Conference clearly highlighted the importance of moving beyond planning to getting things done. This calls for all Malawians and development actors to focus on working together through harnessing of existing synergies and comparative advantages.

The Commission is so grateful to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Malawi Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, for officially opening and gracing the Conference. His commitment and determination to support the formulation and implementation of national development plans in Malawi beyond changes in political regimes was timely. His call to Malawians for a mindset change and their active participation in building a prosperous and self-reliant nation set the pace for moving forward with unity of purpose.





The presence of the Vice President, Right Honorable Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, who is also the Minister of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms (MEPD&PSR), demonstrated the level of interest and commitment that government has in development planning. His emphasis on moving towards economic independence with haste in order for political freedom to be meaningful in the lives of people gave hope to Malawians.

The Commission is equally grateful to the leadership at various high levels that included the Speaker of Parliament, a representative of the Chief Justice, political party leaders, traditional leaders, industry and NGO leaders, youth leaders, who made the event more impactful and showed unity with which our leaders are ready to work for the good of mother Malawi.

It is the hope of the Commission and its partners that this high-level representation will be sustained in future development conferences and indeed in such other fora where the future of the country is being discussed.

Finally, the Commission is indebted to those that partnered with us technically and financially for pulling off a very successful inaugural NDC. The following are worthy singling out: the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC); the Office of the Vice President (OVP); the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms (MEPD&PSR); the Ministry of Finance; the Council for Non-Governmental Organisations in Malawi (CONGOMA); the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI); the Public Private Partnerships Commission (PPPC); the Agriculture Transformative Initiative (ATI); the Michigan State University (MSU); and the MwAPATA Institute.

The Commission is optimistic that the NDC will be an important annual platform for taking stock on the progress we are making as a country on the journey to inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance which I am sure will be achieved much earlier than the envisioned year of 2063.

Thomas Chataghalala Munthali, PhD





1.0 Introduction

Malawi's inaugural National Development Conference (NDC) was jointly organised by the National Planning Commission (NPC) and its partners and took place from 27th to 28th August, 2020 at the Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe.

The NDC will be an annual event where experts will come together to take stock and discuss how to accelerate our agreed national development priorities with the participation of and feedback and contributions from, different stakeholders, including the general public. The annual conferences will be focusing on various issues in the development arena, depending on existing national and sectoral development plans as well as the prevailing social and economic environment.

The 2020 NDC, which was a hybrid of virtual and limited physical participation in compliance with COVID-19 preventive measures, was officially opened by the President of the Republic of Malawi, **His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera**. The Vice President, Right Honourable Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima also participated virtually in the official opening ceremony.

The Conference was held under the theme: ***'Beyond Political Freedom to Inclusive Wealth Creation and Self-reliance'*** and provided a platform where experts, citizens, state and non-state actors and development partners discussed emerging issues from the consultations for the development of the National Transformation 2063, the successor to Vision 2020.

2.0 Objectives of the Conference

The objectives of the Conference were:

- (a) To validate the emerging successor to Vision 2020, which is being christened the National Transformation 2063 (NT2063), along with its Pillars and Enablers; and
- (b) To discuss key strategies for operationalising the new Vision.

3.0 Methodology of the Conference

The Conference was conducted in two days, the first day being the opening ceremony which was presided over by the President, followed by technical sessions which continued into the second day of the Conference. The Conference was conducted through virtual means and limited physical participation as a result of the COVID-19 restrictions, with representation of key stakeholders from various sectors, including the general public. The virtual platform provided an opportunity for participation even by Malawians in the Diaspora. This was enabled through various webinar and social media platforms such as Zoom, Twitter, Facebook Live Streaming, and WhatsApp. The official opening ceremony was broadcast live on major radio and TV stations and various journalists participated throughout the conference, providing radio, TV, newspaper and online media coverage.



Discussions around the emerging vision pillars and enablers were organised into eight separate technical sessions, seven of which were chaired by two youth representatives from the Youth Core Advisory Panel of the NPC. For each session, the presentations were followed by a discussion and feedback from participants. The team of rapporteurs captured the comments, suggestions and questions from the participants. The Communiqué, which was delivered at the end of the Conference, and this Report are the major deliverables from the Conference.



4.0 Official Opening Ceremony

4.1 *Welcome Remarks by the Chairperson of the Board of NPC – Prof. Richard Mkandawire*



Prof. Richard Mkandawire

Prof. Mkandawire welcomed all the participants to the Conference and acknowledged the presence of the President, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, as a sign of the commitment of government to ensuring the implementation of current and future national development plans. He acknowledged the strides that Malawi is making in its development endeavors and stressed the need for focus in the implementation of the developmental plans for the actualisation of the new national vision.

The Chairperson further recognised the efforts of the NPC Secretariat and its partners in organising the Conference and the work that they are doing in coordinating the envisioning process.

4.2 *Statements of Solidarity made by the Stakeholders*

The Judiciary, the National Assembly, Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) representing the private sector, Development Partners represented by office of UN Residence Coordinator, Youth Core Advisory Panel, CONGOMA and, traditional leaders represented by Paramount Chief M'mbelwa delivered solidarity statements in which they pledged support towards the envisioning process and the implementation of the Vision which, they said, reflects the aspirations of all Malawians.

Participants agreed that the concerted efforts by Government and all the partners in the implementation of the National Transformation 2063 should be designed to empower and allow all Malawians to achieve their development dreams and aspirations as articulated in the new Vision.



Hon. Catherine Gotani Hara – Speaker of Parliament



4.3 Presentation of the Emerging Vision, Pillars and Enablers by NPC Director General – Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali

In his presentation, the Director General explained that the national envisioning process is taking place at a time when Vision 2020 is coming to an end. He indicated the importance of extensive consultations to foster national ownership of the successor vision by the people of Malawi. He gave a brief on the consultative envisioning process and highlighted specific pillars and enablers that emerged and the need for further interrogation and analysis on how they are to be executed for the Vision to be realised. He informed the Conference of the emerging Vision themed **‘Inclusive Wealth Creation and Self-Reliance’**, and christened **‘National Transformation 2063’** (NT2063: **‘Kusintha Malawi Mokomera Aliyense’**). Dr. Munthali informed the participants that the Vision will be realised through effective and sustained implementation of the pillars and enablers.

