

MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY



**Manifesto
2014**



***A Better and Prosperous Malawi
is Possible***

One Malawi

One Nation

One Vision

Nothing For Us Without Us
**Better life for all –
2014 and beyond**




REV. DR. LAZARUS CHAKWERA
PRESIDENT OF THE MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Malawi Congress Party (MCP) is the Party of the nation. Needless to say, it is the Party which liberated every Malawian from the colonial bondage and brought Independence and human dignity to Malawi. It is the MCP that laid the foundation and developed a vibrant economic and social landscape for sustained economic development. Through this experience the party has learnt that good leadership, good governance, transparency and accountability, are necessary for economic growth and development. MCP is therefore the only beacon of hope to the Malawi nation.

Over the years, since the inception of multi-party democracy, the economic and social landscape as reflected in the living standards of Malawians has steadily disintegrated. This is largely due to lack of strategic leadership in the political parties that have been in government since 1994. This style of leadership has led to ***personalized politics***, which unfortunately is being perceived as the norm and is slowly taking root. There is lack of focus on the real issues that address our common political, economic and social ills thereby creating serious misery to Malawians, especially the majority living in rural areas.

The spirit of hard work, self-reliance and patriotism that the people of Malawi were once known for has steadily declined. Consequently, this has created a dependency syndrome which unfortunately is being exploited by the leaders to gain political popularity through handouts.



The 2014 tripartite elections offer Malawians a chance for change. The Malawi Congress Party believes that it has the capacity and character to restore decency, hope, prosperity and development in this country.

This manifesto and other complimentary documents contain the vision that the MCP has for the future of this country. Together they present a coherent, logical framework that will guide the party to create a sound and stable macro-economic environment, which will clear the fiscal and governance crisis Malawi is currently riddled with.

Malawi Congress Party and I as President would like to assure all Malawians that we will selflessly pursue policies outlined in this manifesto.

I therefore appeal to all eligible Malawians to vote for Malawi Congress Party President, Members of Parliament and Councilors. We are ready, equipped and committed to govern, and reset a solid foundation for our beloved nation's growth and development.

Kwacha...!

Thank you and May God Bless our Nation

REV. DR. LAZARUS CHAKWERA
PRESIDENT OF THE MALAWI CONGRESS PARTY
LILONGWE
MALAWI

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Malawi Congress Party's Vision

“To steer Malawi into prosperity and create a credible and stabilized environment which will bring growth and development.”

Malawi Congress Party's Mission Statement

“To be an agent of transformation that serves Malawians in social, political and economic aspects.”

Strategic Priorities

MCP has identified seven strategic priority areas for the next five years. These are key performance enablers that will restore the integrity of Malawi economy.

These are:-

- Policy and institutional reforms
- Agriculture and food security
- Infrastructure development
- Education
- Health
- Youth development and empowerment
- Energy and Mining

1. INTRODUCTION

The commitment of the MCP is to improve on a sustainable basis, the welfare of the people of Malawi. It is committed to govern a politically stable, socially vibrant and economically secure Malawi nation, a nation that is fully entrenched with democratic values and ideals.

The policies and strategies embodied in this manifesto have been carefully designed and deeply thought out in order to bring about a new Malawi that will guarantee social mobility and economic prosperity for all Malawian citizens and residents, regardless of differences in political and ideological orientation. The manifesto is guided by the principles of true democracy, equal rights, self-esteem, self-respect, and respect for others, non-regionalism and non-sexism.

While this manifesto sets out the broad policy framework that will guide the MCP administration, the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these strategies will be done in close liaison with all the major stakeholders at all levels of society, especially the grassroots level.


The Malawi Congress Party is the only party that believes that economic growth, communal harmony and social justice go hand-in-hand. As such the MCP will nurture the spirit of patriotism and ownership in its efforts to reconstruct and develop the Malawi nation.

1.1 Malawi Congress Party Enemies

The MCP has identified elements that it believes are an impediment to development and therefore MCP will strive to fight the following social and human ills: *Corruption, Disease, Hunger, and absence of decent Shelter.*

1.2 Malawi Congress Party's Values

The values of the Malawi Congress Party are grounded on the defense, promotion and extension of the Party's fundamental values of Unity, Loyalty, Obedience and



Discipline. These, we believe, are key values for progressive re-construction and transformation of Malawi's political, economic and social landscape.

1.2.1 Unity

The defining feature of any social or political entity is unity. Within the context of the Malawi Congress Party political philosophy/ideology the unity of purpose precedes unity as dedication to party ideals. MCP believes that nationhood, statehood, sense of community, sense of belonging, social cohesion and singularity of the state are only possible with unity.

1.2.2 Loyalty

The Malawi Congress Party recognizes that loyalty to one's country, nation or state is principally possible when every citizen subscribes and observes the supreme law of the land. Loyalty to one's country's constitution is loyalty to the fundamental vision of one's society.

1.2.3 Obedience

Political authority must always be exercised within the limits of the moral order and directed toward the common good. When political authority is so exercised, obedience would imply submission to the law.

1.2.4 Discipline

The Malawi Congress party believes that discipline brings with it honesty which is very important for ethical and professional conduct of the civil service, public institutions, private businesses and communities. Discipline is therefore critical for the nation's integrity.



2. GOOD GOVERNANCE, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The MCP believes in a transparent and responsible Government that will serve with humility and integrity. The MCP will rationalize government ministries and form a government on expertise and competence – not party or family interests. The MCP will also uphold the Constitution by ensuring equality amongst ALL Malawians.

