



MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY

MANIFESTO

2019-2024

MOTTO

*Build a New Malawi
on the foundation of a Democratic
Developmental State powered by the
Chakwera Super Hi 5*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abbreviations and Acronyms	ii
Acknowledgement	lii
Vision, Mission and Chakwera SUPER Hi 5 Leadership Philosophy	01
Message from the President	04
MCP Key Promises and Commitments At a Glance	07
1. SETTING THE CONTEXT	10
2. GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	15
2.1 Public Sector Reforms	15
2.2 Decentralization and Governance	16
2.3 Corruption, Governance and Development	17
2.4 Human Rights, Democracy and Development	18
2.5 Law, Justice and Security	19
2.6 National Governance Architecture	20
3. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT	23
3.1 Economic Management and Development	23
3.2 Agriculture Transformation and Food Security	27
3.5 Trade, Commerce and Industrial Development	35
3.6 Mining and Resource Governance	37
3.7 Tourism	39
4. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	41
4.1 Education	41
4.2 Health	44
4.3 Water and Sanitation	45
4.4 Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	45
4.5 Social Protection	47
4.6 Youth Development	48
5. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT	50
5.1 Road Transport Network	50
5.2 Rail Network	51
5.3 Water Transport	52
5.4 Air Transport	53
5.5 Information Communication Technology	54
5.6 Urban Development and Planning	55
6. HOMELAND SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY	57
6.1 Dynamic Homeland Security	57
6.2 Foreign Policy and International Relations	60
7. OUR APPEAL AND PROMISE	63

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACB
ADMARC
AVM
CHAM
CMS
CMV
COMESA
CSOs
DPP
DRIMP
ECD
EEF
EU
FISP
FSPs
GDP
HIPC
HSAs
ICT
MBC
MCP
MPC
NPC
NYS
PAYE
RBM
SADC
SMEs
SNLCs
TAZARA
US
WDR

Anti-Corruption Bureau
Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
African Mining Vision
Christian Health Association of Malawi
Comprehensive Mining Strategy
Country Mining Vision
Common Market for Southern and Eastern Africa
Civil Society Organizations
Democratic Progressive Party
District Roads Improvement and Maintenance Programme
Early Childhood Development
Economic Empowerment Fund
European Union
Farm Input Subsidy Programme
Financial Service Providers
Gross National Product
Highly Indebted Poor Countries
Health Surveillance Assistants
Information and Communication Technology
Malawi Broadcasting Corporation
Malawi Congress Party
Malawi Pharmaceutical Company
National Planning Commission
National Youth Service
Pay as you Earn
Reserve Bank of Malawi
Southern Africa Development Community
Small and Medium Enterprises
Special Needs Learning Centres
Tanzania Zambia Railway
United States
World Development Report

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Malawi Congress Party National Executive Committee (NEC) wishes to acknowledge the support and cooperation it received from different stakeholders in the development of its Manifesto 2019-2024. MCP is grateful to all stakeholders, including MCP membership, the farmers, civil society organisations, business leaders, people with albinism, and development cooperating partners towards the development of this blue print.

The expert opinion of those consulted on specific

topical issues was pivotal in ensuring that the Manifesto is inclusive, comprehensive and technically sound. All parties consulted were quite generous with their time and provided useful insights that made the delivery of this document possible.

Finally, MCP acknowledges the clear leadership and guidance provided by its Directorate of Economic Affairs on the strategic direction to be undertaken by MCP in running the affairs of government as spelled out in this Manifesto.



OUR VISION

A new and progressive Malawi built on the foundation of a capable democratic developmental state for the benefit of all Malawians.

OUR MISSION

To be an agent of change and transformation that serves Malawians in all spheres of life to fully realize their God-given potential.

LEADERSHIP PHILOSOPHY

MCP leadership philosophy will be anchored by the Chakwera SUPER HI 5.

**PROSPERING
TOGETHER**

KUTUKUKA
PAMODZI

**UNITING
MALAWI**

KULIMBIKITSA
UMODZI

**ENDING
CORRUPTION**

KUTHETSA KATANGALE
NDI UMBAVA

**SERVANT
LEADERSHIP**

KUTUMIKIRA
PAUTSOG OLERI

**CHAKWERA
SUPER
HI 5**

**RULE OF
LAW**

KUGONJERA
LAMULO



LAZARUS CHAKWERA





LAZARUS CHAKWERA
PRESIDENT OF THE MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I feel very privileged to present the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) and myself to you Malawians with a sense of enthusiasm and expectation. This is a very important year for us as a nation because the General Elections of May 21, 2019 place us all in the valley of decision.

There is no doubt that despite our diversity, we are all united by the desire to make Malawi a better home for ourselves and generations to come. It is against this backdrop that I would like to assure you that the MCP, under my leadership, is painfully aware of the damage done to state institutions over the last two decades, effectively rendering them incapable of delivering the transformation you long for. It is in response to this crisis of governance and the suffering it perpetuates that I and the MCP now stand ready to deliver national transformation on the foundation of a capable democratic developmental state. Only by overhauling the prevailing and failing governance model with its inherent contradictions and vulnerabilities and replacing it with a capable democratic developmental state can the structural transformation and inclusive development you demand be delivered. Only on this strong institutional foundation can we radically reduce the incidence of poverty and inequality within the next five years and set our feet firmly on the path to eliminating it altogether.

The decision is on all of us. The message I have heard from Malawians of all walks of life over the past five years has been very clear: “The era of making false starts and false promises for progress and prosperity ends now.” Malawians are tired of it, because they can see that every sector is in a state of flux. The evidence of this is ubiquitous, whether it is the operational crises in the health sector; or the criminally low and declining standards in the education sector; or the agriculture sector’s incapacity to guarantee food security and sufficiency to feed ourselves; or the sub-standard infrastructure now masquerading as development; or the collapse of urban planning and land use management regimes; or the rampant levels of corruption, fraud and theft in the public sector; or the business environmental realities crippling the private sector’s capacity to end youth unemployment. It would be understandable if these open sores were created by war or natural disaster, but we must now accept not only that we have done this to ourselves by entrusting our government to leaders with neither vision nor commitment to service, but that we ourselves must now disabuse ourselves of this error by voting for true change.

I, therefore, appeal to you to vote for an MCP government. For nearly three decades, you have tried the rest, and their failure to govern has led us to this present crisis. To be sure, they have mastered the art of making beautiful promises which are, as a matter of practice, never fulfilled. As a case in point, the current Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) government has failed to fulfil the 76 promises it made in 2014. By contrast, MCP has a proven track record of running the affairs of state in a manner that benefits all Malawians. The progress and prosperity realized under the first MCP government continue to be of service to Malawians to this day, a lasting symbol of our reputation as a party that knows how to bring capable Malawians together to run a performing government. When this legacy of masterful management of state affairs is combined with the institutional and democratic reforms the party has enacted since the time I took the helm in 2013, as well as the CHAKWERA SUPER Hi5 Agenda that offers a leap forward for our country, there can be no doubt that ours is now the best platform for national transformation, a government that works for you regardless of your standing in society.

A vote for me as your next President means that MCP will hit the ground running and start delivering

results from day one. As you will note in this Manifesto, ours is a vision to BUILD A NEW MALAWI on the foundation of a capable democratic developmental state. Here we clearly outline what the nuts and bolts are of this capable democratic developmental state we propose to create in order to turn the country's development situation around in the shortest possible time. This Manifesto is a well-thought-out recipe that will take Malawi away from the precipice of economic collapse to the fertile soils of growth, progress and prosperity. We will transform Malawi, and this Manifesto is our blueprint, a product of a comprehensive and deeply reflective diagnosis of Malawi's development predicament.

To that end, this Manifesto distinguishes and elaborates five priority areas, which will be critical in spearheading Malawi's turnaround from the abyss of stagnation to growth, progress and prosperity. These areas include Public Administration and Governance; Economic Growth and Development; Social Development; Infrastructure Development; and Homeland Security and Foreign Policy. The MCP is ready. I am ready. You are ready. In fact, we have all now been ready for some time to usher in an MCP government that will serve you so that together we can write the next chapter of Malawi's development history, a chapter we will all be proud of as a nation.

These five priority areas have been identified in sync with Agenda 2030 at the global level and Agenda 2063 at the continental level, since these development frameworks have been instrumental in framing the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III, which is the country's medium-term development planning framework. These internationally and locally accepted yardsticks have meaningfully informed and inspired this Manifesto. This is because MCP believes that any development agenda that exists and operates in isolation from the developmental pursuits of continental and global partnerships runs the risk of ignoring the lessons of the past, disrupting the progress being made presently, and short-circuiting the strategic opportunities available in the immediate and eventual future. Our quest as Malawians for a nation characterized by good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, rule of law, and people-driven development is a quest we have for and share with all Africans, whether young or old, male or female, urban or rural. As such, this Manifesto springs from the conviction that while a new Malawi must be germinated and cultivated by Malawians, the shade and fruit thereof must be of such abundance as to nourish the hopes and aspirations of all Africans.

Naturally, you will have already noted that the five priority areas outlined herein correspond seamlessly with the values of the CHAKWERA SUPER Hi5 that I have been and will continue articulating in my engagements with Malawians. To demonstrate, you will notice that my advocacy of the Hi5 pillar of Servant Leadership stems from this Manifesto's prioritization of Public Administration; my commitment to the Hi5 pillar of Uniting Malawi stems from this Manifesto's prioritization of inclusive Social Development and shared Infrastructure Development; my Hi5 economic programs to ensure we are Prospering Together stem from this Manifesto's policies for Economic Growth and Development; my Hi5 declaration of war against theft and pilferage to move the goal of Ending Corruption beyond political rhetoric stems from this Manifesto's unapologetic commitment to Governance; and my Hi5 modelling of an uncompromising submission to the Rule of Law stems from this Manifesto's promise to handle both home and foreign affairs in a manner that safeguards our Homeland's Security and Sovereignty. Contrary to cursory analyses, The CHAKWERA SUPER Hi5 is not a haphazardly employed mnemonic, but the fuel for energizing and galvanizing all Malawians to join hands in implementing this Manifesto. In short, this is more than an invitation for you to vote in an MCP

government and for me as your next President, which I humbly ask you to, but is also a rallying call for all of us to work together in creating a capable democratic developmental state and using it to BUILD A NEW MALAWI.

God Bless the Malawi Nation!



LAZARUS CHAKWERA
PRESIDENT OF MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY
LILONGWE, MALAWI
9th March, 2019

MCP KEY PROMISES AND COMMITMENTS AT A GLANCE

GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

- Run a corruption free, efficient, effective and responsive government anchored in the culture of rule of law and constitutionalism.
- Establish special Anti-Corruption Courts to clear the backlog of outstanding corruption cases and expedite the conclusion of similar cases going forward.
- Bring dignity to the presidency through a culture of servant leadership that will make the presidency the primary driving force for service, change and transformation.
- Undertake a comprehensive audit to develop fit-for-purpose organizational structures that perform their functions effectively.
- Ensure that the President appears before Parliament to answer the people's questions relating to his office for the sake of transparency and accountability in government affairs.
- Make it a practice for the President to work from the Capital Hill office on a regular basis.
- Implement service level agreements for every government ministry and department as a basis for holding office bearers accountable to Malawians.

ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Raise the minimum wage from MK 25,000 to MK 50,000 and the zero-rated Pay as You Earn (PAYE) tax from K 35,000 to MK 100,000 to ensure working Malawians have a dignified living.
- Set up a bank to concentrate on giving credit to the youth and women to increase their access to and full participation in the country's mainstream economic processes.

- Introduce universal Farm Input Subsidy Program to spur agricultural productivity as a key contributing factor to a minimum annual economic growth rate of 6% for the next 10 years.
- Introduce the production, value addition and marketing of industrial and medicinal hemp in Malawi.
- Revitalize the operations of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC) through a comprehensive review of its mandate, governance, management, and recapitalization to re-establish its market network across the country.
- Change the fiscal year to run from 1st April to 31st March in order to align it with the country's agricultural season.
- Review all existing tax and interest rate policies and legislation to ensure the net effect of spurring productivity, investment, and job creation is prioritized and fast-tracked.
- Deal with electricity blackouts within the first year of taking government, targeting to generate at least 2000 megawatts of electricity within the next five years.
- Finalize the national climate change policy framework and implement priority actions that have been identified for increasing resilience to climate change.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- End the abduction and killing of people with albinism by treating these crimes as capital offences punishable by death without the option for clemency.
- Implement the National Action Plan for protecting persons with albinism and introduce social cash transfers for them to have a dignified way of life.

- Ensure that no Malawian dies in hospital due to negligence, or unhygienic practices, or lack and mismanagement of basic health care facilities.
- Abolish the discriminatory quota system of selecting students for tertiary education, improve terms of service for teachers, and computerize secondary and tertiary education.
- Reintroduce the Junior Certificate of Education as a strategy to monitor and improve students' academic progress and performance during their secondary school education.
- Introduce a National Youth Service (NYS) and Jobs4Youth Program that offers vocational skills training to all out-of-school youth.
- Construct a state-of-the-art national netball complex capable of hosting international competitions to fast track our 10-year goal to become the number one netballing country in the world.
- Enforce and promote the 2013 Gender Equality Act as the basis for redressing the

gender imbalance in the employment and appointment of women in decision-making positions.

- Establish a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission to facilitate a nationwide process of addressing prevailing historical wounds and charting a united way forward.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Practice transparency and accountability in the procurement and administration of contractors to ensure value for public money for all investments.
- Establish modern bus terminals in every district across the country and introduce city lines and the Futran System to address urban transportation problems.
- Protect Malawian ownership of land by ensuring that no foreigners own land in Malawi.
- Repossess and redistribute all land that has been fraudulently allocated or that remains idle and undeveloped beyond the specified development period.



- Ensure more coordinated planning and development of urban areas and enforce quality and zoning controls and standards for all developments in cities.
- Launch a bold infrastructure expansion project aimed at doubling the tarred road network, modernizing cities, and building new airports, houses, bridges, and schools.

HOMELAND SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY

- Take immediate executive measures to stop the killing and abduction of people with albinism and guarantee their security at personal, household, and community levels.
- Establish a new Police Academy as a strategy to increase the number of police personnel with advanced skills and techniques in crime detection, investigation, and prosecution.

- Improve the terms of service and policing standards for the Malawi Police Service and increase the presence of police officers in rural communities to enhance law and order.
- Strengthen border posts in all border areas to stamp out illegal immigration, illegal imports and exports, human trafficking, and drug trafficking and smuggling.
- Ensure equitable and meritorious distribution of appointments to diplomatic missions, including a gender balance, for the nation's interests.
 - Strengthen the capacity of our military to defend the country from any external aggression at all times, whether on land, or lake, or in the air, or cyberspace.
- Strengthen the capacity of our military to defend the country from any external aggression at all times, whether on land, or lake, or in the air, or cyberspace.

1.0 SETTING THE CONTEXT

We have patiently waited for the year 2019 and it is finally here. This is a very important year for all of us Malawians because we will make a choice between breaking with the past or continuing with a government that is divided and completely failing. Through the vision outlined in this Manifesto, the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) and its leadership, is ready to take the country out of the abyss of stagnation and propel into greater heights of progress and prosperity. We cannot afford to go on like this while countries around us continue to surge to higher levels of progress and prosperity.

This Manifesto is a well thought out recipe for dealing with the development malaise that the country has been experiencing under the leadership of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) government. Every other sector is in a state of flux. Severe food insecurity continues to be a yearly routine; the health sector is perpetually affected by shortages of essential equipment, drugs and qualified personnel; the quality of education continues to deteriorate, marked by shortage of qualified teachers, learning and teaching materials, and classroom space; the public sector is generally unable to deliver quality social services because of the failure to ensure that the public sector reforms are followed through to their logical conclusion; the quality of public infrastructure continues to be sub-standard; the agricultural sector remains undiversified and has degenerated into an arena for corruption and rent seeking activities; corruption, theft and fraud are rampant across the entire state machinery; access to decent housing is limited both in urban and rural areas; town planning and enforcement of building standards are essentially non-existent; land use planning and land management, especially in urban areas, has been lax; both blue and white collar crimes are rampant; youth unemployment has reached crisis levels; and standards of safety and security for citizens have deteriorated, especially for people with albinism.

