



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



# **ANNUAL REPORT** 2022





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# Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>AFIDEP</b>	African Institute for Development Policy
<b>AGCOM</b>	Agricultural Commercialisation Project
<b>ATI</b>	Agricultural Transformation Initiative
<b>BICC</b>	Bingu International Convention Centre
<b>CBA</b>	Cost Benefit Analysis
<b>CCI</b>	Charter Centres Institute
<b>COMESA</b>	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
<b>CSA</b>	Climate Smart Agriculture
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>DES</b>	Malawi Digital Economy Strategy
<b>DFA</b>	Development Financing Assessment
<b>EGENCO</b>	Electricity Generation Company
<b>EPZs</b>	Export Processing Zones
<b>ESS</b>	Eminent Speaker Series
<b>EthCo</b>	Ethanol Company Limited
<b>FCDO</b>	Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office
<b>GDP</b>	Growth Domestic Product
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Index
<b>HRMIS</b>	Human Resources Management Information System
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communications Technology
<b>IEC</b>	Information, Education and Communication
<b>IFMIS</b>	Integrated Financial Management Information System
<b>IFPRI</b>	International Food Policy Research Institute
<b>KPA</b>	Key Priority Area
<b>KPIs</b>	Key Performance Indicators
<b>KuHES</b>	Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
<b>LGFC</b>	Local Government Finance Committee
<b>LUANAR</b>	Lilongwe University for Agriculture and Natural Resources
<b>MAIIC</b>	Malawi Agricultural and Industrial Investment Corporation
<b>MACRA</b>	Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority
<b>MITC</b>	Malawi Investment and Trade Centre
<b>MBS</b>	Malawi Bureau of Standards
<b>MDAs</b>	Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies

<b>MGDS III</b>	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III
<b>MIM</b>	Malawi Institute of Management
<b>MIP-1</b>	Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan
<b>MIS</b>	Management Information Systems
<b>MP</b>	Member of Parliament
<b>MPP</b>	Malawi Priorities Project
<b>MSMEs</b>	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
<b>MSU</b>	Michigan State University
<b>MW2063</b>	Malawi 2063
<b>NES II</b>	National Export Strategy II
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organisations
<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>NRA</b>	National Research Agenda
<b>NSO</b>	National Statistics Office
<b>OGI</b>	Open Government Initiative
<b>OPC</b>	Office of the President and Cabinet
<b>PECGs</b>	Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups
<b>PFM</b>	Public Finance Management
<b>PPP</b>	Public Private Partnership
<b>RBM</b>	Reserve Bank of Malawi
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SERP</b>	Malawi COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan
<b>SEZs</b>	Special Economic Zones
<b>SMEs</b>	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
<b>SWGs</b>	Sector Working Groups
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNRCO</b>	UN Resident Coordinator's Office
<b>WB</b>	World Bank
<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme

# Acknowledgements

The National Planning Commission (NPC) continues to enjoy support from and sustain partnerships with various institutions, both local and international; and hereby once again extends its word of gratitude to all who were part of its success in the 2021/2022 Financial Year. Despite the Financial Year being shorter than normal, running for just nine months, the NPC managed to remarkably deliver on its two main mandates of developing the country's long- and medium-term development plans and overseeing their implementation. This was all because of the stakeholders, partners, champions and supporters that worked with the NPC in various ways throughout the year. In particular, the NPC appreciates the valuable guidance that it received from His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, who has demonstrated continued commitment to the work of the NPC and championed the operationalisation of the country's new vision, the Malawi 2063 (MW2063); and led Malawians in launching the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) and the Malawi COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP), which are key to the realisation of the aspirations of the MW2063. Similarly, sincere appreciation goes to the Vice President of the Republic, Right Honourable Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, for his leadership and guidance both as Vice President and the then Minister of Economic Planning and Development, and Public Sector Reforms. Further, the NPC extends its appreciation to the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Honourable Sosten Alfred Gwengwe, MP, who, along with the Ministry's technical team led by the Secretary to the Treasury, Dr. McDonald Mafuta-Mwale, continues to provide unprecedented support to the NPC in aid of the successful execution of its

mandate. Relatedly, the NPC appreciates the collaboration it continues to enjoy with the Department of Economic Planning and Development under the technical leadership of Dr. Winford Masanjala, the Principal Secretary, and his team which has continued to provide valuable support to our operations.

The NPC has throughout the year received notable support from all the three arms of Government, particularly the Speaker of the National Assembly, Right Honourable Catherine Gotani Hara, her two deputies and the entire National Assembly; the Chief Justice, Right Honourable Rezone Mzikamanda; Cabinet Ministers; the Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Ms. Colleen Zamba; Presidential Advisors; heads of Government Ministries, Agencies and Departments (MDAs); and heads of parastatal organisations.

The NPC is extremely indebted to its partners, both state and non-state, who continue to provide it with different forms of support; including financial, technical, in-kind, and moral. These are too numerous to mention, but suffice it to say that the United Nations Family, particularly the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), remain one of our strongest and most reliable partners; and for this, the NPC is truly grateful. NPC continues to have a very valuable and reliable partner in the Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI) working through the MwAPATA Institute and Michigan State University who have proven to be pivotal pillars of the NPC's work. Others that have impacted the work of the NPC during the past year include: the Ministry of Information and Digitalisation and all MDAs; the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation

(MBC) and the entire media fraternity; the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Trust; the European Union (EU); the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI); the Council for Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGOMA); the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST); the Electricity Generation Company (EGENCO); the Wealth Magazine; the Public Private Partnership Commission (PPPC); the Lilongwe University for Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR); the Malawi University for Science and Technology (MUST); Mzuzu University; University of Malawi (UNIMA); the Kamuzu University for Health Sciences (KuHES); Standard Bank; National Bank of Malawi; Sunbird Hotels, the Agricultural Commercialisation Project

(AGCOM), Malawi Agricultural and Industrial Investment Corporation (MAIIC); the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA); and the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM). Further, the NPC acknowledges its support structures, including the main Core Advisory Panel (CAP) and the Youth CAP for their active involvement in and contributions to its work throughout the year.

The 2022/2023 Financial Year promises to be another great year for the NPC and we look forward to the continued support of all the above-mentioned partners and more; and we commit to continue delivering above expectation as we accelerate our implementation oversight role in the execution of MIP-1.

## Message from the Chairperson

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It is once again that time of the year when the National Planning Commission (NPC) takes stock of its work and experience during the past Financial Year. This last year has been rather short, following the adjustment by Government of the Financial Year which now runs from April to March. In view of this adjustment, this Report will focus on the period from July 2021, which was the beginning of the last Financial Year to March, 2022 which was the end of the last Financial Year.