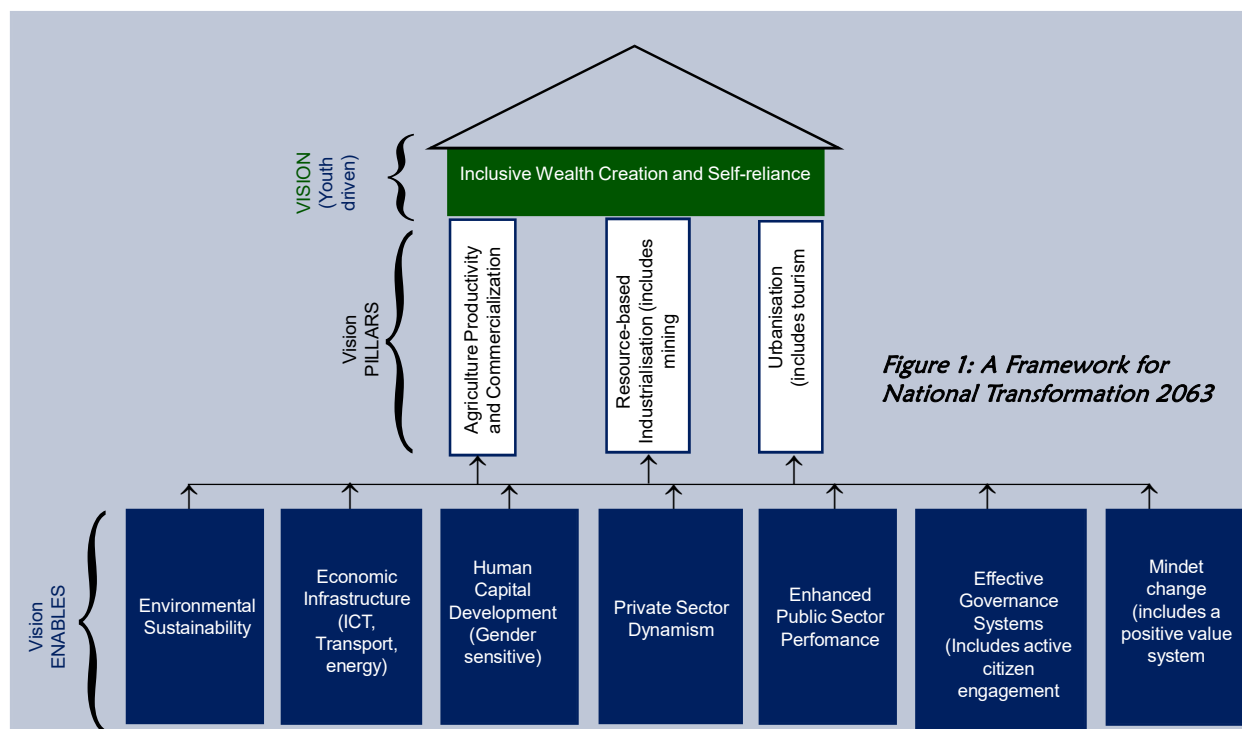


Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali

Dr. Munthali also presented a comparative analysis of Malawi’s development trajectory against China which had similar economic characteristics at the dawn of political independence. He observed that China’s economic transformation has largely been spurred by a strong manufacturing sector that has strong connections to the agriculture sector, service sector and global value chains. He said the new Vision for Malawi will generate lessons from such transformative pathways in order to spur economic growth in the country. He reminded the conference that the industrial sector in Malawi was robust before the dawn of the multiparty era in 1994 and that this was supported strongly by the agriculture sector. After 1994, when the democratic transition came with full liberalisation of the country’s trade regime, de-industrialisation kicked in as an influx of imports of manufactured goods negatively affected the industrial sector, resulting into waning of the Malawi economy. He said for Malawi to register sustainable and high economic growth rates, there is need for the country to broaden its economic activity beyond agriculture and embrace robust industrialisation and sustainable urbanization.

His presentation also gave a snapshot of key focus areas emerging from the enablers, which include youth empowerment with entrepreneurial opportunities; a stable economy with sustainable decent jobs; education and skills development; good quality of life for all; creation of a middle class among the Malawian population; and reduced dependence on donors. The Director General finally outlined the next steps to be taken after the new Vision is launched, including the realignment of the MGDS III to the new Vision.

Figure 1 Summarizes the pillars and associated enablers of the emerging Vision as presented during the NPC.



4.4 Keynote Presentation by Prof. Tiyaambe Zeleza

In his keynote presentation, Prof. Tiyaambe Zeleza observed that Malawi's economic growth patterns have been low, resulting into uneven development and persistent poverty. He informed the participants that the 2018 World Bank Report identifies three periods: firstly, 1964 to 1979, in which Malawi registered high economic growth, the success which was associated with a decisive import substitution industrialisation strategy and export-led agricultural development; secondly, between 1980-1984 when growth decreased to 0.9 percent; and thirdly, between 1995 and 2002 when the economy slightly expanded to 2.9 percent.

He further briefed participants on the economy's expected growth rates for 2020 and 2021 which is 4.4 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively. He observed that Malawi has not managed to consistently sustain high growth rates above the rates of population growth. Consequently, growth in per capita income has remained low, making Malawi the 6th poorest country in the world. He noted that female and child-headed households tend to be poorer than male-headed households and that most of the poor live in rural areas and tend to have low access to education compared to those in the urban areas. He added that rural poverty is accelerated by excessive reliance on rain-fed agriculture, vulnerability to climate change and poor planning.



Prof. Paul Tiyaambe Zereza



Lastly, Prof. Zeleza highlighted the causes and characteristics of Malawi's underdevelopment which includes non-optimal performance of the agriculture, industry and services sectors. He observed that agriculture contributes only 30 percent to GDP which, he said, is a clear sign of low productivity in the sector. Only 1.7 percent of total expenditure on agriculture goes towards extension services, with one extension officer covering between 1,800 and 2,500 farmers. According to Prof. Zeleza, the amount of irrigated land stands at less than 4 percent. Therefore, raising agriculture productivity is imperative. There is need to improve rural markets, transport infrastructure, use of inputs and better farming techniques. Commercialisation of agriculture and land reforms are also critical, he concluded.

4.5 Speech by Vice President and Minister of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms - Right Honourable Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima

The Vice President spoke to the theme of the Conference by stressing the importance of economic independence in order for political freedom to be meaningful for Malawians. He acknowledged the fact that Malawians are expecting a quick change in national development that will lead to the improvement of lives both in the rural and urban areas, and, therefore, urged all stakeholders to act with haste in delivering nationally agreed development plans for the achievement of quick improvements in the livelihoods of Malawians.



Right Honourable, Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima

He further encouraged the NPC and the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development to work very closely in both long-term and short-term national development planning. He assured the participants that his Ministry is steadfastly committed to offer necessary support to the NPC so that its designated mandates are fully accomplished.

The Vice President informed the participants of the various meetings he had with Directors and Deputy Directors of Planning from various Government Ministries, Department and Agencies so that they are all clear on the mandates of his Ministry in relation to that of the NPC.

He further implored on the NPC to pursue evidence-based national transformation initiatives so that the country spends time on interventions that will transform livelihoods in the shortest possible period of time. Related to this, the Vice-President stressed the need to craft few impactful projects that can yield benefits to the nation than spreading resources thinly over a large number of projects that eventually remain unsuccessfully implemented. He finally urged all participants to be candid in the discussions, including on key developmental challenges and clearly defined strategies that can help transform Malawi as planned.

4.6 Official Opening Address by His Excellency the President of Republic of Malawi, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera



H.E. Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera

In his address, President Chakwera emphasised his government's commitment and determination to support the formulation and implementation of national development plans in Malawi beyond changes in political administrations. He underscored the need for a drive towards mindset change among all citizens and demanded their active participation in building a prosperous and self-reliant nation. He reminded Malawians that building a new Malawi is a work of the people of Malawi and that no one else is going to develop Malawi but its citizens. He reiterated the importance of the Conference as it brings Malawians together into a discussion that will help in addressing national developmental issues.

He commended the NPC for the envisioning process and the organisation of the Conference which, he said, allowed Malawians to have a feel of what is going on and be able to provide their input. He encouraged the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reform to work closely with the National Planning Commission and provide the relevant support to the national planning process.

He indicated that the Conference was the beginning of transformation and that the initiative will not stop until Malawi is where it is supposed to be in line with the aspirations of the people of Malawi.

4.7 Presentation of Awards by the President to Youth Essay and Art Competition Winners

President Chakwera presented awards to the winners of the Youth Essay and Art Competition which NPC and its partners had organised in an effort to engage the youth in the national development planning process. This was in line with the efforts to solicit contributions from young people so that they also inform what goes into National Transformation 2063. The competition allowed the youths and children to give their view of the Malawi they want.



Jacqueline Salatiel gets her accolade from the President for emerging as the number one winner in the Secondary School Essays Writing Category

5.0 Technical Sessions

The technical sessions focused on the three pillars and seven enablers of the emerging Vision. In total, the Conference comprised four technical working sessions. The first day involved technical discussions on the three pillars of: (a) Urbanisation; (b) Agriculture Productivity and commercialisation; and (c) Industrialization as well as three of; and the seven enablers, namely: (a) Mindset Change; (b) Environmental Sustainability; and (c) Human Capital Development. The second day involved sessions on the remaining four enablers which are; (a) Private Sector dynamism; (b) Enhanced Public Sector Performance; (c) Effective Governance Systems; and (d) Economic Infrastructure.



Dr. Grace Kumchulesi

The technical sessions commenced with a briefing by the NPC Director for Development Planning, Dr. Grace Kumchulesi, who outlined the emerging Vision, its pillars and enablers. She encouraged participants to critically deliberate on the challenges and opportunities under each pillar and provide suggestions for quick wins and transformative strategies for the realisation of the National Transformation 2063 Vision.

5.1 Session 1:

Pillar Level Discussions on Agricultural Productivity and Commercialisation, Industrialisation (including mining) and Urbanisation (including Tourism)

Session Chair:

Dr. Naomi Ngwira - Chair of Core Advisory Panel

Panelists:

Prof. Thom Jayne - University Foundation Professor of Agricultural, Food, and Resource Economics at Michigan State University

Mr. John Chome – CEO Lilongwe City Council

Dr. Thomas Ngoma - Ariba Consultant - London Net Solutions UK Ltd

Mr. Kobi Ruthenberg - Associate Director, ORG – Permanent Modernity

Panelist 1: Agriculture Transformation for Malawi - Prof Thom Jayne

While recognising the many challenges in achieving agricultural transformation in Malawi, this presentation focused on the relatively neglected role of improving fertilizer efficiency in raising agricultural productivity in Malawi. While efforts to improve farmers' access to fertilizer remain crucial, access to fertilizer alone is not sufficient to anchor agricultural transformation. There is need to go beyond access in order to address the problem of low crop response to fertilizer use. When farmers achieve low crop response to fertilizer use, this depresses agricultural productivity and the nationally-produced food supply.



