

MGWIRIZANO COALITION

Governance for Sustainable Development

THE MANIFESTO

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Message from the President

My fellow Malawians, on behalf of the Mgwirizano Coalition, I would like to greet you all. As we approach the forthcoming Presidential and Parliamentary elections on 18th May 2004, I seek your mandate for the Presidency of this country and ask you to support Mgwirizano Coalition's agenda for Malawi.

The dawn of multi-party democracy following the referendum of 1993 created freedom and opportunity for Malawians to exercise their rights to form and join political parties; to express themselves without fear; and to elect leaders of their own choice. The adoption of a new Constitution in 1995 entrenched these rights, freedoms and democracy.

Following the election of the UDF in 1994, Malawians had heightened expectations for an improvement in their standard of living. However the performance of the UDF government has disappointed many within and outside the country. Malawi has experienced rampant corruption, economic decay, insecurity and chronic food shortages resulting in deteriorating standards of life.

Realising that corruption, plunder of public resources and economic mismanagement pose a threat to sustainable economic development, social cohesion and adversely affect the poor, the Mgwirizano Coalition's priority will be to reverse the current decline in the economy through programmes that reverse the policies that created the decline in the first place.

The Mgwirizano coalition has brought together seven political parties in an alliance of young and experienced politicians dedicated to uplifting the welfare of all Malawians regardless of race, creed, religion or region of origin. We believe in democratic ideals and the separation of power between the Executive, Judiciary and the Legislature. We embrace better governance principles by respecting the rule of law and enabling increased civil society participation in government policy-making processes; we will stump out corruption, increase the power and independence of the Anticorruption Bureau and the courts. We will establish prudent management of government resources; strengthen political accountability and democratic institutions. We will promote increased savings and investment

and encourage competitiveness in the private sector by building institutions to support markets, innovations and entrepreneurship. We will also increase investment in education and skills of our citizens.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will create an environment conducive for increased productivity and economic growth that is necessary for poverty reduction; provide equitable access to quality social services in health, water and sanitation; create employment opportunities; eliminate food insecurity and fight against crime and HIV/AIDS.

The Mgwirizano coalition will uphold and promote national unity and religious freedom and it believes firmly that each one of us has a role to play in the quest to achieve a better life for all.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will intensify efforts to cooperate with neighbouring countries and others within and outside the African continent to consolidate peace, security and development and fight against international terrorism.

I believe that the policies and programs outlined in this manifesto will make Malawians achieve my vision of a democratic, peaceful and prosperous country that is in harmony with itself and its neighbours. May I therefore appeal to all Malawians to support our agenda and vote for the Mgwirizano Coalition for the betterment of our future.

Gwanda Chakuamba

President – Mgwirizano Coalition

21st April 2004

1.0 The Beliefs of Mgwirizano Coalition

As we progress with our multi-party democracy and approach the end of a ten-year term for the Muluzi administration, Malawi is currently facing major governance and economic problems that have their roots in a number of inter-related areas of mismanagement.

The performance of the UDF government has disappointed many: constitutional quandary; the budget, national debt and economic decay; rampant corruption; insecurity and a persistent shortage of food as well as widespread poverty. Realising that these problems pose a threat to sustainable development and adversely affect the poor, the Mgwirizano Coalition's priority will be to reverse the current decline in the economy through programmes that reverse the policies that created the decline in the first place.

The Mgwirizano coalition has brought together seven parties in an alliance of young and experienced politicians who are dedicated to uplifting the welfare of all Malawians regardless of gender, race, creed or region of origin.

We in the Mgwirizano Coalition believe in:

- The rule of law and the independence and integrity of the judiciary
- Separation of power among the state institutions,
- An administration that is transparent and accountable to its citizens
- A society of honesty and equity and the principle of equal opportunity for all regardless of gender, religious affiliation or tribe.
- The core values of civil society and community participation in decision-making and development.
- Hard work as necessary for individual self-esteem and success,
- A Democratic political system that is free from political violence.

The Mgwirizano Coalition rejects:

- Corruption;
- Politics of patronage, cronyism and violence;

- Plunder of public resources; and
- A culture of dependence.

