



Malawi Government

SUMMARY

MALAWI GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

FROM POVERTY TO PROSPERITY

2006-2011

REVISED EDITION (2009)-NINE KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Ministry of Development Planning & Cooperation
P.O. Box 30136
Lilongwe 3
Malawi





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ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARVs	Antiretroviral
DAS	Development Assistance Strategy
EHP	Essential Health Package
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MEGS	Malawi Economic Growth Strategy
MGDS	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
PLHA	People Living with HIV/AIDS
PSIP	Public Sector Investment Programme
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TB	Tuberculosis
VCT	Voluntary Counseling and Testing

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PREFACE

The Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) is the overarching operational medium-term strategy for Malawi designed to attain the nation’s Vision 2020. The main thrust of the MGDS is to create wealth through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development as a means of achieving poverty reduction. This is expected to transform the country from being a predominantly importing and consuming economy to a predominantly producing and exporting economy.

The MGDS represents a policy shift from social consumption to sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development. To ascertain immediate economic benefits for the people of Malawi arising from this strategic shift, the MGDS will in the next five years place emphasis on nine key priority areas of agriculture and food security; green-belt irrigation and water development; education, science and technology; transport infrastructure and Nsanje world inland port; climate change, natural resources and environmental management; integrated rural development; public health, sanitation, HIV and AIDS management; youth development and empowerment; and, energy, mining and industrial development.

The MGDS also identifies five broad thematic areas in which progress must be made if the overall strategy is to be successful. These thematic components of the MGDS are: sustainable economic growth, social protection, social development, infrastructure development, and improved governance. The idea is that the strategy should maintain a focus on accelerated and sustainable growth while also outlining steps to ensure social development, good governance and environmental sustainability. Progress in all of these areas will increase prosperity, reduce poverty and assist in the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Government will spearhead the implementation of the MGDS through the Government Budget, in line with the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). However, the strategy calls for active participation of all stakeholders in the implementation process. Stakeholders will have to complement Government efforts by aligning and harmonizing their own programmes and activities with the priorities set out in the MGDS. Political will, change of mindset, and cooperation among the stakeholders will be paramount for the successful implementation of the strategy. While Government will ensure the creation of an enabling environment for private sector participation, all Malawians are urged to aggressively take up the challenge to invest and spearhead industrial development to create wealth and employment.

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This is a summary document of the revised Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). It highlights the main development strategies identified for the nine key priority areas and the thematic focus areas. The MGDS is the overarching strategy for Malawi for the five year period from 2006/07 to 2010/2011 fiscal years. The overriding philosophy of the MGDS is poverty reduction through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development.

The MGDS identifies nine key priority areas the country intends to implement in order to achieve economic growth and wealth creation which are critical for immediate improvement in the economic well-being of Malawians. These are: agriculture and food security; green-belt irrigation and water development; education, science and technology; transport infrastructure and Nsanje world inland port; climate change, natural resources and environmental management; integrated rural development; public health, sanitation, HIV and AIDS management; youth development and empowerment; and energy, mining and industrial development.

The MGDS builds on the Malawi Economic Growth Strategy (MEGS) that emphasized the need to create a conducive environment for private sector investment to stimulate economic growth. As such, it recognizes the important role of the private sector in promoting economic growth. It also incorporates lessons from the implementation of the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy (MPRS). Hence, the MGDS recognizes the need to invest in social development through education, health, good governance and the need to protect the most vulnerable.

The process of developing the MGDS has been participatory involving all key stakeholders including the Executive, Judiciary, Parliament, Private Sector, Civil Society, Donors, Co-operating Partners and the General Public. More importantly, the preparation of the MGDS has been country-led and owned, therefore, making it a document for the nation.

The document has four sections. Section One, defines the Government's macroeconomic objectives covering the MGDS period. Section Two, discusses the key priority areas. It is expected that implementation of the key priority areas will bring about quick economic growth necessary for sustainable development. Section Three, presents the MGDS themes. Lastly, Section Four highlights MGDS implementation, monitoring and evaluation issues.

I. MACROECONOMIC FRAMEWORK

Effective implementation of the MGDS is premised on a favourable macroeconomic environment. Government is, therefore, committed to pursue sound economic policies geared at increasing and sustaining economic growth, reducing inflation rate, maintaining a flexible exchange rate and improving foreign reserve position. In addition, Government will aim at increasing employment and improving the trade balance by enhancing the country's export capabilities.

During the implementation of the MGDS, it is expected that the economy will grow by more than 6 percent annually largely from agriculture, manufacturing, mining activities and service sectors. To sustain this growth, the monetary policy will be structured to achieve low inflation, sustainable low interest rates and a market determined exchange rate. The fiscal policy objective will strive to maintain fiscal discipline while balancing Government expenditure between productive and social sectors of the economy. It will also, among other things, ensure a significant repayment of debt as a means of reducing the interest burden to around 3.0 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the MGDS period.

II. GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES WITHIN PRIORITIES

1. Agriculture and Food Security

Agriculture is the mainstay of Malawi's economy. It accounts for about 32 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), employs over 80 percent of the country's workforce, supplies 65 percent of industrial raw materials, and contributes over 80 percent of foreign exchange earnings. The sector also contributes to national and household food security. However, the sector is characterized by low yields due to over dependence on rain-fed farming, and low uptake of improved farm inputs and technologies.