Prof. Thom Jayne

Some of the major causes of poor agricultural productivity are low soil organic matter, late delivery and application of fertilizers, soil acidity, soil compaction, drought stress, and late or inadequate weeding. Even when farmers use inorganic fertilizer and improved seed, crop yields may not improve much if the soil health remains poor.

Quick Wins Strategies/Issues Arising

Some of the proposed strategies under this pillar included the need to:

- Strengthen national extension systems to help farmers improve farm management practices, soil health and crop output using inorganic fertilizers;
 - Improve the timeliness of delivery of fertilisers to farmers, especially in the rural areas where roads are seasonal and inaccessible during the rainy season; and
 - Promote new investment in the production and distribution of manures and compost, as is the case in other countries in the region.
-



Panelist 2: Urbanisation - Mr. John Chome



Mr. John Chome

The presentation observed that the model for development planning adopted by Malawi in the past focused on rural agriculture to reduce poverty. However, Malawi cannot successfully develop rural areas without developing urban centers since these are interlinked. It was observed further that countries with progressive development models also have vibrant urban policies. Considering that urbanisation is linked to wealth creation, the nexus between urbanisation and foreign direct investment (FDI) should be highlighted. The development of urban areas connects rural farmers to markets, accordingly providing a favorable business environment that benefits an abundant supply of skilled

and unskilled labor. Through these processes, urbanisation is seen as a conduit for attracting FDI through well-developed cities and other urban centers. Below are some of the key points that came out from the presentation:

The hub of urbanisation in any country is its institutional governance. Decentralisation in Malawi has not been fully rolled out, and progress is rather slow. Consequently, the country struggles to achieve urbanisation under the current institutional framework.

With regards to the development of secondary cities, rural areas have only been developed to an extent that can ensure that people are kept within their areas with the aim of controlling rural to urban migration, but not as a means of structural transformation.

As a country, national development focus is skewed to the agriculture sector which has failed to take-off, yet it is still regarded as a priority for economic transformation. There is a need for higher agricultural productivity and enhanced industrial performance and markets to improve value chain systems.

Quick-win Strategies/Issues Arising

Following the deliberations on the presentation, several quick-wins emerged which include the need to:

- Unlock existing potential in the country's endowments that can spur urbanisation. The country has significant comparative advantage in certain spatial areas to anchor the development of cities based on favorable economic activities such as mining, fishing, tourism, etc;
- Resurrect dead capital in the country. For example, 70% of urban Malawians do not own the houses they live in, as such these properties cannot be used to secure capital investments. In addition, many Malawians live in houses that are not properly planned and registered. If registered, cities could generate revenue through collection of city rates to help resolve some of the challenges that they meet; and
- Invest in additional houses by the Malawi Housing Corporation, which must build at least 44,000 houses per year just to meet the demand from the middle income population. There is need to ensure a better quality of life for all Malawians by strengthening institutional frameworks for managing urbanisation in rural and urban areas of the country.

Panelist 3: Industrialisation - Dr. Thomas Ngoma

The presentation noted that industrialisation is the main gateway for transforming an agrarian economy like Malawi to a first world status. Emphasis was put on the need for Malawi to focus on industrialisation since it carries great potential to boost the agricultural sector through farm mechanization. Industrialisation is posed to bring a lot of opportunities for the country and enable it to be self-sufficient. Industrialisation will foster a culture of innovation and creativity among Malawians. Manufacturing will also boost productivity growth across all economic sectors.

Malawi is endowed with several mineral resources such as bauxite, iron ores, uranium, rare earth elements and fertilizer salts. Mining policy must aim to extract these and use them for local value addition in the manufacturing sector to create jobs and wealth.

Expansion of national manufacturing will help Malawi improve its current account deficit through import substitution and export growth, thereby strengthening the value of the kwacha and creating national wealth and prosperity.

Quick-win Strategies/Issues Arising

The proposed strategies that can support manufacturing industry include:

- Introducing a local steel manufacturing industry so that the majority of equipment can be manufactured locally. Steel making is the backbone of any modern economy;
 - Producing fertilizer locally to improve access as well as affordability;
 - Introducing railway networks in the country, including bullet trains that can link major cities;
 - Expanding mining of the country's vast resources to support manufacturing. For example, mining of iron ore to support steel manufacturing industry and bauxite to manufacture aluminium products such as drink cans. Extraction of oil and gas reserves to boost the balance of trade; and
 - Constructing skyscrapers and modern bridges using locally produced steel and other materials.
-

Panelist 4: Spatial Planning – Mr. Kobi Ruthenberg



Mr. Kobi Ruthenberg

The presentation observed that secondary cities are often overlooked in the context of development planning. The common interpretations of the Urban /Rural binary, which suggests that people inhabit either cities or the country side, secondary cities, or provincial cities, fall in between categories where realities are often more nuanced and complex. However, development agendas often tend to focus on (a) the various pressures existing urban areas face, which call for massive investments in infrastructure and service provisions; or (b) the mirrored realities of rural communities and smallholder farmers where, due to the more dispersed nature of their agricultural practices, support is naturally often decentralised.



Against this background, the participants were informed that NPC in partnership with ORG embarked on a spatial mapping study that comes with an agenda to point to the critical role secondary cities should play in establishing infrastructural, operational, and cultural feedbacks between both ends of the Urban/Rural spectrum. The secondary cities, if planned well, could play multiple roles in respect to both the urban and the rural economies.

The presentation touched on NPC and the ORG's method of selecting settlements for analysis by indicating that any settlement that currently holds a status of urban jurisdiction was treated as such, and consequently evaluated and ranked for its characteristics. Following that, dataset on 2018 census and 35 listed settlements as defined by the Ministry of Lands and Urban Development were used during spatial analysis to identify settlements which present significant density to highlight 'emerging cities' which were neglected by existing policies.

Through this spatial analysis, 16 settlements were identified which present traits of urbanity, and as such they have also been evaluated with respect to their potential in agricultural and infrastructural development opportunities. From the list of 16, a subset of six settlements was identified which clearly presented highly valuable economic and infrastructural opportunities. Those 6 settlements were added to the list of 35 settlements, to form a list of 41 settlements evaluated in the current Malawi spatial mapping study.

Quick-win Strategies/Issues Arising

To fast-track the process of urbanisation, the following strategies were proposed:

- ➡ Malawi needs a multi-scalar framework for spatial planning that revolves around the three pillars (Industrialisation, Agriculture and Urbanisation).
- ➡ Considering long term national land use trends, evaluation should be undertaken on three main urbanisation scenarios which include; Sprawled Megacities, Compact Urban Settlements and Dispersed Poly-Nodal Network. Those scenarios represent varying degrees of control and success over infrastructure development (water, transport, energy, and ICT) and land policies enforcement.
- ➡ A national asset and opportunities database has to be established with respect to the identified three pillars of urbanisation, industrialisation and agriculture.
- ➡ In an environment where infrastructure offerings are particularly scarce and budgets are highly constrained, it is imperative to maximise impact through groupings of investments under master plans and by designing multi-purpose infrastructure for a wide variety of beneficiaries and stakeholders.
- ➡ There should be sincere political will for deep collaboration between national, district and local government.



5.2 Session 2: **Mindset Change**

Session Chair: Asharn Kossam
Co-Chair, Youth Core Advisory Panel

Panelists:

Mrs. Audrey Mwala – Acting CEO, Public Private Partnership Commission
Mr. Henry Kachaje - Managing Director, Business Consult Africa

Panelist 1: Mr. Henry Kachaje

Regarding the issue of mindset change, the presentation emphasised on the need to see things from a positive perspective. His presentation argued that, among other factors, the traditional and religious aspects of Malawian culture are some of the culprits that hinder people's ability to make decisions, plan and take risky initiatives that can help lift them out of poverty. To explain this point, mindset challenges of Malawians which stagnate them economically were highlighted which include: a defeated mindset and lack of self-esteem/value; lack of desire for a good life in the present time and consequently lack of industriousness to improve livelihoods; short-termism in planning; and, glorification of foreign goods and services.



Mr. Henry Kachaje

Malawi can overcome negative mindset challenges by; firstly leveraging on a number of opportunities such as massive virtual exposure that could be employed to learn from other countries and change mindset perspective e.g. use of social media even in rural areas; secondly, tapping on the growing hunger for better life among the youth, and, finally, exploiting the huge potential for collective development e.g. use of saving groups.