The MCP will ensure implementation of the following governance issues

2.1 The Executive

The Head of state will be the President with both executive and ceremonial powers. The President shall stay in office for a maximum of two consecutive five year terms. The President will appoint and supervise a functioning cabinet and will be accountable to the people through the National Assembly.

The MCP realizes that close consultation with the National Executive Committee (NEC) will enhance the robustness of control mechanisms for the executive arm of government in pursuing priority national objectives.

2.2 The Judiciary

The MCP government will guarantee a judiciary that is impartial, effective and truly independent. It will also ensure security of tenure for the judges. . The MCP will institute constitutional development and continuously improve laws so as to conform to the evolving multiparty political dispensation.

2.3 Legislature

The MCP government will ensure that there will be a Parliament duly elected by the people to represent them in the law-making body.



2.4 Political Stability and National Unity

The MCP is committed to the restoration of Malawi's prestigious beacon, namely, stability and unity, through equitable public appointments based on merit, equitable distribution of development projects and not least through incorruptible leadership. In addition, the MCP shall ensure that steps are taken to stamp out regionalism and other factors that potentially endanger political stability and national unity.

2.5 Peoples Participation

Involvement of the citizens at all levels of society in the day to day affairs of government and development efforts is instrumental especially for a democracy. The postponement of local government elections in the past has denied the masses the chance to realistically take charge of their destiny. The MCP is thus committed to fully bring about democratic development in which citizens participate in a variety of ways at all levels in making the decisions which affect their lives.

2.6 Civil Society

MCP sees Civil Society as the prime catalyst for consolidating democracy, community empowerment and self-development. A vibrant Civil Society promotes respect for each other's rights, responsibilities, choices and views and nurtures the sense of community and the act of living together.

The MCP Government will therefore work closely with civil society for the betterment of all Malawians.

2.7 Human Rights and Rule of Law

Every individual in Malawi shall be guaranteed all rights and freedoms recognized by our Constitution and other international instruments to which Malawi is a party.



2.8 Corruption

MCP government will pursue a policy of zero tolerance to corruption. MCP will outline and implement various measures and instruments that it believes will stamp out corruption and fraud in all sectors, both in public and private sectors. Among other measures, it will empower the offices of the Accountant General and the Auditor General and support Public Accounts Committee in their oversight role. MCP will provide adequate resources to the Anti-Corruption Bureau, to strengthen its anti-corruption drive. Further, “watchdog” institutions will be independent of the Executive arm of Government.



3. ECONOMIC POLICY


MCP is committed to structural reforms and stabilization policies, as the recipe for economic growth and development. In close collaboration with our partners in development, MCP will implement the economic reforms in a way that improves the welfare of the people of Malawi.

The MCP will develop strategies and policy mix that it believes will enable the economy to attain sustained growth and development. This will be done by maintaining and deepening the process of macro-economic policy reforms aiming at achieving four principal objectives

- (i) attaining inclusive macro-economic growth;
- (ii) allocating resources more efficiently;
- (iii) mobilizing more domestic and foreign resources to support economic growth; and
- (iv) Rationalization of public expenditure.

For this to be realized, MCP will undertake the following measures

- Implement appropriate fiscal and monetary policies to promote efficiency in management of government budget, interest rates and inflation.
- Redesign macro-economic programming by striking a balance between short-term policy for crisis management and medium to long-term perspective planning.
- Adopt an appropriate population policy recognizing that higher levels of living standards cannot be achieved in our country if population continues to grow at a rate faster than the growth in real incomes.
- Develop appropriate policies to deal with emergencies and disasters, such as droughts that



aim at restoring confidence in the economy for continued flow of foreign direct and cross-border investments.

- Set internally consistent and mutually agreed targets with a view to achieving non-inflationary growth.
- Facilitate the effective implementation of policy decisions through mutually supportive information sharing and purposeful discussions.
- Establish a working relationship between both the Reserve Bank of Malawi and the Ministry of Finance to adopt consistent, supportive and sustainable policies.
- Introduce a new taxation policy [including duty and excise] that takes into account the structures and levels of our development and economic performance. This will broaden the taxation base while easing the tax burden, and improve mechanisms for tax collection.
- Institute budget discipline as the cornerstone of sound financial policy that would improve quality of public expenditure.
- Enhance the operational efficiency of domestic financial and monetary institutions aimed at inducing a savings culture for domestic investment.
- Establish a development institution such as Malawi Development Corporation to service large entrepreneurs that will be the basis of economic drivers in each sector of the economy.

3.1 Economic Partnership

While foreign assistance remains a big proportion of Malawi's development budget (40% in the 2013-14 budget), the Centre-piece of the MCP's economic agenda will be on investment rather than aid. MCP led government will focus on developing new structures, compacts and partnerships with the rest of the world based on the recognition and respect of our sovereignty by all our cooperating partners and on the principle of inter-dependence of nations. While new and improved relations with the donor communities and international organizations will also be the central focus of such relations, MCP will take full charge of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of such programmes in our country.

MCP will focus on significantly shifting from dependence to self-reliance in mobilization of international financing through foreign direct investment and equity participation. Furthermore, MCP will be governed by aspiration for economic growth and sustained development, and the search for new definitions of structural adjustment and economic reforms to suit the emerging plural democracy in Malawi.

We shall focus on the following:-

- Develop, broaden and expand our partnership with the international community, multilateral and bilateral donors in addressing together the core issues of Malawi's underdevelopment (New partnership for Malawi Development).
- Shift from being a recipient nation to a country that can also give and play a more positive and constructive role in international trade and development so as to contribute positively to the world economy.
- Strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones on the global market.

