



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Acronyms

AFIDEP	African Institute for Development Policy
AGCOM	Agricultural Commercialisation Project
ATI	Agricultural Transformation Initiative
CAP	Core Advisory Panel
CCI	Consumer Confidence Index
CONGOMA	Council for NGOs in Malawi
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
EDF	Export Development Fund
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HEIs	Higher Education Institutions
ICT	Information Communication Technology
IFMIS	Integrated Financial Management Information System
KUHeS	Kamuzu University of Health Sciences
LUANAR	Lilongwe University for Agriculture and Natural Resources
MAIIC	Malawi Agricultural and Industrial Investment Corporation
MACRA	Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority
MITC	Malawi Investment and Trade Centre
MDAs	Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MIP-1	Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan
MPP	Malawi Priorities Project
MRA	Malawi Revenue Authority
MSG	Malawi School of Government
MSU	Michigan State University
MW2063	Malawi 2063
NCST	National Commission for Science and Technology
NBM	National Bank of Malawi
NDC	National Development Conference
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NGORA	NGO Regulatory Authority
NPC	National Planning Commission
NRA	National Research Agenda
PECGs	Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups
RBM	Reserve Bank of Malawi
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
UCAM	Universities and Colleges Association in Malawi
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRCO	United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
WFP	World Food Programme

Acknowledgements

The National Planning Commission (NPC) is profoundly grateful to its esteemed partners for their unwavering support and collaboration throughout the past year. Their dedication and commitment have been instrumental in driving the NPC's success and has once again enabled the achievement of remarkable milestones in the financial year 2022/2023.

It is the invaluable support that the NPC enjoyed from its partners that not only enhanced its programs and initiatives, but also empowered it to make a meaningful impact to Malawi's national development through the successful execution of its mandates.

The belief in the relevance of the NPC, and the confidence and the resources – both technical and financial – that were provided to the NPC, have enabled it to reach new heights and supported its quest to create lasting change for Malawi.

With such support, the NPC has been able to effectively tackle challenges head-on and turn them into opportunities. The guidance, expertise, and generosity to the NPC from both state and non-state actors have been a driving force behind its achievements; and the NPC looks forward to continuing this journey of collaboration in the coming 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); through the Malawi 2063 First

10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1).

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 unconditional support to the NPC in the execution of its mandates. Relatedly, the NPC appreciates the collaboration it continues to enjoy with the Department of Economic Planning and Development under the technical leadership of both the current and previous Principal Secretaries, Mr. Patrick Zimpita and Dr. Winford Masanjala, respectively, and the whole team which has continued to provide support to the NPC.

The NPC has throughout the year received invaluable support from all the three arms of the 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 Rezine Mzikamanda, SC; 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 different forms of support; including financial, technical, in-kind, and moral. These are too numerous to mention, but suffice it to say that the European Union and the United Nations family, particularly the United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), remain among its strongest and most reliable partners; and, for this, the NPC is truly grateful. The 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 (MSU) who have proven to be reliable partners. Others that have impacted the work of the NPC during the past year include: all MDAs; Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and the entire media fraternity; National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Trust; Farm Radio Trust; Save the Children Fund; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Malawi Chamber for Confederation of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI); Council for Non-Governmental Organisations (CONGOMA); Non-Governmental Organisations Regulatory Authority (NGORA); National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST); Wealth Magazine; Malawi Communications and Regulatory Authority (MACRA); NBS Bank; Plan International; UNICAF; Universities and Colleges Association of Malawi (UCAM); Lilongwe University for Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR); Malawi University for Science and Technology (MUST); Mzuzu University; University of Malawi (UNIMA); Kamuzu University for Health Sciences (KUHeS); Standard Bank; National Bank of Malawi (NBM); Sunbird Hotels; Agricultural Commercialisation Project (AGCOM); Malawi Agricultural and Industrial Investment Corporation (MAIIC); Export Development Fund (EDF); Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA); and Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM). At the international level, the NPC is grateful for the support received from the SADC Secretariat, SADC

National Planning Entities Platform, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), Chartered Cities Institute, Legatum Institute, Copenhagen Consensus Centre (CCC) and other partners, especially in the area of capacity building.

In addition, 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. They have been backroom engines playing the much-needed brain trust role. Further, the work of the MW2063 Champions which has now begun in earnest has impacted the society in a special way where leaders of different political parties, traditional leaders, social media influencers and experts in different sectors of the economy have rallied behind the central message of the MW2063 in promulgating a mindset change drive for a more positive thinking society as we collectively implement the Vision.

The NPC extends its deepest gratitude to each and every partner (state and non-state) and stakeholder who has stood by it, invested in its mission, and shared the MW2063. Special gratitude should go to the EU Delegation through whose support the NPC has been able to produce and disseminate this 2023 Annual Report. Together with all our partners, we are shaping a brighter future for and making a difference to Malawi!

Thank you for being more than just partners; you are the NPC's pillars of strength and enablers of positive change!

Message from the Chairperson



The National Planning Commission (NPC) delivered a good all-round performance in the year 2022/2023 in a very challenging macro-economic environment. This Annual Report principally shares with you the activities which the NPC undertook between the period April 2022 to March 2023.

The NPC has registered commendable progress as it continues to execute its mandates, with particular focus on the second mandate of implementation oversight of the Malawi 2063 (MW2063). As Malawi move into the second financial year of the current ten-year implementation plan, the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan

(MIP-1), the NPC has continued to give special emphasis on the coordination of all stakeholders and implementing agencies to ensure that everyone is taking the right actions in achieving targets as set forth within the respective Pillars and Enablers of the MW2063.

I, therefore, appreciate the efforts which the entire team at the NPC, led by the Director General, has displayed in showing unwavering commitment to perform efficiently and effectively within a challenging economic period for the country. The NPC continues to prove time and again that adversity and challenges may sometimes bring out the best in us. The team has shown firm

commitment during some of the most turbulent times that the country has endured. The economic challenges that were experienced during the period of reporting due to, among other things, Cyclone Freddy, a cholera outbreak, the ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe and other external shocks, have had negative impacts not only on the NPC, but indeed on the entire nation. In spite of all this, the NPC continues to perform above par in delivering on its mandates and ensuring that all planned activities are duly carried out within the set timeframes.

Further appreciation goes to my fellow Commissioners and the two Committees of the Board of the NPC for their tireless contributions in providing strategic direction and guidance to the operations of the NPC. Together, we have achieved much more than anticipated for the period and it is my expectation that moving forward, more dedicated and noble Malawians will be available to contribute to the achievement of the aspirations of the MW2063. The NPC also acknowledges the contributions made by both the Core Advisory Panel (CAP) and the Youth Advisory Panel who have supported it greatly by continuously providing strategic advice.

The political leadership remains one of the NPC's strong advocates for the MW2063 with the President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, championing its implementation and sending clear signals to the whole Government system through the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC), Government Ministries, Departments AND Agencies (MDAs), including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, which have continued

to support the operations of the NPC. Additionally, the National Assembly, along with the Judiciary, whom we intend to engage at a much-enhanced level during the coming year, gave us their full support during the period of reporting. This demonstrated alliance has been and will be instrumental in ensuring that the message of the MW2063 is fully inculcated within the citizenry; but also that the priorities that have been set out in the MIP-1 receive implementation support, especially through alignment of national budgets and partner support.