In the past five years, the MCP has undertaken a systematic and deeply reflective diagnosis of the challenges that the country faces. The verdict of this diagnosis is that the country is teetering at the brink of collapse and nothing short of strategic and visionary leadership will rescue it. This kind of leadership can only be provided by the MCP led by Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, because we are an institution grounded in our central operative philosophy and overarching belief in the capable democratic developmental state. This state that the MCP envisions to run, powered by the Chakwera Super Hi5; namely, Servant Leadership, Uniting Malawians, Prospering Together, Ending Corruption, and Rule of Law, will ensure the achievement of the following outcomes:

- Inclusiveness that transcends the narrow divides of politics of identity based on regionalism and tribalism which distort allocation of national resources for development, representing a frontal assault on the virtues of equity and fairness, and militates against patriotism and national unity, encouraging a myopic view in development policy and implementation.
- An increasingly democratic, political and governance system that vests in the sovereignty of citizens rather than the intransigence of political leaders; in which political and bureaucratic leaders across the board subject themselves to deconcentration of power, high standards of integrity in which the power of the state is exercised to protect and secure the rights of all citizens and to mediate between the present and future interests of Malawians in an increasingly competitive world economy.
- Social and economic development outcomes across sectors based on consciously guided investment by the state, informed by medium term development plans secured through

synergistic, corruption free partnerships with genuine private sector actors, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and an active and critical citizenry.

Our target is to dramatically reduce the proportion of Malawians living below the poverty line and the magnitude of inequality within the next five years. The Chakwera super Hi5 should therefore be seen as the principal catalyst for transformation in the chosen areas, including those that will benefit from the spill over effects. The Chakwera Super Hi5 buttresses the fact that the MCP leadership is committed to servant leadership, which essentially entails putting the needs of people first and helping them to develop and prosper.

The leadership is further committed to shared prosperity, which is basically inclusive growth whereby the benefits of growth are shared by the majority of the people, resulting in poverty alleviation and reduction in income inequality. The MCP leadership is determined to stamp out corruption, which undermines development efforts by diverting resources away from the basic public services that are necessary for creating prerequisite conditions for shared prosperity. The MCP leadership realizes that it is impossible to attain shared prosperity if the culture of rule of law does not prevail in society. This is critical because it allows for the subordination of selfish individual interests to the greater common good. Additionally, a united society is a must for the MCP leadership to preside over the realization of the vision of fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. The belief of the MCP leadership is that as long as we do not have a shared notion of what is in the country's public interest we will not be able to move forward as a nation. National unity is the social glue that the MCP leadership will work hard to cultivate in order to realize the country's aspirations through the capable democratic developmental state.

Our conception of a capable democratic developmental state is a nation that has the capacity to deliver development that is broad-based, equitable and sustainable. This state is able to directly and actively influence the direction, pace and goals of development rather than leaving it to the uncoordinated market forces to allocate resources in the economy. The democratic developmental state is capable of governing the market in the interest of the broader common good. Our commitment to the capable democratic developmental state has been reinforced by the 2019 World Development Report (WDR). Focusing on the changing nature of work, the 2019 WDR demands more government efforts to build human capital, universal social protection and better taxation. It thus holds governments responsible for providing universal social protection, building human capital and generating sufficient revenues.

An MCP-led capable democratic development state will be anchored by the following seven strategic pillars:

- An activist public sector that ensures sustained economic growth and development through a clear set of policies and goals for the economy in terms of export promotion, investment in human capital and credit allocation through strategic state agencies. This activist public sector will be designed to get relationships between different institutions right and manage conflicts within and between them.
- Development vision crafted to inspire all of us to transform the country within the shortest time possible. This will be developed through a consensus building exercise about the country's development vision across all sections of society including the opposition, civil society, and organized business groups fully recognizing that this requires political will, long-term vision and determination on the part of the leadership.

- A meritocratic and efficient bureaucracy that has the administrative, technical and political capacity and competence to set national goals; make strategic use of the market; and implement policies. Our commitment is to ensure that the bureaucracy will be staffed by the nation's brightest and talented citizens appointed on the basis of merit rather than politics.
 - An efficient coordinating centre to manage development, for example, the National Planning Commission (NPC) whose main role will be to push the economy to reach sustainable high growth rates, work to eliminate the economy's vulnerabilities, and make it competitive by diversifying and identifying new niches. This centre will concretize the development vision, national goals and make use of the market and monitor the implementation of policies.
 - Getting the policy mix right as a strategy to get the country moving again in a positive direction. This essentially entails getting the right policies in place, getting the sequencing right, and the flexibility to change quickly when a strategy is not working. This will be achieved, inter alia, through pragmatic and effective implementation strategies and embedded culture of learning and innovation designed to maintain the development momentum at all times.
 - An integrated long-term development plan that will be designed to provide catalysts for fundamental structural transformation and inclusive development. We will thus develop an integrated plan that espouses short-term, medium-term and long-term interventions or actions. Our fundamental belief is that a long-term development plan is crucial for the identification of the core priorities of a nation, otherwise there is always a great risk of being disoriented or blinded with short-term issues.
 - Partnerships between government, business, labour and civil society, which are essential for purposes of lifting economic growth levels, creating jobs and reducing poverty, and making the country competitive in the shortest possible period of time. These partnerships are sustainable when the benefits of economic growth and development are equitably distributed across and throughout society.
- An MCP-led government will focus on five key thematic areas during its first-term of office, namely:
1. governance and public administration;
 2. economic growth and development;
 3. social development;
 4. infrastructure development; and
 5. homeland security and foreign policy.
- The choice of these areas was informed by the systematic and deeply reflective diagnosis that the MCP carried out over the past five years. While the MCP recognizes that almost every other aspect of the country's being is in a state of flux, the MCP sees the five areas outlined above as critical game changers within the framework of the capable democratic development state that would engineer the economy's recovery on a sustainable basis, within the shortest time possible. This will ensure broad based benefits to all Malawians without leaving anybody behind. The strategies and interventions envisaged under each of the selected areas are synergistic and mutually reinforcing with considerable multiplier effects to thrust the country onto the path of rapid sustainable recovery and fundamental structural transformation.
- These five priority areas have been identified in tune with Agenda 2030 at the global level and Agenda 2063 at the continental level. These development frameworks have been very instrumental in helping to frame the Malawi

Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III, which is the country's medium term development planning framework. Our inspiration from Agenda 2030, also referred to as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), is the underlying universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. We look at the SDGs as the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for everyone in Malawi. Indeed, with the SDGs' particular focus on poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice, the aspiration of the MCP government is to preside over development processes that are inclusive and leave nobody behind.

Agenda 2063 further reinforces our commitment to preside over a capable democratic developmental state that is inclusive. In fact, we see Agenda 2063 as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Agenda 2063 has inspired this Manifesto because it clearly outlines how the continent should effectively learn lessons of the past, build on the progress underway, and strategically exploit all possible opportunities available in the short, medium and long-term so as to ensure positive socio-economic transformation within the next fifty years. In particular, we are inspired by the shared hopes of the African people embodied in the Agenda 2063, namely: a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development; and an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law; and an Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by people, especially its women and youth and caring for children.

The MGDS III is broadly aligned to the ideals espoused in Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. While we will tweak the MGDS III for it to strongly speak to the five strategic pillars that we have

identified in this Manifesto the fundamental philosophy of the MGDS remains pertinent to the realization of a better and prosperous Malawi founded on a capable democratic developmental state led by the MCP. We subscribe to the view that the MGDS should focus on accelerated and sustainable growth while outlining steps to ensure social development, good governance and environmental sustainability. The MDGS should, indeed, turn Malawi into a competitive nation and develop resilience to shocks and hazards but this requires a disciplined, principled, competent and pragmatic government, which only the MCP and its leadership can ably provide.

We, however, realize that getting the changes that the MCP-led government is proposing will not be an easy task. It will require all of us to be dedicated and willing to make sacrifices at the individual, community and institutional level for the greater common good. There are so many forces that are vested in the status quo. They are benefiting from the status quo and they will do anything within their power to frustrate the realization of the changes and reforms that would ensure that we reach our full potential as a nation. An MCP government will stand firm and will work to move away from populist policies and concentrate on those that have tremendous potential to catalyze fundamental structural transformation and sustainable inclusive development. We will, however, ensure that there is an appropriate mix of policy instruments in order to achieve the positive changes that we are all looking for.

This Manifesto outlines our vision, framework or philosophy for solving Malawi's development jinx. The MCP realizes that the country is in a state of flux. While every area is important, we in the MCP have identified five key strategic areas that we believe are significant game changers with tremendous multiplier effects to turn the country's fortunes around in the shortest

time possible within the framework of a capable democratic developmental state. We realize that the challenges facing us as a country are quite daunting, but that does not mean they are insurmountable. Equipped with the nuts and bolts of a capable democratic developmental state, drawing from our extensive experience in

running a viable developmental state, coupled with a deeply reflective diagnosis of Malawi's development challenges, the MCP is more than ready to govern and start delivering results from day one. A vote for the MCP is a vote for hope, prosperity and sustainable development.

2.0 GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The MCP believes that a viable governance and public administration architecture lies at the heart of a capable democratic developmental state. A capable democratic developmental state cannot deliver if it is not served by a governance and public administration framework that is efficient, responsive, transparent and accountable and run by people who are selfless, objective, open and honest. These people should also demonstrate high levels of integrity and leadership. A governance and public administration architecture of this nature is key to the achievement of sustained economic growth, promotion of social development, facilitating infrastructure development and protecting the environment, promoting public-private partnerships, managing development programmes and maintaining a robust legal framework for development.

The governance and public administration architecture that the MCP will establish will be designed to ensure government effectiveness; high regulatory capacity; strict observance of the rule of law; and zero-tolerance of corruption. Government effectiveness entails the quality of public services, the quality of the civil service and the degree of its independence from political pressures, the quality of policy formulation and implementation, and the credibility of the government's commitment to such policies. High regulatory capacity refers to the ability of the government to formulate and implement sound policies and regulations, which, among other things, promote sustainable private sector development. Strict observance of rule of law implies the extent to which agents have confidence in and abide by the rules of society, and in particular the quality of contract enforcement, the police and the courts as well as the likelihood of crime and violence. Zero-tolerance of corruption implies stamping out the extent to which public power is exercised for private gain as well as the capture of the state by elites and private interests.

In developing the governance and public administration architecture fit for purpose for a capable democratic developmental state, the MCP government will prioritize the following areas: 1) public sector reforms; 2) decentralization and governance; 3) corruption and development; 4) human and civil rights; 5) law, justice and security; and 6) national governance architecture. The MCP believes that focusing on these areas would quickly create an environment that would lay solid foundations for the country's fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development.

2.1 PUBLIC SECTOR REFORMS

The MCP realizes that the nation has implemented several public sector reform efforts but our bureaucracy remains unfit to drive or, indeed, preside over fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. The MCP government will implement public sector reforms that will ensure that there is a public sector that has the administrative, technical and political capacity to set national goals; make use of the markets and implement policies. The MCP government will rebuild the public sector so that it becomes efficient, well-coordinated and staffed with skilled employees, the best and the brightest of the nation. To establish a public sector that is fit for purpose, the MCP government will do the following:

- Redesign the structure of the public service to align it with the country's development vision geared toward fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development.
- Reduce presidential powers in public appointments to ensure that the bureaucracy is served by the best and brightest minds.
- Make the Public Service Commission independent of political influence so as to entrench the culture of meritocracy in

recruitment to public service to restore sanity and professionalism in the civil service.

- Establish a formal graduate recruitment scheme for the public service and a parallel scheme for local government with the provision of mentoring, training and reflection to ensure that the public service is staffed by the country's best and brightest minds.
- Establish effective performance management system throughout the public service to ensure high quality and effective delivery of public services, serving as the basis for rewards, sanctions and promotion of career public sector employees.
- Develop a code of ethics and conduct for public service career officials whose violation will attract sanctions as the basis for promoting the values of selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, honesty, integrity and leadership.
- Raise the minimum wage from MK 25,000 to MK 50,000 to ensure that every worker is able to meet the minimum basic costs of living.
- Review and implement public service salaries against the cost of living to ensure that all public servant lives a meaningful and dignified.
- Institutionalize the culture of learning and innovation across the public services to allow for the emergence of a governance and public administration system that continuously change and develop more transparent, accountable, equitable, cost effective and responsive form of governance.
- Professionalize the management of parastatals by ensuring that their boards are run by men and women that are adequately qualified for their roles to ensure efficiency and effectiveness thereby making them contribute meaningfully to the cause of

national development.

- Completely automate government services within the first term of office as a way of controlling and stamping out corruption, especially in ministries, departments and agencies entrusted with the country's fiscus.
- Develop a comprehensive strategy detailing out the type and levels of human resource needed to implement the nation's strategic development agenda.

The ultimate goal of the MCP will be to establish a public sector that maximizes public value. This involves maximizing the outcomes; service delivery; and trust in public governance. An MCP government will bring to an end the current situation whereby a career of work for the state turns into the reserved privilege of the few while maladministration and ineffectiveness are encouraged.

2.2 DECENTRALIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

The MCP believes in decentralization of power, authority and resources to the lowest possible level of governance as the basis for rapid and sustainable development. Effective implementation of decentralization is very important because local government is the sphere of government that is closest to the people. The MCP is hugely concerned with how decentralization policy reforms and the management of rural development have been carried out so far. They have not been done in a way that would facilitate fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. Under the auspices of capable democratic developmental state, the MCP is committed to facilitate the entrenchment of a developmental local government system. This is a local government that is committed to work with citizens and groups within the community to find sustainable ways to meet their social, economic

and material needs and improve the quality of their lives. To establish developmental local governments, the MCP government undertakes to do the following:

- Review the policy, institutional and legislative basis for local government in order to restore it to its original form within the first term of being in office.
- Identify and amend all outstanding laws that are contradictory to the spirit of the decentralization policy reforms in order to create an enabling environment within the first term of being in office.
- Undertake comprehensive audit of the capacity of local governments in order to develop fit for purpose organizational structures to enable them perform their functions efficiently and effectively.
- Develop a comprehensive capacity building programme for local governments designed on the basis of the outcomes of the capacity audit of local governments and their structures.
- Devolve up to 20% of the national budget to local councils by first term of being in office as commitment to transforming local governments into centres and agents of local development.
- Review and formalize in law the institutional framework for decentralization beyond the district level to curb the apparent lack of unity of direction and purpose underlined by the multiplicity of institutions, which is creating chaos thereby undermining implementation of decentralization initiatives.
- Depoliticize the role of chiefs allowing them to concentrate on facilitating and implementing development activities in their respective areas and restore their dignity by elevating their roles and positions above petty partisan

politics.

The ambition of the MCP is to propagate a local government system with a very well defined institutional and organizational structure to facilitate fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. Such an institutional and organizational structure could guarantee unambiguous responsibility and role assignment within the framework of a clear system of procedures, regulations and coordination culminating in transformative local level development. The overall aim of the MCP government in strengthening local governments will be to satisfy social, economic and political needs of Malawians by guaranteeing the responsiveness of governance units throughout the hierarchy.

2.3 CORRUPTION, GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

The MCP is committed to zero-tolerance of corruption and this will be implemented from the first day of getting into office. The MCP is concerned with how successive governments have handled the epidemic of corruption. The MCP will be very tough on corruption because it realizes that corruption is an epidemic that has the power to completely destroy a country's socio-economic, financial and human and political environment. Conservative estimates indicate that as a country, we lose about 30% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to corruption annually. This is a huge amount of resources that can make a difference in the lives of Malawians in the health, education and agricultural sectors if we had a government committed to zero-tolerance of corruption. The MCP government will implement a zero-tolerance policy to corruption because it realizes that corruption impacts the economy directly by reducing economic investments, hindering competition, distorting markets and increasing income inequalities. The MCP government undertakes to carry out the

following as an integral part of the zero-tolerance stance to corruption:

- Grant a 30 day amnesty to all those involved in corruption to voluntarily surrender their assets that were corruptly acquired beyond which they will be subjected to prosecution.
- Make special arrangements to ensure that all outstanding corruption cases are cleared within the first two years of the MCP government.
- Ensure that prosecution of corruption cases is impartial targeting all culprits regardless of their standing in society and political allegiance.
- All middle to senior level bureaucrats and Cabinet Ministers will be required to comply without fail the Asset Declaration Law. The MCP Government will ensure the law will be applied firmly and without discrimination.
- Review the Anti-corruption law in order to facilitate the distinction corruption and theft cases to allow for rapid litigation of these cases at all levels of the country's judicial system.
- Restructure the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) to provide for the following:
 1. Recruitment of the ACB Director will be made competitive through Parliament in order to recruit a highly competent and impartial Director on rolling three contracts to expedite the handling of outstanding corruption cases that have serious political connotations.
 2. Improve the capacity of the ACB in its various departments such as investigation, prosecution, civic education and outreach.
- Make it a practice for the ACB to report to the nation on progress of its work regularly through the relevant Committees of Parliament as a key strategy of rebuilding the public's trust and confidence in its operations.
- Ensure more independence and efficiency of institutions that promote efficient Public Finance Management such as the National Audit Services and Accountant General.