At Regional Level:

MCP will encourage and support:-

- Malawi's participation in regional economic integration and in all regional, continental and international organizations whose Treaties we ratified.
- The Treaty establishing African Union (AU), and the Continental Economic Cooperation and other initiatives.
- Review bilateral agreements between Malawi and other countries in Eastern and Southern Africa covering a range of activities aimed at improving our relations with our cooperating partners.



4. JOB CREATION

MCP is concerned with the high levels of unemployment, particularly among the youth and women. The MCP will put in place policies that will encourage investment which in turn will create jobs.

MCP Government will:

- Improve transparency in recruitment in the public sector
- Promote foreign direct investment in key impact sectors
- Encourage self-employment through career bridging funds
- Introduce internship programs in public sector



5. DECENTRALISATION

The MCP attaches great importance to decentralization because it believes this will bring efficiency and better services to the more than 85% of Malawians who live in rural areas. The decentralization policy will facilitate greater involvement of the ordinary masses in the identification, formulation and implementation of development projects at district levels.

More specifically, the MCP will:

- Create an enabling environment for closer cooperation among the various authorities at the local level.
- Revitalize District Assemblies and related institutions to ensure greater involvement of the local people in the process of governance and development. Publish financial allocations to the DAs so that communities act as local monitors.
- Embark on a nation-wide campaign to sensitize people on their roles in the country's development efforts.
- Provide adequate human and financial resources to District Assemblies for their development activities.
- Establish instruments for District Assemblies to systematically coordinate the activities of NGOs, churches, and donor agencies operating in their districts to avoid unnecessary duplication and overlaps of development efforts.
- Establish District Development Corporations to identify and design industrial projects which they can sell to donors and other potential investors.

- Diversify the rural economy to give the rural poor greater opportunity for off-farm employment activities.
- Raise farm income by giving the rural poor preferential access to complementary inputs.
- Establish a Rural Development Bank to promote agricultural activities and other off-farm business ventures.
- Provide special tax incentives for those investing in rural areas.
- Turn some towns like Karonga, Mangochi and Salima into municipalities.



6. WEALTH CREATION

The MCP led government will focus on investment in productive sectors as the basis for creating new wealth. The basis for any democracy and good governance is economic growth and development. Without economic growth and development, no democracy can be sustainable. The MCP pledges to facilitate efficient usage of resources for job creation, on to creation of new wealth.

The wealth so created will need to be “equally” distributed, and MCP will promote and invest substantially in local innovation and entrepreneurship. The MCP believes that Malawi can be developed only by Malawians. Donor support will be sought to supplement our national effort. The MCP further believes that we in Malawi will not resolve our economic and social development problems by using borrowed ideas and concepts only.

The MCP led government shall deal with Malawi’s economic problems by promoting establishment of new industrial activity such as mining, manufacturing, and processing. This will generate additional incomes as well as create jobs for our people.

As part of entrepreneurship development strategy, the MCP led government shall accord high priority to the development of indigenous small and medium enterprises to enable them grow and expand. They will be provided with the environment that enables them to be more competitive and productive, as well as access to domestic, regional, and international markets. These indigenous products will be encouraged to develop a high level of standardization; packaging and quality control.

The MCP will therefore undertake the following:-

- Promote increased domestic savings and access to financial markets so as to encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.
- Create a better environment for foreign direct investment and for cross-border investment in major impact areas.
- Set up business development fund that will support small and medium enterprises.



7. AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

MCP considers the agricultural sector as key driver for national economic development; a key source of income; food security and a frontier for an export-led economy.

For these ideals to be realized, the MCP Government will do the following:-

- Develop organized agricultural systems that categorises and recognizes various sub-groups such as farmer associations, cooperatives and large scale farmers as a means of empowering them to effectively contribute to economic development.
- Develop organized agricultural marketing and commercial systems, such as ADMARC, that will uplift agriculture as a viable economic development sector
- Reorganize agricultural input distributional system to make it easily accessible under our universal subsidy approach.
- Develop a focused, specialized and diversified approach to different sub-sectors of agriculture such as crops, horticulture, livestock and agro processing, with the aim of achieving maximum benefits from the sectors.
- Improve agricultural productivity through adoption of appropriate technologies, such as irrigation and farm mechanization.
- Develop accessible financing mechanisms to support agricultural activities.
- Enhance agricultural research and extension activities.
- Improve the incentive framework for the smallholder farmers through identification of markets for their produce and support for better prices.

8. NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

MCP believes that our natural resources and the environment constitute important wealth for development of Malawi. Natural resources in Malawi are facing challenges of competing needs of a growing population, industrial development, physical infrastructures and wild life. This is making the issue of land and natural resources management very critical for our sustainable development to meet the needs of current and future generations.

MCP will adopt the following policies for the management of natural resources:-

- Ensure that in every project, environmental impact assessment is conducted and outcomes adhered to.
- Encourage technologies that conserve natural resources.
- Make a comprehensive survey of our natural resources, including minerals, so as to determine how these will support our industrialization strategy.
- Review policy framework linking natural resources, environment and tourism to economic and social progress.
- Intensify reforestation and control programmes working with all stakeholders including individual families.
- Encourage licensing and concessionary arrangements that focus on efficient utilization and replenishment of our natural resources.

In mining:

- Encourage the exploration of minerals in Malawi and greater allocation of resources to this sector.
- Develop policy, legislation, and regulatory framework that will ensure transparency, accountability, and sustainable use of the resources.
- Develop capacity and skills to support the industry

In tourism:

- Establish tourism as priority that has potential to contribute to accelerated economic development.
- Invest in infrastructure and other amenities that will make tourism-potential places, such as Mangochi, Nkhata-bay, Karonga and Salima, attractive and competitive.
- Invest in promotion of tourism in partnership with local and international tour operators.



9. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

MCP believes the existence of a sound and efficient infrastructure is a key prerequisite for accelerated private sector investment and a prosperous economy. Generally, investment in infrastructure development has declined in the past twenty years, leading to poor support to productive sectors. The MCP Government will therefore put emphasis in infrastructure development that will meet the expectations of a modern economy.

Water and Sanitation

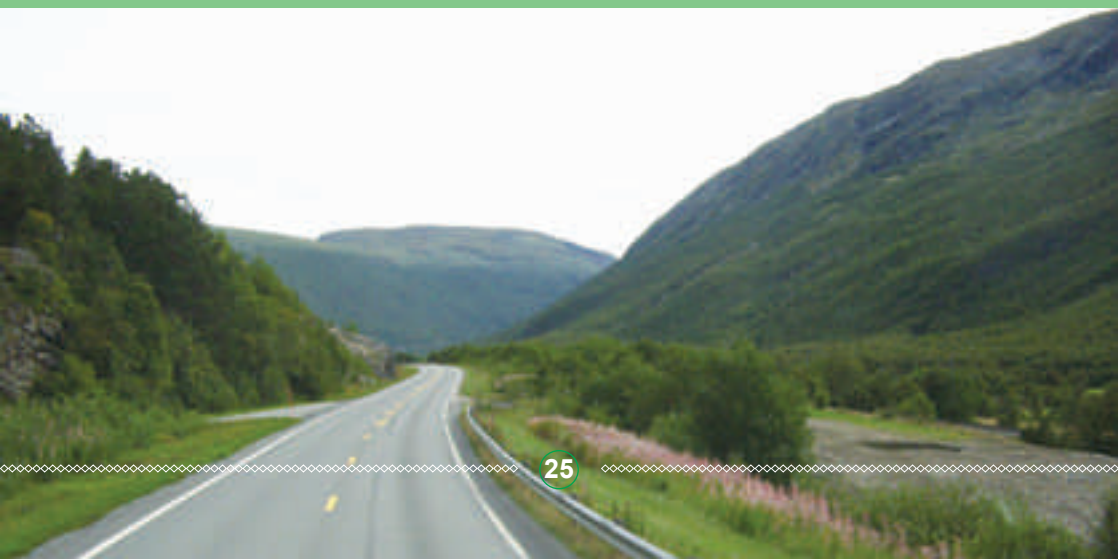
MCP believes that water is life for all Malawians. The MCP government will therefore:

- Improve the role of the District Assemblies in delivering and maintaining water supply.
- Explore private sector participation in providing water and sanitation facilities.
- Invest in research and development of alternative water sources, such as rain water.
- Develop mechanisms for harnessing and utilization of water from Lake Malawi.
- Engage private sector in sewerage and sanitation management in all urban centres.
- Support the regional water boards to ensure regular urban water supply.
- Enforce laws on sanitation by the District Assemblies and Committees.
- Promote upland water harvesting and dam construction for supply of clean portable water to the communities.
- Popularise protection of catchments areas along rivers and lakes.

Roads

To improve the road network, the MCP will:

- Prioritise road maintenance programmes to ensure that the country preserves road network in good condition
- Embark on a national road network programme that will link up all parts of the country particularly the rural areas to facilitate the movement of goods and services within, into and out of the country.
- Ensure adequate funding of the Roads Authority for both maintenance and construction through road fund administration and parliamentary appropriation.
- Promote professionalism in road maintenance programmes and eliminate corruption through transparent and non-political award of contracts.
- Promote adherence to plans as outlined in the Annual National Roads Program, avoiding political interference at all times.



Telecommunication

To boost the telecommunication system, an MCP government will:

- Invest in the regulatory framework in order to monitor pricing mechanism and therefore determine the appropriate levies in that sector.
- Review the policy framework for new service roll out to include incentives for speedy expansion into the rural areas.
- Implement new IT communication technologies like internet access in the postal and telecommunications facilities and expand services to adequately serve the Malawi nation better.
- Encourage local private sector participation through the formation of joint ventures with foreign firms of international repute.

Aviation

To promote air transport, an MCP administration will:

- Encourage the involvement of the private sector in provision of low cost domestic air services.
- Review constraints affecting the flow of aircraft to, from and over the country.
- Provide professional training for further development of the industry.
- Encourage rehabilitation of airports through joint venture projects.
- Invest in infrastructure supporting the airline industry to meet international standards.

Rail and Lake Services

The MCP will:

- Encourage both local and foreign private sector involvement in the further development and regulation of the rail and lake service industries.
- Construct and upgrade the railway national network to support modern services.
- Rehabilitate and revive the rail network, and expand the network into the North to connect with Tanzania.
- Integrate the national rail network with those of neighbouring countries in order to facilitate international trade.
- Work with the Mozambican government to ensure Malawi has access to the sea through the Nsanje World Inland Port.



Energy Sector

The MCP government will:

- Promote investment in renewable Energy resources - smaller hydro projects, thermal, solar, wind, tidal wave, biomass and biogas - for future sustainability and lower current costs of energy.
- Exploring the possibility of disaggregating the national grid for purposes of encouraging private participation in the generation and distribution of power.
- Ensure availability of resources for regular rehabilitation of power generation plants and distribution networks.
- Add capacity in transmission and distribution through rationalization of tariffs offered to private suppliers.