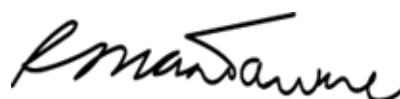
Partnerships and collective responsibility in the realisation of the aspirations of the MW2063 has a strong focus in the operations of the NPC and I am pleased to say that during the past year, we have seen renewed commitment from our partners and other stakeholders in supporting the achievement of the Vision through not only alignment of their own strategic plans to the MIP-1, but by enhancing their financial and technical support to the country and the operations of the NPC specifically. This assures us that the realisation of the aspirations of the MW2063 will be pursued in a coordinated manner and that the scarce resources that are available from different stakeholders will be directed towards collectively agreed upon priorities. While applauding all partners and stakeholders that have worked with the NPC during the period, I call upon all of us to hold each other accountable for the full implementation of the commitments that we have taken upon ourselves to deliver on behalf of the citizens of this country.

Finally, it is paramount to understand and internalise that the onus of all this remains on all of us as Malawians to acknowledge

that the aspirations of the MW2063 will not be realised if we continue to operate in a 'business as usual' manner. As a country, we have fallen far behind so many of our compatriots that not so long ago were our peers. We need to act and the time is now! The action must come in tandem with the requirement to overhaul our collective and individual mindset. We need to embrace the spirit of a positive mindset and that of hard-work and self-reliance.

Let us start doing things differently and taking responsibility. At the same time, let us cultivate the understanding and acceptance that we are the only ones that can change the status quo. Let us be a hardworking, ethical, empathetic and responsible citizenry!

Action is the key for a better Malawi! We can do it!



Prof. Richard Mkandawire

CHAIRPERSON

Message from the Director General



I would characterise the financial year 2022/2023 as one that continued to suffer from the aftermaths of the macro-economic instabilities arising from domestic and foreign shocks from 2020. The aftermath of the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic still lingered on and these were negatively expounded by unforeseen climate-related events, including the Cyclone Freddy that caused massive destruction and disruption in most parts of Malawi as well as in neighbouring countries; the cholera outbreak and the continuing conflict in Eastern Europe. The resultant high cost of living due to inflation and the loss of value of the Kwacha has made worse the inherent challenges

facing the country of low fiscal space, low forex availability and unsustainable debt which the country is currently grappling to address.

It is encouraging, however, that the year also revealed the power of state and non-state actors working together in recovery and rebuilding efforts towards a resilient economy.

Amidst the uncertainties that our economy faced, the National Planning Commission (NPC) continued to remain focused on delivering on its two main mandates of coordinating the development of long- and medium-

term national development plans, and overseeing the implementation of those plans. The main drive currently is to ensure that progress is being made in the implementation of the Malawi 2063 First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) and that the milestones that have been set therein, i.e. to achieve the status of lower middle income economy by 2030; and to achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals, remain attainable.

Now that we have the Vision in place and its first 10-year implementation plan, our number one priority at the NPC is the second mandate – overseeing implementation. The NPC has hence enhanced the task of ensuring coordination and alignment of all development plans being undertaken by both state and non-state actors to the MIP-1 and the Malawi 2063 (MW2063). The Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs) have, therefore, been instrumental in providing a sound mechanism whereby the NPC is able to rally stakeholders towards carrying out regular implementation planning and reviews of the progress being made in each of the respective Pillars and Enablers of the MW2063. The reviews, which are led by the Government and take place on a quarterly basis, also provide a platform for assessing progress against targets and priorities that are set during annual National Development Conferences (NDCs).

The year also witnessed the launch of the Malawi Secondary Cities Plan (MSCP) in June 2022 which has effectively bolstered the implementation of Pillar 3 of the MW2063: Urbanisation. The Urbanisation Pillar highlights the need to create secondary urban centres in order to spur

development in those areas based on sustainable economic endowments as part of the inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance agenda.

Further, the NPC continued to carry out popularisation activities for both the MW2063 and MIP-1 as one way of ensuring the domestication of the Vision and creating a sense of ownership by every Malawian both within and outside the country. Additionally, the NPC continued to appreciate and recognise prominent citizens who have been identified as MW2063 Champions to push the national development agenda forward through their effective contributions in the implementation of the three Pillars and seven Enablers of the MW2063. Meanwhile, the NPC continues to use community radios, national broadcasters, online media platforms and reports to provide information to, as well as access feedback from, stakeholders.

The functions of research, knowledge and learning also stood out during the period of reporting, particularly with the launch of the National Research Agenda jointly with the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) on 22nd March 2023. This milestone translates to the alignment of all research work in the various sectors to the MW2063 and the MIP-1, as well as other implementation frameworks. Further, the NPC continued to leverage knowledge and learning from other countries and regional bodies to ensure that the execution of its mandates hinges on best practices that could be emulated from others who have already succeeded in this regard.

The NPC continued to build partnerships that have, throughout this period,

demonstrated strong commitment to supporting its work. To this end, the UN family, European Union, Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI), and USAID, just to mention a few, have come forth with renewed commitments not only financially in support of the mandates of the NPC, but also technical and otherwise. Additionally, our partnership drive has brought in other non-state actors, including the private sector and academia, who have helped capacitate the NPC in various ways to fill in gaps where necessary. The NPC will continue to garner as much support as possible from all potential partners, particularly technical support, to ensure that the funding that we receive from Government goes a long way in achieving our set targets; and that there are no lapses in our planned activities.

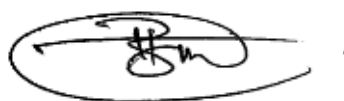
Sincere appreciation goes to the Commissioners of the NPC, led by Professor Richard Mkandawire, for tirelessly providing sound strategic advice that has contributed tremendously to the successful year that has gone by.

In addition, the NPC has enjoyed the support, advice and guidance provided to it by both the Core Advisory Panel (CAP) and the Youth Advisory Panel who remain instrumental in providing feedback on the implementation of the MW2063 as well as the operations of the NPC.

Looking forward, we march on with vigour and commitment to execute our mandates to the fullest and we will continue to build on our current successes and treat the challenges we face as opportunities to tap on.

We acknowledge that action, action and more action is the only way to achieve the targets that we have set for ourselves.

We do not have the luxury of time! The faster we move the less strife Malawians will have to face in the adversity of current economic challenges. Let us hold hands and move in unison towards the realisation of an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation within the shortest time possible. The Malawi we want is possible!



Thomas Chataghalala Munthali, PhD
Director General.

The Commission



Prof. Richard Mkandawire
Chairperson



Mr. Patrick Zimpita
*PS in the Department of Economic
Planning and Development
(Representing Vice Chairperson)*



Mrs. Mercy Masoo
Commissioner



Mr. Phillip Madinga
Commissioner



Mrs. Natasha Nsamala
Commissioner

Management



Dr. Thomas Chataghalala Munthali
Director General



Dr. Grace Kumchulesi
Director, Development Planning



Dr. Joseph Nagoli
Director, Knowledge and Learning



Mr. Chrighton Chimombo
Director, Finance and Administration



Ms. Jennifer Nkaonja-Mjuweni
Manager, Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation



Mr. Mtamandeni Liabunya
Legal Counsel



Mr. Thom Khanje
Manager, Public Relations and Communications



Dr. Andrew Jamali
Manager, Research



Mr. Sipho Billiati
Manager, Development Planning



Mr. Austin Chingwengwe
Manager, Monitoring and Evaluation

Who We Are

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.