Panelist 2: Mrs. Audrey Mwala



Mrs. Audrey Mwala

Her presentation focused on social entrepreneurship and wealth creation. She began by giving the position of Malawi in the global economy in terms of wealth, where global GDP per capita is said to be around \$40,000 whilst Malawi's is about \$450 only. The low-level incomes in Malawi are largely a result of 'thinking small'. She emphasised that the nation's poor state emanates from Malawians' mindset which is not transformative enough and does not strive to bring change. She argued that lack of resources is not a problem in Malawi, but rather, lack of resourcefulness. Therefore, it's high time Malawians stopped playing blame games.



The Conference was told that entrepreneurship and transformative mindset is the way out of the status quo of poverty among Malawians. For instance, she said people need to learn skills for running businesses and invest in ventures that can bring them returns. On running businesses, she gave the following tips:

- * Invest with the little that we get.
- * Stop over-analysing - Be ready to fail.
- * In business, make sure to document everything.

Quick-win Strategies/Issues Arising

The presentation and the discussion culminated into a list of strategies towards mindset change which include the need to:

- ➡ Celebrate local champions by introducing books in schools on Malawians that have succeeded and are doing well economically;
- ➡ Look at agents of socialisation when tackling issues of mindset change, from religious perspectives to school curriculums;
- ➡ Integrate mindset change issues at all education levels. There is also need for inclusion of business education across all education levels so that entrepreneurship should not be seen as for those that have failed to get job;
- ➡ instill in people a healthy appetite for wealth creation that is conducted lawfully and ethically; and streamline in our education and social circles the positive and wealth creation mindset;
- ➡ Develop programmes that encourage enhancement of wellbeing and group/community wealth creation such as village banks;
- ➡ Sustain obligation of civil society to remind all those in governing positions to maintain a positive mindset that gives citizens the urge to participate in the development of our nation;
- ➡ Establish a deliberate saving policy for all income earners. The funds can be used to establish a national wealth fund which yield dividends periodically to all contributors; and
- ➡ Raise a healthy anger in people to do something for a better life.



5.3 Session 3: **Environmental Sustainability**

Session Chair:
Asharn Kossam

Panelists:
Prof. Sosten Chiotha - Regional Director of the Leadership for Environment and Development (LEAD) Southern and Eastern Africa
Dr. Yanira Mtupanyama - Principal Secretary at Ministry of Forestry and Natural Resources

Panelist 1: Dr. Yanira Mtupanyama

Her presentation focused on the principles of environmental sustainability, namely reduced pollution, increased climate change mitigation and adaptation capacity and increased biodiversity. In the presentation, she informed the participants that national development projects should always follow environmental guidelines and standards such as Environmental Impact Assessment, among others, unlike the current trend where many infrastructure projects in Malawi are being erected without environmental assessments.



Dr. Yanira Mtupanyama

Panelist 2: Prof. Sosten Chiotha



Prof. Sosten Chiotha

His presentation pointed out that the environment cannot be an enabler for economic growth in its degraded state. The presentation emphasised on the need to engage simple innovations for short-term interventions geared towards ecosystem recovery. The presentation, quoted the Vice President by indicating that Malawi is behind schedule in terms of the management of natural resources. He also quoted the President's call on Malawians to be fixers. In this regard, the presentation pleaded with the participants to seriously idealise and adopt innovative measures for addressing environmental degradation in the country.



Quick-win Strategies/Issues Arising

Lastly, the following key comments and suggestions were made to input into the national development agenda;

- ➔ Provide alternative and convenient sources of energy and livelihood sources to prevent environmental degradation.
 - ➔ Rural electrification is one of the solutions to support environmental sustainability.
 - ➔ Invest in additional hydro-power plants, solar and windmills for energy generation.
 - ➔ Reintroduction of a community week for tree planting to establish village woodlots and forest areas.
 - ➔ Manage population growth, as it puts stress on the environment as well as involve women, and the youth in intentional and purposeful manner in natural resource management.
 - ➔ Strengthen institutions to effectively enforce environmental policies and law on all culprits involved in environmental mismanagement.
 - ➔ Ensure promotion of green infrastructure so that the much-needed transformation does not come at a cost to the environment.
 - ➔ Invest in the generation of energy from waste and adopt of integrated ecosystem management system.
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5.4 Session 4:
Human Capital Development

Session Chair:

Ms. Madalitso Chipekwe – Co-Chair of Youth Core Advisory Panel

Panelists:

Prof. Johnathan Makuwira - Deputy Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Science and Technology

Assoc. Prof. Rhoda Bakuwa, The Polytechnic

Panelist 1: Prof. Johnathan Makuwira



Prof. Johnathan Makuwira

The presentation stated that education is the key factor underpinning the human capital development. The presentation highlighted key challenges that impinge on the positive progress of human capital development in Malawi and these are: relevance of our education; access to education, especially tertiary education; quality of education training; and population growth.

The presentation emphasised that education in Malawi is not tailored in a way that it can adequately impart relevant skills to students and that consequently, the country ends up importing skills from abroad. On access to education, the presentation mentioned that many qualified people are left out of universities due to limited number of universities, thereby denying many

Malawians of a right to personal development. He added that the quality of education and training in Malawi is below international standards and stressed on the need to redefine Malawi's education system to meet the international standards. Finally, he dwelt on high fertility and population growth, describing it as another challenge thwarting the positive progress of human capital development in Malawi.

Panelist 2: Assoc. Prof. Rhoda Bakuwa

In her presentation, she said human capital development plays a pivotal role in the development of country. The presentation largely focused on the quick wins and key strategies for improving human capital development in Malawi.

Quick-win Strategies/Issues Arising

- Government should promote and mainstream entrepreneurship that emphasizes on creating innovative changes that can generate economic value and support the growth of technical colleges.
- Redefine the role of universities so that they are able to go into areas of identifying innovation and incubating business ideas.



Associate Professor Rhoda Bakuwa



- ➔ Promote education that builds on local skills to avoid importing skills that can be sourced locally.
- ➔ Create technical education by increasing access to certificate and diploma tailored training programmes and harness the skills of those who may not have proper certificates but are capable of doing the job.
- ➔ Conduct curriculum reviews to bring back some important subjects that were removed, such as Civics but are now relevant.

Transformative strategy for Human Capital Development improvement

- ➔ Heavy investment in science, technology and innovation as most of the countries that have developed have heavily invested in science, technology and innovation.



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5.5. Session 5: **Private Sector Dynamism**

Session Chair:

Ms. Madalitso Chipekwe – Co-Chair of Youth Core Advisory Panel

Panelists:

Mr. Chancellor Kaferapanjira - CEO, MCCCCI
Ms. Ngabaghira Chatata – Founder, Thanthwe Farms

Panelist 1: Ms. Ngabaghira Chatata



Ms. Ngabaghira Chatata

In her presentation, she highlighted some challenges that are being experienced in the private sector, including: financing constraints starting or boosting already existing businesses, especially the Small and Medium Enterprises; and lack of support to businesses to help them improve on quality of products for competitiveness on both the local and international markets.

The presentation also hinted on some opportunities which would help promote private sector development at national and community level. She cited the following as some of the key opportunities:

- ★ A youthful generation which is ambitious and willing to take up transformative ventures.
- ★ An export quality orientation among Malawians because of the growing middle class that demands quality products.
- ★ Rising interface between the academia, private sector and other sectors to support development.

Quick-win Strategies include the need to;

- ☞ Enact a business incubation and innovation policy in the country;
- ☞ Cultivate a culture of learning and commitment to change at all levels and inculcate change of mindset in private sector supportive institutions;
- ☞ Identify and embrace indigenous solutions to private sector challenges;
- ☞ Empower the youth by, among other things, building relevant vocational and technical skills in them;
- ☞ Put in place deliberate efforts to promote local products and export them to the international market; and
- ☞ Support the provision of incentives for innovation among Malawians, especially the youth.

Panelist 2: Mr. Chancellor Kaferapanjira

The presentation started by defining private sector dynamism, which he said is the ability of the private sector to respond to and create opportunities in the prevailing economic environment. The presentation, however, listed some challenges that the private sector is experiencing in its operations in Malawi.



Mr. Chancellor Kaferapanjira

In the first place, the presentation pointed out the lack of global connectedness which makes the majority of the private sector serve only the local market because they are not competitive enough on the international market, thus restricting their ability to grow and innovate. If local companies are not growing, inclusive wealth creation will be a challenge due to limited ability of these companies to generate substantial revenue and create jobs.