This reporting period has seen the NPC continue to excel in the execution of its mandates, with a special focus on its second mandate of implementation oversight in the accelerated realisation of the aspirations of Malawi 2063 (MW2063). The MW2063 will be implemented in ten-year phases, the first of which was launched through the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. The MIP-1 has already kick-started the operationalisation of the MW2063. Further to the execution of the MIP-1, Malawi is in the process of implementing the Malawi

COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) which commenced in December, 2021 as a supporting framework to the MIP-1, but is specifically aimed at helping the country build back better from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The period of reporting has seen the NPC operationalising the Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs) which have been established as a coordination mechanism of all stakeholders in the execution of MIP-1. As we forge into the next Financial Year 2022/23, the NPC is cognizant of the fact that action is key and that as a country we need to fully engage into implementation mode in order to inclusively create the wealth that will adequately sustain our own development needs. The coordination of all players, therefore, is critical to ensure that we are all pulling in the same direction.

I wish to applaud the Director General, his management team and all staff for their

unwavering determination and commitment in continuously coming up with innovative means of ensuring that the mandates of the NPC are always on track despite the incessant challenges that we face, not only as an institution but the country at large. My further commendation goes to the Board of the NPC and its two Committees for their dedication in always being available to provide strategic leadership to the operations of the NPC. The devotion that these noble Malawians possess clearly demonstrates the positive mindset and patriotism demanded by the MW2063.

Achieving the aspirations of the MW2063 is a collective task and we are happy that our progress and accomplishments are motivating numerous partners to rally behind the NPC and ensure that they fully take part in contributing to the achievement of our national aspirations. As such, I would like to encourage all current as well as prospective partners not to falter, but instead to invigorate collaborations with the NPC in all areas of the MW2063 and MIP-1 to ensure that we implement these plans in a coordinated manner, and that the scarce collective resources are put to the best use possible in growing our economic base.

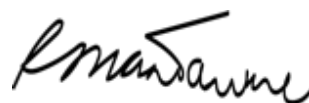
The NPC is grateful to the political leadership for the support rendered to us over the last year. His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, remains our number one advocate and champion and his continued guidance and commitment gives us vigour to do more.

Further, the NPC is grateful to the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs, Honourable Sosten Gwengwe, MP, who, as head of the policy-holder Ministry, has provided remarkable leadership throughout the year in support of the MIP-1 and MW2063. Further, we will continue to rely on the support of Parliament as led by the Right Honourable Speaker, Catherine Gotani Hara, MP, who has throughout our operations been a strong ally of the NPC and has ensured full support of the NPC by the entire August House.

It is with pleasure that I wish to note that the NPC has now identified MW2063 Champions who are prominent sons and daughters of the soil who have made great accomplishments in their fields of expertise and have accepted to support the NPC in popularising and domesticating the messages of the MW2063 and MIP-1 through their respective platforms.

We are on the right track, we have defined the what and the how of what we want to achieve as Malawians, but plans are only as good as their implementation. What remains now is resilience in our efforts and commitment to our aspirations. This implementation stage is the most critical one of this long but fulfilling journey. Let us ensure that we hold authorities as well as each other accountable. Let us propagate a positive mindset and the belief that it can and will be done. Most important of all, let us roll up our sleeves and get to work.

The Malawi we want has begun! Let us move together and make Malawi a shining example.



Prof. Richard Mkandawire

**CHAIRPERSON**

## Message from the Director General

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The NPC continues to stay on course in ensuring that we effectively deliver on our two main interlinked mandates which are: (i) to develop long- and medium-term national development plans; and (ii) to oversee the implementation of those plans. As regards the first mandate, I am proud to say that since the launch of the national long-term development vision, the Malawi 2063 (MW2063), in January, 2021, we have launched its supporting implementation frameworks, including the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1), the Malawi COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP), and, most recently, the Malawi Secondary Cities Plan (MSCP); with the Malawi Digital Economy Strategy (DES) in the offing. The other plans have been developed as supporting mechanisms to the MIP-1 in light of respective emerging issues which our country has faced in recent times.

At this stage, with the launch of the aforementioned plans, the second mandate of '*overseeing implementation*' has now

commenced in earnest. In the same vein, the NPC has established the Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs) which are coordination mechanisms comprising of all relevant stakeholders within each Pillar and Enabler of the MW2063. The PECGs aim to ensure that all players within any given sector are part of defining the priority interventions within their space of operation and are working together in complementarity to avoid unnecessary duplications and ensure the most efficient use of scarce resources. Further, the NPC is in the process of supporting District Councils, Development Partners and other Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to align their development plans or country assistance strategies to the MIP-1.

The NPC hinges the execution of its mandates on a platform of strong research, learning and knowledge. We have, therefore,



in collaboration with partners such as the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) and the academia, developed the National Research Agenda to inform all research work in the various sectors in line with the MW2063 and its implementation frameworks. Looking beyond local research, the NPC is venturing beyond our borders in leveraging knowledge and learning from other countries and regional bodies. We have since taken the lead in reviving the SADC National Planning Entities (SADC NPE) platform as one way of forming an international network for information sharing and learning of best practices; and held the inaugural meeting of this body here in Malawi in April, 2022.

Further, the NPC has intensified a popularisation drive to ensure that messages on the MW2063 are taken as far out into the country as possible. We are partnering with a number of institutions, especially those that already have strong structures and presence across the country such as the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Trust and the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), to support the NPC in disseminating materials related to the national development plans as well as in orienting different interest groups in order to ensure that the message of the vision is fully domesticated and gets to be implemented by all and sundry. We continue to use community radios, national broadcasters, television networks, newspapers, magazines, outdoor media as well as our online platforms, including the NPC website ([www.npc.mw](http://www.npc.mw)), to provide as much information as possible on our work and the progress being made. We further encourage feedback from the public as well as other stakeholders through these same platforms on how the NPC can continue to produce maximum impact from our undertakings. We are confident that through such constant interaction with all our stakeholders, we are simultaneously propagating a mindset

change that promotes positive thinking and self-reliance. As such, we continue to hold the Eminent Speaker Series in collaboration with our partners, MwAPATA Institute and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), to provide a motivational forum where evidence of success and case studies are presented to the public periodically by expert speakers and change makers. We have also scaled up the *Ndizotheka* Programme and we continue to document impactful interventions that are taking place in our local communities for showcasing during our different events and other platforms.

Strong partnerships remain at the core of our operations, keeping in mind that as a fully Government funded institution, we may not be able to achieve all our plans in light of the many competing developmental priorities. Further, the NPC recognises that the realisation of the aspirations of the MW2063 will require all stakeholders to work collectively and pull in the same direction. Our partners, such as the UN family, European Union, Agricultural Transformation Initiative and many others, both state and non-state, are very instrumental not only in supporting the NPC financially, but contributing technically and otherwise to the implementation and coordination of the efforts of all developmental players. It is pleasing to note that the NPC has now garnered more support from non-traditional partners such as the private sector and NGOs, and continues to look further beyond these to ensure that it is fully capacitated at all times to prevent lapses in the execution of our mandates. Looking beyond our borders, the NPC will continue to strive to learn from other national planning entities and other relevant institutions; and to partner with different international economic players to add value to our efforts. A case in point is our recent partnership with Charter Cities Institute (CCI), a non-profit institution that has embarked



on a revolutionary journey of creating new cities in developing countries as a way of creating inclusive economic growth, which is a concept strongly highlighted under the Urbanisation Pillar of the MW2063.