OUR VISION

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

OUR MISSION

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

OUR GOAL

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

OUR CORE VALUES

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

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

OUR FIVE FOCUS AREAS

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

The National Planning Commission (NPC) is an independent public institution with the main mandate of facilitating the development of 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 socioeconomic 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 2022/2023 Annual Report (Report) is an account of the activities of the NPC between the months of April 2022 to March 2023 as outlined in the 2023 NPC Annual Business Plan.

During the period of reporting, the main focus was on the NPC's second mandate of providing implementation oversight. This included the operationalisation of the Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs), which operate as a coordination mechanism to guide the efforts of all stakeholders around the implementation of the MIP-1 interventions. 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 technical and financial resources. The PECGs meet every quarter to report on progress made on set priorities, with the final quarter meeting being a reporting and re-strategizing platform that culminates into the National Development Conference (NDC) where progress made and priorities for the coming fiscal year are shared with the President of the Republic of Malawi and the nation.

In complementing this oversight role, other functions of the NPC, including research, knowledge and learning and monitoring and evaluation, have, during the period, aimed at ensuring that implementation of the interventions set within the MIP-1 is evidence-based, on track and meeting targets in a timely manner. The launch of the National Research Agenda (NRA) was one monumental milestone which will ensure that research in Malawi aligns to the needs of the Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan (MIP-1).

Further, the NPC continued its popularisation drive for the Malawi 2063 (MW2063) and MIP-1 with the intention of ensuring that all Malawians both within and outside the borders are accessing the correct messaging and are able to effectively contribute to the realisation of the MW2063. In this regard, the NPC collaborated with a number of partners, including through the standing arrangement with the National Initiative for Civic Education Trust (NICE), Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), Farm

Nice engages local structures on MW2063

AYAMBA KANDO
CORRESPONDENT

National Initiative for Civic Education (Nice) Trust has engaged area development committee (ADC) members from Traditional Authority Mponda in Mangochi on Malawi 2063 (MW2063) the country's long-term development plan.

Speaking on Friday during the training, Nice Mangochi district civic education officer Joseph Chamambala said they wanted the members to become agents of change in their communities.

He said: "We want people to embrace mindset change and know about the driving pillars of development as supported by MW2063.

"We believe that when



PHOTOGRAPH: AYAMBA KANDO

ADC members follow a presentation attentively

people know about the country's development blueprint, they will venture into farming, businesses and manufacturing to develop the district and the country at large."

One of the facilitators, Galasiano Nicholas from the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) of Mangochi

Diocese, asked the ADC members to be the change before changing others.

"Let us embrace mindset change ourselves first before we reach to others. It is possible. I also urge you to work with other leaders such as chiefs and the clergy," he said.

Mponda ADC vice-

chairperson James Chilombo said they will relay the message to community members.

"People are ready to embrace mindset change, but they feel discouraged when they hear about corruption at district or national level," he said.

One of the ADC members, Margret Kaliwa, asked duty-bearers in the district to create a conducive environment for business and farming.

"People will only venture into farming and business if they feel they will gain profits. I, therefore, ask duty-bearers to ensure they support the youth and other groups to succeed in their endeavours," she said.

Nice Trust held the meeting with funding from the Malawi Government. ■

Radio Trust and other new partnerships with community radios, to spread MW2063 messaging.

In addition, the NPC garnered a lot of support from partners, both new and existing; and continued to seek new partnerships which were instrumental in ensuring that there were no lapses in the work of the NPC, especially as relates to technical and financial support. The more traditional partners such as the UN family, the European Union (EU), and Agricultural Transformation Initiative (ATI) provided the much needed technical and financial support. Further, the NPC continued to engage private sector partners and the academia to provide support in more structured arrangements. The value of partnerships in the work of the NPC is highly placed and as such,

a multi-stakeholder approach is always employed in executing mandates. During the coming year, engaging beyond traditional partners towards foundations, philanthropists and the private sector will be another focus area for collaborations.

The NPC, as an institution, continued to build itself up throughout the period of reporting. In building capacities, learning visits, staff trainings, team-building exercises and exchange peer to peer learning were undertaken. Additionally, the office continued to capacitate itself with a conducive working environment.

Further, the Board of the NPC continued to hold timely meetings on a quarterly basis with each meeting delivering adequately on providing policy direction and strategic guidance to the Secretariat.



PART ONE:

**INTRODUCTION AND
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE
FINANCIAL YEAR
2022/2023**



Minister of Education Hon. Madalitso Kambauwa-Wirima, MP (centre) alongside NPC Director General Dr. Thomas Munthali (left) and NCST Director General Mrs. Gift Kadzamira during the launch of the National Research Agenda

1.0 Highlights of the Year

Throughout the 2022/2023 financial year, the National Planning Commission (NPC) facilitated and achieved a number of notable milestones that will support the execution of the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan (MIP-1) and realisation of the Malawi 2063 (MW2063). The following are some of the main highlights:

1.1 Launch of the National Research Agenda (NRA)

The NRA was launched on 22nd March 2023 to support the realisation of the MW2063 through targeted research, technology and innovation. The NRA will guide researchers, academic institutions, think-tanks, local and international research and development stakeholders in generating knowledge, technologies and innovations that will build a knowledge-based economy for Malawi, towards

inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance as outlined in the MW2063.

The NRA was developed through close collaboration between the NPC and the National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) with technical and financial support from the Government and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

1.2 National Evaluation Week

The inaugural National Evaluation Week took place during the week of 15th March 2023 as a way of joining hands with various stakeholders to strengthen M&E capacities in the country. An effective monitoring and evaluation policy as well as capacities are a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the MW2063 and use of evaluation results if Malawi is to graduate into a middle-income economy by 2030.

The M&E week is the beginning of a journey of reflection on how efforts can

be consolidated in building capacities at generating and using monitoring and evaluation to improve in all national development programming and implementation.

The two-day event provided space for intensive training on the technical aspects of M&E, and the exchange of experiences in M&E practice where presentations, expert-managed labs, and panel discussions were used to deliver content, including developing a cadre of youthful M&E experts.



Deputy Secretary to the President and Cabinet Dr. Janet Banda (5th from right) alongside other guests in a group photo after the launch of the National Evaluation Week

1.3 Launch of the Malawi Priorities Project (MPP) Book: A Cost Benefit Analysis For Policy Prioritisation

The NPC, in collaboration with the Africa Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) and the Copenhagen Consensus Centre (CCC), launched a book titled 'A Benefit-Cost Analysis for Policy Prioritisation' on

16th November 2022. The Book identifies and promotes the most effective interventions that address Malawi's development challenges and support the attainment of its development aspirations.

This is a culmination of the Malawi Priorities Project (MPP) which sought to provide the Government (and the international community) with a systematic process to help prioritise the most effective policy solutions so as to maximise social, environmental and economic benefits on every Kwacha investment.