The MCP will not entertain corruption at all because corruption greatly undermines a country's capacity for sustainable development. Corruption erodes the institutional capacity of government to deliver quality public services and directs public investment away from major public needs. This, in turn, increases budgetary pressures on governments thereby hindering the provision of opportunities to people to realize their full potential. In fighting corruption, therefore, the MCP's capable democratic developmental state will not only take steps to increase incomes but also to improve the people's standard of living.

2.4 HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

The MCP recognizes that respect for human rights is a cornerstone for sustainable democracy and development. The commitment to human rights is key to the functioning of a capable democratic developmental state since long-term sustainable development is closely linked to sound democratic governance and the protection of human rights. This emphasizes the fact that democratic governance, human rights and sustainable development are intertwined. The MCP's commitment to human rights as an instrument of democratic governance and sustainable development is inspired by the Millennium Declaration; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and all UN instruments which collectively convey a vision of a better, fairer and more just world. The MCP therefore commits to establish an environment in which civil society, religious groups and free and ethical media can flourish, and where women, youth and minorities, and other often excluded groups can participate and be well represented. The ultimate vision of the MCP-led government is to establish a Malawi that supports the right to human dignity, the right to have a say in decisions affecting one's life, and principles of empowerment and equity. To ensure the realization of this particular dispensation, the MCP-led government will do the following:

- Ensure strict adherence to all international charters of human rights including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the African Charter on Human and People's Rights.
- Respect the provision of the Bill of Rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi without discrimination on any basis.
- Promote the development of social, political and economic infrastructure that is particularly conducive to the exercise and enjoyment of human rights.
- Support the operations of local and international human rights NGOs through a permissive and enabling policy, institutional and legislative framework.
- Facilitate the progressive development of civil society that is fully capable of holding government accountable and defending citizens' rights.
- Entrench the culture of reporting on the state of human rights in Malawi as required by all treaties that Malawi is party to.
- Institutionalize mechanisms of dialogue between government and civil society organizations to work towards establishing a governance environment that allows for inclusiveness thereby according citizens the opportunity for their voices to be heard.
- Operationalize the Access to Information Act to ensure that government is always transparent and accountable to its citizens.
- Turn the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and Television Malawi (TVM) into genuine public broadcasters to serve the country's national interest.

The MCP's strategies will thus help to build the country's capacity for more inclusive, responsive

and accountable governance. This, in turn, is key to promoting voice, rule of law, and accountability as well as the capacity to deliver basic services to all and empower people to claim their rights. An MCP government will therefore invest in promoting the government's capacity to respond to citizens' needs on the citizens' capacity to exercise fundamental rights and hold government accountable.

2.5 LAW, JUSTICE AND SECURITY

The MCP is committed to establishing a Malawi that is characterized by rule of law, justice and security of all its citizens. The MCP views law, justice and security as a critical feature of the capable democratic developmental state because any shortfalls in safety, security and justice contribute to both poverty and underdevelopment. The belief of the MCP is that security and justice institutions that are democratically controlled, alongside an independent judiciary that can check the power of the legislature and executive including security institutions, contributes to strengthening the rule of law. The rule of law fosters development through strengthening the voices of individuals and communities, by providing access to justice, ensuring due process and establishing remedies for the violation of rights. To promote law, justice and security as an essential foundation for human wellbeing, an MCP-led government will do the following:

- Strengthen all relevant institutions to provide security, safety and justice, which are very critical to the attainment of sustainable development, poverty reduction, citizen security and empowerment.
- Modernize the Judiciary by making its operations electronic as a strategy to speed up the dispensation of justice because justice delayed is as good as justice denied.
- Widen access to justice to all, especially the

disadvantaged sections of society, particularly women and children as the basis for curbing gender-based discrimination and exclusion.

- Guarantee adequate funding to all institutions mandated to provide security, ensure safety and dispense justice so that they are able to operate efficiently and effectively at all times.
- Mount a comprehensive training and capacity building programme for all relevant institutions to ensure that they are adequately staffed and are able to provide high quality services to all Malawians.
- Push for a comprehensive reform programme that would, among other things, support and strengthen Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms (ADR) to widen access to justice; separate the office of the Attorney General from the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to guarantee efficiency and effectiveness; and strengthening the Legal Aid Bureau to increase its accessibility to ordinary Malawians.
- Support and strengthen the intelligence agencies to provide services that are able to deal with contemporary threats of money laundering, cross border crime, human trafficking and environmental degradation.
- Ensure strict adherence to rule of law and end selective application of the law to restore faith in the country's critical national institutions.

The MCP realizes that equitable provision of safety, security and justice to all citizens is important for the legitimacy and effective functioning of a capable democratic developmental state. Lack of safety, security and justice impedes the provision of, or people's access to other services such as education, health, water, sanitation and electricity. The MCP's conviction is that narrow development efforts that exclude safety, security and justice fail to achieve sustainable human

development.

2.6 NATIONAL GOVERNANCE ARCHITECTURE

The MCP government will work to strengthen and preserve the integrity of the national governance architecture as provided for in the country's Constitution. The legislative branch of government is responsible for enacting laws and appropriating the money necessary to operate the government; the executive branch is responsible for implementing and administering the public policy enacted and funded by the legislature; and the judicial branch is responsible for interpreting the Constitution and laws applying their interpretations to controversies brought before it. The MCP believes that constructive relationships between these three arms of government are essential to the effective maintenance of the Constitution and the rule of law. The MCP government will therefore be committed to entrenching separation of powers and system of checks and balances between these three branches of government to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness. The MCP realizes that the three spheres of government are constituted as distinctive entities but they are also interdependent and interrelated. In addition to ensuring a healthy relationship between the three branches of government, the MCP government will solidify the national governance architecture by putting in place a progressive and transformative Cabinet that will preside over the realization of the country's development agenda. In each of these constituent areas of the national governance architecture, the MCP commits to undertake the following:

The Executive

- Ensure there is strict adherence to the constitutional provisions with the view to promoting and entrenching the culture of rule of law, which is key to fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development.
- Ensure that both the President and members

of Cabinet are duly accountable to the people of Malawi through the National Assembly as the hallmark of servant leadership.

- Propagate a culture of accountability, especially amongst Controlling Officers, who will be made to appear before the appropriate committees of Parliament as a matter of routine and sanctioning those who choose to abdicate this particular responsibility.
- Promote a culture of regular engagement between the President and the Leader of Opposition as a strategy for solidifying consensus behind the national development vision while ensuring a sense of unity of purpose and direction.
- Reduce the size of the presidential convoy to less than 10 vehicles but without compromising the security of the Head of State.
- Discontinue stopping traffic when the President is passing by so as to minimize public disturbances as much as possible.
- Make it a practice for the President to work from the Capital Hill office at least four days in a month.
- Appoint a Cabinet that is gender balanced and representative of the country's social diversity including the disadvantaged sections of the population.
- Ensure that all Cabinet Ministers are appointed on the basis of competence for the portfolios assigned to them to ensure that they meaningfully contribute to the country's overall national development agenda.
- Make it clear that the role of Ministers will be to provide strategic leadership to their respective ministries and not interfering in the day-to-day operations of their ministries.
- Subject all Cabinet Ministers to performance-based contracts, which will be reviewed

annually by the President to ensure that they are making tangible contributions to the national development agenda.

The MCP believes that all the three arms of government provide a public service and must therefore hold each other accountable. The vision of the MCP is that the branches of government should be engaged with each other in a manner which is open and respectful of the institutional strength and weaknesses of each other. A progressive and competent Cabinet will ensure the overall integrity of the national governance architecture which is the hub of governance and development.

The Judiciary

- Guarantee the independence of the Judiciary so that it is impartial and effective in the interpretation of laws and administration of justice.
- Respect court judgments and orders as a strategy for entrenching the culture of rule of law and enhancing the spirit of constitutionalism.
- Separate the offices of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice to enhance the impartiality and objectivity when it comes to legal issues to which the government is an interested party.
- Improve the laws to ensure that they always conform to the evolving multiparty political dispensation but within the framework of the Republican Constitution

The Legislature

- Support reform efforts to make Parliament legislatively, administratively and financially autonomous so that it can be able to play its rightful role as a bulwark of democratization.
- Ensure that Parliament tackles the legislative backlog that makes it difficult for the country to implement certain aspects of the democratic dispensation yet they are key to facilitating

fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development.

- Resolve once and for all challenges brought about the selfish amendments to Section 65 so that it is applied with ease and without creating unnecessary standoffs in Parliament's business.
- Make Parliament accountable to the people so that they should fully understand its roles thereby support its operations.
- Encourage Parliament to develop a strategic plan for its legislative agenda to ensure that it meaningfully contributes to the country's development agenda.



3. ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The MCP realizes that Malawi's economic growth patterns have quite erratic since the turn of the 1990s. The boom and burst economic growth patterns cannot meaningfully contribute to the efforts of engineering fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. The MCP believes that Malawi's fortunes can dramatically turnaround within the framework of the capable democratic developmental state. In line with the World Bank's diagnosis, Malawi requires growth levels not less than 6% per annum for at least over a decade to graduate from a low to middle income country. It is against this backdrop that the MCP believes that appropriately chosen and governed institutions can help the development of credible mechanisms capable of decreasing risks of opportunistic behavior of political and economic players. These institutions could, among other things, help channel capital into transformative investments, inducing entrepreneurship, and bolstering the competitiveness of domestic firms in global markets.

The belief of the MCP is that this kind of institutional framework cannot be achieved without a functioning, meritocratic and efficient bureaucracy with the capacity to create an environment in which Malawi can achieve rapid growth and development. With such a bureaucracy, Malawi will be able to promote industrialization and domestic investment; dynamic and pragmatic public-private partnerships; human capital development; prudent macro-fiscal management; redistributive social policies; and effective planning to coordinate or implement policies. In short, the MCP envisions a very activist and interventionist role for the government in driving growth and development.

The MCP government will prioritize five critical areas in the realm of economic growth and development. These are economic management and development; agriculture development

and food security; energy access and security; trade, commerce and industrial development; mining and resource governance; and tourism. The MCP's vision is that the synergies and multiplier effects arising out of these priority areas will culminate in high economic growth rates, structural change in production patterns and welfare policies that achieve social equity.

3.1 ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

The MCP believes that prudent economic management and development is very key to achieving macro-economic stability spearheaded by decisive government action. Prudent economic management and development gives rise to high levels of macro-economic stability, promote competitiveness and increased strategic outward orientation. The vision of the MCP is to create an economic management and development framework that will set the stage for the Malawi economy to resume its march forward. Meanwhile, the country's economy is stagnant, characterized by weak growth patterns and is very weak on job creation. There are four critical areas that the MCP government will focus on in reviving the country's economy. These are: macro-economic policy environment; public debt management; medium term economic policies; and economic structural reforms.

3.1.1 Macro-economic Policy Environment

The MCP's position is that Malawi cannot achieve fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development without a strategic long-term vision to guide the achievement and sustenance of a stable macro-economic policy environment. Building on the aspirations embodied in the Vision 2020 and translated into practice through the medium-term planning development frameworks such as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS),

the MCP government will develop a long-term development dubbed Vision 2050 that will distinguish five to six fundamental strategic pillars of national development that will catalyze Malawi's fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. More specifically, the MCP government will:

- Develop and facilitate the culture of policy continuity guided by the fundamental strategic pillars of national development to ensure irreversible momentum and progress on the country's development front regardless of change of government.
- Build on and reorient the MGDS III as an overarching medium-term national development strategy setting the stage for the identification and development of the five to six fundamental strategic pillars of national development in a consultative fashion.
- Develop innovative ways of mobilizing financial resources domestically such as pension and sovereign funds while at the same time ensuring that these financial resources are efficiently managed to benefit the national cause of development through a water tight zero-tolerance of corruption strategy.
- Create a favourable environment for the private sector to participate in the economy at least strategically to facilitate investment and growth patterns that would guarantee a robust economy with equitable benefits to all Malawians.
- Create a favourable environment for the participation in the economy of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) so that in addition to playing a watchdog role over government activities their activities should be properly aligned with national development priorities since they control a very large portfolio of resources.

- Ensure the alignment of local council priorities with the national level priorities by guaranteeing the participation of CSOs in the local level development structures, which would go a long way to eliminate duplication of efforts causing resource wastage.

The belief of the MCP, therefore, is that broad political and institutional stability, policy continuity and fiscal prudence greatly help to contain fiscal and external imbalances. Our overall goal will therefore be to prioritize capacity building targeting at developing administrative capacities to better plan and implement development programmes so as to ensure that economic management and development efforts must consolidate and accelerate the growth process while maintaining macroeconomic stability.

3.1.2 Public Debt and Aid Management

Sound debt and aid management is quite key to sustainable economic growth and development. The MCP fully realizes that prudent debt management can help economies reduce their borrowing cost, contain financial risk and develop their domestic debt markets. The main concern, however, for the MCP is that the country's debt levels are rapidly growing to unsustainable levels. The country's debt level is estimated to be equivalent to 54.7% of the country's GDP in 2016 yet it was slashed from 90% to 8% of GDP in 2006 under the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPIC) initiative. The MCP's diagnosis is that the worsening debt situation is as a result of weak capacity within government to coordinate and manage aid and the tendency for government to borrow largely for consumption rather than investment. The MCP commits itself to run country with sustainable debt levels as an instrument of facilitating sustainable economic growth. To achieve such a debt management regime, the MCP undertakes to do the following:

- Strengthen public debt management by establishing a high-level Debt Policy Committee that provides broad oversight of public debt management and steers debt policy and debt strategy formulation.
- Invest in a consistent and comprehensive capacity building for the skills-set that is required to understand public debt management and its advantages.
- Improve on public debt management and coordination procedures specifying the functions and linkages of all the institutions, including data and information flows, computer software applications and reporting requirements.
- Commit the national government to ensure that borrowings are only used to finance development expenditure while keeping an eye on the Current Account Deficit.
- Ensure that the support of the development partners is channeled to sectors that are a priority to the country, encouraging division of labour among development partners to concentrate on the country's priority areas where they have comparative advantage.
- Reduce the level of domestic and external debt from the current MK 3.5 Trillion to less than MK 1 Trillion within the next five years.

The MCP believes that a sustainable debt management regime can only be achieved in the context of a sound institutional structure and policies for reducing operational risk, including delegation of responsibilities and associated accountabilities among government agencies involved in debt management. Overall, the MCP government will facilitate the development of a framework to enable debt managers identify and manage the trade-off between expected cost and risk in the government debt portfolio. This will avoid risky debt management practices

that increase the vulnerability of the economy to economic and financial shocks.

3.1.3 Medium Term Economic Policies

The MCP sees these policies as being key to a stable macro-economic environment, which enhances prospects for growth and improved standard of living. The primary goal of the MCP-led government will be to implement these policies in a way that will reduce uncertainty and risk in economic decision making. Consequently, the MCP government will create an environment in which policy makers would better understand these policies so that they work to reduce the number of people living in poverty and to increase the number of people who share in benefits of rising income. The MCP will do the following in order to achieve these goals:

- Work out systematically policies that will help maintain low levels of inflation at single digit values in order to create a favourable environment for productivity, trade and investment.
- Review term structure of interest rates to promote financial inclusion by among other things enacting interest cap legislation which will limit the interest rates charged by commercial banks on loans at no more than 5% above the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) Base Lending Rates.
- Ensure that the rate of economic growth is higher than the population growth rate as a strategy to fast track sustainable economic growth rate targeting an annual growth rate of not less than 6% for the next 10 years.
- Accelerate the diversification of exports and implement structural reforms aimed at developing Malawi's capacity to export as a strategy to curb excessive fluctuations

in the exchange rate, which is essential to sustainable growth.