Petroleum

The MCP government will:

- Invest in oil and mineral resources mapping to develop a strategic understanding of the wealth endowment available under the Malawi soil including the lakes.
- Upgrade fuel storage capacity to increase lead time for imports.
- Review the levy structure and management of petroleum products in Malawi.



Broadcasting and Mass Media

The MCP Government will:

- Promote freedom of the press to ensure and guarantee the neutrality of the public and private media.
- Encourage investment and growth of independent radio and television stations.
- Guarantee access to the public radio and TV stations to all interest groups.
- Invest in modernization and upgrading of the media platform to be consistent with international standards.

Information and Communication Technology

The MCP Government will:

- Making ICT an integral part of recruitment in government.
- Promote investment in ICT teaching and learning.
- Invest in ICT infrastructure and training of public sector workforce to improve efficiency in public service delivery.
 - Promote and encourage private sector participation in the provision of ICT facilities such as internet services and Television Stations.
 - Invest in rural ICT accessibility.

10. INDUSTRY AND TRADE

MCP Government will actively promote and prudently manage trade and industrial development at all levels based on an export led development strategy within a competitive market framework. The goal is to create and operate vibrant domestic trade and industry along with active participation in trade protocols with SADC, COMESA, World Trade Organisation (WTO), and other international bodies.

To develop the trade and industry base, the MCP Government will:

- Promote manufacturing as one of the key drivers of the economic development through import substitution and export.
- Pursue an export led industrialization policy through initiatives such as Export Processing Zone.
- Review duty on imports of raw materials and other inputs not available in Malawi.
- Promote value addition through processing activities by making information available on appropriate technologies.
- Establish financing mechanisms to facilitate exports.
- Change the current pre-shipment inspection to make it efficient and reduce costs for industries.
- Establish an efficient supply and distribution system of petroleum products which will be private sector driven.
- Simplify export documentation requirements and harmonise the protocols with the regional trade partners.
- Construct trade fair grounds for Lilongwe and Mzuzu.
- Promote “Best Buy Malawi” campaign.



The Private Sector Role

MCP will give high priority to developing and strengthening the capacity of the private sector to participate effectively in investment, production and trade. MCP will adopt specific policies and programmes to deal with trade and investment relations as well as those relating to regional trade within the framework of regional economic groupings and domestic trade.

Specifically, the MCP will undertake the following:-

- Strengthen “one-stop” investment centre to promote and encourage increased investment in the productive sectors especially in agriculture, mining and manufacturing so as to increase our export earnings through value addition.
- Develop a strong and vibrant Malawi business community with special emphasis on the Youth and women that can respond to and take advantage of a liberalized economy in order to produce improved and high quality goods for our people and for export.
- Strengthen and develop viable financial institutions that will undertake trade financing so that every product made in Malawi finds a market locally or abroad; and to assist Malawi entrepreneurs to enter into joint ventures with foreign investors.

11. EDUCATION

MCP believes that a learned and skilled human resource is the country's greatest asset. In line with the Malawi constitution, MCP recognizes that it is the right of every Malawian to access high quality education. This is why the MCP Government will ensure significant investment in education as a matter of priority, focusing on delivery, capital investment, workforce development and quality control, and management.

The MCP has noticed that while access to education has improved in the past twenty years, the quality has deteriorated. The compromise in quality has put our education standards backwards and this is detrimental to the future of our nation.

The MCP Government will therefore develop an efficient and high quality education system in Malawi.

The MCP Government has the following measures which will restore confidence and motivation in the sector.

Planning, Management and Administration

The MCP Government will:

- Create clear functional relationships between education sector and other government organs to ensure comprehensive and cost effective planning of the sector.
- Devolve more powers and responsibilities to Education Divisions, District Educational Authorities, School Head-Teachers, and Teachers in the planning, management, development and administration of education at primary and secondary levels while strengthening the oversight function of the ministry head office.
- Establish an independent regulatory body to set quality standards and support improvement measures across the education sector.

- Establish guidelines for an appropriate learner-teacher ratio that enhances both group teaching and mentoring.
- Ensure allocation of adequate financial resources for acquisition of teaching and learning materials.
- Review the conditions of service for all teachers to ensure that they compare equitably with their equivalents in other sectors of the civil service

Pre-School

The MCP Government will:

- Invest in pre-school education so that it is accessible to everybody.
- Ensure that proper standards are maintained through inspections and supervision of such schools.
- Support community based initiatives through involvement of retired personnel and other capable individuals such as students on vacation.
- Support private pre-school initiatives through churches and other community organizations across the country.

Primary Education

The MCP Government will:

- Devolve more power to local education authorities to functionalize development and administration of schools in their catchment areas.
- Review the professional structure of teachers and the teaching profession in Malawi, in consultation with all key stakeholders, such as Teachers Union.

- Invest in continuing professional development of teachers as a basis to improve the quality of education in Malawi.
- Expand the capital development budget of Ministry of Education in order to build more primary schools, rehabilitate classroom blocks and build up to date teachers houses.

Secondary Education

The MCP Government will:

- Through a revised Education Act, set and establish minimum requirements and standards for the operations and development of Community Day secondary Schools and Distant Education Centres.



- Support establishment and development of private secondary schools provided the minimum requirements and standards as stipulated in the Education Act are met.
- Revise secondary education curricula to incorporate important elements such as life-skills, entrepreneurship and information technology so as to increase their relevance to present day needs.