Former Minister of Education Hon. Dr. Agnes Nyalonje (2nd right) alongside NPC Director General Dr. Thomas Munthali (right), Dr. Joshua Valeta from Ministry of Education (left), and Ralph Nordjo from Copenhagen Consensus Center during the launch of the Malawi Priorities Book

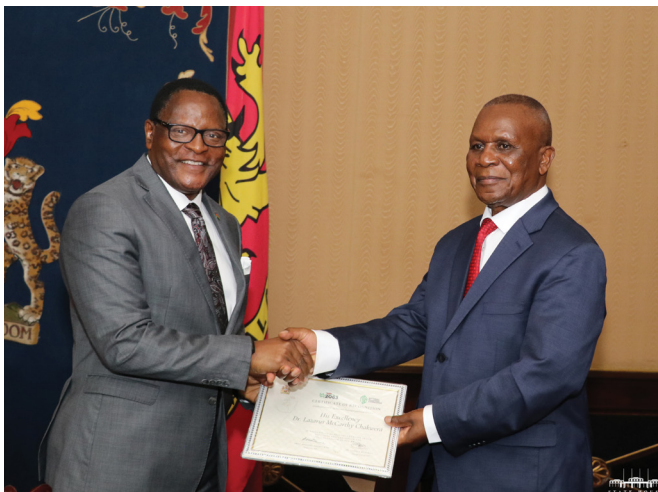
1.4 MW2063 Intergenerational Champions

The NPC presented MW2063 recognition certificates to a number of intergenerational Champions who have been recognised for their role as leaders (presently and in the past) in providing for the requisite environment and institutions as well as rallying Malawians around the tenets of an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation, as espoused in the MW2063.

These MW2063 Champions have, in one way or another, currently or previously, promulgated the importance of long-term national development planning; and have been recognised as leaders within certain areas where their influence has been felt more. It is hoped that these will continue to champion the MW2063 and mindset of inclusive wealth creation, positivity, unity, integrity, self-reliance and hard-work.

The Champions have particularly been recognised for their passion towards the realisation of the MW2063 and their belief in the continuity of development projects beyond political regimes.

These Champions have been encouraged to continue, at every opportunity, reminding Malawians on working together in achieving the Malawi we want. They include: His Excellency the President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. Lazarus Chakwera; His Honour the Vice President, Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima; Her Excellency Dr. Joyce Banda; His Excellency Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika; His Excellency Dr. Bakili Muluzi; and His Excellency Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda (posthumously).



NPC Board Chairperson Prof. Richard Mkandawire (right) presents the champions certificate to His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera at Kamuzu Palace in Lilongwe



Mkandawire (right) presents a certificate to former president Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika at his residence in Mangochi



Mkandawire (right) presents a certificate to former president Dr. Joyce Banda (centre) in the presence of her husband Retired Chief Justice Richard Banda in Lilongwe



Mkandawire (right) presents a certificate to former President Dr. Bakili Muluzi at BCA Hills residence in Blantyre in the presence of lawyer Jai Banda

1.5 Orientation of NICE Trust District Civic Education Officers

The NPC hosted 35 National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Trust District Civic Education Officers to an orientation workshop on the MW2063 and the Mindset Change agenda in June 2022. NICE district officers have a critical role in raising awareness about the MW2063 in their work in the districts and through their subordinate 135 Area Civic Educators and over 10,000 volunteer Para-civic Educators located in every corner of the country. NICE Trust has made tremendous efforts in popularising the MW2063 among the masses, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, by incorporating MW2063 awareness and Mindset Change messages in all their engagement initiatives.



Guests and participants from NICE Trust pose for a group photo after the workshop

1.6 Youth Access to Finance Workshop

The NPC in partnership with the Malawi Agriculture and Industrial Investment Centre (MAIIC), Agriculture Commercialisation Project (AGCOM), National Bank of Malawi (NBM), United Nations Capital Development Fund

(UNCDF), Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC) and National Youth Council of Malawi (NYCOM) organised the Youth Access to Finance Workshop which took place in June 2022 in Lilongwe.



Participants during the Youth Access to Finance workshop

Through the workshop, various financial and entrepreneurship institutions presented funding opportunities that are available at their institutions to the youth and other existing and prospective small and medium scale entrepreneurs. The workshop was followed by a Fiscal Incentives Awareness Workshop organised jointly with the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. The outcome has been a significant increase in the applications and uptake of the financial resources available to the youth in the various targeted financial institutions.

1.7 National Development Conference (NDC)

The 2023 NDC held in February was the third in the series, but the first after the launch of the MIP-1. It, therefore, presented an opportunity for Malawians to reflect on the progress of the first phase of interventions operationalising



His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera (4th from right), the First Lady Madam Monica Chakwera (3rd from right) and Vice President Rt. Hon. Dr. Saulos Klous Chilima (5th from right) with other top officials during the National Development Conference

the MW2063 through the MIP-1. During the NDC, which was graced by top state and non-state actors led by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, leaders of Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups (PECGs) presented their respective priority interventions to the President and the nation for execution in the 2023/24 financial year.

1.8 Launch of the MIP-1 Monitoring Dashboard

During the reporting period, the NPC developed the MIP-1 Dashboard to provide timely tracking of progress in the execution of the MIP-1 so that remedial actions can be taken timeously. The Dashboard was showcased to the President and all participants at the 2022/23 NDC.



A presentation during one of the technical meetings on the MIP-1 Dashboard

2

PART TWO:

**SUMMARY ON STATUS OF
MIP-1 IMPLEMENTATION:
SETTING UP POLICIES FOR
BETTER IMPLEMENTATION**

In the first year of the MIP-1, Malawi has made strides in putting in place the requisite institutional and policy frameworks for the effective and efficient implementation of the development plan. Examples include the operationalisation of the PECCGs that bring together both state and non-state actors to jointly prioritise interventions and track their implementation; reviewing and developing new policies,

laws and strategies such as the land, seed and fertilizer policies and laws, including making contributions to the development of the draft Special Economic Zones Bill and Industrial Policy which are at advanced stages; and launching of the Tourism Master Plan and the Malawi Secondary Cities Plan (MSP).



One of the PECCS meetings in session

However, implementation has been slow in meeting the first-year targets in the execution of the MIP-1. While implementation of about 80% of the interventions that were to start between 2021 and 2022 commenced, 60% of them were either off-track or registering very slow progress in all the three MW2063 Pillars of: Agricultural Productivity and Commercialisation; Industrialisation; and Urbanisation, including the critical MW2063 Enabler of 'Private Sector Dynamism'. This has mainly been due to both exogenous shocks and, in general, the nation's low implementation capacities as well as lack of urgency in executing the MIP-1 in certain cases.



The Golomoti Solar Power Station in Dedza



Part of the Shire Valley Transformation Project under construction in Chikwawa.

Similarly, in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the country made significant strides within its limited fiscal space in meeting five of the SDGs, namely: Zero Hunger; Good Health and Well-being; Quality Education; Clean Water and Sanitation; and Life Below Water. As for the other SDGs, Malawi is making moderate or very slow progress on: Gender Equality; Affordable and Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; Climate Action; and Partnerships. What is worrisome though is that the SDGs that are making moderate or very slow progress are very critical to the realisation of the inclusive wealth creation agenda and the achievement of two of the most important SDGs, namely: No Poverty; and Reducing Inequality.

In 2022, the Malawi economy grew by 1.2%, a contraction from the 4.6 percent registered in 2021. The recession was on the backdrop of risks facing the economy such as climate-related shocks and macroeconomic instabilities. The conflict in Eastern Europe exacerbated the fragility of the economy which was yet to recover from the effects of Covid-19. The economic growth rate in 2022 was below the targeted average of 6% per annum required to achieve middle-income status by 2030. Nonetheless, the MIP-1 milestones remain attainable if supported by massive domestic and foreign direct investments into the economy.

In all the previous periods in which high growth was achieved, agriculture remained the main driver. This implies that diversified implementation of the catalytic interventions in the MIP-1 around mining, tourism, manufacturing and enhancing agricultural productivity and commercialisation through megafarms has a high likelihood of growth levels that can go beyond the projected average of 6% per annum.