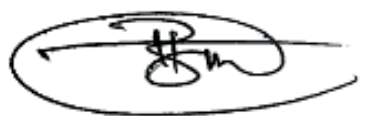
We continue to place the youth at the forefront in the implementation process and are currently in the process of developing a youth engagement strategy that will ensure the adequate inclusion and participation of the youth in the realisation of the aspirations of the MW2063.

During the period of reporting, the NPC launched its 2021-2030 Strategic Plan on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 at a colourful public event. The Strategic Plan is guiding our operations for the next ten years. Further, the NPC developed a number of key internal procedural documents such as the Prohibition of Sexual Harassment Policy and the Training Policy; and the NPC Service Charter will soon be in place. Concurrently, we continue to build the capacity of our

institution with the requisite equipment, skill sets and tools that are fit for purpose.

We will not relent in ensuring that we fully deliver on our mandates and are, so far, proud of the strides that we have made and appreciate the challenges we have met as they have made us stronger and more cohesive as a team. We look forward to the future and to the prospects that we foresee. We have our plans in place, but the hard work starts now! Plans can only be worth their salt if they are matched with action.

The Malawi we want is surely happening, but accelerating its pace depends on you and me!



Thomas Chataghalala Munthali, PhD

**Director General**

## The Commission

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**Prof. Richard Mkandawire**  
*Chairperson*



**Dr. Winford Masanjala**  
*Vice Chairperson*



**Ms. Mercy Masoo**  
*Commissioner*



**Mr. Phillip Madinga**  
*Commissioner*



**Dr. Evance Mwachunga**  
*Commissioner*



**Ms. Natasha Nsamala**  
*Commissioner*

# Management



**Dr. Thomas Munthali**  
*Director General*



**Dr. Grace Kumchulesi**  
*Director - Development Planning*



**Mr. Chrighton Chimombo**  
*Director - Finance & Administration*



**Dr. Joseph Nagoli**  
*Director - Knowledge & Learning*



**Mr. Sipho Billiati**  
*Development Planning Manager*



**Ms. Jennifer Nkaonja Mjuweni**  
*Partnerships & Resource  
Mobilisation Manager*



**Mr. Thomson Khanje**  
*Public Relations & Communications  
Manager*



**Mr. Austin Chingwengwe**  
*Monitoring & Evaluation Manager*



**Dr. Andrew Jamali**  
*Research Manager*



**Mr. Mtamandeni Liabunya**  
*Legal Counsel*

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## **OUR MANDATE**

1. To develop evidence-based medium- and long-term development plans for Malawi, taking into account the country's resource potential and comparative advantages.
2. To oversee the implementation of the development plans, including spearheading the formulation of innovative and progressive flagship projects that can accelerate the country's socio-economic transformation.

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## **OUR VISION**

An independent, innovative, sustainable and skilled thought leader in evidence-based national development planning in Malawi and beyond.

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## **OUR MISSION**

To spearhead Malawi's socio-economic transformation by developing and providing implementation oversight on integrated and inclusive national development plans.

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## **OUR STRATEGIC GOAL TO 2030**

Transformative national development plans effectively designed and implemented in a coordinated and inclusive manner to graduate Malawi into a middle-income country by 2030.

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## **OUR CORE VALUES**

All what we do is driven by 8 values (TII-CREAM):

- Teamwork
- Integrity
- Independence
- Communication
- Recognition
- Excellence
- Accountability
- Modern

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## **OUR FIVE FOCUS AREAS UP TO 2030**

1. Medium- and Long-term Development Planning
  2. Development Plans Implementation Oversight
  3. Research, Learning and Communication
  4. Partnerships Development and Management
  5. Institutional Capacity Building and Sustainability
-

## Executive Summary

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The National Planning Commission (NPC) is an independent public institution with the main mandate of developing evidence-based medium- and long-term development plans for Malawi, taking into account the country's resource potential and comparative advantages. In addition, the NPC is mandated to provide oversight in the implementation of the development plans, including spearheading the formulation of innovative and progressive flagship projects that can accelerate the country's socio-economic transformation. Further, the NPC is a think tank where knowledge and evidence generated is used to develop policies, and improve the planning and implementation of development programmes.

The 2021/2022 Annual Report (Report) is an account of the activities of the NPC between the months of July 2021 to March 2022. The period of reporting is a rather short one due to the change that Government introduced by adjusting the description of the national Financial Year to run from April to March, instead of July to June as was previously the case. The publication of annual reports is a matter of statutory obligation for submission to the President of the Republic of Malawi and to Parliament. This Report highlights some of the major accomplishments during the period of reporting as well as the main planned activities for the coming financial year; and highlights the progress the NPC is making in the implementation of development plans.

Having developed and launched the MW2063 on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021, the NPC had fulfilled, in part, one of its main mandates of developing long-term development plans for the country. The MW2063 is now the blue print for the country's development for

the next 41 years. The subsequent milestone following the launch was the development of the medium-term implementation framework for the MW2063, which was the work that dominated the operations of the NPC during the period of reporting. The Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) was, therefore, developed through another rigorous consultative process and was launched by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2021. MIP-1 outlines the sectoral-focused and impact-oriented catalytic interventions and transformative projects that will kick-start the attainment of the aspirations of the MW2063. In addition, other frameworks such as the Malawi COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP), and, most recently, the Malawi Secondary Cities Plan (MSCP), as well as the Malawi Digital Economy Strategy (DES), which is in the offing, have been developed as supporting mechanisms to the MIP-1.

The establishment of Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs), which are a coordination mechanism to guide the efforts of all stakeholders around the implementation of the MIP-1 interventions, was another notable achievement. This mechanism has been designed to ensure that all players within any given sector are part of defining the priority interventions within their space of operation and that they are all working together in complementarity to avoid unnecessary duplication of efforts and ensure the most efficient use of scarce resources.

In all this work, the NPC has been guided by research and continuous studies to ensure that the propositions being put forward are based on evidence and empirical findings that



inform interventions that will bring about the maximum economic impact for the economy. The development of the National Research Agenda (NRA) has, therefore, been one other milestone of focus during the period of reporting and is expected to be launched soon to inform evidence-based planning across all sectors.

The NPC continued to carry out numerous activities aimed at ensuring the massive popularisation and domestication of the MW2063 and MIP-1. The NPC managed to disseminate messages around the vision and its implementation frameworks extensively through different types of media and platforms, including radio, television, print, music, jingles, artwork, billboards and direct stakeholder engagement. During this time, MW2063 Champions, including the President of the Republic of Malawi, the Vice President, Speaker of Parliament, Chief Justice, traditional leaders, corporate and NGO executives, artists, the youth and a critical mass of prominent Malawians, have been recognised for their efforts in the popularisation drive and supporting the implementation of the MW2063. The NPC has participated in numerous important conferences and events where presentations on MW2063 have been made and discussed by a cross-section of stakeholders. The interest which has been generated in this regard is a manifestation of how much Malawians as well as other stakeholders are embracing and rallying behind the MW2063.