Teacher Training


The MCP Government will:

- Explore the possibility of turning teacher training colleges into teaching profession development centres that would be accredited to offer diploma and degree programs
- Expand existing teacher training colleges to accommodate envisaged increase of intakes of full time two-year training programmes.
- Develop a staff development programme for the training of teacher trainers, tutors, supervisors, managers, administrators and programmers internally or externally.
- Revise teacher training curricula to reflect the changing demands of education and to foster a spirit of independence, resourcefulness, and responsibility in the teachers.

Universities

The MCP Government will:

- Ensure proper teaching and learning environment in public universities through provision of adequate



funding and infrastructure development in the existing universities that matches with the growing demand of university education

- Promote access to university education to all qualified students.
- Standardise conditions of service for all administration and technical staff in all public universities
- Expand operational efficiency of the existing universities and increase capacity by building new universities.
- Regularize the university calendar and clear the back-log of university students.
- Improve conditions of services to drastically reduce brain drain.
- Systematically and progressively wean off the universities from the wholesale dependence on government support in response to the exigencies of the changing economic order.
- Encourage research and development to ensure continuity and validity of universities' role in national development.
- Explore the establishment of Public Open University to facilitate continuing education for those in employment and entrepreneurship.

Technical and Vocational Training

The MCP Government will:

- Rehabilitate existing technical and vocational training centres.
- Review curricula to reflect changing need of the

industry and provide appropriate technology to take the challenges into the 21st century.

- Strengthen and increase the capacities and capabilities of existing technical colleges.
- Encourage private sector involvement in the provision of vocational training and apprenticeship.

Adult Literacy Education

The MCP Government will:

- Develop and increase adult and functional literacy programmes in order to arrest illiteracy and ensure that non-formal and distance education programmes become part of the means of solving illiteracy problems in Malawi.
- Remain fully committed to the increase of literacy and basic education for all with the support of the international community, NGOs and voluntary organisations within the context of the Jomtein Strategies in Education for all.
- Intensify activities of the National Adult Literacy Programme so that more illiterate people especially women are reached.
- Provide leadership skills to local communities so that more is achieved in the communities' task to undertake self help projects.

Science and Technology

The MCP Government will:

- Strengthen the role of research and innovation in the field of science and technology as a catalyst for national development.

- Invest and design a science and technology curricula in our education system that is introduced as early as possible to promote innovation.
- Strengthen the National Commission of Science and Technology.
- Promote research and development at the individual firm level through appropriate incentives such as tax rebates and rewards.
- Promote collaborative research and development activities between the universities and private companies.
- Create a trust fund for research in Science and Technology.

Art, Sports and Culture

The MCP Government will:

- Strengthen the operations sports and cultural institutions such as: Museum of Malawi, Copyright Society of Malawi, and antiquities department.
- Preserve our diverse cultural heritage to anchor national development efforts.
- Promote a wide range of art, sporting and cultural activities through proper funding and development of elaborate policies.
- Encourage private sector involvement in art, sports and cultural development without undue government interference.
- Promote establishment of facilities for the youth in various art, sporting and cultural activities, so that they become reliable citizens.

12. HEALTH AND POPULATION

MCP believes that a healthy population is an important catalyst for national development. On this belief, MCP considers availability of adequate medical facilities and provisions, and qualified personnel, as vital to the sector. The MCP-led government will provide universal health, and improve access of the rural and urban poor to basic health facilities.

The policy will include:-

- Provision of increased coverage of high quality essential health package services.
- Investment in medical research to health challenges that are most prevalent among Malawians.
- Extensive and intensive training programmes including skills upgrading and specialization will be introduced in the medical profession.
- Sufficient skilled human resource for health trained, recruited and retained in the health sector.
- Review the conditions of service and remuneration packages for health personnel.
- A deliberate effort to train doctors in areas with few or no expertise such as cancer and cardiology etc.
- Ensure that quality medical equipment is provided, maintained and essential medicines and supplies made available all the time.
- Strengthening the existing training institutions.
- Adoption of appropriate population and family planning policies.

- Recognition of the seriousness of the HIV and AIDS pandemic as a medical, economic, political and social crisis. Particular emphasis will be applied to treatment, prevention of new infections and transmission from mother to child.

Primary Health Care

The MCP Government will strive to improve the health well-being of all Malawians primarily through the primary Health Care approach. MCP will reorganize the health care delivery system to make it more responsive to the grass-roots. To achieve such a level of health care delivery system, the MCP Government will put emphasis on the primary health care strategies of preventive and promotional interventions.

Specifically, the MCP Government's initiatives in primary health care will include:

- Improvement of primary health care outreach.
- Training of more Health surveillance assistants to expand coverage of primary health services to the villages.
- Improvement of maternal and child health care.
- Strengthening functionality of district and health center management committees.
- Improvement in maternal and child health care services, immunization programmes, treatment and prevention.
- Increase investment in “preventive” approaches in health delivery.
- Providing adequate funding for drugs, equipment and in-patient care facilities.

- Rationalising drug distribution network to ensure that hospitals and health centres have a reasonable supply of drugs.
- Introducing an extensive mobile clinic network to serve those areas whose inhabitants have no access to fixed health care facilities.
- Improving ambulance services.
- Providing mortuary facilities throughout the country.
- Rehabilitating and improving the existing hospital infrastructure and equipment.
- Supporting and encouraging private sector involvement in the delivery of health services including the Christian Health Association of Malawi and other health initiatives of both religious and non religious groups.
- Improving conditions of service for Health Care workers through introducing sustainable housing, motor vehicle and medical care schemes.
- Introducing monthly tax free Risk Allowances for medical and paramedical Health Care personnel.