Mgwirizano Coalition will promote Good Governance and protect our democratic system of government because these are prerequisites for sustainable development. We will pursue a free market economy with minimal but strategic state intervention. Furthermore, we will promote the enterprise culture through efforts to create an environment where private enterprise can flourish. Our economic policies aim at boosting productivity and income growth through investment, support for a competitive private sector and fiscal discipline.

There is a close relationship between agricultural productivity, economic development and poverty reduction in this country. The agricultural sector remains the key source of growth and employment in Malawi as it accounts for about 36 percent of GDP, 87 percent of total employment and supplies more than 65 percent of the manufacturing sector's raw material requirements and provides food for the nation. The Mgwirizano Coalition aims at transforming the agricultural production, storage and marketing mechanisms because this is fundamental to ensuring sustainable development.

The Mgwirizano Coalition recognizes that civil society can have positive influence on policy and decision-making. We are convinced that an effective state-civil society relationship can be the basis for a more transparent and accountable government. The Mgwirizano Coalition will respect opposition parties and consult them on important policy decisions affecting the country.

The Mgwirizano Coalition is also committed to increasing access to quality health care delivered in a system that balances governmental and individual responsibility.

We believe that quality education is a key to human development and equal opportunity. Therefore the Mgwirizano Coalition will never abandon our public schools or tolerate their failure.

We in the Mgwirizano Coalition are committed to advancing and promoting the interests of youths, women and people with disabilities. Apart from creation of employment and other opportunities, we will empower them through programmes that enhance their capacity to develop self-reliance. For example, we will strengthen training in artisan skills and promote programmes that engage the youths in responsible living.

Whilst the Mgwirizano Coalition government has an obligation to deliver social services and create opportunities for its citizens, likewise the citizens are being called upon to demonstrate commitment to their country through community participation.

There is general consensus among Malawians that corruption is one of the greatest threats to national development and poverty reduction. Unfortunately, corruption is quickly taking root in our society. Plundering of public resources and abuse of office has become commonplace and is permeating the public and the private sectors. Staggering examples of questionable procurement contracts include monopolies in procurement of medical supplies, the Identity Card scandal, the Land Rover deal, the Ministry of Education scam, and kickback commissions paid by suppliers in numerous procurement contracts, among others. The Mgwirizano coalition will deal with the problem of corruption entirely. Besides offering credible, exemplary and clean leadership, we will aggressively investigate and expeditiously prosecute those involved in corrupt practices.

As a practical demonstration of our commitment to combating corruption, we will call on all those who are in possession of corruptly obtained property to voluntarily provide information to the Anti Corruption Bureau. We will consider a pardon and urge the Director of Public Prosecution and Anticorruption Bureau to work together to offer immunity against prosecution to those who respond favourably and genuinely to our call.

Poor performance and lack of transparency in the public sector are real issues affecting service delivery in Malawi. The civil service lacks good leadership, capacity and is increasingly becoming corrupt. The Mgwirizano coalition will

improve conditions of service for public sector workers. We will reintroduce a meritocratic system for appointment, promotion, and performance evaluation.

The Mgwirizano Coalition sees insecurity as a danger to human life and development. Therefore, we will focus on crime prevention, punishing offenders as well as paying attention to what happens to inmates after conviction. **On prevention, we will use testing and treatment to break the cycle of drug abuse,** adequately equip law enforcers and strengthen laws against illegal possession of firearms. The Mgwirizano Coalition government will be committed to equal justice for all.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will defend and preserve the common civic ideals and spirit of tolerance that have enabled Malawi to draw strength and unity from its cultural diversity. Because we can no longer take our cultural cohesion for granted, we must all work harder to defend our values and institutions that we have in common. We believe that chiefs as custodians of our cultural norms and values must not be used to promote party political agendas.

The Mgwirizano Coalition upholds religious tolerance and freedom of worship.

The Mgwirizano Coalition foreign policy will be based on non-interference and will promote dialogue with other states. The Mgwirizano Coalition government will join hands with the rest of the international community in fighting terrorism and other forms of international crimes. We will advance bilateral and multilateral relations that are aimed at advancing Malawi's values and its political and economic interests.