The NPC endeavoured to create new partnerships while strengthening the existing ones and look beyond traditional partnerships in order to ensure the participation of all stakeholders in the realisation of the aspirations of the MW2063. To this end, the NPC continued to enjoy collaborations with different players, both state and non-state. Moving forward, the NPC will continue to embrace the involvement of partners as well

as citizens in decision-making processes in order to enhance and safeguard the ownership of the country's developmental trajectory by all. The NPC is proud of the long-lasting and valuable partnerships that it has so far concretised with different players, including the development partners, private sector, academia, youth organisations, NGOs, media, and Parliament; all of whom have played a great role in the work and success of the NPC during the period of reporting.

Shocks, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia/Ukraine conflict, that have affected the global economy have had an adverse impact on Malawi, generally, and the operations of the NPC, specifically, especially with regard to resource mobilisation and *modus operandi*. The NPC, therefore, remains grateful to Government, through Treasury, and its partners that have remained steadfast in supporting it with financial and technical resources for the effective and efficient execution of its mandates. Relatedly, the NPC has embraced non-traditional strategies in the execution of its mandates, including employing virtual means of outreach wherever possible.

The current phase of implementing the MIP-1 is the most important stage in the execution of the mandates of the NPC as this is where results will start to materialise and tangible outputs will be seen to showcase that the MW2063 is truly in motion. It is time to make a difference. The MW2063 embodies the aspirations of all Malawians; and all Malawians, wherever they may be, must contribute to the execution of the MIP-1 and realisation of the aspirations of the MW2063. Every Malawian has a role to play and no one should be a by-stander or left behind. Let there be accountability, openness and inclusivity; and a mindset of hard work, patriotism and self-reliance. The Malawi we want is possible. Together we can!



# **PART 1:**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE  
YEAR

# YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (MIP-1)

*Journey to an Inclusively Wealthy and  
Reliant Nation*

Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera  
the Republic of Malawi



*Official launch of the MIP-1 by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera (left), President of the Republic of Malawi*

During the period of reporting, a number of achievements were made by the NPC, but three were particularly outstanding, namely: (i) launch of the Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) to operationalise the Malawi 2063 (MW2063); (ii) launch of the Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs) to ensure coordinated planning and implementation of the MW2063; and (iii) development of the National Research Agenda (NRA) to support evidence-based policies and programmes by both state and non-state actors so as to help the country realise the aspirations of the MW2063 at the shortest time possible.

## **1.1. The Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1)**

Following the launch of the MW2063 in January 2021, the NPC coordinated the development of the MIP-1. MIP-1 is the first in a series of 10-year implementation plans for the MW2063, and its implementation period is from 2021 to 2030. MIP-1 has two key milestones to be achieved by the year 2030, namely: (i) to graduate Malawi into a middle-income economy; and (ii) to meet most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in this last decade of action (2021-2030).

MIP-1 was launched by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of



the Republic of Malawi, on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, during the 2021 National Development Conference (NDC). The two-day NDC took place at the Bingu International Convention Centre (BICC) in Lilongwe under the theme *'Together commencing the journey to an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation'*. The NDC was attended by Right Honourable Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi, and other senior Government officials. His Excellency Dr. Bakili Muluzi and Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda, former Presidents of the Republic of Malawi, as well as Right Honourable Mr. Khumbo Kachali, former Vice President of the Republic of Malawi, attended the opening ceremony virtually. The NDC was also attended by representatives from the academia, private sector, traditional and religious leaders, development partners, NGOs, and civil society, among others.

During his speech, the President observed that while the MIP-1 was a good document, there was need for the nation to ensure its actual and effective implementation to substantively improve the livelihoods of all Malawians. In his remarks, the Vice President, speaking as the then Minister of the Ministry responsible for economic planning and development, pleaded for positivity and the need for patriotism from every citizen for the country to realise the aspirations of the MW2063.

The NDC laid down the foundation for the implementation of the MW2063 by highlighting the development priorities to be implemented in the 2021-2023 period. Various stakeholders made Commitment Statements to support the execution of the MIP-1 priorities using their mandates and programming. The stakeholders ranged from Government institutions, including the Judiciary and Parliament; private sector; NGOs; and traditional leaders.

## **1.2. Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs)**

The NPC and the then Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms facilitated the establishment of the PECGs to ensure a coordinated and systematic approach to the implementation and realisation of the MW2063. The PECGs have replaced the Sector Working Groups (SWGs), which were aligned to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategies (MGDSs) that were the medium-term development frameworks that operationalised Vision 2020. In line with this, Guidelines were developed to serve as administrative instructions and standard operating procedures for enhanced coordination of development programmes at a Pillar and Enabler level in line with the MW2063. The Guidelines, which were approved by Government through the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), assist in improving the coordination and adoption of Pillar and Enabler level strategies with the aim of realising the goals and objectives of the MIP-1.

To kick start the rolling out of the PECGs, the first meetings were conducted in October, 2021 following sensitisation meetings of stakeholders on this coordination mechanism.

The PECGs have since been constituted and the first meetings were conducted to identify the priority interventions for the 2022/2023 Financial Year. Quarterly meetings have been scheduled for the PECGs which are set to be followed by a High-level National Pillar and Enabler Coordination Committee meeting to be chaired by His Excellency the President, Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera.

## **1.3. Development of the National Research Agenda (2021-2030)**

Among the objectives of the MIP-1 is the

realisation of a knowledge-based economy that should propel the country into a lower-middle income economy by 2030 and meeting most of the Sustainable Development Goals in this last decade of action (2021-2030). To this end, the NPC, in collaboration with the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST), coordinated the process of developing the National Research Agenda (NRA) which is to provide a guide on the research and innovations to be pursued towards achieving the MIP-1 milestones.

The process to develop the NRA involved consultations with research and academic institutions and Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) who

identified and prioritised research themes and areas of focus for the operative period of the MIP-1, thus up to 2030. This will be complemented by expert reviews and a validation process which have been lined-up as key processes towards the adoption of the NRA.

The NPC has since produced the draft NRA which has been reviewed by various stakeholders operating in Malawi's research for development space as part of ensuring that it responds to the country's research and innovations needs towards the attainment of the MIP-1 milestones. The NRA is due for launch in the second quarter of the 2022/23 Financial Year.



*MoU signing between NPC and NCST*

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## **PART 2:**

## MIP-1 IMPLEMENTATION



# Journey to an Inclusively Wealthy and Resilient Nation'

Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera  
President of the Republic of Malawi



*Unveiling of the MIP-1 during its launch by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, supported by Prof. Richard Mkandawire, Chairperson of the NPC.*

Upon launching the MIP-1, the NPC embarked on the distribution of the MIP-1 document to stakeholders and their sensitisation on the same. Among other things, the NPC engaged all MDAs, local authorities and other key stakeholders to ensure that the MIP-1 is owned and taken on board by all implementing agencies.