Secondly, the presentation mentioned of state patronage/capture as a lot of businesses depend on Government to survive and that there are only few of those who benefit small scale businesses that get Government business. These businesses, most of the times, have no access to business contracts, hence unable to grow into middle class businesses.

Thirdly, there is high dependence on donors for foreign exchange which is largely used for consumption instead of production. In the presentation, he believes that when forex comes from somewhere, there is no pressure on the Government to support the private sector in forex generation. In the presentation, he, however, believes that it is high time that the Government effectively raised the profile of the private sector to increase production and exports of quality products to other countries in order to generate the much-needed forex to compliment what donors bring into the country.

Quick-win Strategies to support Private Sector Dynamism include:

- Target Setting for the private sector to learn from other countries who have given time-bound incentives to the private sector with specific objectives. This gives room for government to demand progress from private sector;
- Encouraging borrowing of foreign exchange for production and not consumption;
- Enhancing public-private sector dialogues to inform Government on what the private sector needs and what support will be required;
- The Government and all private sector partners should tap on the youthful population to support and benefit from their energy and ideas;
- Supporting the private sector for increased production and availability of international markets through provision of conducive environment and deliberate interventions such as tax incentives;
- Government should embrace resource allocation for research through academia and other public think tanks; and
- Removing barriers of entry to support private sector dynamism.

5.6. Session 6: **Enhanced Public Sector Performance**

Session Chair:

Ms. Madalitso Chipekwe - co-chair of the Youth Core Advisory Panel

Panelists:

Rev. Elsie Matengambiri Tembo - former Principal Secretary responsible for Tourism

Ms. Seodi White - Chief Director, Public Sector Reforms



Ms. Madalitso Chipekwe

The presentation brought out issues of inefficiency in public sector services in Malawi by making a comparison of public service provision in Denmark and Malawi. She indicated that a few years ago her organisation, ACADESS, sought technical services from rural farmers in Denmark. ACADESS organised flights for the farmers but a few days before their departure the farmers realised that they needed passports to travel to Malawi. The farmers applied for passports and in two days the passports were processed by the Danish Immigration Services. In the presentation, she contended that if those farmers were in Malawi, they could have missed the flights because it

usually takes a month or more for authorities to produce a passport. In her case study, she compared the efficiency of public service delivery in Malawi and Denmark in particular to stress the point that public service delivery is an important factor in the development of a country and requires the attention of authorities.

Panelist 1: Rev. Elsie Matengambiri Tembo

In her presentation, she informed the audience that she is a member of a group of former Principal Secretaries where she is acting as a Treasurer. This group also acts as a consultative body for top civil servants on issues of government operations. In her presentation, she highlighted some challenges that are derailing efforts to improve public sector performance include political interference, particularly after the dawn of multi-party democracy in 1994. This has eroded ethics, commitment and dedication to duty and enthusiasm of civil servants. This is what has led to irresponsible behavior, lack of discipline, corruption



Rev. Elsie Tembo

and abuse of public resources by civil servants and politicians. The Former Principal Secretaries Association recommends the recognition of the civil service as the vehicle to drive the development of Malawi and for it to attain the principles of national policy provided for in section 13 of the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi. The Association is, therefore availing itself as a partner to Government in development.



Ms. Seodi White

Panelist 2: Ms. Seodi White

The presentation focused on improving public sector performance through the law. It provided a legal framework guiding the operations in the public sector and, in particular, dwelt on the Public Service Bill by looking at its background up to its current status. The presentation also highlighted some major changes and benefits that have been registered by the Bill. In terms of the background of the Bill, she said that the administration and management of the Malawi Public Service has been guided by the Public Service Act (Cap. 1:03 of the Laws of Malawi). This Act, however, has some glaring gaps and

weaknesses that are impacting negatively on public service management. To correct the situation Government commenced a review of the Act. In addition, the review was necessitated by the desire to align the Act to the provisions of the 2018 Malawi Public Service Management Policy as well as the Public Sector Reforms Policy. The Public Service Bill seeks to bring some important changes to the law.

Firstly, the Bill seeks to establish Public Service Commission by lumping together four old Service Commissions such as Education and Health. The Bill strengthens accountability of senior public officers; creates a Department of Public Service Managements and installs meritorious recruitment and promotions in the public sector. Overall, the Bill establishes a solid foundation for improving efficiency and effectiveness in public service administration and management which should translate into improved individual and public sector performance. The Bill was gazetted by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs on 1st March 2019. However, it will go back to cabinet for fresh adoption in the light of the agenda of the new government.

Quick-win Strategies to Enhance Public Sector Performance

The following strategies were proposed under both presentations to support enhanced public sector performance:

- The legal and regulatory framework needs to be reviewed as they are discriminatory in nature and some of its clauses promote corruption and bureaucracy, and disempower officials in the execution of their duties, which contributes to delays in service delivery.
- Harmonise sectoral policies to speak to each other through a review. Some of the current policies conflict with each other, which is counterproductive to the advancement of the National Transformation 2063.
- Revive government machinery that has clear rules, regulations, practices and procedures which have been ignored for a long time. Institutions such as Mpemba Staff Development Institute and Malawi Institute of Management must be employed effectively in training public servants in skills and government operations.
- There is need for the implementation of performance management systems to support promotions based on merit and penalise under-performers and those who have committed crimes.



- Decentralization should be implemented in full for the benefit of the masses as well as enable the country realise socio-economic development. Implementation of national policies would be supported by a fully-fledged decentralization system.
 - Empower controlling officers to discipline officers with proven cases of wrong-doing. Junior officers such as secretaries should be disciplined by their immediate superiors;
 - Guidance and approval of memos must be expedited at the levels of the President, Minister, Principal Secretary and Director in order to hasten the operations of the machinery of Government;
 - Improve the effectiveness of service charters in the public sector;
 - Encourage whistleblowing in the public sector to report corruption and mediocre service provision;
 - Timely feedback and decision making needs to be enhanced by ensuring that all memoranda submitted to decision making offices are given a priority and timely feedback to relevant offices and departments.
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5.7. Session 7:

Effective Governance Systems (Includes Active Citizen Engagement)

Session Chair:

Ms. Madalitso Chipekwe – Co-Chair, Youth Core Advisory Panel

Panelists:

*Dr. Boniface Dulani - Senior Lecturer & Project Research Coordinator,
Department of Political & Administrative Studies*

*Dr. Henry Chingaipe - Director and Lead Consultant at the
Institute for Policy Research and Social Empowerment*

Panelist 1: Dr. Henry Chingaipe

Some of the key contributions the presenter made during this session included the following:

- ➔ **Citizen engagement** beyond elections is very minimal and the proportion of people who vote is also small. More voter sensitisation is needed to encourage a greater proportion of the population to vote. This may require more citizen engagement for them to be part of the governance process even after elections, and awareness for improved participation in democratic governance processes. In addition, most citizens rely on others to lead than fighting for themselves.
- ➔ **CSO Engagement** - CSOs are not immune to bad governance, state patronage and state capture. CSOs need to transform and become more responsive to wishes of the people.
- ➔ **Transformative leadership** - emphasis is not only on democratic leadership but also on good leadership at all levels. Parliamentarians need to be trained to deliver on their mandates.
- ➔ **Relations between the State and other actors in development such as private sector, NGOs, CSOs.** There is need to develop coordinated arrangements for these actors to work together more efficiently. There is also need to think on how the State engages with the international community, bilateral and multilateral corporations.
- ➔ **Mutual accountability for development outcomes** - Development outcomes are a composite of results from various players and should not be attributed to Government only. Generally, Malawi lacks meaningful and comprehensive accountability mechanisms that cut across all sectors in development. There is also need to establish mechanisms that will foster NGO, business/ private sector and social accountability.



Dr. Henry Chingaipe



- **There is a need for improved natural resource governance** so that there is sustainable use and conservation of the resources.
- **Public finance management** is below par in terms of revenue collection and expenditures. Accountability mechanisms are weak; resources are allocated to projects that are not implemented; and financing is made towards gaining political mileage rather than pushing the national development agenda.
- **Devolution** - Malawi needs to fully decentralise.
- **Systems of financing local development** require review and strengthening so as to realise the potential of investing in different areas which are endowed with specific advantages.
- **Politics of 'big men'** - Leaders are not the 'servants' of the people in Malawi but they are supposed to be. In turn, citizens are not aware of their entitlements from the Government and do not know how to hold Government accountable. This fuels corruption and generates informal rules in the governance processes.
- **Politics of identity** that identifies people based on their commonalities is another huge concern in governance, and that must come to an end by changing peoples' mindset so that they should acknowledge the importance of working together as a nation, without discrimination.
- Need for reforms that deconcentrates power, effective systems of checks and balances, and promotes citizen engagement through promoting civic education.