Building on our principal beliefs, the Mgwirizano Coalition is confident that Malawi can regain her reputation as a country of honest and hardworking people. Our transparent government will encourage civil society participation to enhance transparency and accountability. We will stress on prudent management of the economy and pay special attention to the agriculture sector to ensure that Malawians have enough food. We will combat corruption and crime so that Malawians live in a free and secure society. We will improve access to quality social services. Finally, the Mgwirizano government will promote private sector

participation and provide an environment conducive to private investment and innovation.

2.0 Promoting State-Civil Society Partnership

The Mgwirizano Coalition government will strengthen close partnership with its citizens in formulating policy and monitoring service delivery. Whilst the Mgwirizano Coalition subscribes to the parliamentary system of representation, we note that sheer parliamentary representation is inadequate to ensure efficient and effective public management. Our parliament meets infrequently and given the current political climate, Members of Parliament have tended to tackle issues based on their political party allegiance and not on national interests. The State-Civil Society partnership that we are articulating will open another avenue of national dialogue that must be recognized. Additionally, this partnership increases political competition and provides citizens with an alternative channel of raising their concerns.

3.0 Enhancing Political governance

Guided by our democratic ideals and our belief in the rule of law, the Mgwirizano Coalition strongly embraces multiparty politics. However, in order to enhance good governance, we will:

- Reform the law regarding Electoral Commission to make it independent and not based on party representation. Appointments of commissioners will be through public advertisement for application to a panel of high profile individuals.
- Strengthen and expand the requirement for declaration of assets beyond the current provisions to include senior public officials. Officials who fail to declare and/or disclose their assets will not be qualified to assume or hold public office.
- Introduce legislation that calls for disclosure of political party financing above a certain threshold.
- Enact the Freedom of Information legislation in line with the constitutional provisions.

- Safeguard the freedom of the press and open up the Public Media for the benefit of all Malawians.
- Amend laws governing the process of electing Chairpersons of District Assemblies and Mayors of cities and municipal Assemblies so that they are elected directly by the voters.
- Enhance the separation of powers between the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary in a system of checks and balances. The Mgwirizano Coalition will continue to guarantee the independence of the Judiciary.

3.1 Reform of Public Institutions

The Mgwirizano Coalition is committed to the reform of public institutions to ensure that they can effectively deliver quality social services and development programs of the government. We also challenge the civil society to make their various institutions transparent and accountable, effective and efficient in order to help the government to formulate and execute good policies, as well as monitor and evaluate them.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will ensure that;

- All public institutions demonstrate improved efficiency and accountability measurable against set standards.
- Those in top positions are capable, responsible and exemplary in discharging their duties.
- Appointments to boards of directors and commissions are on merit and we will ensure that vacancies are advertised.

In addition, we will encourage the formation of voluntary private institutions or forums so that they can:

- Develop the culture of critical analysis of governmental policies and actions,
- Motivate people to work hard in order to be self-reliant and desist from a culture of handouts,

3.2 Civil service

The Malawi civil service suffers from lack of capacity, poor leadership, rent seeking and corruption. Therefore, performance and transparency in public sector are real issues affecting service delivery.

The Mgwirizano coalition will:

- **Improve productivity through a thorough review of conditions of service in order to provide the realistic incentives, (not review to provide incentive)**
- Carry out regular review of the minimum wage policy and ensure that its implementation is adequately monitored,
- Encourage competition and merit-based appointments across the board.
- Ensure the independence of the public service commission.

3.3 Fighting Corruption

Fighting corruption is high on the Mgwirizano Coalition agenda. We reject corruption in both public and private life and we will tackle the problem by both preventing and prosecuting offenders.

We will:

- Strengthen institutions that enhance transparency and accountability.
- Amend the current legislation to increase the power and independence of the Anti Corruption Bureau.
- Enforce transparency in public procurement of goods and services. The Director for Public Procurement will not be accountable to or operate under the supervision of the President.
- Continuously devise new and innovative strategies to reduce opportunities for corruption such as reducing discretionary powers of public officials.