To achieve effective coordination, the NPC, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Planning and Development (EP&D), engaged the PECCs to ensure that they prioritise the execution of the MIP-1 interventions. The PECCs were oriented on planning, budgeting and reporting tools for their effective operation.

Further, the NPC worked with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to ensure that

the 2022/23 National Budget prioritises the MIP-1 interventions. Aligning the budget to the MIP-1 is crucial to the attainment of the country's aspirations. The 2022/23 budget has generally made good effort to align the budget by the Pillars and Enablers of the MIP-1, but there remains room for improvement in prioritising the catalytic interventions proposed under the MIP-1 to ensure that the country graduates into a middle-income economy and achieves most of the SDGs by 2030.

The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed down economic activity and affected livelihoods, both in urban and rural areas. Given the already limited fiscal space, COVID-19 worsened the domestic revenue collection, thereby limiting the Government's ability to cushion the livelihoods of its citizens and provide



social services. To recover and restore the economy, Malawi has developed the Malawi COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP) under which key actions have been identified and prioritised for frontloading and implementation to ensure that the country builds-back quicker and better from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the first year of MIP-1 implementation, key interventions have started which are expected to propel Malawi into the right trajectory in meeting the MIP-1 milestones. Some of the key interventions that have commenced include: kickstarting the feasibility study for fertiliser plants and mega farms under the Agriculture Productivity and Commercialisation Pillar; commissioning of a gold buying platform with a number of Mining Development Agreements in their final stages such as for rare earth mining in Songwe Hills in Phalombe, Kanyika Niobium in Mzimba, and resuscitation of the Kayerekera uranium mine

in Karonga – all under the Industrialisation Pillar. This is besides a number of private sector investments being facilitated into the manufacturing sector; development and launching of the Malawi Secondary Cities Plan (MSCP), under the Urbanisation Pillar to spur the development of secondary cities in Malawi - with a number of private investors already making strides to invest in places such as Chipoka in Salima and Monkey Bay in Mangochi. Further, several interventions have started to operationalise the MW2063's seven Enablers, including: the mindset change movement; development of the online business registration platform; construction of secondary schools of excellence and recruitment of over two thousand secondary school teachers; and commencement of several road infrastructure projects, including the six-lane carriage in Lilongwe and rehabilitation of the M1 road. To expand energy generation, Malawi commissioned



*Commissioners of the NPC pose with His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi (front middle) and the Vice President Rt. Hon. Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima (left first row), the First Lady Madam Monica Chakwera (right first row), in presence of the Chief Justice, Hon. Rizine Robert Mzikamanda, SC (3rd from left standing), and 1st Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Madalitso Kazombo (2nd from right standing) during the launch of MIP-1*



*NPC's Dr. Andrew Jamali, Research Manager, at a Police Force engagement on MIP-1 implementation*

a couple of solar power plants; while, under environmental sustainability, the country strengthened the legal and regulatory framework for the better management of the environment. Further, the Government has collaborated with stakeholders to plant tens of millions of trees to mitigate the impact of climate change. To strengthen disaster risk reduction, Malawi is strengthening early warning systems through the incorporation of indigenous knowledge and digitisation of the same which resulted into reduced deaths and property loss during the recent cyclone disasters.

As part of reviewing the growth pathways in the presence of COVID-19, global economic events and natural disasters that threaten the

attainment of the MIP-1 milestones, the NPC and its partners, with support from UNDP under a Foresighting Project, is coming up with models that will define new practical economic pathways that will help the country still attain its two key MIP-1 milestones of graduating into a lower middle-income country and meeting most of the SDGs by 2030.

The publication of the MIP-1 annual report is in the offing and will be ready before the end of the calendar year. This will provide detailed progress on each of the Pillars and Enablers of the MW2063, including the challenges faced and mitigation measures taken to accelerate implementation progress.

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## **PART 3:**

# NPC STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION





*Launch of the NPC Strategic Plan by Min. of Finance and Economic Affairs, Hon. Sosten Gwengwe flanked by the NPC's Chairperson, Prof. Richard Mkandawire and the Leadership of all the three branches of Government*

## **STRATEGIC PILLAR 1: Long-term and Medium-term Development Planning**

- **Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1)**

The NPC coordinated the development of the MIP-1 which operationalises the realisation of the aspirations of MW2063 from 2021 to 2030. The MIP-1 has two key milestones, namely: (i) to graduate Malawi into a middle-income economy; and (ii) to meet most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The MIP-1 has catalytic quick-win and game-changer interventions that will accelerate the graduation into the lower-middle income category by the year 2030 and facilitate the achievement of most of the SDGs by the same year. Further, the MIP-1 highlights a few

impactful flagship projects along the Pillars and Enablers of the MW2063.

- **Malawi Covid-19 Socio-Economic Recovery Plan (SERP)**

The SERP is an integral part of the MIP-1 and defines some of the key interventions for Malawi to build back better and quicker from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic within the framework of the execution of the MIP-1. This includes front-loading the ongoing socio-economic infrastructure investments, both by the Government and development partners. The implementation period for the SERP is from 2021 to 2023; and the interventions under the SERP will be implemented alongside the other catalytic interventions in the MIP-1.



The SERP proposes the implementation of strategic interventions across five inter-linked focus areas where evidence shows that accelerated recovery will be achieved if targeted, namely: (i) Building a Resilient and Sustainable Health System; (ii) Building a Resilient and Sustainable Education System; (iii) Building a Resilient and Sustainable Social Protection System; (iv) Building a Resilient Economy and Labour Market; and (v) Building an Enabling Macroeconomic Policy Environment.

The SERP was unveiled in December, 2022 by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi.

- **Malawi Secondary Cities Plan (MSCP)**

The NPC, in partnership with key line Ministries responsible for physical and urban planning, local government as well as the then Ministry of Economic Planning and Development and Public Sector Reforms, coordinated the development of the MSCP. The MSCP aims to guide the creation of secondary cities in the country and identifies eight (8) pilot areas that can quickly develop into cities based on their population levels; availability of solid sustainable economic activities such as tourism, mining, logistics, and agricultural activity; and having already good connectivity (road, water or rail infrastructure). The designated pilot areas for secondary cities are Karonga, Nkhata Bay, Salima/Chipoka, Liwonde, Mangochi/Monkey Bay, Kasungu, Luchenza and Bangula.

Notably, besides these pilot secondary cities, there will be satellite towns that will still be supported to develop further, especially around the existing main four cities as they have the potential to grow organically. The aim is to inclusively improve the quality of life of all Malawians by taking world-class socio-economic amenities, which are often only available in urban centres, to the rural masses.

The selected pilot cities present an opportunity for having planned cities with well laid-out master plans that will be developed.

The MSCP was launched on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2022 by the Minister of Local Government, Honourable Prof. Blessings Chinsinga, supported by the Minister of Lands, Honourable Sam Dalitso Kawale, MP, upon being delegated by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi.