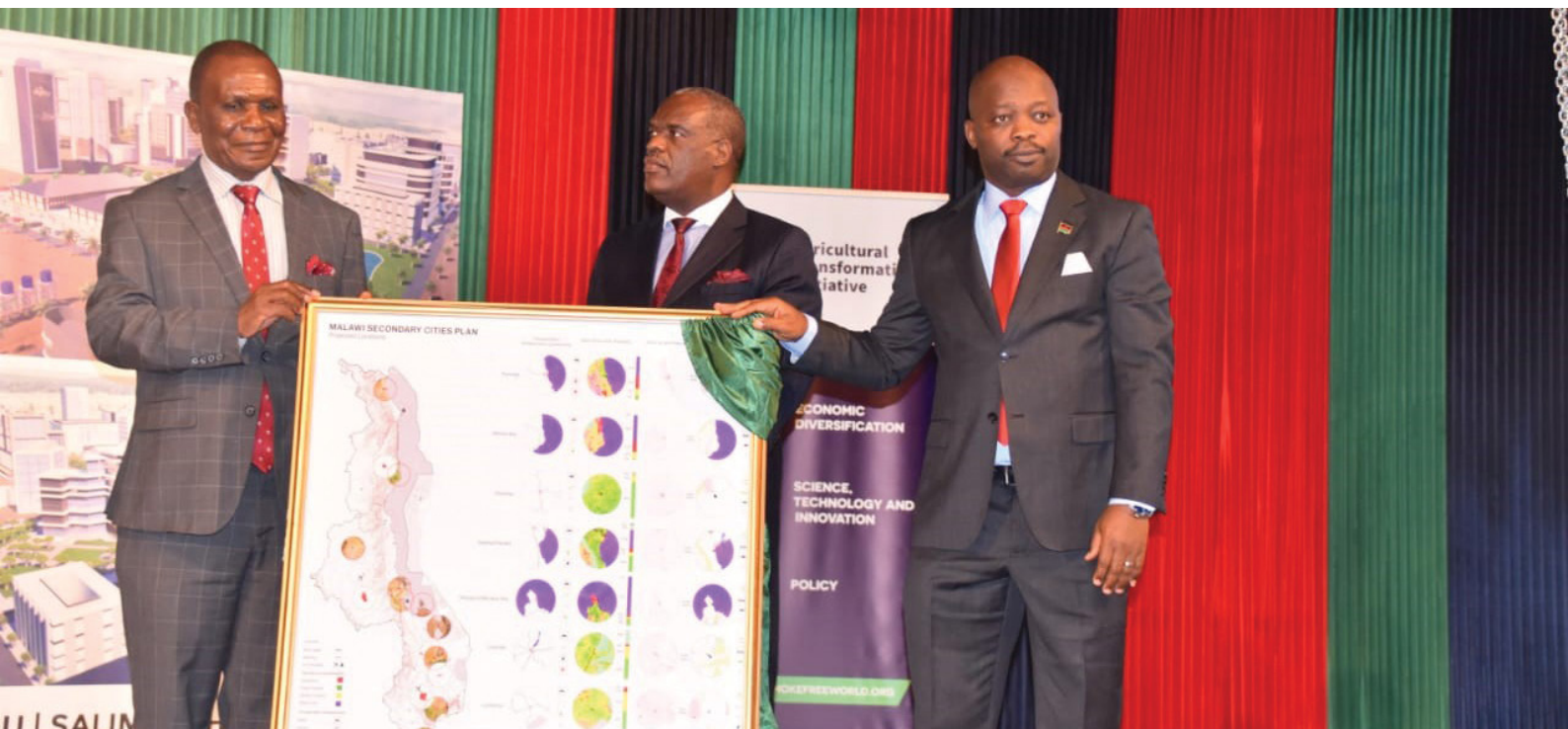
While implementation progress of the MIP-1 was generally slow across all the Pillars and Enablers, there were some positive achievements under the same; such as the first Pillar of Agriculture Productivity and Commercialisation where the fisheries and irrigation sub-sectors made good progress. In fisheries, new investments in aquaculture and local feed production have resulted into an increase in total fish production, both catch and aquaculture to 170,844 metric tons in 2022, representing a 10% increase and fully meeting the MIP-1 target for the year. In irrigation development, Malawi has in the period under review developed 1,306.5 hectares of land for irrigation, bringing a cumulative total land under irrigation to 146,966.42 hectares, which is slightly under the 2022 target of 149,646.20 hectares. However, only about 78.9% of the developed area was utilised due to floods which destroyed some irrigation infrastructure. In the Mindset change Enabler, there has been



Groundnut processing at Pyxus Agriculture Limited in Lilongwe

a massive sensitisation and awareness drive within the local communities with massive support from the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and

NICE who have provided wide coverage of MW2063 messaging throughout the year. In addition, senior traditional leaders across the country have been taken on-



Former Minister of Local Government Hon. Prof. Blessings Chinsinga (right) alongside former Secretary for Economic Planning and Development Dr. Winford Masanjala (centre) and NPC Chair Prof. Richard Mkandawire during the launch of the Malawi Secondary Cities Plan

board on orientation sessions as MW2063 Champions who are now expected to trickle down these messages to the local communities. Under the Environmental Sustainability Enabler, the launch of the Carbon Initiative has been launched as well and reforestation initiatives across the country resulted in forest cover increasing by 4% in 2022.

The Industrialisation Pillar had a mixed performance with a minimal change in the percentage contribution of extractive industries to GDP. However, there are positive prospects, especially with the work being done to operationalise large-scale mining.

Under the Urbanisation Pillar, progress has been made in the development and review of laws and policies for urban land use and urban development, including the development of the draft Special Economic Zones Bill which is at an advanced stage. Commendable progress has also been made in the development of secondary cities, as evidenced by the launch of the MSCP. Further, the Malawi Tourism Investment Master Plan was developed and launched to guide investments in the tourism sector.

Significant activities were successfully implemented under the Human Capital Development Enabler, including: the construction of stadia in Thyolo, Nsanje, Mzimba and Nkhotakota; the construction to near completion of the state of the art aquatic stadium at Kamuzu Institute of Sports, and the Griffin Saenda Indoor Sports Complex in Lilongwe; the commencement of the construction of the Mzuzu Youth Centre in Mzuzu City; and the development and rolling out of the Malawi Youth Games which are being used as a talent identification platform for various sporting codes. Further, the education sector witnessed notable investments in infrastructural development and human capacities. Three modern teachers training colleges were completed in Rumphi, Mchinji and Chikwawa and over 160 permanent classrooms were constructed by the Government across the country, creating additional space for over 51,000 pupils. The Government also recruited 3,500 auxiliary primary school teachers and over 2,272 secondary school teachers.

In energy generation under the Economic Infrastructure Enabler, the installed



The Griffin Saenda Indoor Sports Complex (left) and (right) a newly built classroom block in Salima

generative capacity increased from 373 megawatts to 590 megawatts as a result of investments in fossils and solar plants. However, the gains in energy were negated by the damage to infrastructure caused by cyclones experienced in 2022, resulting in prolonged national electricity blackouts; but authorities managed to bring the lost power back on the grid eventually.

In Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) development, Government commissioned the National Data Centre in Blantyre, while

in the transport sector, significant improvements were made, including: the commencement of the rehabilitation of the M1 road; upgrading of urban roads; increasing the lengths of paved roads by 66km, especially targeting rural roads; rehabilitation of the Marka-Bangula railway line; commencement of the construction of the six-lane road in Lilongwe, as well as dualization and bituminisation of a number of roads in Lilongwe, Blantyre, Zomba and Mzuzu cities.