4.0 Bringing the Economy Back on Track

The Mgwirizano Coalition will call upon the Private Sector to help revive the economy and bringing it back on track. The current poor performance of the economy is due to poor governance.

Our state-private sector partnership will encourage investment. The government will provide an environment conducive to investment through developing infrastructure, and formulating predictable political and economic policies. These efforts will attract quality foreign investors and improve productivity.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will:

- Aim at stabilizing the macro economy by ensuring low public debt (especially domestic debt), low interest and inflation rates, and stable exchange rates,
- Immediately reduce the budget deficit through expenditure control measures and avoid printing money.
- Review the tax policy to encourage savings and investment;
- Ensure increased efficiency of the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) in order to reduce tax non-compliance,
- Enforce a system of performance budgeting in which measurable targets are set and disbursements made on the basis of quarterly achievements. We will publish budgetary expenditure levels, service delivery survey reports and will ensure that pro-poor allocations are protected,
- Ensure that there is separation of power between politicians and civil servants. Public officials will be protected to encourage them to maintain professionalism in performance of their duties,
- Aim at attaining and sustaining economic growth rates above 6% per annum in order to reduce poverty in our country.
- Engage with the trade unions to ensure improved labour productivity,
- Limit the size of the cabinet to only 25 ministries, including the presidency.
- Lobby the international community to cancel external debts and help us to retire domestic debt as a gesture of goodwill to the people of Malawi.

5.0 Sector-specific Policies

5.1 Agriculture

Agriculture remains the mainstay of the Malawi economy and the major sector to steer the country into economic growth. As such, it is prudent to revive and transform the agriculture sector while simultaneously creating an environment for enterprise culture.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will:

- Promote increased production of the traditional cash crops and encourage investment in alternative cash crops such as cotton, Paprika and groundnuts (these are already traditional crops]. We will concentrate on improving quality in order to fetch better prices,
- Improve prices for smallholder crops as an incentive for increased production [liberalised economy conflict]. We will also encourage commercial farming as necessary;
- Promote maize varieties that are high yielding, drought resistant and easy to store,
- Encourage the formation of farmers' cooperatives to enhance access to credit, inputs and marketing of produce.
- Expand both small-scale and commercial irrigation and introduce farm mechanization.
- Encourage semi-processing and large scale agro-processing industries, e.g., grading, packaging, storage, milling etc to add value,
- In the short term, we will subsidize agricultural inputs. In the medium to long term, we plan to move away from subsidies towards facilitating the commercialisation of agriculture through;
 - Increased access to finance.
 - Secure land ownership.
 - Provision of the necessary infrastructure to process, transport, and market the produce.
- Ensure that food is available both at national and household level, and will aim at curbing “artificial” food shortages. The Strategic Grain Reserves will maintain the required buffer stocks.

- Encourage the growing of different types of food crops to diversify the country's eating habits.

5.2 Trade and Industry

The Mgwirizano will find a right balance between export promotion and inward-looking strategies. Henceforth, selected and strategic industries must be promoted to exploit the export potentials provided by AGOA and the EU markets.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will:

- Seek to exploit trade opportunities in the region as well as globally,
- Encourage the private sector to work towards improving product quality, introduce new products and reduce costs,
- Facilitate, through provision of information, negotiations on terms of trade and access to markets, and export finance,
- Introduce tax incentives to encourage investment,
- Improve labour productivity through education and training
- Move Malawi away from being a primarily consumer nation to a country that predominantly manufactures for export,
- Operationalize the competition policy to lessen monopolistic and collusion tendencies.

5.3 Tourism

Malawi is endowed with many tourist attractions such as lakes, beautiful beaches, picturesque mountains, game reserves and a rich cultural heritage. The country has failed to fully develop and market tourism.

The Mgwirizano Coalition Government will;

- Improve the road network, airports and telecommunications infrastructure to make our holiday resorts easily accessible and improve security at holiday resorts;
- Encourage investment in holiday resorts that meet international standards,

- Engage professional marketers to market our tourism industry both within and outside Malawi.