*Launch of Malawi Secondary Cities Plan (MSCP) by Min. of Local Government Hon. Prof. Blessings Chinsinga (left) flanked by Dr. Winford Masanjala, Secretary for Economic, Planning and Development (centre) and Prof. Richard Mkandawire, Chairperson of the NPC*



*Min. of Local Government Hon. Prof. Blessings Chinsinga poses with Prophet Shepherd Bushiri during the Launch of the Malawi Secondary Cities Plan*

- **Malawi Digital Economy Strategy (DES)**

The NPC coordinated the development of the DES through which Malawi will forge new pathways to inclusive economic growth by coordinating the development of a thriving digital economy. The digital economy offers Malawi an unprecedented opportunity for accelerating growth and achieving national development objectives. The DES covers a five-year period and outlines 90 interventions needed to support the digital economy and Malawi's pursuit of inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance. These interventions are spread across three components, namely: (i) Digital Core; (ii) Digital Services; and (iii) Digital Solutions. The DES was handed over to the Ministry of Information and Digitalisation, and is currently undergoing Cabinet approval processes.

- **Malawi 2063 Youth Engagement Strategy (MW2063-YES)**

The MW2063 is a youth-centric vision. With 51 percent of the population being under 18

years of age as of 2018, it is necessary that the youth be at the centre of and in defining their destiny and contributing towards the realisation of the aspirations of MW2063. The NPC is coordinating the development of the MW2063-YES which aims to provide a framework for the vibrant and meaningful participation and involvement of young people in the realisation of MW2063 through the execution of MIP-1.

The development of the MW2063-YES was youth-intensive and youth-driven. Youth representatives from across the country were engaged to deliberate on approaches for involving and engaging the youth in the execution of the MIP-1 and realisation of the aspirations of the MW2063. The engagement ensured the active and substantive participation of various youth groups, including those with disabilities and living in rural areas. The inclusive and participatory process of developing the MW2063-YES ensures, enhances and safeguards the ownership of the MW2063 by the youth. This will, in turn, ensure that the MW2063 is understood and accepted by the youth and



*Youth engagement at the Access to Entrepreneurs Finance Workshop in Lilongwe that was broadcast live on all major TV and Radio Stations*



that they take an active and central role in its realisation under the framework of the MIP-1. The process, therefore, offered a unique opportunity for the youth to collectively reflect on the challenges they face, and how the MW2063 can harness Malawi's youthful population to realise the aspirations of the MW2063 by addressing those challenges, as well as by learning from past failures.

## **STRATEGIC PILLAR 2: Development Plans Implementation Oversight**

- ***MDA Engagements on MIP-1 Implementation Progress***

Following the launch of the MW2063 and MIP-1, within its oversight role in the implementation of medium- and long-term development plans, the NPC engaged MDAs which are the key implementers of

MW2063 and MIP-1. The aim of the meetings that were held during the reporting period was to appreciate the progress of key MIP-1 catalytic interventions that fall within the 2021-2023 implementation period and discuss any bottlenecks that may be affecting implementation, and devise solutions to the challenges.

- ***Youth Engagements on their Effective Participation in Development***

As a nation, there is a need to make a commitment to address the key challenges and barriers to youth development. This commitment will guarantee the provision and accessibility of quality education, skills development, and decent work opportunities. The youth will be critical and active participants in decision making and governance systems. Having been active



*Some young people in one of the meetings organised by the NPC*



*Youth engagement by the NPC*

contributors to the development of the MW2063, the youth must be engaged in its implementation and its realisation.

The NPC, therefore, continued to proactively engage the youth and in January, 2022 hosted a panel discussion on entrepreneurship under the theme ‘*Youth in Trade and Industry: Challenges and Opportunities*’. Among the key issues that arose during the panel discussion was the lack of knowledge of entrepreneurship financing opportunities as one of the major hinderances for youth-run businesses, including start-ups. In view of this, NPC coordinated the Access to Entrepreneurship Finance Workshop in June, 2022 which was broadcast live on TV, radio, and social media platforms. The aim of the Workshop was to raise awareness of the available financial products that various financing institutions have on offer for entrepreneurs and the business fraternity in general, with the youth being the main target group. Financial institutions and other organisations were invited to showcase their products through presentations and exhibition booths. The expectation was that young people and other entrepreneurs would be inspired to begin inculcating an

entrepreneurial culture for inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance towards the timely realisation of the aspirations of MW2063.

- **Alignment of Sectoral Policies, Strategies and National Budget to the MW2063 and MIP-1**

Since the launch of the MIP-1, the NPC supported state and non-state actors in aligning policies, strategies and plans to the MW2063 and MIP-1. To ensure standardisation, the NPC came up with policy alignment guidelines to enable its staff to focus on key areas when reviewing these important documents. Some of the policies and proposed legislation examined for alignment during the reporting period include the National Tourism Policy; the National Social Protection Policy; the Democratic Governance Policy; the National Population Policy; National Youth Policy; the NGO (Amendment) Bill; the NGO Policy and the TEVETA Bill. The strategic documents reviewed or developed include: the Health Sector Strategic Plan III (in progress); the National Youth Investment Plan (in progress); and the National Tourism Investment Plan. The NPC will continue to take part in



the reviews and development of such key documents, including the country assistance strategies by development partners and non-state actors, generally, to ensure the proper alignment of all development programmes to the MW2063.

The NPC also supported the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs in aligning the 2022/2023 national budget to the MW2063; and took part in the stakeholder national budget consultations to ensure that the submissions were aligned to the MW2063 and MIP-1. Suffice to mention that although this alignment was achieved at Pillar and Enabler level, there is need to extend the same to intervention level and track the allocation and utilisation of the funds in that regard.

### STRATEGIC PILLAR 3: Research, Learning and Communication



*NPC dissemination of IEC Materials led by it's Public Relations and Communications Manager, Thomson Khanje*

The NPC continued with the development and dissemination of evidence to aid policy and programmatic designs, monitoring, and evaluation through the consolidation of research studies in the country's development space.