- Promote monetary policy designed to sustain low rates of inflation.
- Promote independence of the RBM to ensure that monetary policy is market driven and managed in the manner that takes into account the country's overall development agenda.
- Promote financial access and literacy in the country to enhance financial inclusion which is vital to sustainable economic growth and development.
- Encourage electronic payments by promoting digitization of payments by making it a policy for service providers to provide the infrastructure that supports interoperability such as auto-teller machines, point of sale devices, mobile payments and Internet-based related electronic payment channels.
- Emphasize on prudent fiscal policies that encourage spending on priority sectors of the economy and ensuring that all resources made available to the government are utilized to the benefit of Malawians.
- Restore public trust and win back donor confidence to attract budget support as well as protecting our friendships that have a long history and to safeguard our common interests.

The MCP believes that these strategies will help achieve the goal of economic growth, a higher GDP level and higher level of employment. These strategies are based on a rigorous analysis of the forces which determine economic growth of a country and explain how to reach the highest state of economic growth and sustain it. The implementation and the sequencing of these strategies will be based on the country's income level, endowment of human and physical capital

and the state's institutional capabilities, which is a primary commitment for the MCP under the aegis of the capable democratic developmental state.

3.1.4 Economic Structural Reforms

The MCP-led government will be committed to implementing a series of structural reforms in the country's economy. The MCP realizes that structural reforms are vital to changing the fabric of an economy, especially the institutional and regulatory framework in which business and people operate. These reforms are imperative to ensure that the economy is fit and better able to realize its growth potential in a balanced way. The MCP government proposes to undertake the following structural reforms to reinvigorate the country's stagnant economy:

- Change the fiscal year to run from 1st April to 31st March in order to align it to the country's agricultural season due to the fact that the agricultural sector is the backbone of the country's economy thereby allowing institutions such as ADMARC to roll out their activities on time and to the benefit of the farmers.
- Strengthen the Public Finance Management (PFM) systems by encouraging reforms that improve the use and management of public resources through setting up of financial management systems that promote transparency, accountability, fiscal discipline, efficiency and effectiveness in order to avoid the repeat of the Cash-gate.
- Ensure that the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) adheres to the priorities espoused in the MGDS III to ensure that government expenditure is in line with the approved budget and in accordance with locally generated resources.

- Revise the performance of parastatal organizations by limiting political interference and recruiting their Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) on a meritocratic basis, and holding them accountable for their decisions in the management of their respective enterprises.
- Undertake broad based tax reforms designed to expand the tax base; increase tax compliance; and lower the tax burden on individuals, businesses and all tax paying entities.
- Revise the zero rated Pay as you Earn (PAYE) tax from MK 35,000 to MK 100,000 to spur productivity and investment.
- • Develop a comprehensive tax policy to act as the basis for resource mobilization, use and management so as to facilitate the growth of a robust and sustainable economy.
- The MCP government will be committed to these reforms because it knows that such reforms offer governments a powerful tool to boost economic growth, create jobs and bring about a strong and balanced economic recovery. Moreover, economic structural reforms can also take some of the pressure off monetary and fiscal policies to buttress sustained economic recovery.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL TRANSFORMATION AND FOOD SECURITY

While agriculture's contribution to GDP has somewhat declined, it remains a key driver of the country's economy employing about 85% of the workforce and contributes over 80% to the total export earnings. The MCP's diagnosis is that Malawi's agriculture's potential is yet to be fully exploited for it to contribute to fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. While the agricultural sector employs about 85% of the total workforce, it only contributes about 30% to the country's GDP. Our

diagnosis further reveals that the development of the country's agricultural sector is hampered by farmers' challenges in accessing inputs and markets, land especially for women, new and appropriate technologies, extension services and poor agricultural infrastructure. It is against this backdrop that the MCP government will implement a comprehensive programme of agricultural transformation to set the stage for fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. Agricultural transformation is key to boosting labour productivity, increasing agricultural surplus to accumulate capital and increasing foreign exchange via exports. In fact, in order to end hunger and under-nutrition while accelerating economic growth, agricultural transformation must become a reality.

Through the agricultural transformation agenda, the vision of the MCP is to create an agricultural sector that emphasizes the importance of increased agricultural productivity and linkages to domestic markets, self-sufficiency in food production, tackling massive unemployment of youth and women, poverty reduction and strong private sector participation. The MCP understands agricultural transformation as involving restructuring the sector, a focus on activities and interventions that raise productivity, and the modernization of agriculture. The key preconditions for agricultural transformation include the stability of the political economy, the long-term consistency of policies and an acknowledgement of the importance of public investment. The ultimate goal of the MCP government will be to increase agriculture's contribution to economic growth by not only increasing production for food security, but also for agro-processing and manufacturing for both domestic and export markets. To achieve this agenda, the MCP will prioritize the following areas: land access and tenure; agri-business development with particular focus on youth and women; agricultural productivity and development; agriculture extension and appropriate technology; market access and

development, climate change and agricultural development; and management for agricultural transformation.

3.2.1 Land Access and Tenure

Access to land and tenure security remain key constraints to transforming the agricultural sector in the country despite the promulgation of the new land legislative framework in 2017. The MCP notes that there are great disparities between some formal prescriptions of the land legislative framework and what is actually obtaining on the ground. Women and youth are particularly disadvantaged yet they represent a powerful force that can play a key role in the agricultural transformation agenda. Realizing that land is the country's major productive asset the MCP commits to creating a favourable environment that will ensure land access and tenure security does not constrain the agricultural transformation agenda. More specifically the MCP will:

- Review the Customary Land Act, 2017 to address the concerns that various stakeholders such as traditional leaders and smallholder farmers have raised paying particular attention to cultural sensitivities wherever appropriate.
- Undertake a nationwide land consolidation programme with a view to creating a land management, access and use regime that promotes land use efficiency and maximize economies of scale.
- Promote access to, and ownership of land for agricultural production in many parts of the country especially among the youth and women to allow them to set up or expand agricultural enterprises through effective land registration systems, transaction systems and intergenerational land transfer.
- Improve the security of land tenure for greater and sustained agricultural investment so as to enable land to be used as a personal

asset for raising finance, which is a critical constraint to agricultural production.

- Promote intensive farming among smallholder farmers especially where land is in short supply through sustainable use of land, water and forest resources, which would also contribute to dealing with the adverse effects of climate change.
- Review the Land Act to ensure that access to land benefits Malawians and not foreigners who are acquiring massive tracts of land fraudulently.

The MCP believes that the resolution of the land question once and for all holds the key to the agricultural transformation agenda. This agenda has to be inclusive of both women and youth who have huge potential to transform the agricultural sector. The MCP government will therefore see to it that both women and youth are empowered through policies and programmes to register land and work towards more equal ownership of land, capital and resources, combined with specific measures to improve women's agricultural productivity.

3.2.2 Agri-business Development

Agriculture transformation cannot be achieved without paying adequate attention to agri-business development, which basically entails a shift to demand driven agricultural development, in which the entire value chain plays a critical role. The MCP believes that making agri-business front and centre of the agricultural transformation agenda would go a long way in rebranding the agriculture sector as an attractive occupation especially among the youth who generally consider farming as arduous and an occupation of old people. This is possible because agri-business involve value addition in the entire value chain system, from providing inputs to farmers to connecting with consumers through general handling, marketing and distribution of agricultural products. In promoting agri-business,

the MCP government will prioritize women and the youth by actually undertaking the following:

- Implement programmes to improve the youth's and women's access to land to allow them set up or expand agricultural businesses.
- Encourage value chain addition and agro-processing to improve the gross margins for farmers both in domestic and export markets for farmers to maximize returns on their investment.
- Improve the youth's access to financial services by developing suitable credit and finance facilities through the Young Agripreneurs Centre of the Agricultural Finance Bank.
- Incentivize Financial Service Providers (FSPs) to identify the needs and wants of young entrepreneurs and design specific products accordingly.
- Organize the youth into farmer cooperatives especially in rural areas to improve their image with FSPs as suitable partners.
- Improve private sector involvement in promoting youth employment against the backdrop of a comprehensive national youth programme with agri-preneurship and vocational training centres located in each of the 35 councils across the country.
- Improve the participation of the youth in the political and social dialogue particularly regarding their access to land and related services.
- Support women farmers' collectives and savings groups, which help women to collectively obtain better prices for their agricultural inputs and produce.
- Support legal and financial training and

increase awareness of new laws that improve land rights equality so that women know their improved rights.

- Increase women's access to farm labour, inputs and agricultural technology such as machinery to increase productivity.

MCP believes viable agri-business ventures would greatly change the unfavourable image of agriculture especially in the eyes of the youth. This is not an opportunity to be missed since the youth constitutes a disproportionate share of the country's population, and they therefore represent a potential resource that can effectively be harnessed for agricultural transformation and national development. Unequal access to quality land, capital and other resources has caused a gender gap in agricultural productivity. The existing statistics show that the average value of agricultural produce is up to 25% lower from land cultivated by women than men, when the same crops are grown. The MCP-led government will therefore ensure that a focus on youth and women is mainstreamed in all interventions and strategies for agri-business, which includes involving the youth in all stages of their design and implementation.

3.2.3 Agricultural Productivity and Development

Agriculture productivity in Malawi remains far behind the expected thresholds, which makes agriculture less profitable, and largely unable to meet household food security and nutritional needs. It is estimated that yields for maize hover around 1.5 to 2.5 tonnes against the yield potential of 5 to 8 tonnes per hectare. The performance of both the food and export sub-sectors has therefore not been satisfactory. The consequences of the failure to realize the productivity potential has been increasing volumes of food imports whose cost has not been compensated by increases in export earnings. The poor productivity track record is attributed to the use of inefficient

production techniques, inadequate access to affordable access to agricultural inputs, among many others. The overarching goal of the MCP government will therefore be to improve agricultural productivity so as to increase the variety of food available at household, community and national levels in order to increase people's incomes through domestic and export marketing of agricultural products, and to meet household and national food and nutritional security. More specifically, the MCP commits to do the following as strategies for improving productivity in the country's agricultural sector.

- Introduce universal fertilizer subsidy to ensure that fertilizer is accessible to all farmers at affordable prices.
- Ensure access to affordable agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, chemicals and pesticides, and machinery working closely with the private sector through a supportive business environment.
- Partner with the private sector to ease access to, and ensure availability of low-cost finance to farmers by providing an enabling environment for growth and proliferations of financial services providers.
- Establish agro-input manufacturing industries in partnership with the private sector to produce seed, fertilizer, implements such as ploughs and tractors, pesticides and hydroponics.
- Promote the establishment of permanent agro-dealer networks across the country to facilitate the distribution of agricultural inputs even in the hard to reach areas.
- Provide targeted farm input packages including livestock through pass-on programmes, fertilizer, seed and appropriate farming technologies to vulnerable groups of small-scale farmers as defined in the social protection policy.

- Enhance agricultural diversification away from tobacco and maize in order to mitigate natural shocks such as drought by growing drought resistant food crops but also widening the agricultural export base.
- Reassess the existing agro-ecological zones in order to determine the best locally suited crops and the livestock that will be promoted in these areas.
- Trigger agriculture revolution powered by the reassessment of ecological zones through rural diversification out of agriculture such as promotion of small and medium scale agro-based and non-agricultural industries; expanding smallholder cash production; and diversification away from maize towards other staple crops such as cassava and sweet potatoes.
- Raise the irrigable hectareage from 29% to over 50% within the next five years to ensure that Malawi is food secure at all times.

The MCP believes that without enhancing production to fully exploit the agricultural sector's potential, Malawi will always grapple with problems of endemic food insecurity, under-nutrition, malnutrition and severe poverty. More critically, addressing productivity constraints would go a long in dealing with the problem of scarcity of land as farmers would be able to maximize production from the existing units of land at their disposal.

3.2.4 Agricultural Extension and Appropriate Technology

The MCP recognizes the efforts that have been taken to improve the provision of extension services and access to appropriate technology but these efforts have not been very successful. While the demand-driven extension policy adopted in 2000 had the potential to transform the extension landscape, the practical realities

have resulted in the marginalization of the disadvantaged sections of farmers. This is the case because post MCP governments have not adequately resourced the provision of agricultural extension services and access to appropriate technology, which worsened following the introduction of the FISP in the 2005/06 growing season. The marginalization of extension services and access to appropriate technology has resulted in increased incidence of food insecurity at household and national levels.

The MCP will therefore be committed to institutional strengthening for provision of agricultural extension services and access to appropriate technology as an integral part of the efforts towards an agricultural revolution in Malawi. In particular, the MCP government will pursue an extension strategy with two national development goals: maintaining national food security; and improving rural livelihoods. The MCP's government strategies will include the following:

- Review and update the extension policy and strategy taking into account the different needs of different groups of farmers to ensure they are served in the best possible manner.
- Reintroduce training of extension personnel through the establishment of a modern Agricultural Extension Training College in Northern Malawi modeled on the former Natural Resources College (NRC).
- Revive and strengthen all farmer training and research institutes across the country to respond to farmers' needs and challenges in order to raise agricultural productivity.
- Increase funding for agricultural extension services including incentivizing extension personnel so that they can perform their role with dedication and commitment.

- Ensure the introduction and promotion of locally adaptable user-friendly, efficient, cost-effective and easy to maintain technology to spearhead an agricultural revolution.
- Improve access to quality locally adaptable high yielding seed varieties as well as locally adaptable livestock breeds through increased funding and investment research and veterinary services.
- Promote mechanization of agriculture with appropriate technology to promote growth and productivity while taking into account the specific challenges of each farming community or practice.
- Encourage local production of agriculture machinery in partnership with the private sector so as to ensure that the machinery is adaptable to local conditions and are easy to maintain.
- Pilot community owned commercial farming enterprises in each district to demonstrate farm mechanizations, use of improved technologies such as improved seed, artificial insemination, best farm management practices and agricultural marketing.

The MCP believes that agricultural transformation is greatly dependent on the existence of a viable national extension system. This system must make modern technologies available but the government must play a big role in investing in agricultural research and development in order to serve farmers with appropriate technologies that can jumpstart an agricultural revolution. The MCP government will therefore put in place a national agricultural research system with the capability to find new technologies suitable for local conditions and anchored by an extension system able to disseminate these technologies to all farmers. This extension system will have a skilled labour force to master new technology, handle logistics and boost each node of the

value chain.

3.2.5 Market Access and Development

The MCP realizes that agricultural development has been heavily constrained by limited access to lucrative domestic and foreign markets by the majority of farmers in the country. While the challenges relating to access to foreign markets may be beyond our control, smallholder farmers should have access to lucrative domestic markets on a predictable basis. The MCP's diagnosis is that farmers lack access to lucrative domestic markets largely due to poor infrastructure such as roads in rural areas, inadequate availability and supply of agricultural information, lack of competition in agricultural marketing, and inadequate access to financing. Yet as an efficient agricultural marketing system plays an important role not only in stimulating production and consumption but also in accelerating the pace of economic development. To facilitate market access and development, the MCP-led government will undertake the following:

- Promote farmer clubs and agricultural cooperatives to increase economies of scale and competitiveness since they have the potential to maximize profits for their members; harness various skill-sets existing among members; enhance advocacy and bargaining power; enhance financial accessibility; enhance access to other production resources such as land, machinery and other equipment; boost social capital; promote investment; provide educational opportunities; and improve market access and reduce poverty.
- Encourage value chain addition and agro-processing to improve the gross margins for farmers both in domestic and export markets for farmers to maximize returns on their investment.

- Aim to reduce post-harvest losses from 30% to less than 10% in order to maximize the benefits of agricultural production especially among smallholder farmers.
- Strengthen the agro-value chains since well-structured value chains for various agricultural products enable farmers to get access to finance for their production but also generate access to markets for their products.
- Facilitate the expansion of markets for the country's agricultural products by opening up more markets, enhance our position with current trade partners such as the EU, US and also explore the emerging markets in Africa, India and China.
- Revitalize the operations of the Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation through the review of its mandate, management, recapitalization and re-establishment of its market network across the country.
- Increase access to agricultural finance through the establishment of the Agricultural Finance Bank targeting only agriculturally related business and farming; agricultural schemes and cooperatives for various livestock, crops and other agricultural activities and development of a policy requiring banks to extend at least 30% of their loans to the agricultural sector.
- Turn maize into a cash crop by sorting out the structural bottlenecks that underpin maize marketing and ensure that all cash crops, especially by smallholder farmers, have ready and lucrative markets.