Panelist 2: Dr. Boniface Dulani

Dr. Dulani suggested the ways of bringing about the type of governance that will transform Malawi. Some of the points included the following:

- **Inclusive citizen engagement:** People reduce governance to voting and do not play their roles in governance systems. This is linked to the issue of the mindset change enabler. Further, Malawians tend to be passive and simply observe developments instead of taking part in changing the situation. There is need to promote active citizen engagement in all governance processes.
- The country needs transformative leadership at both the highest and lowest levels, emphasis should not only be on democratic leadership/governance.
- The country also needs leaders who can take bold decisions such as closing down wasteful organisations.



Dr. Boniface Dulani



- Parliamentarians and Good governance: Parliamentarians should be allowed to use vernacular in Parliament to improve their oversight role.

Quick-win Strategies/ Issues Arising on Effective Governance Session

- CSOs and NGOs should not be engaged only when there is a problem they need to solve. They should be part of all the governance processes and systems.
- People who are chosen to be parliamentarians should have the intellectual capacity to understand and analyse developmental issues and contribute towards development ideas.
- Institutions seeking to be bailed out financially need to take responsibility of their situation and government should not reward underperformance.
- CSOs should not only hold Government accountable but they also need to be held accountable by Government. It has been observed that CSOs mutate depending on where they want to be, depending on who is ruling.
- Embrace the bottom-up accountability approach instead of top-down.
- Include proactive measures on how controls are going to be put in place to protect loss of public resources.
- Embed development education on top of development studies as the former also interrogates dynamics of power.
- Develop a mechanism to assess the performance of parliamentarians in Parliament. Some work for 5 years without contributing anything tangible to national development. MPs need to be civic educated not to operate roles as councilors but as law makers. There is need to make roles of councilors more prestigious and attractive remuneration-wise.
- Resource management: The whole process of government procurement and award of contracts should be transparent to curtail misuse of public resources.
- Poor systems of financing rural development: This entails assessing the effectiveness of LDFs or identifying better financing systems.
- Regarding resource governance:
 - (a) Farmers are selling land carelessly because they no longer find value in land due to frustrations emanating from poor returns from agriculture. There is a need to support farmers so that they find value in land.
 - (b) The Ministry of Finance should fund projects in phases for the sake of accountability and resource management in project funding. For instance, a 5-year road construction project must be funded in phases every year till the 5th year. The Ministry responsible for the project must provide a report on the progress of the project on annual basis in terms of finances and work done.
 - (c) There is need to stop relying on ACB to recoup lost funds because ACB only recovers one third of the lost funds on a maximum. Corruption must be prevented at all costs by fighting the malpractice at the root level.

5.8. Session 8:

Economic Infrastructure (ICT, Transport and Energy)

Session Chair:

Ms. Madalitso Chipekwe - Co-Chair of Youth Core Advisory panel

Panelists:

*Dr. Ignasio Ngoma – Director, Transportation Technology Transfer Centre,
The Polytechnic*

Prof. Ben Kaluwa - Economics Department, Chancellor College

Ms. Madalo Nyambose, Director of Planning, Ministry of Transport.

Panelist : Dr. Ignasio Ngoma

The presentation highlighted the importance of infrastructure development as key to economic and social development of any country. In the presentation, he further briefed the participants on some of the challenges in the infrastructure development interventions, including: Infrastructure deficit; Insufficiently developed rail and inland water transport infrastructure and services, which have declined owing to a bias towards the use of road transport thereby diverting focus on improving the road network; inadequate and poorly regulated passenger and freight systems; rapid growth in urban areas and associated congestion on the roads; and vulnerability to extreme weather conditions, such as drought and flooding.



Dr. Ignasio Ngoma

Prof Kaluwa and Ms. Nyambose added more challenges in the architecture of economic infrastructure as follows:

- Poor quality of infrastructure can be attributed to the country's leadership because there is human involvement in such poor quality.
- State capture sabotages rail operation which is the cheapest mode of transport but remains under-utilised.
- There is duplication of infrastructure in the country hence the need for a social cost-benefit analysis of infrastructure projects to reduce cost in service delivery.
- Malawi Government should have provided infrastructure for ICT operators to utilise and pay fees rather than having each company building their own as this has contributed to high cost of ICT services.

Quick-win Strategies for Economic Infrastructure

- Economize land by moving away from flat to vertical buildings.
- Navigate how to promote water transportation in urban areas, including the utilisation of rivers.
- Revamp district airstrips and promote local flights.



- ➔ Rail and marine transport needs policy interventions for them to support the much-needed transformation.
 - ➔ Develop the energy sector for the country to engage in energy trade in the SAPP.
 - ➔ Develop vehicle parking solution in urban areas such as multistorey parking buildings and modern terminals.
 - ➔ Decongest urban roads by introducing big buses and urban rail.
 - ➔ Extend fibre optical cable to support open distance and e-learning.
 - ➔ Build multipurpose dams to facilitate irrigation and water supply.
 - ➔ Pave critical roads to facilitate transportation of agricultural services.
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6.0 Closing Ceremony of the Conference

The closing ceremony of the Conference was chaired by Commissioner Phillip Madinga. Along him was Commissioner Mercy Masoo who read the Conference Communiqué (*see Annex 1*).

Commissioner Madinga thanked the Board of the Commission, Management, and Staff of NPC for a successful conference and the preceding thorough consultations that were carried out nationwide, thereby ensuring that the formulation of the National Transformation 2063 as well as the overall development planning process is comprehensive. He specifically commended the Chairman of NPC, Prof. Richard Mkandawire and the Commissioners for guiding the Commission's Secretariat in the national development planning process. He encouraged stakeholders to continue working with the Commission so that national development is holistic, comprehensive and inclusive. He pointed out that the Commission emphasises on partnership in order to leverage on the comparative advantage of various stakeholders in terms of technical as well as financial positions.



Commissioner, Mr. Philip Madinga

Mr. Madinga further informed participants that the strategies provided during the Conference will inform the formulation of the National Transformation 2063. He encouraged all stakeholders to provide the necessary support to the process so that the Vision and its implementation will help Malawians realise their dream of transforming the country into a wealthy and self-reliant nation.

Commissioner Mercy Masoo read out the Conference Declaration developed from key messages that came out from the deliberations. Some of the key points that were raised in the communiqué included the following:



Commissioner, Mrs. Mercy Masoo

- The Conference supported the emerging three pillars that will anchor the new Vision, and agreed to the seven emerging enablers that will be critical in accelerating achievement of NT2063.
- Mind-set change and effective governance systems should be emphasised as precursors to national development because they are key to effective and efficient national development in order to achieve the objectives of NT2063. Importance of strong coordination and concerted efforts by Government and all the partners in the implementation, monitoring and



evaluation of the medium-term national development plans which operationalise the vision in order to keep track of development initiative towards operationalisation of the emerging Vision.

- The NDC will be an annual event that will allow the country's leadership, experts, stakeholders and the general public to take stock of the performance of development plans and discuss how to accelerate the citizens' agreed national development priorities.

After the reading of the Conference Communique, Commissioner Mr. Madinga also made the closing remarks of the First Annual Development Conference on behalf of the Chairman of the NPC Prof. Richard Mkandawire. He expressed gratitude to the organisers of the Conference and all the participants, those who attended physically and those who joined virtually. He reiterated the importance of coming together to share ideas for purposes of spearheading national development. He indicated that the date for the next year's Annual Development Conference would be announced in due course.

Mr. Madinga then declared the 1st Annual National Development Conference officially closed at 13:00 hours on Friday, 28th August 2020.