*Presentation of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) report to the UN led by Min. of Health, Hon. Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda (second from right), flanked by Dr. Thomas Munthali, Director General of NPC (far Right), HE Agnes Chimbiri - Molande, Malawi Permanent representative to the UN (3rd from left) and Mr. Beston Chisamile, PS for Health (Administration) (far left)*

Among the achievements in this regard, the NPC:

- compiled, through the Malawi Priorities Project (MPP), a book that has collated the cost-benefit-analysis of select interventions in sectors such as economy, health, education, agriculture, energy, and environment. The recommendations in the book have already been widely disseminated with some partners, such as the American BJ Foundation, which is already utilising them to guide their interventions in the country's health sector. The recommendations will be disseminated to more interest groups for uptake and operationalisation;



*Opening ceremony of the SADC National Planning Entities meeting by the Min. of Finance and Economic Affairs, Hon. Sosten Gwengwe, MP (second Left), flanked by Chairperson of the Network Dr. Thomas Munthali (far right); Dr Thembinkosi Mhlongo, SADC Deputy Executive (Regional Integration) Secretary (middle), Ms. Young Hong acting UN Resident Coordinator (second from left) and Ms. Eunice Kamwendo ECA's Director for Southern Africa Sub-region office (far left)*

- engaged in knowledge leveraging through the *Ndizotheka* Eminent Speaker's Series (ESSs) and *Ndizotheka* transformative initiatives. As Malawi is in the implementation mode of the MW2063, the focus is on showcasing and tracking programmes and interventions that are moving and propelling the realisation of the aspirations of MW2063. Recent ESSs showcased interventions that are moving towards higher and productive commercialisation of agriculture. Through the series, successful and promising interventions were promoted for scaling up, with due considerations on policy and regulatory interventions that need to be addressed in order to scale-up the interventions that are working;
- commenced the production of op-eds in the local print press which pick on emerging and important events observed in the country's development space, and provide insights on their implications to the MW2063 and progress towards the MIP-1 milestones; while recommending remedial measures in case of negative effects associated with the events, and promoting sustained engagements with key stakeholders on the matter of concern as raised in the op-eds;
- continued to leverage knowledge to support the design, monitoring and implementation of development programmes towards the realisation of MIP-1 milestones. This will continue to be actualised through sustained engagement and interface with stakeholders in research, policy and programmes design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; and
- continued to pursue new and innovative approaches to impact-oriented engagement with trackable outcomes by both state and non-state actors, and develop the capacities for such with the support of its partners.



## STRATEGIC PILLAR 4: Partnerships Development and Management

Strong partnerships remain a core component of the operations of the NPC by ensuring a coordinated and multi-stakeholder approach to engaging stakeholders and leveraging on their different comparative advantages to support its work. As such, during the period of reporting, the NPC continued to broker new partnerships while sustaining and strengthening the existing ones. The NPC, therefore, remained engaged with different MDAs, especially the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, particularly the Department of Economic Planning and Development, which is a strategic and complementary partner of the NPC. Additionally, development partners, professional bodies, academic institutions, private sector, CSOs and others continued to contribute immensely to the operations of the NPC.

Some of the notable partnerships and collaborations initiated by the NPC during the period of reporting include:

- Partnered with the European Union (EU) in delivering on the MIP-1 through technical and financial support;
- Sustained and formalised funding arrangements with the UNDP, UNICEF, and Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI) through Michigan State University (MSU);
- Signed MoUs locally with the NCST, National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Trust; and initiated more mandate-advancing MoUs with the Malawi Institute of Management (MIM), Small and Medium Enterprise Development Institute (SMEDI), ActionAid, Save the Children and Youth Wave, among others;
- Signed an MoU with the Charter Cities Institute (CCI), an international entity, to support the acceleration of secondary



*NPC partnering with the Malawi Institute of Procurement and Supply (MIPS) on a Professional Ladies Cruise towards MW2063*

cities development in Malawi;

- Partnered with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and TradeMark East Africa for high-level engagements with representatives of the Development Cooperation Group on MIP-1 priority interventions;
- Hosted the first physical meeting of the SADC National Planning Entities in Malawi, as Chairperson, since the last one which happened in the pre-COVID-19 era in 2019;
- Launched the MW2063 Champions Identification Programme with the first group of Malawians recognised based on their stern efforts in rallying support towards the popularisation of the MW2063 and its implementation;
- Intensified mutually-beneficial collaborations with both state and non-state actors such as Standard Bank,

National Bank, NBS Bank, Airtel Malawi, EthCO, EGENCO, MITC, MCCCCI, Plan International, EU, WFP, UN Women, FAO, UNFCD, UNFPA, and UNRCO to enhance the delivery of the mandate of the NPC; and

- Continued to work with private broadcasters and print media, including the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), Zodiak, Times, Nation Newspapers and the Daily Times who have provided unprecedented preferential service to the work of the NPC.

Generally, the NPC has enjoyed technical and financial support from various partners, both state and non-state, which has significantly helped it in advancing the execution of its mandate in the past financial year.

### **STRATEGIC PILLAR 5: Institutional Capacity Building and Sustainability**

The NPC continued to enhance and consolidate its capacity to deliver on its key mandates, especially focusing on areas such as corporate governance, risk management, strategic planning, human resource, finance and administrative facilities/equipment and systems.



*One of the NPC's regular Board meetings in session*

The key achievements registered in the period of reporting include:

- Collaborated with the Copenhagen Consensus Centre (CCC) and the Africa Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) in building the capacity of select MDAs in conducting Cost-Benefit Analysis of investment projects. This is proving useful in determining the value for money in the projects that have to be considered under national budgets and public sector investment programmes;
- Built the capacity of various MDAs in aligning national and decentralised plans to international development frameworks such as the SDGs and Africa's Agenda 2063. This was done with the support of the Economic Commission for Africa. Malawi has already aligned the SDGs and Agenda 2063 with the MIP-1, making it a model of high-level alignment on the continent;
- Continued to ensure that the Board of the NPC met regularly in compliance with statutory obligations, principles of good corporate governance and fiduciary responsibility; with a number of critical policies such as the Staff Wellness Policy and Service Charter being adopted by the Board, among others;
- Continued to initiate mechanisms for digitising the financial, procurement and human resource management processes at the NPC, especially on record keeping and enhancing the intensity of virtual interactions. This is not only proving cost-effective, but is also more effective in managing the functions of the NPC; and
- The Financial Statements for the 2020-21 Financial Year were externally audited by the National Audit Office (NAO) in compliance with the NPC Act and other public finance management laws, with a clean audit being the outcome as had been the case in previous years.



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## **PART 4:**

## CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT



*NPC Commissioners and Management engaging Secretary to the President and Cabinet, Ms Colleen Zamba (5th from right)*

#### 4.1 Challenges and Mitigation Measures

Operations of the NPC during the period of reporting have not been without some drawbacks. The following were the main ones:

- The COVID-19 after-effects, though much less serious now, continue to affect operations, especially physical interactions with stakeholders. In mitigation, the NPC has invested more in digital platforms and virtual interactions, and piggybacking on the operations and activities of its extensive network of partners to ensure the optimal execution of its mandate; and
- Volatile economic context due to global (Ukraine/Russia conflict, COVID-19, etc.) and domestic (disasters occasioned by heavy rains and floods) shocks resulting in the reconfiguration and re-prioritisation of Government financing which affected the flow and adequacy of financing to the NPC. In mitigation, the NPC continued to intensify on its mutually-beneficial resource mobilisation drive and building of new productive partnerships to aid the execution of those activities that were affected by the shift in Government financing.