Efficient agricultural markets are key to sustained agricultural revolution. Such markets stimulate the growth of agro-based industries and the overall development process of the economy. They further contribute to increasing the demand

on a continuous basis, and thereby guarantee a higher income to the producer. The MCP will be committed to developing such a marketing system, which is essential for the success of the development programmes which are designed to uplift the population as a whole.

3.2.6 Climate Change and Agricultural Development

The MCP acknowledges that the changing climatic patterns are creating serious challenges not only for agriculture but also for other sectors. The impacts of climate change are manifested in various ways such as intense rainfall patterns, floods, droughts and prolonged dry spells. These climate change manifestations are undermining the livelihoods of Malawians especially the poor by inflicting heavy damages to their property and infrastructure, making them highly susceptible to new forms of disease, creating energy crisis, and causing dramatic decline in crop yields making them very prone to severe food insecurity. These effects are having serious cumulative negative impact on economic growth, long-term prosperity as well as the livelihoods of an already highly vulnerable population. For instance, the 2015 floods created damages estimated at over US\$494 million. Overall, climate change has led to drought and flooding, causing shorter growing seasons, poor crop yields, food shortages, hunger and the spread of disease in a country where about 25% of the population is ultra-poor.

The agricultural sector, which is the backbone of the country's economy, has been heavily adversely affected by climate change. This is a major cause of concern for the MCP because climate sensitive rain-fed agriculture is the major contributor to the GDP and foreign exchange earnings and supports the livelihoods of over 80% Malawians who are involved in primary and secondary agricultural activities. The vision of the MCP is to effectively contain the climate change induced challenges that increase the country's

vulnerability including population growth, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, high rates of malnutrition and HIV/AIDS and inadequate power supply. More specifically, the MCP-led government will undertake the following:

- Ensure that the national climate change policy framework is finalized and every effort taken to implement priority actions that have been identified for increasing resilience to climate change.
- Empower the specific institutions that have been established to coordinate and implement priority actions for dealing with the adverse effects of climate change to carry out their mandates without any undue hindrance.
- Invest in actions like river bank protection, afforestation, catchment area conservation and disaster management especially at the local levels.
- Help smallholder farmers build resilience to climate change by changing agricultural practices, diversifying livelihoods, promoting sustainable landscape management, advancing gender equality and improving access to climate information.
- Build the capacity of local governments to manage the impacts of climate change, strengthen disaster risk management systems, and improve capacity to generate and access climate information.
- Undertake more effort to enhance the ability of local governments, communities and local institutions to take on their respective responsibilities in fighting the adverse effects of climate change.

While the agricultural sector will be the primary focus of the MCP's fight against the adverse effects of climate change, efforts will be made to give as much attention as possible to meeting

adaptation needs in some sectors such as energy, health, and transport, recognized as being particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. A holistic approach to dealing with the adverse effects of climate change is imperative because climate change threatens our ability to feed ourselves, to remain healthy and safe from extreme weather and to manage natural resources that support the country's economy. The MCP government will ensure that there is sufficient attention to institutional capacities, adequate budgetary provisions and adequate attention to the country's policy framework designed to support climate change resilient development.

3.2.7 Management for Agricultural Transformation

The MCP realizes that the agricultural transformation agenda calls for high level management and leadership. It is an ambitious but achievable task that will, among other things, involve a relocation of resources to sectors that offer the most benefits, technological innovation, and accumulation of knowledge and capabilities. To achieve this agenda, the MCP government will commit itself to: increased and sustained investment in agriculture working with farmers, national, regional and international level development partners and the private sector allocating an equivalent of 20% of the annual budget to the agricultural sector; increase funding to existing and new agricultural research initiatives in order to provide appropriate solutions to Malawi's agriculture challenges working with agricultural institutions of higher learning, research institutes and private sector led research initiatives; and promotion of collaborative efforts among partners such as the African Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA); multilateral and bilateral donors; private sector including commercial banks, agro-industries

and manufacturers; institutions of higher learning; agricultural research institutes; farmer organizations; and NGOs.

3.3 Energy Access and Security

Adequate energy supply is critical to national economic growth and development. It is, in fact, argued that if access to energy is poor, it becomes very difficult to attract investment in any sector and without investment flows, growth prospects are limited. This is buttressed by the World Bank, which states that access to energy is absolutely fundamental in the struggle against poverty such that without energy there is no economic growth, there is no dynamism and there is no opportunity. The MCP realizes that Malawi is grappling with unprecedented energy crisis with only 11% of the total population having access to electricity. The lack of access to electricity is widespread in rural areas with only 2.5% of Malawians in rural areas having access. The estimated cost of power outages is equivalent to about 2% of GDP. The energy crisis is a result of lack of progressive investment in, and maintenance of the power sector since the initial investment that was made by the former MCP generating 351MW, which has dwindled to 250MW against the estimated demand of over 2000MW.

The low levels of energy generation have resulted in massive deindustrialization leading to economic decline, job losses, and poor services. The vision of the MCP is to leapfrog energy security for the country and ensure that the majority of the population, at least 50%, has access to electricity and use modern techniques within the next five years. The goal of the MCP-led government will be to promote access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all Malawians by 2030. The commitment of the MCP will be to put in place a strategic, durable and value for money energy generation and distribution infrastructure and network that supports the socio-economic

development agenda and transformation of the country within the next five years. The MCP-led government will therefore specifically undertake the following to improve access to energy and guarantee energy security for fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development:

- Construct a mega dam with the capacity to generate 2000 megawatts as the primary source of electricity to completely eliminate power blackouts within the next five years.
- Strengthen the electricity supply industry and make it more efficient and capable of providing adequate affordable electricity supply which will enable industrialization, rural transformation, sustainable economic development and wealth creation as well as regional electricity trading.
- Move access to electricity from 11% to 60% within the next five years with particular emphasis on rural areas.
- Assess the adequacy, quality and quantity of energy distribution facilities with the aim of improving them to meet the current and future demands.
- Ensure that the country has adequate production, supplies and stocks of petroleum fuels at all times, complimented with biofuels at affordable prices.
- Ensure availability of LPG, biogas and natural gas in sufficient quantities at affordable prices for industrial and domestic processes and enable household and institutions move away from biomass to LPG, biogas as fuel for cooking and other purposes.
- Ensure the establishment of a vibrant, reliable, incentivized and sustainable private sector driven renewable energy technology industry.

- Promote energy programming, budgeting and monitoring that routinely address all aspects of social, gender and economic development in energy programmes and services.
- Develop strategies that will ensure cost reflective pricing with internationally acceptable returns on investment, which will among other things, include automatic price adjustment mechanisms for all sources of energy.
- Expand electricity generation capacity to 2000 megawatts within the first three years and to 5000 megawatts within the next 5 to 10 years.
- Decentralize the Department of Energy to facilitate the expansion of coverage and progressive development of the energy sector in order to meet the stipulated targets.
- Promote social and gender inclusion in energy programmes in both the supply and demand dynamics of the energy sector with particular focus on the specific challenges in accessing energy sources.

The MCP will prioritize the energy sector because it is critical to fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. To take Malawi to the next level of development the energy sector will be at the heart of the MCP-led government's development strategy since evidence abound: energy shortages and infrastructure constraints have, and continue to impose a heavy cost on the economy, which invariably beset the economy with serious fiscal imbalances threatening its macro-economic stability.

3.4 TRADE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Malawi has experienced massive

deindustrialization over the past two decades coupled with huge trade deficits with its neighbours particularly South Africa. The incipient industrialization initiated by the former MCP government could not be sustained underlined by the apparent decline of the share of manufacturing in GDP from a peak of 20% in 1992 to only around 11% in 2011. This state of affairs has invariably reduced Malawi to a trading centre instead of developing into a production hub. Malawi is actually a net importer of even the most basic products such as second-hand clothing, electronic appliances, foodstuffs and even tooth picks. The massive deindustrialization and huge trade deficits are attributed to underdeveloped infrastructure such as roads and rails; extremely low and unreliable energy supply; unpredictable and cumbersome regulatory framework; investor unfriendly tax regime; high cost of capital with lending rates in excess of 35%; poor land tenure systems leading to difficulties in accessing land; lack of an elaborate empowerment policy; high levels of bureaucratic red-tape; high transaction costs; information asymmetry; and more importantly high levels of rent seeking behaviour especially among political leaders and bureaucrats.

The MCP realizes that there is need for significant industrial development, trade and commerce if we are to achieve high economic growth and poverty reduction on a meaningful scale. This is in tune with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) nine, which advocates for building resilient infrastructure, promoting sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation. The MCP will build on the existing National Industrial Policy and National Trade Policy to push the trade, commerce and industrial development agenda by making sure that the necessary institutional structures, processes and systems are put in place to facilitate their comprehensive implementation. The vision of the MCP is to preside over a trade, commerce and industrial development agenda that will raise per capita

income, create sufficient rural and urban jobs, widen tax base to finance welfare requirements and address unsustainable trade deficits. The MCP's goal is to create decent jobs in excess 500,000 every two years to dramatically contribute to the reduction of poverty levels and inequality in the country within the next five years. More specifically, the MCP-led government will undertake the following:

- Put in place policies and regulatory framework that will ensure consistency, predictability, fairness, security of property rights and prioritise improvement of doing business indicators to support the private sector and attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- Prioritise local participation in FDIs through joint venture arrangements, franchises, or business linkages that ensures there is transfer of knowledge and skills.
- Establish four fully serviced economic zones as havens for investment and industrialization development for each region to spur equitable development and employment opportunities.
- Enhance participation of indigenous Malawians in major government procurement and investment initiatives such as the Universal Subsidy Program, construction of school blocks, affordable housing and the general supply of goods and services.
- Establish an economic empowerment fund that will be administered at affordable interest rates and to be managed through a financial intermediary targeting the small and medium enterprises.
- Promote rural industrialization through cottage industries cognizance of commodity value chains and opportunities available at the grassroots level
- Introduce a differentiated tax incentive scheme to attract investments in specific

industries that have the potential to spur increased exports and to effect equitable geographic distribution of industries and economic activity throughout the country.

- Enhance integration of the Malawi economy into the global market through various global initiatives including multi-lateral, regional, bilateral agreements, commodity agreements, and the strategic use of Malawi missions abroad.
- Create designated spaces in metropolises as markets for Malawian merchandise only to entrench and promote the buy Malawian strategy.
- Establish village factories as an integral part of rural industrialization by exploiting the comparative advantages of different localities across the country.
- Undertake investment promotion which is key to enhancing industrialization and attracting foreign direct investment.
- Review and improve the national export strategy in order to expand the country's export base as a way of diversifying the country's national economy.
- Promote the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and Cooperatives, which play a crucial role in employment creation and poverty reduction as well as serve as a viable channel for advancing forward and backward linkages in the economy.
- Transform the informal business sector into a vehicle for job creation supported with an appropriate policy framework to serve the needs of youth and women who dominate this sector.
- Improve access to productive land for industrial development in a context of proper

town and city master plans so as to curb bureaucratic red-tape that characterize efforts of investors desiring to acquire land.

The MCP is committed to trade, commerce and industrial development because it realizes that progression from low income to middle and upper income country status rests heavily on successful regional and global markets. Moreover, competitiveness in international markets has a huge bearing on a country's overall macro-economic performance and development prospects. The MCP will thus endeavor to develop a trade, commerce and industrial development regime that will create spaces in which the private and public sector actors can come together to solve problems while sharing experiences.

3.5 MINING AND RESOURCE GOVERNANCE

Mining has great potential to contribute to the country's fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development. The ambition stated in various policy documents since the turn of the Century has been to raise the contribution of the mining sector to 20% of the country's GDP by 2020. Estimates indicate that currently mining and quarrying contribute between 0.9% and 2% to the country's GDP. This is attributed to the absence of a viable management regime to ensure that the country fully maximizes benefits from the mining sector. The MCP believes that the capacity of a country to meaningfully benefit from mining is directly linked to its governance architecture. A well-governed country is more likely to maximize the contribution of mining by negotiating good terms with mining companies; collectively managing and spending revenues wisely; and creating an enabling environment to enhance employment. There is currently limited transparency and accountability especially in the issuance of mining licenses and management of proceeds from mining. The MCP government will

create a viable and robust mining management regime with an optimal mix of legal, regulatory, fiscal, environmental and social development policy tools and approaches. The MCP is committed to doing the following in the mining and resource governance sector:

- Implement the new mining policy and its related laws and regulations to ensure that appropriate institutional and legal settings, safeguards and quality control are in place.
- Revise Malawi's Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act, 1983 so that our laws adhere to international standards and are also capable of addressing emerging sectoral issues such as technical, fiscal and environmental challenges.
- Develop the sector's local content policy to ensure that Malawians benefit directly from the investment activities.
- Promote the sector so that it emerges as an attractive destination for investment by both local and international companies through strict adherence to, and compliance with the laws.
- Promote transparency and accountability in the issuance of mining licenses and management of the proceeds for the sector to meaningfully contribute to cause of national development through the attainment of win-win situations between the country and the investors as enshrined in the African Mining Vision (AMV).
- Ensure consistent and factual updates to all stakeholders on progress made in both solid and petroleum sectors as provided in the laws of the country.
- Domesticate the AMV, Africa Resource Utilization Strategy, and Hope Strategy adopted by the African Heads of State in 2009 by coming up with a workable and investment

based Country Mining Vision (CMV).

- Develop and operationalize the sector's laboratory services ensure that testing of both mineral and petroleum samples is done locally.
- Implement the Artisanal and Small Scale Mining (ASM) policy which favours ASM sub-sector and among other things, promotes formalization of ASM illegal miners and the existence of small-scale miners through formation of cooperatives.
- Develop the ASM sector by championing the identification of potential mineral buyers and re-establishing the abandoned Gemstone Marketing Centres across the country.
- Finalize geo-mineral resource mapping across the country and develop a comprehensive exploitation plan in line with the country's strategic national development goals.
- Order immediate stop of all illegal mining activities across the country in order to ensure that the country's mineral deposits are exploited to the benefit of a nation.
- Develop a Comprehensive Mining Strategy (CMS) that provides for domestic and foreign investment in mining; joint venture mining operations involving state, communities and international investors; publication of monthly reports on mining operations and incomes generated; and provide guidelines for effective corporate social responsibility strategies.

The MCP realizes that mining presents opportunities, challenges and risks to sustainable development. Our motivation is to get the framework that governs mineral resources right as a critical first step to leveraging mining for broader national development. The ultimate goal of the MCP's government mining regime will be to

ensure that adequate institutional and technical capacity of different stakeholders is developed to effectively implement the policies, tools and approaches to manage mining more sustainably.

3.6 TOURISM

The MCP recognizes that tourism is one of the critical drivers of Malawi's economy. Existing statistics show that tourism is the third foreign exchange earner after tobacco and tea. This means that tourism significantly contributes both to the country's GDP and economic growth. Tourism is thriving in Malawi though not yet to its full potential due to the country's mixture of beautiful landscapes, fascinating wildlife and rich culture that combine to make Malawi such a wonderful place to visit. To move towards the full

realization of tourism's full potential, the MCP led government will:

- Promote a wide range of incentives over and above the existing tax incentives to promote tourism in the country.
- Improve the infrastructure network especially roads and hotels to ensure that tourists have access all year round and enjoy access to decent facilities commensurate to their status.
- Improve the quality and standards of the country's international airports since as a point of entry airports give the first overall impression of the country.
- Develop a tourism marketing plan to guide



the promotion of various tourist attractions in the country for use particularly in our foreign missions.

- Exploit social media as an instrument for promoting Malawi as an attractive tourist destination.
- Organize regular tourism promotion events targeting both local and international tourists.
- Establish new Lake Malawi tourist cities in Karonga, Salima and Mangochi as a strategy to boost the contribution of the tourism to the

country's GDP.