More importantly, it is worth noting



Senior NPC and Government officials during one of the progress tracking exercises of the MIP-1 projects



The newly opened orthopedics and neurosurgery unit at the Kamuzu Central Hospital in Lilongwe

that this being the first full year of MIP-1 implementation, most prioritised interventions are yet to commence, let alone start, bearing fruits; and a number of the implementing agencies are still in the process of aligning their development strategies to the MIP-1.

It is encouraging, however, that the financing of the MIP-1 from the national budget is being prioritised among other

pressing priorities. The budget for the 2022/23 financial year was the first budget to operationalise the MIP-1 with alignment to the MIP-1 at the Pillar and Enabler level. More improvements are envisaged to align the upcoming national budget even more to the MIP-1 focus areas and catalytic interventions to ensure that the budget effectively operationalises the MIP-1.



PART THREE:

**PROGRESS ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE NPC'S MANDATE**

During the period of reporting, the NPC continued to execute its mandates with particular focus on the second mandate of overseeing the implementation of the MIP-1. In line with the strategic areas of focus, the following progress was achieved:

3.1 Long- and Medium-term Development Planning

To ensure long-term development planning and policy alignment, the NPC continued to provide technical support to Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the development of their sector policies and strategic plans, thus ensuring alignment with the MW2063 and MIP-1.

3.1.1 Supported development of sectoral policies:

The NPC supported various state and non-state actors in ensuring that their policies, development plans and country strategies are aligned to the MW2063 and MIP-1, including the following:



A 3D impression of one of the planned towns under the Malawi Secondary Cities Plan

- Finalisation of the MSCP which was launched in May 2022. The NPC, in coordination with the Ministries of Local Government and Lands, is working with the concerned local councils to spearhead the implementation of the MSCP.
- Led the formulation of the Digital Economy Strategy (DES) jointly with the Ministry of Information and Digitalisation which was presented to Cabinet for approval and Cabinet provided comments for finalisation. The Ministry of Information and Digitisation, in collaboration with the NPC, has since incorporated the comments from Cabinet and the DES is to be re-considered by the relevant Cabinet Committee towards approval by Cabinet.

3.1.2 Supported development of district development plans:

The NPC partnered with the Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture to support the development of local development plans. The process started with the changing of the District Development Plan (DDP) framework to reflect the MW2063 Pillars and Enablers and the development tenets of inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance at the local level. District and city councils were oriented on the new DDP framework, to simplify the alignment to the MW2063 and MIP-1 into various programmes at the local and community level. The NPC provided technical support to several districts, including Salima, Nkhotakota, Chikwawa, Dowa and Kasungu to ensure that their development plans are talking inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance.

3.1.3 Operationalised the alignment of political manifestos to the MW2063:

The NPC supported the process of ensuring the alignment of political manifestos to the MW2063 and, by extension, the MIP-1. Parliament enacted an amendment to the Political Parties Act requiring political parties and individuals who are aspiring to contest for the presidency as independent candidates to align their manifestos to the national development agenda applicable at the time of registration or nomination. As part of the execution of its obligations under section 12A (10) of the Political Parties Act, the NPC developed administrative Guidelines to aid and support political parties and individuals seeking to contest in presidential elections as independent candidates in the alignment of their manifestos to the MW2063 as the current applicable national development agenda.



Representatives of various political parties during one of the consultation meetings on political manifestos alignment to the MW2063

3.2 Development Plans Implementation Oversight

The NPC scaled up its oversight role to ensure Malawi stays on course to achieve the MIP-1 two milestones of graduating the country into middle income economy and meeting most of the SDGs by 2030. Some of the key undertakings include:

3.2.1 Operationalised Pillar and Enabler Coordination Groups:

In 2022, the NPC facilitated PECGs meetings which discussed the

implementation progress of the MIP-1 and set and agreed on the priorities for the 2023/24 implementation period. In supporting these meetings, the NPC engaged all MDAs and non-state stakeholders to discuss MIP-1 implementation and reporting mechanisms. The meetings included orientations on planning and reporting templates, progress reporting sessions and development of the TORs for the PECGs, which included a coordination structure for each Pillar and Enabler.



Students from Lilongwe Girls Secondary School, who displayed one of the most fascinating innovations at the 2023 National Development Conference, alongside their teachers pose for a photo with NPC Commissioner Mrs. Natasha Nsamala (3rd from right).

3.2.2 Held the third National Development Conference:

In February 2023, the NPC facilitated the convening of the third NDC which was the first after the launch of the MIP-1, held under the theme “Malawi 2063 One Year on: Forging Concerted Efforts on the Journey to Wealth Creation and Self-reliance.” The NDC provided an opportune platform for Malawians to reflect on the

progress of the first phase interventions operationalising the MW2063 through the MIP-1. During the NDC, leaders of PECGs presented their respective priority interventions to the President and the nation, for execution in the 2023/24 financial year.

Further, the NPC facilitated the implementation of the recommendations from the NDC through bilateral stakeholder engagement, while

emphasising the participation of non-state development players. Support was also provided towards the convening of some sector working groups in coordination groups such as Agriculture Productivity and Commercialisation, and Human Capital Development.



Secretary to the President and Cabinet Ms. Colleen Zamba (left) and Malawi University of Science and Technology Vice Chancellor and MW2063 Human Capital Development Champion Prof. Address Malata during one of the panel discussions at the 2023 National Development Conference

3.2.3 Tracking of Impactful Interventions:

The NPC supported the operationalisation of various game changer interventions. Specific MIP-1 catalytic interventions that were followed up and supported include:

- Initiation of the establishment of four secondary cities, with Chipoka in Salima having made commendable progress. The communities at the site have been consulted and the perimeter survey has been done by the Ministry of Lands; while Bangula in Chikwawa will have the perimeter survey soon as it is benefiting from the World Bank support under the Shire Valley Transformation Programme. The other two include Karonga and Mangochi.

- Development of the draft Special Economic Zones Bill which is almost complete.
- Establishment of the mega-farms.
- Establishment of the National Mining Company and National Mining Authority.
- Fast-tracking of the Mpatamanga and Kammwamba energy projects.
- Establishment of the Malawi Development Corporation.
- Strengthening of the performance contracts with MDAs.
- Development of the Integrated Mindset Change Programme.

Further, the NPC supported the development of the Integrated National Financing Framework in collaboration with Treasury. The Framework seeks to identify sustainable sources of financing towards national development programmes. The Framework has the capability to initiate resourcing of development projects from both public coffers and local and international private investment.

3.2.5 Facilitated Identification/Linkage of Financial Sources:

The NPC supported MDAs in identifying financial sources for the flagship projects with potential international investors through the SDGs Investment Fair and the Private Sector Engagement at the Least Developed Countries Conference in Doha. The specific projects presented were macadamia farming by Press Agriculture, Salima Integrated Tourism Resorts by Ministry of Tourism, and the Malawi Housing Corporation (MHC) 250 housing project.