5.4 Mining

The mining sector has the potential to contribute to the economic development of the country. Currently there is some low scale mining in coal and limestone.

The Mgwirizano coalition will;

- Continue to explore the mining possibilities,
- Encourage serious investment in the industry through the provision of information from government research, access to finance and tax incentives.

6.0 The Social Sector

The Mgwirizano Coalition aims at delivering a wider choice and access to social services.

6.1 Bringing Quality Back to our Education System

Quality education is a key to human development and equal opportunity. The poor the quality of education, the poor the quality of our human resource hence the lower the chance Malawi can develop. The Mgwirizano Coalition government aims at delivering quality and relevant education. Free primary education is a constitutional right and, despite the budgetary constraints, we will strive to maintain standards that are acceptable to the nation.

We will:

- Continue the free primary education, but will ensure that the quality is improved,
- Immediately tackle wastage of resources by removing 'ghost' expenditure items,

- Ensure that inputs into the education system meet government set quality standards, including well trained and motivated teachers.
- Re-enforce school discipline through the introduction of youth guidance and chaplaincy programs, career counselling and prohibition of alcohol, drug and sexual abuse,
- Adequately enhance supervision of the government set standards for both public and private institutions,
- Upgrade the existing technical colleges and vocational training centres and building additional centres nationwide with the objective of increasing technical skills among the youth.
- Allow those geared towards technical education to follow appropriate vocational training schemes,
- Undertake decentralisation of the education sector in order devolve school management to communities.
- Mainstream HIV/AIDS in the school curriculum,
- **Immediately transfer the responsibility of constructing school buildings to the department of public works.**

6.1.1 Tertiary Education

The Mgwirizano Coalition will not exclude children from poor families in the tertiary education system.

Therefore, the Mgwirizano coalition will;

- Ensure that deserving students get scholarships and education loans purely on merit to further their education,
- Introduce a national service system that allows needy students to work in return for government aid and encourage employers to contribute to the student's education in exchange for work.
- Encourage the University colleges and other technical colleges to find additional means of generating revenue for the running of their institutions.
- Ensure that educational institutions stick to their school calendars.

6.2 Health

There are several constraints to quality health service delivery: staff motivation and inadequate trained professionals in the health service. There is also corruption in the procurement of equipment and medical supplies.

The Mgwirizano coalition will;

- Consider staff retention as a priority through improving working conditions and intensified training of medical personnel,
- Improve capacity in district hospitals and health centres to reduce congestion in referral hospitals through increased staffing and availability of drugs at local hospitals.
- Enhance the partnership with the Christian Health Association of Malawi and other private service providers. Private practitioners must meet the government set standards,
- Provide free basic primary health care.

6.2.1 HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has a uniquely devastating impact on development as it targets adults in their most productive years. Poor access to health facilities and underlying health and nutrition status, makes poor people more vulnerable to HIV and other opportunistic infectious diseases.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will:

- Make every effort to increase access to resources from international partners and the Global Fund to make available ARVs. Provide Anti-Retroviral medication to minimize mother-to-child transmission,
- Prioritise treatment of opportunistic diseases,
- Create a cultural environment that allows free and voluntary family planning methods, including child spacing and contraceptives, behavioural change through improved information, education and communication activities for HIV/AIDS in local language.

- Include some text of aware messages.

6.3 Water and Sanitation

The demand for portable drinking water as well as sanitation is very high yet these services are not adequately provided largely because of inadequate resources and poor policies.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will:

- Ensure that portable water is available and easily accessible to all Malawians through either piped water systems or boreholes,
- Ensure community ownership of water facilities,
- Increase the number of health surveillance assistants to teach hygiene and advising on sanitary facilities, including pit latrines.

6.4 Community Services

In every society there are groups that are disadvantaged and need special attention for them to effectively realize their human needs. These include children and youths, women, and people with disabilities. Putting up institutions alone does not guarantee individual participation in social and economic life. In fact creation of many institutions that do not effectively deliver is a waste of resources. The Mgwirizano coalition believes in the efficient utilization of resources in order to genuinely empower the disadvantaged or benefit them in significant and permanent way. By so doing, we believe we have guaranteed the individual's freedom.