Annex 1: Conference Communiqué



COMMUNIQUE OF THE 1st ANNUAL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IN MALAWI

28th AUGUST 2020

1. The 1st Annual National Development Conference in Malawi took place at the Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe from 27th to 28th August 2020. It was a hybrid of virtual and limited physical participation. The theme of the Conference was ***“Beyond Political Freedom to Inclusive Wealth Creation and Self-Reliance.”*** It was officially opened by ***His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi on Thursday, August 27, 2020.***
2. The main aim of the Conference was to validate the emerging successor to Vision 2020, which is being christened the National Transformation 2063 (NT2063), along with its Pillars and Enablers as well as to discuss the key strategies for operationalizing it.
3. Participants to the Conference included representatives from the Government, non-governmental organisations, private sector, development partners, faith and traditional leaders, Secretary Generals of Political Parties, and the general public.
4. In his speech at the official opening of the conference, President Chakwera emphasized his government’s commitment and determination to support the formulation and implementation of national development plans in Malawi beyond changes in political regimes. He underscored the need for a drive towards mindset change of all citizens and demanded their active participation in building a prosperous and self-reliant nation.
5. The Vice-President, Right Honourable Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima participated virtually during the opening ceremony and stressed the need for economic independence in order for political freedom to be meaningful. He urged all stakeholders to act with haste in delivering nationally agreed upon development plans for the achievement of quick improvements in the livelihoods of Malawians.
6. The Vice-President further implored the National Planning Commission to pursue evidence-based planning in identifying transformative initiatives which the country should prioritise and focus scarce resources on, in order to achieve tangible impacts that will significantly make a difference in people’s lives within the shortest possible period of time.
7. Professor Paul Zeleza, who was the Keynote Speaker during the Conference, emphasised the importance of home-grown development ideas and following them through with implementation. He highlighted the quality of human capital, infrastructure and institutions as the three important engines of development.
8. The Conference acknowledged that the emerging Vision for the country is an outcome of extensive consultations across the country that were aimed at ensuring broader representation so that moving forward, political party manifestos should align with the citizen’s defined development aspirations.



9. The Conference agreed to the emerging youth-driven **“Inclusive Wealth Creation and Self-reliance”** Vision and agreed to popularize it as National Transformation 2063 (**NT2063: *Kusintha Malawi Mokomera Aliyense***). During the same event, therefore, winners of a Youth Essay and Arts competition which was organised by the Commission with support from its partners – the United Nations Children’s Fund, the World Bank, the National Youth Council of Malawi, USAID-Funded Health Policy Plus and Seedco – were recognized and presented with various prizes by the President.
10. The Conference supported the emerging three pillars that will anchor the new Vision, namely: a) Agricultural productivity and commercialisation; b) Industrialisation (including mining); and c) Urbanisation (including tourism).
11. The Conference agreed to the seven emerging enablers that will be critical in accelerating achievement of NT2063 as follows; a) mind set change b) effective governance system – political and economic c) enhanced public sector performance d) private sector dynamism e) human capital development f) economic infrastructures and g) environmental sustainability.
12. The Conference agreed that in line with what emerged overwhelmingly from the envisioning consultations, mind-set change and effective governance systems should be emphasized as a precursor to national development because they are key to effective and efficient national development in order to achieve the objectives of NT2063.
13. The Conference agreed that some of the transformational strategies under each pillar and enabler to realise the new vision should include the following:
 - a. Agricultural productivity and commercialisation
 - (i) Emphasising on yield response by improving farmer management practices and technology access, including for irrigation;
 - (ii) Markets access - linking farmers through cooperatives to anchor farms, industry and global value chains; and
 - (iii) Value chain creation: industrialization will contribute to demand for commercialized agricultural produce and also absorb additional yields from rising agricultural productivity.
 - b. Industrialisation (including mining)
 - (i) Establish special economic zones (including industrial parks) targeting potential products for both domestic and export markets, in suitable sites in the country;
 - (ii) Invest in steel manufacturing for various equipment and other usage in economic activities;
 - (iii) Promote mining for industrialisation, with the requisite legal frameworks and attendant incentives;
 - (iv) Import substitution for products in which the country has comparative advantage to produce and market; and
 - (v) Create conducive business environment for local and foreign investors.
 - c. Urbanisation (including tourism)
 - (i) Enhance implementation of the plans for cities and urban areas by adhering to updated Master Plans in a comprehensive and holistic manner;
 - (ii) Develop green and safe secondary cities based on the comparative advantages in those areas;
 - (iii) Create secondary cities across the country, including in tourism hubs;
 - (iv) Linkage to industrialization, which will produce employment opportunities that attract people from the surrounding rural areas, thereby creating hubs that can turn into urban centres; and
 - (v) Tourism potential areas should be, through bankable projects, into towns.
 - d. Mindset change
 - (i) Upscale success stories on transformative initiatives done by Malawians;
 - (ii) Promote initiatives that result in wealth creation;
 - (iii) Encourage initiatives that will encourage collective business ventures;
 - (iv) Encourage Malawians to desire and have a healthy anger to achieve;
 - (v) Review curriculum to include inspiration books in the education sector;
 - (vi) Develop a positive value system that includes love, unity, patriotism, integrity, hard work, self-help, a can-do attitude, and disdain for hand-outs;
 - (vii) Identify opportunities for fostering a positive mindset change from building national/civic consciousness, starting with our children right from our homes, faith and traditional communities, in early child development centres to primary schools and beyond through curriculum reviews; and



- (viii) Promote good citizenship in adults through right rewards and sanctions.
- e. Effective governance system (political and economic)
 - (i) Enforce visionary and effective leadership at all levels (political, traditional, private sector and non-state actors);
 - (ii) Enforce adherence to the rule of law;
 - (iii) Social inclusion;
 - (iv) Sound macroeconomic management;
 - (v) Align political party manifestoes to the national Vision;
 - (vi) Align of national budgets, medium-term, sectoral, decentralized plans, NGO and Development partner plans to the national Vision;
 - (vii) Focus on getting things done beyond just planning – effective State accountability institutions and systems;
 - (viii) Implement the strategies for ending corruption in all its forms (fraud, nepotism, bribery, theft);
 - (ix) Promote peace and security;
 - (x) Encourage and sustain active citizen engagement at all levels;
 - (xi) Improve the relationship between the Government and other local and international partners;
 - (xii) Mutual accountability for development outcomes;
 - (xiii) Encourage resource governance for resource-based industrialisation;
 - (xiv) Continuity of policies, programs, and projects beyond changes in Government. This will allow them to bear fruit and their predictability improves the business environment;
 - (xv) Spending, especially when debt-financed, should be in evidence-determined national priorities that offer best quality of life to majority of Malawians; and
 - (xvi) Ensure effective coordination of economic activities and resources.
- f. Enhanced public sector performance
 - (i) Strong legal and regulatory frameworks;
 - (ii) Merit-based recruitments and promotions based on transparent and accountable systems;
 - (iii) Motivate performance of public servants through performance-based contracting and rewards/incentives (both positive and negative) – not tolerating mediocrity;
 - (iv) Implement decentralisation policy in full, especially devolution of finance mobilisation and management;
 - (v) Improved and equitable access to public services and the quality of their delivery;
 - (vi) Managing for results culture – which includes a strong M&E system;
 - (vii) Strong accountability in all public institutions.
- g. Private sector dynamism
 - (i) Promote of local products for import substitution;
 - (ii) Promote of incentives for skills development and innovation;
 - (iii) Create of a competitive and conducive business environment for both local and foreign investors connected to global value chains/markets;
 - (iv) Expand financial services market through establishment of innovative specialized banks such as SME banks, community banks, cooperative banks and development bank to provide tailor made supportive financial needs;
 - (v) Expedite the establishment of Industrial Parks & Special Economic Zones at designated places to provide services to support private sector development activities for exports and import substitution;
 - (vi) Promote strategies for the creation of a Malawian middle class; and
 - (vii) Promote business and entrepreneurship amongst youths and empower them with a conducive business environment/opportunities, including supportive regulatory mechanisms, skills development and finance access.
- h. Human capital development
 - (i) University education should redefine its role through research to the support the realisation of the pillars and the enablers of the Vision 2063;
 - (ii) Government should focus on advocating for entrepreneurship than to only focus on employment creation;
 - (iii) Improve availability and access of education and health services provision to all Malawians;
 - (iv) Good nutrition, water and sanitation should be important integrals of building a healthy population;
 - (v) Develop a human workforce and economic system that is driven by science, technology and innovation;



- (vi) Youths should be given entrepreneurial and vocational training that convey specific skills needed to successfully run a business or to find employment in areas in which there is demand for it;
- (vii) Throughout education and health programmes, special attention must be paid to making sure that girls and other traditionally disadvantaged groups can obtain equality in outcomes, not just in opportunities – even with the same opportunities on paper, and to recognise that there are other factors keeping girls back that may need to be considered to achieve full gender equality; and
- (viii) Empowering the population to make family planning choices and ease of access to sexual and reproductive health services will help lower population growth and thereby reduce the strain a growing population is taking on the provision of quality health, education and other social services. This includes embracing strategies for harnessing the demographic dividend.

i. Economic infrastructure (ICT, transport and energy)