The MCP government will prioritize the development of tourism because it is a proven catalyst for economic and social development. This is attributed to tourism's tremendous trickle-down effects in terms of poverty alleviation, boosting employment creation and small business entrepreneurship. The MCP commits to massively invest in the progressive development of the tourism sector to a level that its potential is fully exploited in the interest of the country's overall national development agenda.



4. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Equitable redistributive social policies will be the hallmark of the capable democratic developmental state that the MCP will put place after the May 21, 2019 elections. The MCP believes that social policies are tools for sustainable socio-economic development. For example, cost effective public provision of health and education can bring about improvements in labour force quality that can, in turn, raise efficiency and accelerate productivity growth. The view of the MCP is that social development is about improving the wellbeing of every individual in society so that they can reach their full potential, which requires the removal of barriers so that all citizens can move toward their dreams with confidence and dignity. The vision of the MCP is to ensure that every Malawian has the opportunity to grow, develop their own skills and contribute to their families, communities and the nation in a meaningful way. If they are healthy, well-educated to enter the workforce and able to make a decent wage they are better equipped to meet their basic needs and be successful. The success of any society is linked to the wellbeing of each and every citizen. The primary focus of an MCP-led government in social development will be on education, health, social protection, gender and social inclusion, water and sanitation and youth development. The MCP sees these areas as being critical to helping people to move forward on their path to self-sufficiency and full realization of their potential. The implementation of the social development policies will be guided by the realization that social development means investing in people.

4.1 EDUCATION

The MCP believes that education is a powerful driver of development. It is therefore imperative for a country to have a sound education system because it lays the foundation for strengthening countries' democratic and economic development. The MCP's desire is to revamp Malawi's education system so that

it is able to produce students with knowledge, skills, expertise and competence to meet the needs of a rapidly transforming economy. The vision of the MCP is to develop and implement an equitable quality education system for all Malawians. Such a well-performing, high quality, equitable and stable education system needs an adequate number of well-trained teachers supported by an efficient administration. The MCP-led government will focus on preschool, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. The goal of the MCP will be making sure that children get a good start in their education, which goes a long way to increasing their success later in life. The following will be done in the education sector to make it effectively contribute to the overall agenda of the capable democratic developmental state.

Preschool

- Ensure that each and every child has access to decent preschool facilities to fully prepare them for a life-long learning commitment.
- Encourage both the private sector and religious institutions to invest in preschool education facilities so as to ensure that no child is left behind even in the hard to reach areas.
- Invest in the development of a critical mass of care givers in the preschool facilities so that they are able to give the child a head start for their education careers.
- Develop an incentive scheme for the care givers to serve as a benchmark for both public and private preschool education providers.

Primary School

- Enforce the legislation that makes primary school education compulsory to make sure that no child is left behind.
- Ensure that all schools have modern classroom blocks and supplied with all the

necessary facilities including teaching and learning materials and qualified teachers.

- Ensure that each and every primary school going child sits on a desk and does not learn either under a tree or in dilapidated classrooms including those that are grass thatched unless they are professionally done by 2024.
- Improve the conditions of service for teachers by among other things providing them with decent housing; a predictable career and promotion structure; and clearing all salary and leave grant arrears.
- Provide free sanitary pads to all adolescent girls in all primary schools across the country.

Secondary School

- Abolish quota system in the selection of students to secondary schools to guarantee meritorious access and end undue

discrimination against deserving students.

- Promote free public secondary education to guarantee access even to those coming from disadvantaged families and backgrounds.
- Ensure that all schools have modern classroom blocks and are supplied with all the necessary facilities including teaching and learning materials and qualified teachers.
- Review the secondary school curriculum to ensure that it is diversified to include technical and vocational skills so that those that exit at this level are able to earn independent livelihoods.
- Ensure that every secondary has a fully equipped and functioning Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to facilitate the development of a science and technology drive economy.
- Reintroduce the Junior Certificate of



Education as a strategy to monitor and improve students' academic performance during their secondary school education.

- Improve the conditions of service for teachers by, among other things, providing them with decent housing; a predictable career and promotion structure; and clearing all salary and leave grant arrears.
- Provide free sanitary pads to all girls in all secondary schools across the country.
- Ensure that all secondary schools have electricity within the first three years of the MCP government either from the national grid or other alternative sources such as solar.

Tertiary Level

- Abolish the quota system of selecting students to public universities and guarantee meritorious access to all deserving student regardless of their place of origin, religion and socio-economic status.
- Expand university space and facilities through strategic investments in existing public and private universities to be able to absorb over 15,000 students who apply for tertiary education annually.
- Ensure that all deserving students access tertiary education and are enabled to complete their programmes with particular focus on those coming from economically challenges or poor backgrounds identified through robust system of means testing.
- Review the existing university fee structures with the view of coming up structures that enable universities meet their obligations but at the same time ensuring that university education is affordable to all deserving Malawians.
- Encourage universities to review their

curricula such that they should be able to produce graduates who are not only oriented to be employed but they are also financially literate and able to engage entrepreneurship.

- Increase investment in research, science, and technology in order to transform Malawi into a knowledge-based economy targeting the youth in the driving seat through innovation, youth-preneurships, and high productivity in industry, agriculture, commerce and trade.
- Promote science and technology for a knowledge-based economy by the removal of the relevant taxes to reduce the cost of data by over 70%; furnish every new qualifying university student with a personal laptop; and provide public universities and other public spaces with access to free broadband Internet Service.
- Provide free sanitary pads to all girls in all tertiary institutions across the country.
- Expand existing infrastructure in public universities to provide more learning space and hostels so that students are not accommodated outside the university campus.

The MCP will leave no stone unturned in the quest to establish an equitable, progressive, efficient and effective education system since no country can achieve sustainable development without substantial investment in human capital. The MCP government will revamp the education system to enable learners to acquire knowledge, develop conceptual and intellectual skills, attitudes, values and aptitudes proportionate with societal, economic and environmental realities at national and international levels. The ultimate goal of the MCP government will be to propagate an education system that produces men and women who can think, who can make new scientific discoveries, who can find more adequate solutions, who cannot be brainwashed,

men and women who can adapt to change and maintain sanity in the age of acceleration.

4.2 HEALTH

The goal of the MCP government will be to ensure universal access to decent fee public health services to all Malawians. This will, however, require reconfiguring the country's health system since it is currently in a state of flux. It is only a well-functioning health system which can provide an entire population with access to appropriate, acceptable and effective medical care. The reconfiguration of the health system will, among other things, target to enhance the efficiency of health institutions across the hierarchy. The MCP believes that investing in the health system not only saves lives, it is a crucial investment in the wider economy. Ill-health impairs productivity, hinders job prospects, and adversely affects human capital development. The vision of the MCP-led government will therefore be to create a healthy system that promotes healthy living conditions and prevents diseases before they even begin since this is more cost effective than treatment. More specifically, the MCP commits to undertake the following in the health sector.

- Ensure that no Malawian dies in hospital due to negligence, unhygienic practices, or lack of basic health facilities.
- Review and adequately fund the country's primary health care system to ensure that there is more emphasis on prevention than treatment.
- Improve the District Health Information Management Systems (DHIS) by ensuring real time reporting and monitoring of health systems and operations across the hierarchy.
- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy to drug pilferage by installing real time monitoring systems for drugs in all health facilities.
- Strengthen laws to provide for stiffer punishment for all medical practitioners stealing drugs and equipment including requiring all medical practitioners to disclose potential conflict of interest.
- Increase the number of District Environmental Health Officers (DEHOs) and Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs) in order to promote more preventive health services at the community level supported with the necessary requirements to execute this role efficiently and effectively.
- Increase funding for better maternal and child health care in order to reduce by 50% the maternal and child mortality rates in the next five years, which is currently at 5.7/1000 live births and 38.9/1000 live births respectively.
- Improve mental health services by among other things increasing funding for mental health and constructing a new mental hospital in Lilongwe.
- Establish the Malawi Pharmaceutical Company (MPC) to manufacture generic drugs and other health equipment within Malawi to ensure availability of affordable medicines in the health facilities while at the same time creating employment.
- Increase funding to CHAM hospitals including enlisting more service providers from the private sector employing a similar arrangement to CHAM's in order to ensure universal health coverage to all.
- Set up a National Health Insurance which will primarily cater for costs of specialized treatment provided in either private or public hospitals run on a professional basis.
- Undertake comprehensive health system review in order to establish a fit-for-purpose health system that will deliver a healthier Malawi that is more productive, educated and

prosperous.

- Pursue and commit to the UNAIDS 2014 build strategy dubbed as the 90-90-90 which targets to ensuring that 90% of people living with HIV know their status, 90% of the people diagnosed with HIV are put on treatment, and 90% of the people on treatment achieve an undetectable viral load by 2020.
- • Address the lifestyle diseases such as diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity and cancer by promoting health living and lifestyles through sports and recreation and treatment for those affected.

The MCP government will undertake a holistic approach to ensuring the existence of an effective health system, which is essential for providing care for the sick, and for instituting measures that promote wellness and prevent disease. Investment in roads can improve access to health services; inflation targets can constrain health spending; and civil service reform can create opportunities or limits to hiring more health workers. Getting the health of a nation right is very critical because the World Bank has demonstrated that about 50% of economic growth differentials between developing and developed nations are attributed to poor health and low life expectancy. In other words, better health is central to human happiness, progress and prosperity.

4.3 WATER AND SANITATION

The MCP government will prioritize water and sanitation because access to safe drinking water and good sanitation are vital for family well-being. It results in control of waterborne diseases, and boosts child health. Existing statistics show that diarrheal diseases are the leading cause of death particularly for children under five in Malawi. The MCP government will therefore facilitate the implementation of interventions in the water and sanitation sector with full knowledge that

water and sanitation are vital to social and economic development of society. The MCP-led government will undertake the following in the water and sanitation sector:

- Make water available to all Malawians especially in the rural areas through a network of piped water schemes and boreholes where it is not feasible to do so.
- Ensure that every Malawian in every village has access to safe and portable water within the next three years.
- Revamp and modernize water and sanitation systems in all the major towns and cities across the country.
- Construct the Lake Malawi-Lilongwe water project to ensure that the capital city and surrounding districts have sustainable water supply.

An integral part of the water and sanitation interventions will be emphasis on hygiene. The MCP realizes that clean drinking water and good sanitation would not prevent infections without practicing good hygiene. The MCP fully subscribes to the view that water is a basic necessity, and an important resource for sustaining life.

4.4 GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The MCP government takes inspiration from the Republican Constitution to advance gender equality and social inclusion as a fundamental cornerstone of a capable democratic developmental state. Section 13 of the Constitution espouses fundamental principles of national policy designed to ensure that the state actively promotes the welfare and development of Malawians. This is further reinforced by Section 30 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to development for all Malawians. The commitment

to gender equality and social inclusion is sealed with the enactment of the Gender Equality Act of 2013. The MCP is committed to advancing gender equality because it drives tremendous gains in health, education, employment including improving livelihoods. The desire of the MCP is to create a Malawi in which men and women are valued equally, enjoying equal opportunities, equal treatment and equal entitlements. Women, youth, people with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children, minorities and ethnic groups have to fully participate in the country's political, economic and social life, especially since they constitute the disproportionate share of the total population. The MCP regards social inclusion as an integral part of, and boosting shared prosperity. To achieve such a Malawi, the MCP-led government will undertake the following:

- Strengthen gender mainstreaming and the participation of the disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities, orphans and vulnerable children in all sectors of the economy in order to accelerate economic growth and poverty reduction.
- Adopt a zero-tolerance policy with regard to trafficking in persons and child labour by developing strategies to ensure that risks of trafficking in persons and child labour are assessed, mitigated, monitored and addressed.
- Redress gender imbalance in employment and appointment of women in decision making positions targeting a 50/50 balance within the next five years while working to promote high levels of efficiency and effectiveness in the public service.
- Support the Ministry of Gender with adequate funding to review, design and implement proactive programmes to take children off the street giving them the opportunity to develop into mature and responsible citizens.
- Construct a state-of-the-art national netball complex capable of hosting international competitions to fast track our 10-year goal to become the number one netballing country in the world.
- Ensure that qualified people with disabilities are considered for public appointments in all spheres of the bureaucracy such as civil service, parastatals and foreign missions.
- Ensure that all facilities for public use including commercial facilities are disability friendly so as to ensure that people with disabilities fully participate in everyday life.
- Use available technology to implement a household level GSM alarm system with satellite tracking capability that would be used to alert the community and police in case of abductions of persons with albinism.
- Revise the laws to ensure that abducting and killing people with albinism is a capital offence punishable by death without the option for clemency.
- Build Special Needs Learning Centres (SNLCs) in every council, which will comprise appropriate and accessible school blocks to cater for kindergarten, primary and secondary schools with boarding facilities.
- Incentivize Government Print and private institutions to produce adequate braille education materials and facilities for examination.
- Encourage importers of computers to make available voice and touch based computer programmes to assist children with visual impairment from an early stage.
- Develop a critical mass of teachers for Special Needs Education who will be supported by government scholarships both here at home and abroad.

- Provide bursaries to all children with disabilities and/or albinism qualifying for tertiary education whether in universities, community or technical colleges to ensure that they meaningfully contribute to the cause of national development.
- Fight stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS to ensure that they live a healthy life and meaningfully participate in the country's political, economic and social life.
- Change laws to criminalize harmful and cultural practices in order to dissuade non-compliance while at the same time intensifying public education programmes and the engagement of traditional leaders to lead the fight against such practices.

The overarching belief of the MCP is that the vision of sustainable development can only be achieved by equitable and meaningful participation of all gender, sexuality, social class, tribe and ethnicity in the country's political, economic and social life. When men, women, people with disabilities and representatives from disadvantaged groups participate in policy formulation and decision making it leads to more responsive policies and decisions and improved distribution of services. The bottom line is that gender inequality and social exclusion have very damaging consequences for human capital development which lies at the heart of any efforts geared toward fundamental structural transformation and sustainable development.

4.5 SOCIAL PROTECTION

The MCP realizes that social protection is becoming more and more recognized as a key driver of sustainable development. The MCP government will build on the existing efforts of social protection that distinguishes five forms of interventions, namely: social cash transfers,

public works programmes, school feeding programme, village and savings loans (VSLs) and micro-finance. Social protection is thus concerned with protecting and helping those who are poor and vulnerable such as children, women, older people, people with disabilities, the displaced, the unemployed, and the sick. The vision of the MCP is to implement a social protection system that has transformative impact. This kind of social protection will not just alleviate poverty but also transform lives through pursuing policies that rebalance the unequal power relations which cause vulnerabilities. The MCP thus views social protection as an investment in human capital, which increases capacities in the accumulation of productive assets breaking the intergenerational transmission of poverty. The efforts of the MCP in social protection will be making youth employment an integral part of the interventions designed. The commitments of the MCP in the realm of social protection will be designed to improve opportunities for inclusive growth, human capital development and social stability and will include the following:

- End the abduction and killing of people with albinism by making these crimes a capital offence punishable by death without the option for clemency.
- Implement the National Action Plan for protecting persons with albinism and introduce social cash transfers for them to have a dignified way of life.
- Increase the proportion of government's funding commitment to social protection to widen coverage at household and community levels.
- Fast track reforms designed to improve the institutional and organizational framework for delivering social protection interventions that maximizes strategic impact.
- Work with relevant development partners to

fully institutionalize a social protection system that is shock sensitive and guarantees household resilience to ensure sustained poverty escapes.

- Introduce and experiment with a new range of social protection such as old age pension, child grants and predictable public works programmes.
- Establish a National Truth and Reconciliation Commission to facilitate a nationwide process of addressing prevailing historical wounds and charting a united way forward.

Social protection is a critical area in the realm of social development because it facilitates social justice through risk management, sustainable financial structures, pension and social transfers. The underlying belief of the MCP is that social protection is the driver of sustainable economic development rather than some kind of reward for successful development. In fact, viable and robust social protection systems are an effective tool in building a country's resilience and capacities to respond to crisis. Such systems can actually help manage disasters in a more predictable and sustainable way. The ultimate goal of the MCP will be to make social protection a human right and an entitlement against low standards of living.

4.6 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The linchpin of the MCP's youth policy is to build the capacity of the youth as key agents for social change and economic development. This should foster the determination of young people to improve the social, political and economic fabric of society. The youth will be a priority for the MCP government because they represent a significant and growing human resource with potential to contribute to sustainable development. Yet in the current set-up the youth lack basic opportunities to develop their potential. The strategies of the

MCP government directed at youth development will include the following:

- Introduce a National Youth Service (NYS) and Jobs4Youth Programme that will offer vocational skills training to all youth completing secondary school and tertiary education including all of the currently out of school youth.
- Treat young people as partners in development since meaningful change can be made only by working with the youth.
- Create more opportunities for young people, reach out to more diverse young people and work towards the eradication of youth poverty.
- Equip young people with the skills and opportunities to reach their potential through, inter alia, establishment of vocational training institutions.
- Invest in young people skills that will endure and are properly aligned with employer needs through extensive review of existing curricula.
- Engage the youth in positive activities through churches, NGOs, private sector and other voluntary organizations to support the development of the necessary personal and social skills for them to be able to deal with



various challenges in life.

- Develop a youth leadership programme through the National Service Scheme as a platform for involving youth at all levels in the country's development efforts.
- Implement fully the provisions of the youth policy, which aims to empower the youth and encourage their participation in development

processes as well as reach their potential.

The ultimate goal of the MCP government will be to prepare young people to be healthy, productive, and engaged citizens. Representing 60% of the population, the MCP believes that the youth are a demographic dividend that has to be exploited in the noble cause of national development

5. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The MCP subscribes to the view that a sound infrastructural foundation is the key to the overall development of a country. Such infrastructure acts as a magnet for attracting additional investment in a country and thus provides a competitive edge to it over other countries. The MCP conceives infrastructure as comprising a whole spectrum of vital services such as roads, civil aviation, shipping, railways, power generation transmission, telecommunications, postal services and urban development and planning. The belief of the MCP is that availability of adequate and efficient infrastructural set up not only promotes rapid industrialization but also improves the quality of life of the people. This is why during the first MCP administration; a comprehensive infrastructural development road map was put in place to facilitate its progressive realization as an absolute necessity for rapid achievement of sustainable economic growth.

The major concern for the MCP is that there has not been any significant addition to the stock of infrastructure that existed prior to the transition to democracy in May 1994. Most of the infrastructure is in a sorry state of disrepair and most of the post May 1994 infrastructure is sub-standard characterized by poor workmanship sometimes disintegrating even before it is formally commissioned. The poor state of infrastructure is making it very challenging for us as country to achieve rapid inclusive and sustainable development. The MCP government will therefore be committed to implementing a comprehensive infrastructural development programme that will be supportive to the country's overall development efforts under the aegis of the capable democratic developmental state. The MCP government will pay particular attention to road transport network; railway network; water transport; air transport; Information Communication Technology (ICT); and urban development and planning within the next five years. The ultimate goal of the MCP government will be to fully exploit the potential contribution of infrastructure to the country's

GDP estimated at 3.5% higher than its current contribution at 1.2%. Moreover, infrastructure facilities are like wheels of development without which the economy cannot function properly.

5.1 ROAD TRANSPORT NETWORK

Malawi's road transport infrastructure is grossly inadequate and compared with our neighboring countries, the road network is extremely poor. As high as 84% of Malawi's road network, representing 11,378 km is unpaved and has either an earth or gravel surface. The urban road network represents 43% of the total paved road surface which is estimated at 4,073 km. The concern of the MCP is that maintenance of paved roads is poor leading to progressive deterioration of road quality. Post-1994, road infrastructure development is highly politicized and not strategic as it is not usually linked economic activities. National roads such as the M1 are extremely narrow, poorly marked and signposted, with no lighting, with narrow bridges, with limited guard rails or fencing to prevent encroachment of livestock thereby making them prone to accidents. This state of affairs can be attributed to poor workmanship on the part of contractors and politicization of



the road infrastructure projects, including the choice of which roads to improve. The MCP is committed to developing a strategic, durable and value for money road infrastructure network that supports inclusive growth and development on a sustainable basis. More specifically, the MCP government will undertake the following:

- Ensure full implementation of the Transport Master Plan by providing adequate funding to all agencies involved in its implementation.
- Improve the design of the urban or residential road network providing for proper drainage facilities, pedestrian or cyclist pavements, and sign post them to make them user friendly.
- Establish modern bus terminals in every district across the country and introduce city lines and the Futran System to address urban transportation problems.
- Revive the construction and maintenance of rural feeder roads modelled on the District Road Improvement and Maintenance Programme (DRIMP).
- Promote transparency and accountability in procurement and administration of contractors to ensure value for all investments.
- Depoliticise road development programmes and ensure that prioritization of road infrastructure is based on strategic economic benefits.
- Invest in partnership with the private sector in the construction of 8,000km of new bitumen standard roads linking and opening up all major centres in rural and urban areas to commerce and social services.
- Establish joint ventures with the private sector, through public-private-partnership (PPP) models, Build-to-Operate (BTO) models, which will ensure that existing roads and bridges are upgraded and rehabilitated to

better standards, and new roads constructed.

- Upgrade the M1 road to the state of art from Nsanje to Chitipa to facilitate efficient and effective communication across the country.

The need for an improved road network need not be overemphasized because sub-standard infrastructure not only holds back economic development but it also causes additional costs in terms of time, effort and money of the people accessing essential services such as healthcare, education and markets. The MCP is committed to developing a viable road network because ready availability of road transport expands the market for agricultural and industrial products and thereby enable producers to produce on a large scale and reap the benefits of economies of scale. This is imperative for a predominantly agro-based economy like ours.

5.2 RAIL NETWORK

Rail transportation is limited and the infrastructure is dilapidated, despite it being historically the most important system for freight and bulk transportation. The national rail network only covers the south and central regions of the country. There is no rail line in the whole of the northern



region. Almost 200 km of rail between Limbe and Marka in Nsanje is in a state of disrepair. Loading capacity of the rail lines is low, ranging from 15–18 tonnes, per axle. There is also underutilization of the rail transport infrastructure, especially for freight transportation, with preference being given to road haulage despite rail haulage being the cheaper option. Currently there is no urban rail network serving the urban population which makes up 2.5% of the population in Malawi. In addition, the rail network is not fully integrated with other transport modes such as air, water and road transport. The MCP believes that the demands of a growing economy requires railway network to expand its freight network, increase its ability to carry larger weight per wagon and the efficiency of the rail system for faster delivery. The rail network has not expanded in Malawi post 1994 because of sheer neglect of existing rail transport infrastructure, lack of development of new rail infrastructure and deliberate sabotage of use of rail in favour of road trucking by the powerful political elite. The MCP government will undertake the following to revive, expand and develop a reliable, efficient and efficient rail transport system:

- Invest in partnership with the private sector in the construction and rehabilitation of 5,000km of existing and new railway networks linking and opening up all major centres in rural and urban areas.
- Review of the concession of the rail and re-negotiate the management of rail transport with the view to improving the efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.
- Develop urban rail transport infrastructure and network in major cities including rail stations for passengers and goods.
- Expand the rail network to the northern region and link it with the Tanzania Zambia Railway line (TAZARA) network to promote the use of railway as a cheaper alternative mode of

transport.

- Integrate the rail network with other transport modes, especially road and water transport to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.
- Introduce modern rail vehicles that achieve higher speeds and rail lines that have higher load capacity to improve rail transport efficiency and effectiveness.
- Put in place a deliberate government policy to use rail transport for haulage of key strategic commodities such as petroleum products and agricultural inputs as a way of reducing transport costs and making goods and services affordable to the majority of Malawians.
- Upgrade and improve management of Malawi Cargo Handling Facilities at Mbeya and Dar es Salaam to enhance efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness.

The position of the MCP is that the rail network is a very important infrastructure whose expansion and efficient operation is indispensable for the rapid growth of an economy. The MCP will be determined to improve the reach and quality of the railway services to effectively contribute to the transformation of the economy under the auspices of the capable democratic developmental state.

5.3 WATER TRANSPORT

Malawi is uniquely blessed with perennial water bodies such as Lake Malawi, the Shire River and other rivers which cover the entire length and breadth of the country. Lake Malawi alone covers over 20% of Malawi's land surface. However, despite the fact that the entire length of Lake Malawi and most of upper Shire is navigable, there is limited use of water transport. The few water transport vessels available were bought by the MCP administration and are currently



- Introduce a deliberate policy by government to promote water transport for key strategic transport needs and tourism especially on Lake Malawi.
- Introduce more modern water transport vessels, for both cargo and passenger services, to ply on all ports around Lake Malawi.
- Upgrade all existing port facilities at Chilumba, Nkhatabay, Chipoka and Monkeybay to ensure that they are in line with requirements of the marine industry.
- Develop landing docks in all ports on Lake Malawi for docking of commercial and pleasure vehicles and boats.

old and dilapidated due to lack of maintenance by all post-1994 regimes. The major ports of Monkey-bay in the South, Chipoka in the Centre and Chilumba and Nkhatabay in the North are in poor condition and only Chilumba and Chipoka can handle cargo. Like the rail transport network, the water transport network is not well integrated with other modes of transport such as air, roads and rail to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of transport services. The current poor state of water transport is as a result of lack of investment as well as sheer neglect in preference to road haulage. The MCP commits to establish a vibrant water transport sector that contributes positively to economic growth and development by undertaking the following:

- Provide for competition in the water transport sub-sector to diversify operators and reduce costs hence make it affordable to the majority of Malawians.
- Revamping and/or establish training and support institutions for water transport in order to produce a critical mass of personnel to operate the industry with high levels of safety.

The MCP believes that water transport is a very key infrastructure for boosting international trade. Through ports, goods are exported to other countries and raw materials imported relatively cheaply. Without efficient ports it is not possible to expand foreign trade. Reliable water transport infrastructure raises productivity levels in the economy and brings down costs of enterprises, which greatly contributes to rapid economic growth and inclusive development.

5.4 AIR TRANSPORT

The main concern of the MCP is that the main air transport infrastructure is dilapidated while



the rest is undeveloped despite a head start during the previous MCP government. There are only two international airports, namely Kamuzu International and Chileka International. The runway at Chileka is in poor condition and Chileka airport neither has an instrument landing system nor radar. There are also 26 airfields but these are basic airstrips of grass or low-grade material and with little or no navigation equipment or buildings associated with them. The sector also suffers from the absence of airport infrastructure in strategic tourist destinations such as Salima, Nkhatabay and Mangochi as well as the lack of designated and affordable domestic flights. There is also a limited number of carriers serving the market, which makes traveling out of Malawi very difficult. The decline in air transport in Malawi can be contributed to negligence of investment and maintenance of airport infrastructure and facilities, lack of investment of airport infrastructure in strategic tourist destinations and protected market for domestic air travel operations. The MCP government will deliver a vibrant air transport system and robust and modern airport infrastructure through undertaking the following:

- Prioritize the development of critical air travel infrastructure and facilities across the country targeting primarily strategic tourist destinations, particularly Mzuzu, Chitipa, Salima, Mangochi and Nkhatabay.
- Provide a deliberate policy to encourage senior government officials to use domestic air travel to boost domestic air travel business and cut costs.
- Expand Chileka Airport to become an International Airport that fully meets the international quality and safety standards.
- Open domestic operation license to other operators to increase the volume of traffic and open strategic tourist destinations

- Establish a new National Airliner, which will service both domestic and international routes and review policy and constraints affecting the airline industry so as to increase the fleet of aircrafts for domestic operators.
- Revamp and upgrade all out airports to international standards including airdromes so as to connect all strategic tourist destinations.

The MCP bemoans the fact that Malawi Airlines does not operate any domestic flights apart from the Lilongwe-Blantyre route. There used to be domestic flight services to destinations such as Likoma, Mzuzu, Chelinda Camp in Nyika Plateau, Karonga and Chitipa. This has not only contributed to the decline in tourism in the country but has also denied Malawians a truly safe and quick means of transport, necessary for socio-economic growth of the country. Moreover, air transport is very vital to international connectivity especially in the contemporary age of globalization.

5.5 INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The MCP realizes that Information Communication Technology (ICT) occupies a very importance place in the modern knowledge and science driven economy. Both E-commerce and E-governance require sophisticated ICT infrastructure. While the MCP acknowledges the efforts that have been made to improve the country's ICT infrastructure, the penetration remains low. The quality of service is generally poor and the cost of service very high. The ICT and telecommunications infrastructure is also grossly underdeveloped with most rural areas having limited access to mobile phone connectivity, limited TV and radio signal, very limited broadband internet access. The MCP's diagnosis is that the ICT sector faces several constraints, which include limited capacity of

service providers, lack of competition in the industry, limited customer base, the high cost of investment especially with regards to initial capital outlays, and the cost of services to the population. Furthermore, the high tariff and non-tariff barriers including high taxation rates have led to lack of serious investment and low growth in ICT. The vision of the MCP government is to develop a vibrant, competitive and efficient ICT industry. More specifically, the MCP led government will:

- Create an enabling environment for the growth of ICT and telecommunication as a key strategic sub-sector of the economy.
- Reduce the cost of ICT services, through among other things, securing access to the new submarine infrastructure along the East African coast and review the taxation regime of the industry.
- Promoting effective competition in the industry by allowing new entrants as a strategy to boost coverage and lower the cost of services.
- Extend broadband internet connection to all urban and rural centres through extension of fibre optic cable network to these areas to enhance access.
- Remove all tariff and non-tariff barriers on internet facilities (including laptops and computers, cables, modems, routers etc.) in order to reduce the price of broadband internet.
- Connect all government offices and public facilities such as universities, colleges, secondary schools, hospitals, security installations to broadband internet.

The MCP believes that ICT and the associated increase in internet connectivity is a productivity enhancing development. The MCP will therefore

pay particular attention to policy for better spectrum management, strengthening a national fibre optic network and mobile network to ensure comprehensive coverage that should power the acceleration of knowledge and science driven economic development in Malawi.

5.6 URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

Urban development and urban planning is equally in a state of flux. The MCP's diagnosis reveals that this is the case because of rampant corruption and fraud and weak enforcement of by-laws. This has been reinforced by lack of government's commitment to provide low-cost housing to citizens leading to homelessness and mushrooming of informal settlements. The lack of decent housing for public servants and security personnel has led to these critical personnel to live in squalor. The challenges facing urban development and planning include poor and uncoordinated urban physical planning, development and monitoring, encroachment of land, increasing existence of strategic idle and undeveloped land and use of residential and commercial land for agricultural purposes in cities. The burgeoning urban population coupled with grossly inadequate provision of low-cost housing has led to mushrooming of informal settlements, which have no access to basic services such as electricity, water, sewer systems and roads. The vision of the MCP is to develop cities and towns that will serve as focal points for economic activities, and engines of economic growth as centres of excellence for education, health care, culture, technological innovation, entrepreneurship, social services, government administration and communications with the world. The goal of the MCP-led government will be to ensure systematic and coordinated urban development culminating in cities and towns that are able to manage urban growth and development, including preparedness to respond to disasters. To achieve this goal, the



MCP led government will:

- Investigate and prosecute those involved in illegal allocation of land as well as encroachers on land set aside for urban development.
- Repossess and redistribute land that remains idle and undeveloped beyond the specified development period.
- Enforce laws that ban agricultural activities on land reserved for residential and commercial purposes.
- Ensure more coordinated planning and development of urban areas to ensure all developments meet set minimum standards.
- Provide low cost housing in all urban areas to enhance access to affordable housing especially among public sector employees.

- Provision of decent housing to all personnel serving in the military, police, immigration and other emergency services.
- Establish modern bus terminals in the four major cities across the country and introduce city lines to address transportation problems in urban areas.

The overarching commitment of the MCP is to ensure that urban development and planning is effectively managed so that potential economic and social development benefits arising from urbanization are optimized. The MCP's ultimate goals is to develop cities and towns that create and maintain diverse, dynamic neighbourhoods and can make great places that in turn draw in companies and investment, creating massive opportunities for jobs, employment and livelihood.