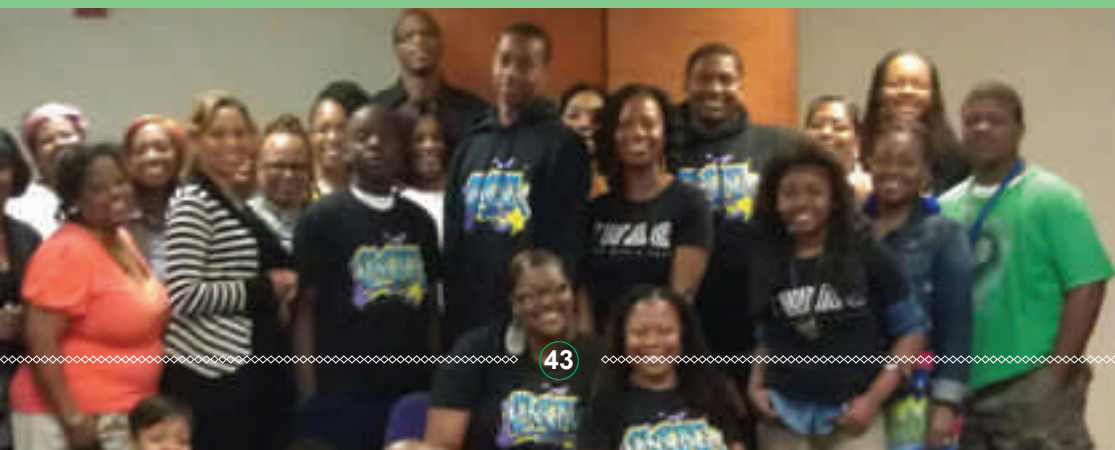
13. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The youth constitute a large proportion of the Malawi population. MCP shall engage the youth in all aspects of national development.

MCP will further encourage and assist the youth to articulate their needs.

The MCP Government will:

- Encourage private sector involvement in the provision of vocational training, apprenticeships, and work-based learning.
- On the basis of a comprehensive analysis of skills gap, build additional national technical colleges.
- Encourage active participation of churches, private sector, religious and voluntary organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders in the upbringing of the youth.
- Revise technical and vocational training curricula to reflect changing need of the various communities in Malawi and provide appropriate technology to take the challenges into the 21st century.
- Promote the formation of area, district and national youth organizations.



14. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

The MCP recognizes that women in Malawi play a vital role in agriculture and food production. They provide solid social security to our children. The thrust of the MCP policy will be to accord women full recognition and unimpeded access to all aspects of Malawi's development.

MCP shall, therefore, intensify programmes aimed at removing illiteracy, underemployment and exploitation of women. MCP shall also place high priority on increasing the number of women in responsible policy-making positions.

To improve the status of women in Malawi, the MCP Government will:

- Ensure that women enjoy equal access to land status in property and other resources ownership.
- Strengthen the institutional capacities of establishments responsible for women empowerment and affairs.
- Make deliberate effort to improve the participation of women in social, economic, and political activities through measures, deemed appropriate by women, such as affirmative actions, equal employment opportunities and provision of credit.
- Actively support those NGOs promoting women's rights in order to expand coverage of their services to the rural areas.
- Amend the wills and Inheritance Act in order to protect fully widows, widowers and orphans from having their properties snatched away from them by inconsiderate relatives.
- Encourage women to participate in presidential, parliamentary and local government elections in order for them to fully participate in the governance process.

15. PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THE ELDERLY

The MCP led government will adopt programmes that fully address the problems arising from the fact that a large number of people with various forms of disability in our country are deprived of the right to fully participate in the social and economic development. One of the priority areas of MCP lead government will be to open windows of opportunity for people with disabilities to fully participate in the economic and social transformation of our country.

MCP shall ensure that appropriate measures are provided for in all facilities, like buildings and public vehicles, to address the disabled and the elderly needs.

MCP shall develop programmes for the elderly people to enable them to impart their accumulated wealth of knowledge and experiences to younger children and the youth so as to preserve our traditions and heritage. They will be encouraged to form a *National Association of Elderly* with branches in every city, town and village to mobilize support for programmes for our elderly people.



16. PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The MCP asserts that every Malawi citizen has the right to housing. New housing policies will focus on removal of impediments and creating more opportunities for people to acquire their own houses even at the low-income levels.

More specifically, the MCP policy for housing will focus on housing development Programme for low-cost, durable and habitable housing to be sold to all citizens of Malawi at affordable cost. This will enable the low-income groups to acquire their own homes.

Malawi Housing Corporation will be empowered to construct houses for new entries to the labour market on mortgage.



17. CIVIL AND PUBLIC SERVICE

MCP recognises the strategic and vital role of the Civil Service in the day-to-day affairs of Government. The MCP Government will take on the challenge of restoring the Civil Service to its former enviable glory. It is the MCP's intention to maintain a civil service that is motivated, sufficiently rewarded, honest, incorruptible, hard-working and apolitical.

The MCP Government will achieve an effective and efficient civil service through:-

- Maintenance of a professional and politically neutral civil service that is committed to serving the people of Malawi.
- Meritorious appointments to all positions tenable in the civil service.
- Promotions that will be based on career civil service.
- Transparent appointment of members of Civil Service Commission to ensure professionalism in hiring of civil servants
- Systematic provision of training both within and outside the country for all levels in order to step up productivity and operational efficiency.
- Promote filling of existing vacancies to the extent that resources allow.
- Decentralise some functions such as company registration and passport processing to the District level.
- Review Civil Servants conditions of service from time to time.
- Develop a healthy and mutually beneficial relationship with trade unions such as Civil Servants Trade Union

Public Sector Companies

The MCP will:

- Ensure that public sector companies put operations and efficiency over political concerns.
- Appoint capable and competent Board of Directors that are accountable to shareholders as in private business.