6.4.1 The Youths

The quality of education has significantly deteriorated in recent years. Furthermore, the deteriorating economic environment has made it almost impossible for the youths to get employment. The education system has not provided the solution to the problems Malawi is facing today. Instead, the youths have been dependent on handouts and promises of loans to start business.

The Mgwirizano Coalition government will:

- Encourage stable and secure families so that they teach their children to become responsible citizens,
- Uphold the constitutional rights of children;
- Invest in youths through encouraging an enterprise culture and discipline. We will provide training in various skills such as carpentry, painting, welding, and bricklaying, farming, etc.
- Encourage the culture of volunteerism and national service in order to instil patriotism,
- Encourage activities designed to shape the youth into future leaders. These will include activities such as sports, peer education, behavioural change to curb HIV/AIDS, training in civil and political rights, tolerance and reconciliation;
- Ensure that the youth are never used as tools for politically-motivated violence.

6.4.2 Gender

Women contribute significantly to any country's development. The imbalance between men and women in both economic and social life is still evident in Malawi. However, the Mgwirizano coalition believes in equality and that women should have equal access to education and employment opportunities.

Our government will:

- Prohibit any form of discrimination and violence against women,
- Facilitate women's access to productive resources and opportunities,
- Strive to achieve the 30% women participation in politics and decision-making,
- Promote education of the girl child.

6.4.3 People with Disabilities

The People with Disabilities are entitled, by constitution, to equal opportunity to realize their potentials. Their recognition through creation of a ministry is not adequate without tangible and long-term interventions that guarantee their participation in economic and social life.

The Mgwirizano Coalition government will;

- Ensure people with disabilities have easy access to public places and facilities through institution of appropriate building standards, town planning and the transport policies,
- Ensure that people with disabilities are appropriately integrated into educational and vocational training institutions,
- Expand health care provision and support services,
- Encourage people with disabilities to participate fully in politics, business and other socio-economic activities.

7.0 Supporting Infrastructure

7.1 Telecommunications

Information and communication technology (ICT) is used to identify and exploit opportunities for trade, investment and finance; and improve the reliability of services in the country. The ICT is therefore an indispensable and vital sector in Malawi's social and economic development.

Include something of telecoms

The Mgwirizano Coalition will;

- Ensure improved, cost-effective and efficient service delivery by making the regulator institutions perform their duties efficiently,
- Expand the existing technical skills, and further invest in human and institutional capacity development,
- Integrate ICTs to enhance usage and reduce costs by connecting to more schools, hospitals, business, public administration and rural development.

7.2 Transport

The current poor conditions of the country's road network are a worrisome situation despite some effort by the National Roads Authority to maintain them. The rail and marine networks are operating below capacity. These facilities have been neglected in favour of road transport system. The effect is reflected in the ever-increasing transportation costs. Obviously, this policy has a heavy cost on our economy.

To address these problems, the Mgwirizano Coalition will;

- Re-orient the transport policy to put less emphasis on road transport and emphasize rail, lake and river transport networks.
- Seek investment for the rehabilitation of regional and internal rail systems and dock facilities on Lake Malawi,
- Accelerate the rehabilitation and road maintenance programmes, especially in rural feeder roads,
- Constantly seek optimal synergies between the rail network and the ensuing connectivity to the ports of Nacala and Beira on one hand, and internal road transport network on the other.
- Encourage Air Malawi to establish linkages with regional airlines,

7.3 Environment

The Mgwirizano is keen to ensure the harmonization of human life and the environment for sustainable development. Man has the responsibility to protect and regenerate, where possible, the natural resources. Therefore, we subscribe to the Community Based Natural Resource Management policy.

The Mgwirizano coalition will;

- Ensure environmental impacts are considered for every project even at local level,
- Offer alternatives to non-renewable energy resources;

- Provide technical assistance and best practices to environmental protection. Our priority will be to promote reforestation programmes that involve and benefit the rural communities,
- Prevent soil erosion that cause siltation of rivers.
- Stimulate and research construction methods based on stone to replace brick making.