6. HOMELAND SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY

The MCP takes protecting territorial integrity and running a strategic and dynamic foreign policy as the most fundamental role of a sovereign capable democratic developmental state. The MCP regards the provision of homeland security and running a strategic and dynamic foreign policy as two different sides of the same coin. Homeland security and strategic and dynamic foreign policy thrives in an environment of law and order, which is widely regarded as the bastion of modern civilization. The concern of the MCP is that our collective value system has been so compromised that it threatens public safety, negatively impacts governance and weakens Malawi's position in the global community of nations. The MCP is therefore committed to reversing this unfortunate trend to ensure homeland security and foreign policy regimes that identify opportunities to adapt and respond to increasingly dynamic and unpredictable political, economic and social processes both at the national, regional and global levels.

6.1 DYNAMIC HOMELAND SECURITY

Drawing from its 31 year experience, the MCP will adopt a pragmatic approach to dealing with homeland security issues to ensure that that Malawians live in a safe, peaceful and secure environment. Such an environment is a critical prerequisite for any meaningful and sustainable political, economic and social development. The MCP is concerned with the apparent development of an insidious and pervasive culture of lawlessness, which is probably the single greatest threat to our development. The MCP's homeland security regime will prioritize the maintenance of law and order, which is state of society where vast majority of the population respects the rule of law and where the law enforcement agencies observe laws that limit their power. Managing law and order implies swiftly dealing with occurrences of theft,

violence, and disturbance of peace and rapid enforcement of penalties imposed under criminal law. Key focal areas will include Immigration Services; National Security; National Defence; and Correctional Services. The vision of the MCP in as far as homeland security is concerned is to ensure that the country's borders are secure with only acceptable immigration, internal security of Malawians and their property is maintained at all times and incidents of crime are reduced as much as possible.

6.1.1 Immigration Services

The MCP realizes that economic prosperity greatly lies on the free movement of goods and people but if these flows are not monitored and controlled the result can be smuggling, trafficking and illegal immigration; and organized crime and terrorism. The commitment of the MCP is to establish effective border management systems and processes, customs and border control agencies, immigration services and law enforcement. The MCP believes that it is possible to combine resilient security with a modern and effective approach to border management that facilitates trade and meaningful regional integration. To secure the country's borders, the MCP led government will:

- Strengthen border posts in all the border areas to stamp out illegal immigration and drug trafficking and smuggling.
- Ensure that all foreign nationals are duly documented through issuance of work permits, business permits, and asylum documents, among others and deport illegal immigrants.
- Establish National Registration Bureau (NRB) offices in all District Commissioners' offices and One-Stop Postal Services to offer services such as National ID applications and renewals, birth and death registrations.

- Ensure that all entry visas into Malawi will be processed on-line and issued prior to travel or at the port of entry into Malawi and the cost of visas to increase the level of tourist visitors into the country.
- Provide necessary conditions to facilitate free movement of people and goods in-country by removing all fixed roadblocks in-country and instead promote regular police patrols on the highways, on the streets, in residential neighbourhoods and commercial areas.

6.1.2 National Security

National security is the realm of the Malawi Police Service (MPS). The MPS plays a critical role in the country's law enforcement system. Police Officers respond to emergency calls, patrol the community, monitor criminal activity, make arrests, investigate crimes, and testify in court. The MCP has noted with concern that the challenges that the MPS has to deal with are getting more complex. There is, for example, a growing problem of organized crime manifested through the sale and abuse of prohibited drugs. The absence of sophisticated drug detection equipment such as scanners and sniffer dogs at transit points make fighting this genre of crime very difficult. Levels of white collar crimes are also worsening resulting in massive financial losses. This is the case because the Fiscal Police Unit of the MPS is not adequately capacitated. The MCP government will be committed to creating an MPS that is fit for purpose and able to prevail overall internal security challenges. The MCP led government will do the following in order to achieve this particular goal.

- Ensure that the MPS is once again given the necessary financial resources to redevelop kennels for rearing and training of sniffer dogs as well as provide all major transit points with modern scanners and the sniffer dogs.
- Prioritize the fight against the drug trafficking

through mass education in secondary schools, universities and through the media and partnering NGOs.

- Delink the Prosecuting Authority from the MPS by establishing an independent prosecuting authority whose members will be recruited from the MPS.
- Modernise all police stations across the country through improved infrastructure and provision of equipment and decent housing for all Police Officers.
- Establish a new Police Academy in Lilongwe as a strategy to increase the number of police personnel with advanced skills and techniques in crime detection and investigation.
- Establish a Cyber Crime Prevention Unit to deal with new threats from the cyber space as a strategy of maintaining the integrity of the critical infrastructure installations.
- Implement a police wide computer training programme and endeavour to promote the use of ICT in the fight against crime in the office and during field work for police officers since ICT is now at the heart of proper records management and detection of criminals in a match and trace of information.
- Make the MPS an integral part of a government wide information exchange project that will include the Directorate of Road Traffic, Malawi Revenue Authority, Immigration Services, National Registration Bureau, Anti-Corruption Bureau, National Prosecution Authority and others who rely on quick exchange of information to combat crime.

6.1.3 National Defence

National defence is the responsibility of the Malawi Defence Force (MDF) and the MCP realizes that

strong national defence is very important to the security and protection of Malawians. As such, the MCP will do whatever it takes to ensure that our military has the capability to defend us from any external aggression at all times. The security and safety of the Malawian people will be the number one priority of the MCP led government. The vision of the MCP-led government therefore is to maintain a defence force that is capable of diligently defending the country from external threats, and in times of peace, contribute towards national development while ensuring harmonious military and civil relations. More specifically MCP government will:

- Modernize the MDF through the use of state of art equipment for situational awareness, command and control by capacitating it with very secure and modern digital informational resources that include computers, drones and basic field communication equipment.
- Establish a cadre of well trained and computer savvy personnel to conduct internal training and repair as an integral part of the efforts to modernize the army.
- Establish an MDF Cyber Security Academy and make it possible for the MDF to take advantage of technological developments in the military, particularly with regard to enhanced surveillance and situational awareness in combat, information processing and communication.
- Improve the capacity of the MDF in various aspects by establishing a capable and fully equipped Air Force battalion in Lilongwe; a capable and fully equipped naval base in Nkhata Bay; a capable and fully equipped cyber security academy in Blantyre; and a capable and fully equipped Special Forces Unit in Zomba.
- Improve the infrastructure and equipment in all existing MDF units across the country

and increase the current number of military personnel by 30% to enhance its capacity and readiness for combat.

- Provide adequate training within and outside the country and ensure that promotions are awarded to the deserving personnel on the basis of merit and not any other considerations.
- Engage MDF in civil duties during peace time such as mechanised commercial farming in all four political regions of the country; commercial engineering and construction activities such as commercial vehicle repairs; roads, bridges, rail, boat and buildings construction, among others; humanitarian emergency activities during disasters; bulk transportation services; and commercial health care services to the public.
- Ensure that MDF Naval Base continuously monitors and counter any border related claims over Malawi's territory and lakes and protect citizens against harassment as they carry out legal economic activities in Malawi and on any of our lakes.
- Ensure that the MDF is adequately trained and combat ready at all times with relevant support to proactively take part in international peacekeeping operations in Africa and beyond through the UN, AU, SADC and other bodies.

6.1.4 Prisons and Correctional Services

Prisons are an integral part of the criminal justice system. As an integral part of the criminal justice system, the MCP understands that a prison sentence serves two purposes. First, it is a form of retribution because there is a belief that people who commit crimes should pay back for their commissions or omissions. Second, it is a deterrent since prison is unpleasant people will be reluctant to commit crimes for fear of going to

prison. The vision of the MCP is to run prisons and correctional services that strike a strategic balance between prisons serving as a safeguard designed to keep dangerous people locked away from society and prisons as a place where criminals can be rehabilitated setting them up for a new life with improved education, job and social skills and a new outlook. More specifically, the MCP led government will do the following to create such prisons and correctional services:

- Improve in partnership with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) the food situation in prisons by making sure that prison farms are put to good use and prisons with limited space engage in intensive farming techniques that do not require extensive space.
- Introduce artisanal and other economic services across all prisons which will be used to impart skills in preparation for life after serving time.
- Expand and intensify artisanal and other economic services so as to generate earnings which will be used to supplement the funds from the national budget allocation.
- Set up a special Correctional Investment Fund (CIF) that will guide and regulate the usage of funds generated from these artisanal and economic activities and it will also be used to offer loans to ex-prisoners who finish their sentence as they embark on a new life after prison.
- Decongest the prisons by creating a programme where minor or petty crimes will not attract custodial sentence but instead encourage community service where those convicted perform paid duties in private and public entities with the funds going into the CIF.

6.2 FOREIGN POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Malawi has generally implemented a strategic and dynamic foreign policy and co-existed peacefully with its neighbours and the entire global community of nations at large. Malawi's foreign policy and international relations have thrived within the framework of the doctrine of contact and dialogue popularized by the founding President of the Republic, His Excellency Ngwazi Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda. Recent developments, especially in relations to the Lake Malawi border dispute with Tanzania, however, raise serious question marks in the minds of Malawians about the current government's resolve to maintain the country's territorial integrity. The next MCP government will not abandon the doctrine of contact and dialogue as the linchpin of the country's foreign policy and international relations regime but will ensure that this does not lead to any neighbours unilaterally changing Malawi's borders and threatening its sovereign territory or, indeed, the conduct of economic activities therein. Building on our achievements in the past in using the doctrine of contact and dialogue, the MCP government will run a strategic and dynamic foreign policy and international relations regime whose ultimate goal will be to serve Malawian interests, security-wise and economically, and safeguard Malawi's sovereignty and independence. This foreign policy and international relations regime will protect Malawi's territorial integrity and protect the interests of its citizens both within and outside the country. More specifically, the next MCP government will do the following:

- Prioritize resolving the 8-year old Lake Malawi border dispute once and for all within the framework of the doctrine of contact and dialogue seeking a win-win solution and accepting nothing less, and in the absence of this resolution defend Malawi's territorial



integrity to the benefit of Malawians.

- Sustain the country's diplomatic relations with the neighbouring countries, strategic global economic powers as well as the critical bilateral and multilateral institutions to enhance Malawi's position as a regional and global actor.
 - Conduct the cost-benefit analysis of some missions to determine whether they need to be maintained or relocated to other viable destinations so as to maximize benefits from these investments.
 - Establish effective and well-staffed economic affairs offices in all diplomatic missions to enhance lobbying capacity for investment
- and market opportunities.
 - Rationalize the country's membership to regional trading blocs such as COMESA and SADC in view of the overlapping membership and the similarity of programmes implemented by the blocs.
 - Appoint and maintain a professional diplomatic service which will serve Malawi's best interests economically and politically equipped with strategic skills necessary to enhance Malawi's benefits in the global community of nations.
 - Ensure a transparent appointment process for people to go into diplomatic service and define what agenda they would serve to

directly benefit citizens of the country.

- Ensure equitable distribution of appointments to diplomatic missions, ensuring a gender balance and inclusivity of all social groups such as youths, women, people living with disability, albinism etc.
- Establish a School of Diplomacy where people will train as career diplomats and ensure that all appointees to foreign missions are trained before being posted to their respective duty stations.

The MCP government will strongly advocate for peaceful coexistence and resolution of conflicts through the policy of contact and dialogue while at the same time being resolute in defending

Malawian interests. The commitment of the MCP to Malawians is that it will never compromise on the integrity of Malawi borders as they have existed from independence and the security of its citizens. The overarching drive of the MCP in running a strategic and dynamic foreign policy and international relations regime will be to utilize its diplomatic presence in other countries and organizations in pursuit of social and economic development through investment, trade and tourism promotion and regional economic integration. In other words, the MCP will accord priority to development diplomacy which benefits the social economic development needs of the country while navigating various circumstances with other nations.

7. OUR APPEAL AND PROMISE

Based on the transformative vision outlined in this Manifesto, we, as MCP, appeal to all Malawians to vote us into government by electing Dr. Lazarus Chakwera as Malawi's 6th President. This Manifesto is a product of a comprehensive diagnosis, in line with Agendas 2030 and 2063 and the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, that the MCP has undertaken to identify the five key strategic areas that will turnaround the fortunes of this country within the shortest time possible. It is a framework and platform that addresses the pressing priorities in our local context, inspiring the MCP government to promote the spirit of partnership between and among domestic constituencies and development partners in making the right choices to sustainably improve the overall quality of life for ourselves and future generations. We, therefore, have every confidence that when we implement the proposed reforms in these five areas, they will trigger fundamental structural transformation and inclusive sustainable development.

We believe that a capable democratic developmental state is the only vehicle through which the country can turn the corner. By creating and running it, the incoming MCP government will have initiated reforms that will revolutionize the way we do things in this country for generations to come. Of course, we realize that implementing the changes we are seeking to preside over to make Malawi a better place for all of us is no easy task. It will require all of us to be determined, dedicated and disciplined to make sacrifices at the individual, community and institutional level for the greater common good.

Let us Build A New Malawi. It will not be delivered to us on a silver platter, nor will it be built by foreign powers. We ourselves as Malawians must work for it, pray for it, fight for it, and vote for it. This calls for all of us to get out of our comfort zones. The era of entertaining illusions and fantasies is over. We must accept that creating, implementing and sustaining the changes that will bring about the Malawi we desire will be tough, challenging

and at times frustrating, but at the same time, we must stand firm and united because we cannot go wrong with a capable democratic developmental state under a visionary, competent, patriotic, and pragmatic leadership with a track record of unimpeachable integrity. We must not give in to despair, for that makes us vulnerable to the enticements of the forces currently vested in and electioneering for the continuation of the status quo. For the sake of Malawi, we must in this election take a stand against those that are benefiting from the broken systems that have enabled them to create and exploit the current mess. Though they will do anything within their power to frustrate the realization of the changes and reforms MCP wants to make in order for Malawi to reach her full potential as a nation, we must not be intimidated by their threats and boastful claims, nor must we be seduced by their electoral tactics of giving us handouts bought with our own taxes.

The leadership of MCP under Dr. Lazarus Chakwera is ready and steady, more than equal to the task. In fact, we have always been ready. We are very well equipped to drive Malawi's long overdue transformation within the framework of a capable democratic developmental state. The time has come for us to raise difficult yet fundamental questions that have a bearing on how we move forward to realize our dream for a progressive and prosperous nation that works for all of us. We can no longer afford to shy away from asking, let alone confronting, these difficult questions because the problems we face as a nation will not go away by our prayers, wishes, and votes alone; they require the hard work of overhauling the system to replace it with a functioning and a capable state, and no party is as ready or as organized as the MCP to lead the way after the May 21, 2019 elections.

To get through the changes we are proposing will require a great deal of radical thinking and bold action. Most of the issues that we shall be dealing with do not simply require reform or

tinkering with them on the margins; they require total rethinking, redesigning and rebuilding of our governance model. The current model is too broken and open to abuse to be the basis for the kind of transformation we need. We must build a new Malawi. Though our efforts have already started generating resistance, which is inevitable with any radical change process, we must refuse to postpone our national destiny for the sake of a few bellies. The MCP is ready for this challenge, for we are driven neither by the greed demonstrated by some nor the frustrations and vindictiveness animating others. Ours is a resolve to build an institutional architecture that works for all, with special care being taken to ensure that losses at the individual, community and institutional levels are minimized as much as possible and win-win scenarios are created in the interest of the broader public good. We will not give up; we will fight all the way until we build

a new Malawi we can all be proud of.

We will assemble a team of the best and brightest from the public sector, private sector and civil society that will help guide these fundamental transformation processes so that their positive impact can be felt and appreciated in the shortest time possible. In fact, these experts are already standing by to get straight to work as soon as your vote for MCP is cast. In the same way, Malawians, we call on each of you to be prepared to make sacrifices at the individual, community and institutional levels to make the Malawi that we are talking about a reality. Your role as a citizen in this process will be indispensable, for it is time the people and the government started working together to Build a New Malawi.

Vote Wisely, Vote MCP

**PROSPERING
TOGETHER**

KUTUKUKA
PAMODZI

**UNITING
MALAWI**

KULIMBIKITSA
UMODZI

**ENDING
CORRUPTION**

KUTHETSA KATANGALE
NDI UMBAYA

**SERVANT
LEADERSHIP**

KUTUMIKIRA
PAUTSOG OLERI

**CHAKWERA
SUPER
HI 5**

**RULE OF
LAW**

KUGONJERA
LAMULO



LAZARUS CHAKWERA





The Secretary General
Malawi Congress Party (MCP) National Headquarters
City Centre
Private Bag 388
Lilongwe 3, Malawi