Minister of Health Hon. Khumbize Kandodo-Chiponda (right) alongside Malawi's Permanent Representative to the UN Dr. Agnes Chimbili-Molande (2nd right) and NPC Director General Dr. Thomas Munthali (3rd right) during the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on the SDGs in New York, United States of America

3.2.6 Conducted Reviews of Assess Progress of MIP-1 and International Development Plans:

The NPC, in collaboration with the Department of Economic Planning and Development, undertook three reviews to assess the progress of the MIP-1, AU Agenda 2063, and SDGs. The reviews documented the progress the country is making towards these development plans and outlined the key bottlenecks which the country must address to move forward. The NPC continues to facilitate bilateral engagements with relevant MDAs and non-state actors in the implementation of the review recommendations. Specifically, the following reviews were done:

- Conducted the Voluntary National Review (VNR) which consolidated and documented Malawi's progress towards achieving the SDGs by 2030; and catalogued the critical interventions that Malawi must undertake to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. The results of this exercise were presented at the United Nation's High-Level Political Forum in July 2022. In addition, the VNR Report was disseminated to all 35 districts, municipal and city councils, MDAs, and the general public for implementation of its recommendations;



NPC Board Chair Prof. Richard Mkandawire (right) presents the first MIP-1 Annual Progress Report to His Excellency Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, during the 2023 National Development conference.

- Undertook a country assessment of the first ten-year implementation of the Agenda 2063. Apart from assessing Malawi's level of implementation of the Agenda 2063, the assessment also identifies key areas to be prioritised in the next 10 years of implementing Agenda 2063.
- Conducted the annual review of the MIP-1, culminating into the publication of the first MIP-1 Annual Progress Report. The Report presented the achievements made in the first year of implementing the MIP-1 towards the realisation of its milestones, including the achievement of the SDGs.

3.2.7 Developed the MIP-1 Monitoring Dashboard:

With support from the UN, the NPC developed a monitoring dashboard to provide timely tracking of progress in the execution of the MIP-1 so that remedial actions can be taken timeously. The Dashboard was showcased to the President and all participants at the 2023 NDC.

3.3.5 Influenced Budget Alignment to the MIP-1:

The NPC worked closely with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs to align the National Budget to the MW2063 at the Pillar/Enabler level, as well as at the interventions level. Specifically, the NPC undertook the following initiatives:

- Supported Treasury in reconfiguring the budget framework to align with the MIP-1.
- Supported Treasury in national budget consultations.
- Produced a Budgetary Advisory Note to treasury outlining the key priorities to be considered in framing the 2023 national budget.

- Undertook a budget review to assess its alignment and adequacy in relation to the MW2063.

3.3 Research, Learning and Communication

To leverage research and learning, the NPC undertook the following salient interventions:

3.3.1 Launched the National Research Agenda (NRA):

The NRA was developed in collaboration with the NCST following a comprehensive consultative process with the academia, MDAs, think-tanks and the private sector, among others. Implementation of the NRA will help Malawi transform into a knowledge-based economy and provide information crucial for the operationalisation of the MIP-1. This NRA was developed with the financial support from the UNICEF.

The NPC engaged with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), think-tanks and research centres in the production and dissemination of various research information key to the design and operationalisation of various policies within the implementation of the MIP-1. In response to the turbulence experienced in Malawi's development space influenced by geo-spatial politics such as the conflict in Eastern Europe; natural disasters such as Cyclone Freddy; and pandemics such as Cholera which battered the country in the later part of the business year, the NPC engaged with MDAs to mainstream Foresight Analysis and Planning approaches. This is an innovative way of analysing trends, events and prospects of various interventions in Malawi's development space with the aim of responding with agility to unforeseeable events that derail progress towards set developmental milestones.



One of the Ndizotheka Eminent Speaker Series sessions held at Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources Bunda Campus

3.3.2 Organised Eminent Speaker Series:

The NPC, in partnership with MwAPATA Institute and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), held two Eminent Speaker Series on the themes: 'From Envisioning to Action: Practical Interventions Catalysing Agricultural Productivity for Transformation and Wealth Creation', and 'Operationalising the Cannabis Industry for Malawi's Economic Growth'. The series were aimed at understanding the bottlenecks that sit on the way of unlocking the full implementation potential in these sectors which are key to the inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance agenda.

3.3.3 Enhanced Foresight Initiatives:

In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, the NPC developed policy briefs on the Urbanisation, Industrialisation, and Agriculture Productivity and Commercialisation Pillars of the MW2063.

The policy briefs provided information on key challenges, and policy and programmatic issues to help with the attainment of the aspirations of the three Pillars as espoused in the MW2063 and MIP-1. The NPC also produced a report on Foresight Modelling, assessing Malawi's trajectory towards the MIP-1 milestones and MW2063 aspirations. The analysis provided modelled scenarios and prioritised set of interventions which planners and programmes implementers in the country's development space ought to consider as the nation progresses with the operationalisation of the MW2063.

3.3.4 Produced a Book on Malawi Priorities: A Benefit-Cost Analysis for Policy Prioritisation:

In collaboration with the CCC and AFIDEP under the Malawi Priorities Project, the NPC produced a Malawi priorities book. The book is a collection of findings of the Cost-Benefit Analyses which provide evidence for intervention prioritisation to shape policy direction by informing the interventions that offer the best value for



Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and NPC officials during one of the orientation meetings on the EU-funded NPC Action Project.

money, especially in this last decade of the Agenda 2030 implementation.

3.3.5 The MW2063 is youth-centric, thus largely targeting future generations; its principles, values, and aspirations must, therefore, be ingrained in children from very tender ages

Therefore, children in Malawi are being targeted in transforming their attitude, beliefs, and values towards national development. A Comic Book and Cartoon Video was hence developed to facilitate awareness creation in children on the key messages in the MW2063. The Comic Book was vetted by the Ministry of Education and Malawi Institute of Education and is ready for dissemination across the country.

3.4 Partnerships Development

The NPC is a strong believer of leveraging partnerships in its operations and ensuring that different comparative advantages of stakeholders and partners are applied to its necessary different operations, whether financial, technical or otherwise. The NPC continues to identify new partnerships while at the same time 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.



Former UNDP Malawi Resident Representative Mr. Shigeki Komatsubara speaking during the launch of the 2022 VNR consultation.

The following partnerships and collaborations were initiated by the NPC during the period of reporting, among others:

- Brokered a grant facility with the EU, largely to support the implementation coordination mandate of the NPC.
- Signed an MOU with USAID to provide technical and financial support in a co-creation arrangement for selected priority areas of operation of the NPC as part of realizing the MIP-1 milestones.
- Sustained and formalised funding arrangements with the UNDP, UNICEF and ATI through Michigan State University (MSU).
- Mobilised for NPC's flagship activities, including the NDC.
- Initiated the conclusion of a number of MOUs, including with Save the Children (Malawi), Farm Radio Trust (FRT), UNICAF, Malawi Communications and Regulatory Authority (MACRA), Malawi School of Government (MSG), Small



Former Minister of Industry and Trade Hon. Simplex Chithyola making official remarks during the NPC-UNICAF sponsored Public Lecture



Save the Children Fund of Malawi Country Director Mr. Ashebir Debebe (middle) and NPC Director General Dr. Thomas Munthali (right) sign the MoU with the assistance of NPC Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation Manager Ms. Jennifer Nkaonja-Mjuweni.

and Medium Enterprise Development Institute (SMEDI), Timveni Radio, and ActionAid.

- Partnered with the NCST for the development and launch of the NRA.
- Presented certificates of recognition to MW2063 Champions under the MW2063 Champions Identification Programme.
- Intensified mutually-beneficial collaborations with both state and nonstate actors such as Wealth Magazine, National Bank of Malawi, NBS Bank, Airtel Malawi, MITC, Plan International, EU, UNRCO and its family members, and the World Bank to enhance the delivery of the mandate of the NPC.
- Continued to work with private broadcasters and print media, including the MBC, Farm Radio Trust, Zodiak, Times, Nation Newspapers and the Daily Times who have provided unprecedented preferential service to the work of the NPC.
- Embarked on a twinning/mentorship effort with other organisations that have strong resource mobilisation units, including AFIDEP, WaterAid and individual independent experts.
- Remained a steadfast partner for a number of partners with whom the NPC has partnered technically as well as in resource mobilisation activities for their major conferences and activities.

Generally, therefore the NPC has enjoyed technical and financial support from various partners, both state and non-state, which has significantly helped in advancing the execution of its mandate during the period of reporting.

3.5 Institutional Capacity Building and Sustainability

The NPC has built on institutional development gains made in previous years in achieving technical, financial, and institutional sustainability. This strategic pillar has enabled the NPC to deliver on its mandate by putting up efficient and effective operational systems and procedures. The NPC, therefore, continued to place emphasis on strengthening its governance, technical, administrative, and financial management capabilities while promoting the value for money at all levels of the organisation.

Despite the tight fiscal space and slowness in accessing financial resources through the Treasury, the NPC registered significant progress in building systems,

structures and a private-sector culture that continues to support the efficient execution of its operations and business. The key achievements registered in the period include:

- Built capacities of staff and partners through training initiatives. For instance, the NPC organised a learning visit on Foresight Planning to South Africa that identified the best-fit practices for Malawi; institutionalised in-house knowledge sharing during Friday Seminars to share and discuss key policies, development priorities and other emerging issues; organised training in foresight modelling for the MW2063 and MIP-1, targeting planners and modellers from MDAs and the academia; facilitated the attendance of its officers to a training on Employment and SDG Impact Assessment in February 2023 organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in collaboration with Ministry of Labour; and equipped the staff of the NPC with knowledge and skills in using credible tools such as Social Accounting Matrix



Chairperson of the NPC Prof. Richard Mkandawire (centre) flanked by commissioners Phillip Madinga (right) and Mercy Masoo (left), at the end of one of the regular Board meetings

(SAM) to calculate decent jobs created by national infrastructural projects.

- Held regular quarterly meetings of the Board in compliance with good corporate governance and the NPC Act. During the meetings, policies on various issues were approved by the Board. The Board meetings also provided policy guidance on how to execute the NPC Strategic Plan in support of the catalytic interventions defined under the MW2063 and MIP-1, both at the national and decentralised level.
- Considering the centrality of the human resource in the delivery of its mandate, the NPC conducted people-focused initiatives. For instance, a team building experience was conducted where all staff attended with the aim of fostering team work, communication and coordination among staff. The NPC continues to hold monthly staff meetings which operate as a platform for the discussion of work-life balance and resolution of staff issues by Management. Further the NPC Workplace Wellness Policy was put in place to support the wellbeing of staff and enhance morale and productivity. Thus the NPC continues to maintain a good office environment with requisite tools, including access to ICT services and coordination of logistics.
- Promoted the prudent use of resources and upheld accountability practices; for instance, the NPC prepared the Financial Statements for the 2021-22 Financial Year and pro-actively liaised with the National Audit Office (NAO) to conduct an audit in compliance with the NPC Act and other public finance management laws, with a clean audit being the outcome. The NPC diligently practiced self-checks through internal audits on procurement, human resources and donor funds management processes; and promoted the value for money in the acquisition of goods and services, including the advancement of the SMEs through compliance with the SME Order in procurements.



NPC members of staff pose for a group photograph during a team-building retreat session



PART FOUR:

**CHALLENGES AND PLANS
MOVING FORWARD**

Challenges

The main challenges faced during the year of reporting include:

- Inadequate resources to fully support administrative obligations, hence limiting the scope and speed of the NPC's operations, especially in relation to such provisions as office equipment and vehicles which are critical for a conducive office operating environment.
- Slow functionality of the Integrated Finance Management Information System (IFMIS) continued to affect the timely flow of resources, thus affecting the execution of some of the planned interventions.
- With the emphasis on implementation oversight, there was increased demand for the presence and technical guidance of the NPC in all sectors of the development space, thus overstressing the NPC staff given its lean workforce.
- Lack of proper understanding of NPC's role and mandate by some stakeholders which slowed down the drive towards the achievement of the MIP-1 milestones.
- 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.
- Partnerships and collaborations are key to ensuring that the implementation of development plans is conducted in a coordinated manner that utilises resources most efficiently.
- 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 and children engagement and participation remains critical to the effective implementation of the MW2063 and national development plans generally.
- 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.

Lessons Learnt

Some of the key lessons during the period under reporting include the following:



Members of the NPC Youth Core Advisory Panel pose with some NPC staff members after one of their meetings

Moving Ahead

The NPC's main focus moving forward will be on scaling-up efforts around the implementation oversight role in order to accelerate the execution of the MIP-1. The main target will be to steer efforts of the state and non-state actors towards inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance by supporting a dynamic private sector environment and invoking the developmental state philosophy in strong alliance with the private sector where market failures exist so the country can deal with the three interlinked challenges of low fiscal space, low forex generation and unsustainable debt, at the shortest time possible.

The bigger picture remains the medium-term goals of attaining the MIP-1 milestones of graduating into a middle-income economy and meeting most of the SDGs by 2030. The NPC will, therefore, work closely with the leads of the PECGs, OPC, Presidential Delivery Unit, and

Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (particularly the Department of Economic Planning and Development) in having bilateral engagements around key catalytic interventions that are registering slow progress.

More importantly, the NPC will look towards a multi-stakeholder approach in ensuring coordination by both state and non-state actors in the implementation of development projects in a manner that will ensure that resources are not being spread thinly across less impactful interventions. The NPC's strive for excellence will continue to be demonstrated throughout its programmatic operations towards a knowledge-based economy that should overall steer the economy towards the achievement of inclusive wealth creation and self-reliance in line with the MW2063 aspirations and MIP-1 milestones, at the shortest time possible.



PART FIVE:

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of Commissioners

Prof. Richard Mkandawire-Chairperson

Secretary For Economic Planning and Development (Vice Chairperson)

Ms. Mercy Masoo

Mr. Phillip Madinga

Ms. Natasha Nsamala

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

Mr. Ahmed Sunka	Policy and Programmes Committee
Dr Betty Chinyamunyamu	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
DIRECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE		
1.	Thomas C. Munthall, PhD	Director General
2.	Jennifer Nkaonja Mjuweni	Partnerships & Resource Mobilisation Manager
3.	Mtamandeni Liabunya	Legal Counsel
4.	Thomson Khanje	Public Relations and Communications Manager
DIRECTORATE OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING		
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

NO. NAME**POST****DIRECTORATE OF KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING**

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

DIRECTORATE OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

1.	Chrighon Chimombo	Director of Finance and Administration
2.	Maphumuzana Jere	Senior ICT Officer
3.	Yuna Chikanda	Senior Administrative Officer
4.	Esther Kunje	Acting Senior HR Officer
5.	Henry Likuchuwile	Accountant
6.	Chikondi Saukira	Senior Executive Assistant
7.	Olive Khonje	Team Assistant

8.	Nancy Nyirongo	Team Assistant
9.	Memory Nowa	Team Assistant
10.	Sangalwishe Silumbu	Assistant Accountant
11.	Lightwell Mughogho	Driver
12.	Martin Ngwira	Driver
13.	Davie Simale	Driver
14.	Frank Jimu	Messenger



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