#### 4.2 Lessons Learnt

The NPC derived the following lessons from its operations in the previous financial year:

- The assurance and protection of the political and operational independence of the NPC remains key in enhancing the

confidence of partners and stakeholders in rallying their support towards the execution of its mandates;

- Local level participation, especially at the district level, is critical in national development as it ensures and enhances the ownership of development plans;
- Youth engagement and participation remains critical to the effective implementation of national development plans;
- Nationally-driven plans should be home-grown and driven by Malawians and local research institutions. Donors should only support with catalytic interventions;
- Consistent and adequate financial support from the Government through Treasury is key in ensuring that the NPC continues to implement its planned activities effectively and efficiently without undue influence from external forces;
- Coordination with stakeholders in the planning and implementation of medium- and long-term development plans is critical as it allows the country to leverage financial and technical expertise from various stakeholders; and
- Developing foresight capabilities is important in ensuring that the execution of the country's vision, development plans and policies reflect the changes in the global and local socio-economic and political realities.



## **PART 5:**

MAIN FOCUS FOR THE  
YEAR AHEAD





*NPC members of staff at a retreat in Lilongwe*

The successful development and launch of the MIP-1 has been the highlight of the year, kicking-off the implementation phase of the MW2063. Relatedly, the SERP, and most recently the MSCP, have been major accomplishments by the NPC during the period of reporting. These more detailed plans of action are clearly defining the expected developmental trajectory for the country, highlighting sector-focused quick-wins, flagships and game-changers that will transform the economy within the next few years. The same will act as monitoring and evaluation guides that will allow stakeholders to hold duty bearers and implementing agencies accountable, and will be used to assess progress at regular intervals.

The 2022/2023 Financial Year has started with a special focus on implementation oversight in the execution of the MIP-1 and ensuring its

institutionalisation among all stakeholders while, at the same time, ensuring that all players are adequately aligning their own sectoral plans and country assistance strategies to the MIP-1. Critical stakeholders in this regard include the District Councils which the NPC has already started engaging to align all District Development Plans to the MIP-1 and make the local councils self-sustaining.

Further, in ensuring alignment, the NPC will, jointly with lead MDAs, coordinate the interventions of both state and non-state actors through the PECCs and monitor progress on the priority interventions set by each sector to ensure the timely attainment of the MIP-1 milestones. The outcomes from the PECCs will be the basis for periodic reporting to the President, Parliament and



the general public for accountability and corrective action.

The NPC will continue to popularise the MW2063 to enhance its domestication and ownership by Malawians. The NPC will use all available means and platforms, including the MW2063 Champions, to popularise the vision and call for collective and inclusive implementation at every opportunity.

Further, the NPC will launch the NRA and publicise it both locally and internationally. It is expected that this tool will play a very crucial role in informing decisions for developmental planning by both state and non-state actors in all the sectors. In addition, the NPC will continue to identify transformative projects and programmes through the *Ndizotheka* initiatives and document the same for showcasing across the country; and the *Ndizotheka* ESSs will continue as normal as another way of promoting mind-set change.

Partnerships remain a core value of the NPC and as such we will continue to build on new partnerships, especially with non-traditional partners both locally and on the international

arena. The NPC appreciates the support that it continues to receive from all its current partners and will strive to strengthen these collaborations.

Further, the NPC will continue to build its internal capacity to make it a shining example of a fit-for-purpose public institution. The NPC promotes a private sector organisational culture and aims at doing '*business unusual*'. Moving forward, therefore, the NPC will maintain smooth administrative operations and systems as well as prioritise capacity building of staff in different areas in order to enhance both technical and operational competence.

The coming year generally looks very exciting and, as a team, the NPC will continue to strengthen its internal operational capacities and partnerships to ensure that it delivers on its second mandate of implementation oversight in the most effective and efficient manner.

Inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance is possible. *Ndizotheka!* Be part of history by partnering with the NPC.

## **Annex 1: List of Commissioners**

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Prof. Richard Mkandawire – Chairperson

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Dr. Winford Masanjala – Vice Chairperson

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Ms. Mercy Masoo

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Mr. Phillip Madinga

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Dr. Evance Mwathunga

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Ms. Natasha Nsamala

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## **Annex 2: Members of the Committees of the Board of the National Planning Commission**

Mr. Ahmed Sunka	Policy and Programmes Committee
Dr. Betty Chinyamunye	Policy and Programmes Committee
Mr. Chris Kapanga	Policy and Programmes Committee
Dr. Henry Chingaipe	Policy and Programmes Committee
Prof. Jonathan Makuwira	Policy and Programmes Committee
Dr. Matthews Mtumbuka	Policy and Programmes Committee
Prof. Ngeyi Kanyongolo	Policy and Programmes Committee
Dr. Witness Kuotcha	Policy and Programmes Committee
Mr. Hestern Banda	Finance, Audit, Risk and Human Resource Committee
Ms. Rachel Silungwe	Finance, Audit, Risk and Human Resource Committee
Prof. Rhoda Bakuwa	Finance, Audit, Risk and Human Resource Committee
Mr. William Matambo	Finance, Audit, Risk and Human Resource Committee

## Annex 3: Secretariat of the National Planning Commission

No.	NAME	POST
<b>DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE</b>		
1	Thomas C. Munthali, PhD	Director General
2	Jennifer Nkaonja Mjuweni	Partnerships & Resource Mobilisation Manager
3	Mtamandeni Liabunya	Legal Counsel
4	Thomson Khanje	Public Relations and Communications Manager
<b>DIRECTORATE OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING</b>		
1	Grace Kumchulesi, PhD	Director of Development Planning
2	Sipho Billiat	Development Planning Manager
3	Ivy Chauya	Senior Development Planning Specialist
4	Maxwell Maida	Senior Development Planning Specialist
5	Hope Chavula	Senior Development Planning Specialist (Pvt. sector)
6	Tayani Banda	Senior Development Planning Specialist
7	Linly Kufeyani	Development Planning Officer
8	Adam Guys	Development Planning Officer
9	Ruth Mkisi	Development Planning Officer
10	Salim Mapila	Development Planning Officer



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**DIRECTORATE OF KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING**

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1	Joseph Nagoli, PhD	Director of Knowledge and Learning
2	Andrew Jamali, PhD	Research Manager
3	Austin Chingwengwe	Monitoring and Evaluation Manager
4	Joy Karim Masache	Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist
5	Harold Fote	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
6	Tissie Nadzanja	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
7	Frank Kamanga	Research Officer
8	Jabulani Nyengere	Research Officer

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**DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

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1	Chrighton Chimombo	Director of Finance and Administration
2	Maphumuzana Jere	Senior ICT Officer
3	Aron Mobe	Senior Accountant
4	Yuna Chikanda	Senior Administrative Officer
5	Esther Kunje	Acting Senior HR Officer
6	Blessings Sineta	Internal Auditor
7	Robert Tambala	Procurement Officer

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8	Henry Likuchuwile	Accountant
9	Chikondi Saukira	Senior Executive Assistant
10	Olive Khonje	Team Assistant
11	Nancy Nyirongo	Team Assistant
12	Memory Nowa	Team Assistant
13	Sangalwishe Silumbu	Assistant Accountant
14	Lightwell Mughogho	Driver
15	Martin Ngwira	Driver
16	Davie Simale	Driver
17	Frank Jimu	Messenger