7.4 Energy

Energy needs are increasing while power generation capacity is seriously affected thereby disrupting economic productivity and causing potential investors to shun the country. Fuel wood remains the main source of energy in Malawi. Unfortunately, over reliance on fuel-wood has greatly damaged our environment.

With respect to the environment and in the short to medium term, the Mgwirizano Coalition government will:

- Encourage afforestation programs through school and village woodlots
- Encourage private sector participation and investment in alternative energy technologies through tax incentives.
- Encourage the use of alternative forms of energy like solar energy, ethanol-based fuels, coal and coal products (briquettes), agricultural waste briquettes and wind power where feasible.
- Promote alternative means of income generation for charcoal and firewood sellers,
- Facilitate electrification of peri-urban areas and rural centres,
- Ensure that ESCOM operates commercially without political interference.

7.5 Land and Housing Policy

Land is one of the major factors of production as well as where people live and earn livelihoods. Therefore, the system of land ownership affects the people economically and socially.

The Mgwirizano coalition will:

- Ensure secure ownership of land for investment in agricultural and other economic activities,
- Endeavour to raise productivity per unit of land so that pressure on land is reduced,
- Through a stable macro economy, create off-farm opportunities to take people off the land,
- Persuade estate owners who have excess land to sell it to the government for redistributing to the landless or lease it to others for utilisation
- Encourage local authorities to ensure a more orderly and planned distribution of housing land with adequate provision of services;
- Provide advice on availability of affordable finance and building materials to assist private house construction and ownership.
- Restrict freehold land ownership to Malawian citizens only. Foreign nationals may only lease the land for a predetermined period of time.

7.6 Public Security

Public security has broken down and thieves roam the country where they steal with impunity, continue to injure and murder their victims. Insecurity is severely affecting growth in rural incomes as rampant stealing of produce and livestock discourage investment.

Some of the insecurity is politically motivated. Secondly, there is insufficient police presence in both urban and rural areas; and the thirdly, the justice system does not have sufficient lawyers, judges or courts to process cases timely.

Public security is a high priority of the Mgwirizano Coalition. The Mgwirizano Coalition will:

- Enforce and strengthen laws against illegal possession of drugs and firearms,
- Ensure that there is sufficient police presence in both urban and rural areas,

- Review the crime prevention strategy that will seek community participation in policy making and action,
- Strengthen coordination with private sector security firms,
- Employ technologies that can help in giving police more information on criminals,
- Renew our commitment to equal justice for all by ensuring that our criminal justice system has sufficient lawyers, judges and courts to process cases effectively and timely,
- Add section on police obeying court orders
- Prohibit police brutality.
- Include army police equipping

7.7 Local Government

Malawi is implementing a decentralization policy. This policy aims at devolution of power to local authorities in order to consolidate democracy as well as bring decision-making closer to the people and to encourage participation in development.

The Mgwirizano Coalition subscribes to the ideals of decentralisation and will:

- Accelerate the process of devolving power to local authorities,
- Ensure that local authorities facilitate active involvement of people in decision making, development planning and all matters affecting them,
- Promote and sustain a clear policy to enable local authorities generate revenue for their development projects and reduce dependence on central government.
- Build capacity at district assembly level to improve service delivery and curb corruption.

8.0 Foreign Policy

Malawi embassies and foreign missions abroad will be established based on political and economic interests of the country. The Mgwirizano Coalition government will aim at efficiency in all our embassies and foreign missions.

The Mgwirizano Coalition will:

- Deploy financial and human resources to meet the set performance standards. Recruitment of diplomats will be based on merit and professionalism.
- Cooperate fully with all donors to restore confidence and mutual trust.
- Maintain bilateral and multilateral relations that serve the interests and values of Malawi.
- Respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other states and nations.
- Observe the UN and the AU charters, agreements and resolutions especially those dealing with human rights,
- Strengthen economic and political relations with other countries in the region and globally in order to encourage investment and promote trade.

*** END ***

Other Issues:

Privatisation: