



FOCUS ON THE HOST NATION

REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

Official Name	Republic of Malawi
Size	118,484 square km
Independence	6 th July 1964
President	His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera
Vice President	Right Honourable Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima
System of Government	Multi-Party Democracy
Official Language	English
Other languages	Chichewa, Tumbuka, Yao, Ngonde, Tonga, Sena, Lomwe
Capital City	Lilongwe
Regions	North, Central and South
Population	19,129,749 (2020 projection)
Life Expectancy	64 years (2019 est.)
Climate	Sub-Tropical, relatively dry and strongly seasonal. Warm wet season (November – April), cool dry winter season (May – August), hot dry season (September – October)
Main Exports	Tobacco, Tea, Sugar, Groundnuts, Soya beans and soya bean extracts, Macadamia Nuts, Cotton, Coffee, Maize and Dried Legumes
Main Imports	Refined Petroleum, Packaged Medicaments, Chemical Fertilizers, Office Machine Parts
Potential Exports	Limestone, uranium, coal, bauxite, phosphates, graphite, granite, aquamarine, gold, tourmaline,

	rubies, sapphires, sugarcane, potatoes, cassava, sorghum, pulses, industrial hemp and cannabis.
Per Capita Income	US\$ 1,234 (PPP)
Currency	Malawi Kwacha (MWK)
Internet Domain (URL)	.mw
Telephone Code	+265
Time Zone	UTC+2(CAT)
National Public Holidays	1 st January (new year), 15 th January (Chilebwe Day), 3 rd March (Martyr's Day), 2 nd April (Good Friday), 5 th May (Easter Monday), 1 st May (Labour Day), 13 th May (Eid al-Fitr), 14 th May (Kamuzu Day), 6 th July (Independence Day), 15 th October (Mothers' Day) , 25 th December (Christmas Day), 26 th December (Boxing Day)
Website	https://www.malawi.gov.mw

PROFILE OF MALAWI

Introduction

Formerly called Nyasaland, Malawi is a land-linked situated in South Eastern Africa in the Great Rift Valley on the western shore of Lake Malawi, a fresh water body covering over a fifth of the country's area. Malawi shares international boundaries with Zambia to the west, Tanzania to the north and northeast, and Mozambique to the east, south and southwest.

The people of Malawi are of the Bantu origin comprising many different ethnic groups which include: Chewa, Nyanja, Yao, Tumbuka, Lomwe, Sena, Tonga, Ngoni and Ngonde. The Chewa and Ngoni people are largely found in the central region of Malawi. The Yao, Sena and Lomwe are found in the south, and the Tumbuka and Tonga are found mainly in the north of the country.

Malawi's economy is predominantly agricultural, accounting for approximately a quarter of the country's GDP. In 2021, the country projected an economic growth rate of 3.8 percent, down from 6.1 percent, on account of the resurgence and persistence of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

National Anthem

The National Anthem, composed by Mr. Michael Fredrick Paul Sauka, came into existence at Malawi's independence, marking the birth of a new nation and replacing "God Save the Queen", the Federal Anthem. The father and founder of Malawi, Late Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda, recommended it as meaningful and beautiful.

1. God bless our land of Malawi,
Keep it a land of peace.
Put down each and every enemy,
Hunger, disease, envy.
Join together all our hearts as one,
That we be free from fear.
Bless our leader, each and every one,
And Mother Malawi.

2. Our own Malawi, this land so fair,
Fertile and brave and free.
With its lakes, refreshing mountain air,
How greatly blest are we.
Hills and valleys, soil so rich and rare,
Give us a bounty free.
Wood and forest, plains so broad and fair,
All-beauteous Malawi.

3. Freedom ever, let us all unite
To build up Malawi.
With our love, our zeal and loyalty,
Bringing our best to her.
In time of war, or in time of peace,
One purpose and one goal.
Men and women serving selflessly
In building Malawi.

History of Malawi

Malawi was home to a small population of hunter-gatherer communities such as the Akafula, before the Bantu tribes emigrated from Central Africa around the 10th century. By 1500, these tribes established the Maravi Kingdom and began trading with Portuguese in ivory. The Kingdom was later broken up into individual tribes as native tribesmen began to pledge allegiance to Portuguese traders.

Dr. David Livingstone, a Scottish Medical missionary and explorer, reached Lake Malawi in 1859 and identified Shire Highlands as suitable for a European settlement. The settler communities later introduced tea and

tobacco farming. Several religious missions were established in the region and this led to total colonization of the land in 1889 when British Protectorate was proclaimed over the Shire Highlands, which was re-named Nyasaland in 1907. From the early days of colonialism, the local tribes resisted the colonial masters, which culminated into the Chilembwe uprising in 1915, which was harshly dealt with. However, resistance continued as educated locals formed the Nyasaland Native Association which was later transformed into a political movement called Nyasaland African Congress (NAC). When the British formed a Federation of Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the NAC led by Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda, fiercely resisted the proposal and this resulted into violence. The struggle finally earned independence for Nyasaland and Northern Rhodesia in 1964.

At independence, Nyasaland was renamed Malawi and the NAC was renamed Malawi Congress Party (MCP). Dr. Banda ruled Malawi for 31 years under a one party-system. In 1993, the country adopted a multiparty system of government and the United Democratic Front (UDF) won the first multiparty election in 1994 led by Dr. Bakili Elson Muluzi. Dr. Muluzi ruled for two consecutive five-year terms.

In 2004, Professor Bingu wa Mutharika succeeded President Muluzi through an election which was held May, 2004. President Mutharika died in office in April, 2012, during his second term and was succeeded by the then Vice-President, Dr. Joyce Banda following constitutional provisions.

In May 2014, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, brother to the late President Bingu wa Mutharika, won the presidential election. He ruled until June, 2020, when he lost to the current President Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera in a re-run after the Court nullified results of the 2019 presidential elections due to widespread irregularities.

Malawi's Vision Towards Middle-Income Status

Malawi aspires to be an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant industrialized upper-middle-income country by the year 2063 as articulated in the Malawi Vision 2063 (MW2063). The vision is anchored on three pillars namely: agriculture productivity and commercialization; industrialization (driven by manufacturing and mining beneficiation); and urbanization (driven by creation of modern secondary cities and world-class tourism hubs). These pillars are catalyzed by seven enablers namely: mindset change; effective governance system; public sector performance; private sector dynamism; human capital development; economic infrastructure; and environmental sustainability.

To attain this aspiration, the Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan, from 2021 to 2030, aims to meet two key milestones, namely: raising the

country's income status to lower-middle income level by 2030; and accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To accelerate this, the country has isolated quick wins along with game changers in order to achieve permanent food security; create jobs for Malawi's youth so that they are self-reliant, active and productive contributors to development; and create wealth for Malawians.

Malawi Investment Opportunities

Malawi is today's a preferred choice for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). The country enjoys access to sea ports of the region. As a preferred investment destination, Malawi boasts of skilled and productive workforce. In addition, the country has a long established free enterprise economy, political and economic stability, for being a safe and secure location for both business and family life.

The country offers several investment and partnership opportunities in many sectors including Agriculture and Agro-processing, Manufacturing, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Mining, Energy, Forestry and Tourism.

Agriculture and Agro-processing

Malawi's economy is agro-based with the agriculture sector contributing 23 percent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The sector is currently dominated by small scale producers with potential to improve productivity on the farms.

The Government is now committed to promote commercial agriculture based on competitiveness and value chain development through creation of conducive agricultural, investment and trade policies to provide security and direction in the sector. Agriculture-related investment opportunities obtain in: large-scale farming; agro-processing; agriculture financing-services; and agriculture infrastructural development, including irrigation and technology advancement. Specific investment opportunities include: cold room and relevant transportation infrastructure; processing factories for value addition to make puree, spices, pastes and juices; storage, cleaning and grading facilities; market development and contract farming. The Government has designated agriculture and agro-processing as a priority industry which enjoys zero rated corporate tax up to 10 years.

Manufacturing

Malawi has a developing manufacturing sector mainly in food and beverages and chemical industries, accounting for 12 percent of GDP. Government realizes that a growing and outward-oriented manufacturing sector can

significantly contribute to Malawi's job creation agenda and export diversification. In this regard, the Government introduced incentives for the sector, including loss carry-forward for six years, 100 percent capital allowance on new and unused plant and machinery and industrial building, and a 40 percent capital allowance on used plant and machinery and industrial building. Investment opportunities under manufacturing include: textiles and garments manufacturing; farm input chemical production; bicycle assembly; supply of building materials; household electrical fittings such as cables, plugs, switches; and engineering materials like steel-based products.

Aquaculture and Fisheries

The sector comprises fisheries, aquaculture and aquarium sub-sectors and it accounts for 1.2 percent of GDP. Lake Malawi is home to more species of fish than any other lake globally, including over 800 endemic fish species, which offers a variety of investment opportunities across the value chain. Malawi intends to accelerate commercialisation of both the fisheries and aquaculture sub-sector through construction of large aquariums, fish landing centres and value addition sites along Lake Malawi through Public Private Partnership (PPP) investments.

Mining

Mining has vast potential for the development of Malawi's economy through both local and international investments. Currently, the sector accounts for 1 percent of GDP. Malawi boasts of an abundance of rare earth minerals, including: bauxite; uranium; graphite; vermiculite; coal; gemstones; alluvial gold; monazite; limestone; phosphate; pyrite; glass sands; dimension stone; and titanium heavy bearing mineral sands. Gemstone exports are dominated by aquamarine, amethyst, red and rhodolite garnets, quartz, angering and feldspar.

Energy

Malawi is witnessing a growing demand for energy, following increased industrial activities and population growth. This will be sustained owing to expanding manufacturing, mining and agricultural activities in the medium to long term. According to the Power Demand Forecast of the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) of 2017, Malawi's demand will reach 2,500 megawatts by 2035. Huge private investment is, therefore, required to meet the increasing energy demand. Specific investment opportunities exist in: hydro power generation, distribution and transmission; solar energy; wind energy; fuel storage and oil pipeline facilities; and thermal power plants.

Forestry

Malawi is endowed with several magnificent forest reserves filled with woodlands and outstanding variety of plants and indigenous trees. These forests offer specific investment opportunities in value addition by processing timber and timber-based products such as blackboards, chip boards and plywood. There are also opportunities to develop new forests that may result in log and logging supply agreements for harvesting and cutting of existing timber.

Tourism

The Government offers attractive investment incentives in the tourism sector. Investors in this sector are eligible for exemption of various import duty and import excise duty on various goods at construction and operational stage. There are plenty of rewarding investment opportunities in the sector waiting to be explored in Malawi including ecotourism, construction of hotels, camps, lodges and cottage, conference facilities, water-based sports and facilities, wilderness safari, travel and tours, game and forest lodges, casinos and entertainment center.

Enabling Investment Environment

Malawi offers the following policy environment to sustain investments and partnerships:

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Malawi aspires to have a robust ICT infrastructure with cross-country coverage of reliable and affordable services fostering technological adoption and digital access. Specifically, the goal is to increase utilization of ICT, ensure universal access to ICT products and services to improve service delivery in public and private sectors. The country's agenda in developing the sector is espoused in the Malawi 2063. The focus is on increasing access to information and communication services, providing well-developed ICT broadband infrastructure services, increasing the number of ICT-skilled and industry-ready workforce in public and private sector institutions and improving efficiency in postal services.

Investments Zones

In order to stimulate rapid economic growth, particularly through industrialization, the Government is developing Special Economic Zones and Export Processing Zones to foster export-oriented production and attracting FDI. These initiatives will offer a combination of world-class infrastructure and expedited customs and administrative procedures that overcome barriers to investment in the wider economy. Firms in the processing zones will be offered favorable investment incentives in order to stimulate production of export commodities.

Transport Infrastructure

Transport infrastructure is one of the prerequisites for investment. It is a key component for creating an enabling environment for private sector driven growth and provision of timely and quality services. Government is committed to develop roads, railways, air and water transport infrastructure and connect them to regional transport corridors.

Tourism in Malawi

Malawi is the Warm Heart of Africa and genuinely friendly, safe and in many ways un-spoilt. Malawi's unique selling point is the sheer variety of things to see and do in comparatively shorter distances.

Malawi is endowed with natural and cultural tourism assets which form five key product lines namely: Lake Malawi; Wildlife; Nature/ Landscapes; Culture; and MICE (Meetings Incentives Conferences and Events)

Lake Malawi

Regarded as the Jewel in Malawi's tourism crown, Lake Malawi has cool clear blue waters paired with golden sands that make unforgettable sights for visitors. At an impressive 365 miles in length from north to south and 52 miles wide, this third largest lake in Africa, is nicknamed "**Calendar Lake**" and covers about 20% of the country.

The lake has its own national park covering 94sq km in a stunningly beautiful location at Cape Maclear. The park, which is a UNESCO world Heritage Site, was created to protect the lake's endemic fish species, Cichlids. It is the first established freshwater, underwater park and the diversity of the native fish species is unparalleled in the world.

The main attractions of Lake Malawi are its discreet island hideaway properties, its surprisingly smart lake side lodges and great opportunities to scuba dive, snorkel, kayak, sail and swim in the crystal clear waters.

Wildlife

Malawi has 12 protected areas comprising of five national parks, four wildlife reserves and 3 sanctuaries. The country has successfully positioned itself as '**Africa's newest big 5 destination**'. This means that travelers can view game in some of Africa's best managed and least crowded national parks and wildlife reserves.

Innovative ideas in relation to game management has transformed Malawi's wildlife and wilderness areas. Successful conservation initiatives have seen the re-introduction of iconic species such as the cheetah, lion and black rhino to Liwonde National park and Majete Wildlife Reserve. In 2016, Malawi

successfully undertook the historic movement of 500 elephants from Liwonde National and Majete Wildlife Reserve to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve, making it one of Africa's successful conservation destinations.

Malawi is also a birders paradise. The country is home to about 650 species with over ten percent not being seen in other parts of Southern Africa. Of greater interest to birders are the high-mountain plateaus of Nyika and Viphya, as well as the woodlands of Dzalanyama forest. Bird watching in Malawi is excellent throughout the year. However, the best time however is the Wet season, that is from November to April – this is when migratory birds are present.

Culture

Malawi has a rich cultural heritage. Much of its culture has deep tribal roots while some of its newer events and festivals are truly national in scope and importance. Lovers of Malawian arts and culture are spoilt for choice when it comes to events. Each of these is distinct from others with its own outstanding features. The world heritage sites such as Chongoni rock art site in Dedza which charts the history of early settlers are a site to behold.

Malawi is also a land of music and dance. One of Malawi best known dances is Vimbuza, popular among the Tumbuka, remains a key part of traditional rural healthcare.

The more mysterious is the Gule Wa Mkulu which is performed by the Chewa secret societies. These are masked men who dance at male initiation ceremonies, installation of chiefs, funerals and other celebrations. This dance is a link between the spiritual past and the present. These dancers at the behest of the chief, are responsible for driving away evil spirits. Gule Wa Mkulu was listed as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity by UNESCO.

Nature / Landscapes

Malawi has a massive diversity of beautiful landscapes. The highest peaks in Malawi touch 10,000 ft. (3,000 m) while the lowest point is barely above sea level. This range of altitudes in a small area help to make the landscape of Malawi one of the most varied in all Africa. It is generally a green, lush country, with plateaux, highlands, forests, mountains, plains, escarpments and dramatic river valleys. The variety of scenery is a major attraction to visitors and many of the highland areas and forest reserves have good accommodation options, and plenty of outdoor activities such as cycling and mountain biking, nature trails and trekking, birding, tea tasting, climbing and abseiling and extreme sporting events like Mount Mulanje Porter's Race.

MICE

Malawi offers a range of modern conferencing and events facilities in major cities and also along the shores of Lake Malawi. The country has become a popular and important destination for international conferences and events. On the business side, Malawi has a variety of venues that can offer everything from conferences and executive board meetings, tradeshows, conventions, workshops and business expositions among others. On the social side, the venues can host luncheons, destination weddings, cocktail receptions, golf tournaments among others.