18. FOREIGN POLICY

The MCP has always been strong advocate of peaceful coexistence and resolution of conflicts through the policy of contact and dialogue. With respect to the persistent social, economic and political changes in the new international order, the MCP Government will endeavor to maintain a characteristically strategic, pragmatic and dynamic foreign policy. The ultimate goal of the MCP foreign policy will be to promote the trade and security interest and safeguard the existence of the Malawi nation as a sovereign entity in the international community of nation states.

To ensure that Malawi plays its rightful role in international community, the MCP will:

- Pursue a policy of non-interference in internal affairs of other states.
- Champion the principle of good neighbourliness and peaceful resolution of disputes.
- Play an active role in search for lasting peace within the sub-region and beyond.
- Support efforts to achieve dynamic regional and global economic integration through organisations like SADC, COMESA, AU, and the Commonwealth.
- Adhere to the principles enshrined in the charters of the AU and United Nations and to all international treaties of which Malawi is a signatory.
- Actively support the current democratisation trends that aim at securing human dignity and worthiness across the globe.
- Take measures to ensure efficiency and professionalism in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as in the selection and posting of diplomatic personnel.

19. SECURITY

Over the past ten years, the unprecedented political and economic changes that have swept across Africa have made the countries more vulnerable to internal and external security problems.

The MCP remains committed to governing a Nation that will be secure, stable and safe for social, economic and political development.

19.1 The Army

The MCP has always applauded the Army for its remarkable and outstanding level of professionalism and dedication to duty. There are dramatic changes that are constantly taking place in our neighborhood and beyond.

The MCP is commitment to maintain an army that can diligently defend the country from external aggression and contribute to national development in times of peace by motivating the Army through:

- Provision of adequate training within and outside Malawi
- Awarding promotions based on merit.
- Improving conditions of service through the introduction of sustainable housing, and benefits.
- Instituting regular review of the conditions of service.
- Promoting harmonious co-existence between the Army and the civilian population.

19.2 The Police

The MCP realises the importance of the Police and honours them for maintaining internal security.

However, the rampant increase in crime and drug abuse necessitates the maintenance of a vigilant and diligent Police Services that will make Malawi a safe country again.

The morale of the police service is currently very low and the resources at their disposal are by far inadequate to cope with the spiraling crime and drug abuse. In fact the present security situation in the country is potentially damaging to the country's young tourism industry and to both foreign and local investment flows.

The MCP will therefore:

- Employ more police officers to adequately deal with crime.
- Adequately finance all activities of the Police Service to enhance mobility, communication and efficiency.
- Provide modern, professional and advanced training and equipment in crime detection and prevention and citizen protection.
- Support the Malawi Police Reform Programme.
- Enact legislation to ensure proper operations of private security companies and neighborhood policing initiatives.
- Improve the conditions of service through provision of decent housing and other benefits.

19.3 Prisons

The MCP recognises that prisoners have rights just like other citizens.

The MCP Government will ensure improved prison living

conditions including provision of nutritious food and medical care for prisoners. This will transform prisons from being predominantly punitive centres to primarily rehabilitative institutions that will facilitate proper and effective re-integration of prisoners into the main stream of social, political and economic life.

The MCP Government will also improve food quality, hygiene, health and reduce overcrowding.

In addition, the MCP will:

- Provide vocational training to prepare prisoners, particularly the young for a productive and self reliant life.
- Provide chaplains to cater for the spiritual need of prisoners.
- Explore the possibility of Community Service for first time offenders whose sentences are light and as a way of reducing congestion on prisons.



20. APPEAL

MCP believes in people's involvement and participation- the principle of "Nothing For Us Without Us" for its plans to succeed. However, for meaningful participation, MCP appeals to the citizenry to embrace and observe these virtues:-

- Unity:** Malawians have to be united at all times. One nation, one shared vision.
- Patriotism:** The citizenry should be proud of their country and be patriotic at all times.
- Hard Work:** The hard working spirit which Malawi is known for should be encouraged in all fields of human endeavor.
- Self Help:** People should always strive to improve lives of their communities. Self-help and volunteerism should be encouraged.
- Preservation:** People should preserve the natural resources and the environment which make this country beautiful.
- Ownership:** Citizens must take ownership of national assets. Vandalism of public assets must stop as this slows down development and progress. People must treat these as national assets for the development of the country.
- Vigilance:** Every citizen must be a keeper of the other to ensure safety of the country.
- Integrity:** People should be honest and accountable at all times and take responsibility for their actions.

21. CONCLUSION

This manifesto maps out strategies for development in Malawi. The major emphasis of the manifesto is placement of ordinary Malawians at the heart of all developmental goals. To this end it articulates only feasible promises. With the full participation of all Malawians in the unfolding and translation of the plans into action everything said here can be achieved. The Malawi Congress Party has the experience and capability to help Malawians to realize these goals.

Through this manifesto, the MCP resolves to be the foremost agent of socio-economic transformation based on conviction, commitment, competence, compassion and character.

Vote for a Better Malawi:
Vote Malawi Congress Party

Vote for Unity:
Vote Malawi Congress Party

Vote for Economic Growth:
Vote Malawi Congress Party

Vote for Economic Stability:
Vote Malawi Congress Party

Vote for Security, Stability and Integrity:
Vote Malawi Congress Party