- (i) Diversify and expand electricity generation capacity – hydro, solar, wind, coal and thermal sources – through the Integrated Resource Plan and invest in sustainable clean energy such as using uranium and ethanol as well as interconnection to the regional power pool;
- (ii) Support quick-wins through investments in such projects as Kammwamba Coal Powered Plant, Mpatamanga Hydro Power Plant and research into possibility of a Nuclear Power Plant;
- (iii) Develop an integrated transport system for both goods and passengers to facilitate businesses that should include improved waterway transport, rail, air and road infrastructure in both urban and rural areas;
- (iv) Constructing dams and canals along the lake and major rivers to promote irrigation, which will contribute to higher agricultural productivity; and
- (v) Invest in ICT that can promote a digital economy that embraces such elements as e-commerce, e-finance, e-learning, e-health, e-government.

j. Environment sustainability

- (i) Provide of alternative income generating activities to save forests;
- (ii) Manage population growth and quality;
- (iii) Explore ways of maximally engaging women and youth in the management of natural resources;
- (iv) Climate-smart agriculture to preserve resources and also improve long-run yields and make them more resilient;
- (v) Secondary cities are to be planned to grow sustainably (unlike unplanned urban settlements around the current cities);
- (vi) Preserve national parks and wildlife. In addition to protecting them for Malawians to enjoy, they are a strong draw for tourism GDP;
- (vii) Effective and efficient risk and disaster management; and
- (viii) Manage the river catchment areas especially where most of our energy is generated, like the Shire river.

14. The Conference acknowledged the need for strong financing models with long term development finance through establishment of development trailblazers, industrial banks and partnerships.
15. The Conference noted the importance of integrating disaster and risk management in national development plans.
16. The Conference reiterated that national development requires close collaboration and coordination of all partners from Government, non-government, civil society, development partners, faith and traditional leaders, and the general public. All stakeholders have to actively participate in the national development initiatives with high level of patriotism and hard work.
17. The Conference demanded strong coordination and concerted efforts by Government and all the partners in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the medium-term national development plans which operationalize the Vision in order to keep track of development initiative towards operationalization of the emerging Vision.
18. The Conference took note and commended the pledges made by the Judiciary, National Assembly, private sector, development partners, the youth, civil society organizations, and traditional leaders to support the envisioning process and the implementation of the emerging Vision.
19. The Conference requested the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms along with the planning units under its purview in the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as



well as other state and non-state actors to ensure alignment of the sector policies and plans to the emerging Vision once adopted and launched, so as to achieve the desired national development goals under the new Vision.

20. The Conference commended the NPC and its partners – Office of the President and Cabinet, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms, Michigan State University, MwAPATA Institute, Council for Non-Governmental Organizations, IM-Swedish Development Partner, Public Private Partnership Commission, and the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry for successfully organizing the 1st Annual Conference.
21. The Conference participants supported the idea of having the Conference as an annual event that will allow the country's leadership, experts, stakeholders and the general public to take stock of the performance of development plans and discuss how to accelerate the citizens' agreed national development priorities.

Done on 28th August 2020





Annex 2: Official Opening Program

Programme

FOR THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE 1st ANNUAL NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE IN MALAWI TO BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE STATE PRESIDENT OF
MALAWI,
HIS EXCELLENCY DR LAZARUS CHAKWERA

BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (BICC), LILONGWE
FRIDAY, 27TH AUGUST, 2020

THEME: *Beyond Political Freedom to Inclusive Wealth Creation and Self-reliance*

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR:

S/N	Approx. Time.	Activity
1.	07:00 hrs.	All arrangements are completed at Bingu International Convention Centre, Lilongwe.
2.	08:30 hrs.	All invited guests and dignitaries arrive at Bingu International Convention Centre, Lilongwe and get seated.
3.	09:00 hrs.	National Anthem
		Summary Presentation- The Emerging Vision, Pillars and Enablers- Dr. Thomas Munthali, Director General, NPC.
		Short video about the winners of 'My future, our future' youth Essay and Art Competition.
4.	09:25 hrs.	Statement of ownership by the Youth (5 Minutes)
		Solidarity statement by the Speaker of Parliament (2Minutes)
		Solidarity statement by the Chief Justice (2 Minutes)
		Solidarity Statement by the NGO community (2 Minutes)
		Solidarity Statement by the Private Sector (2 Minutes)
		Solidarity Statement by Development Partners (2 Minutes)
		Solidarity statement by the Traditional Leaders (2 Minutes)
		Conference Keynote Address: <i>Beyond Political Freedom to Inclusive Wealth Creation and Self-reliance (focusing on how best the pillars can be operationalized and the key focus elements within each enabler) – By Prof Paul Tiyaambe Zeleza, Vice Chancellor at the United States International University-Africa</i>



5. Statement by the Chairperson of the National Planning Commission, Prof. Richard Mkandawire. Statement by the Vice President and Minister for Economic Planning and Development, Right Hon. Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima. **HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT's** Official Opening Address for the National Development Conference

10:30 am

End of Programme





Annex 3: Program for the Technical Sessions

PROGRAMME FOR THE 2020 NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, 27TH AND 28TH AUGUST, 2020

BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE – LILONGWE

Theme: *Beyond Political Freedom to Inclusive Wealth Creation and Self-reliance*

Day 1 - Thursday, 27th August, 2020			
Conference Moderator: Mr. Thom Khanje			
Time	Activity	Responsibility	Duration
8:00 - 8:30 Hrs	Registration	NPC Official	30 minutes
Conference Official Opening Ceremony (has separate Programme) to be graced by the State President, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera			
9:00 - 10:30			90 minutes
10:30-11:00	Tea break	All	30 minutes
Conference Plenary Panel Sessions			
Time	Activity	Responsibility	Duration
11:00 - 12:15 Hrs	Recap on the Emerging Vision, Pillars and Enablers	Dr. Grace Kumchulesi	5 minutes
	Panel Discussion (with focus on the Pillars)	Session Chair: Dr. Naomi Ngwira Panelists (Experts on the pillars): • Prof. Thom Jayne, Agriculture • Mr. John Chome, Urbanization • Dr. Thomas Ngoma, Industrialization • Mr Kobi Ruthenberg- ORG, Spatial mapping for Pillar investment opportunities 40 minutes	
	Plenary	All	30 minutes
12:15-13:45 Hrs	Lunch and Media Briefing	All	90 minutes
13:45 - 14:30 Hrs	Enabler 1: Mind set change (Includes a positive value system)	Afternoon Session Chair: Asharn Kossam	
		Mrs. Audrey Mwala - PPPC Mr Henry Kachaje	20 minutes
	Plenary	All	25 minutes



14:30 - 15:15 Hrs	Enabler 2 - Environmental sustainability	Prof. Sosten Chiotha Dr Yanira Ntupanyama	20 minutes
	Plenary	All	25 minutes
15:15 - 16:00 Hrs	Enabler 3: Human Capital Development	Prof. Jonathan Makuwira Associate Prof. Rhoda Bakuwa	20 minutes
	Plenary	All	25 minutes
END OF DAY 1			
Day 2 - Friday, 28th August, 2020			
Time	Activity	Responsibility	Duration
8:30 - 9:25 Hrs	Recap on the day	Session Chair: Madalitso Chipekwe	10 minutes
	Enabler 4: Private Sector Dynamism	Chancellor Kaferapanjira Ms. Ngabaghira Chatata	20 minutes
	Plenary	All	25 minutes
9:25 - 10:10 Hrs	Enabler 5: Enhanced Public Sector Performance	Rev. Elsie Matengambiri Tembo Ms Seodi White	20 minutes
	Plenary	All	25 minutes
10:10 - 10:40 Hrs	Tea break	All	30 minutes
10:40 - 11:25 Hrs	Enabler 6: Effective Governance Systems (Includes active citizen engagement)	Dr. Boniface Dulani Dr Henry Chingaipe	20 minutes
	Plenary	All	25 minutes
11:25 - 12:10 Hrs	Enabler 7: Economic Infrastructure (ICT, Transport and energy)	Dr. Ignacio Ngoma Ms Madalo Nyambose Prof. Ben Kaluwa	20 minutes
	Plenary	All	25 minutes
12:10 - 13:40 Hrs	Lunch and Media Briefing	All	90 minutes
13:40 - 15:00 Hrs	Conference closing Session	Chair: Phillip Madinga	15 minutes
	Conference declaration/ Communique	Commissioner Mercy Masoo	
	Closing remarks	Prof Richard Mkandawire	
End of Conference			







**NATIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION**

SPEARHEADING WEALTH CREATION FOR ALL