Goal: To increase agricultural productivity and ensure food security

Agricultural Productivity: The expected outcomes are increased smallholder agricultural productivity and increased livestock production. To achieve this, key strategies include the following:

- Promoting research and extension delivery systems;
- Increasing uptake of improved farm inputs and technologies;
- Strengthening linkages of farmers to markets through the development of farmer organizations and market information systems;
- Encouraging crop diversification including production of non traditional cash;
- Promoting soil and water conservation techniques;
- Expansion of horticultural crop production; and
- Promoting production of livestock and its by-products.

Food Security: The expected outcome is to ensure food self sufficiency at household and national levels. To achieve this, key strategies include the following:

- Implementing deliberate policies aimed at improving accessibility to farm inputs and enhancing production;
- Improving the national early warning food security systems;
- Promoting the construction of improved grain storage facilities; and
- Improving the functioning of food market systems.

Agro-processing: The expected outcome is to increase value addition of agricultural commodities such as tea, tobacco, sugar, cotton and wheat. The key strategies include the following:

- Promoting production, processing packaging and marketing of clonal tea and encouraging public-private partnerships in tea processing;
- Encouraging investment in tobacco processing and cigarette manufacturing;
- Improving efficiency in sugar processing, broadening the production of sugar products and by-products and increasing investment in beverages and confectionary industries;
- Promoting investment in cotton ginning, spinning, oil extraction, weaving, and textiles, garments and apparels manufacturing.



Fisheries: The expected outcome is to ensure sustainable availability of fish for food and nutrition security as well as income generation. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Increasing the production of fingerlings;

- Increasing productivity of small and large scale fisheries;
- Constructing, rehabilitating and stocking fish ponds;
- Promoting the use of modern techniques of fishing;
- Promoting deep-water fishing; and
- Enforcing legislation to ensure sustainable production of fish.

2. Green-Belt Irrigation and Water Development

Water has multiple uses ranging from agriculture, industrial, energy generation and domestic purposes. Although Malawi has abundant water resources, the country has not fully conserved and utilized them to meet its requirements.

Goal: To improve the utilization and management of water resources for agricultural use through irrigation farming in designated areas, as well as domestic and industrial demands.

Green Belt Irrigation: The expected outcome will be an increased hectareage under irrigation farming to increase agricultural productivity and production. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Rehabilitating all existing irrigation schemes and dams;
- Developing small, medium and large scale irrigation schemes along the lakeshore areas and perennial rivers throughout the country;
- Promoting research-based technology development, dissemination and utilization to ensure successful implementation of the programme; and
- Promoting catchment, river bank and lake shore conservation and pollution and land degradation prevention.

Water Development: The expected outcome is to have increased access to water resources for domestic, energy and industrial uses. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Constructing multi-purpose dams;
- Improving sustainable access to water supply and sanitation in urban, peri-urban and rural areas;
- Establishing contingency water supply reserves and sanitation backups;
- Integrating rural water supply and participatory hygiene and sanitation transformation;
- Empowering national authorities to manage water resources using integrated water resource management approaches; and
- Improving the quality of surface and ground water while developing a system for pollution control.

3. Education, Science and Technology

Education, science and technology is a linchpin for socio-economic development, industrial growth and a major source of economic empowerment for different groups of people. However, the education sector faces a number of challenges which include: poor and inadequate education infrastructure; shortage of

qualified teachers; inefficiencies in the education systems, and high absenteeism, repetition and dropout rates. Similarly, science and technological development has been relatively weak and under-exploited.

Goals: To build an educated and highly skilled population which will contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

Education: The expected outcomes are improved infrastructure and increased access and quality of education. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Rehabilitating existing and building new infrastructure at all levels;
- Training more teachers;
- Reviewing and reforming school curricula to address national development challenges;
- Providing a conducive environment for girls and students with special education needs to enhance equity.

Science and Technology: The expected outcomes are a well coordinated science and technology generation and dissemination framework and improved research and development. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Establishing a National Science and Technology Commission and the University of Science and Technology;
- Strengthening the capacity of research, science and technology institutions;
- Generating and disseminating appropriate technologies through public-private partnerships;
- Developing and commercialising science and technology in areas identified to contribute significantly to socio-economic development;
- Promoting the development and utilization of indigenous technology; and
- Establishing research funding mechanisms that will promote research by individuals institutions.

4. Transport Infrastructure and Nsanje World Inland Port

Transport infrastructure is vital for the socio-economic development of a country. However, transport infrastructure in Malawi is characterized by poor road networks, poor and limited access to ports, limited air links, and inadequate freight and rail capacity, which are resulting to very high transportation costs and long lead times.

Goal: To reduce the cost of transportation and lead times by opening up the country to the Indian Ocean, and improving the road and the railway network.

Road Transport: The expected outcomes are reduced lead times on exports and imports, decreased cost of domestic trucking, and improved movement of people and goods. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Providing adequate network of roads;
- Upgrading all unpaved roads from fair to good condition;

- Undertaking routine road maintenance; and
- Implementing appropriate road user charges.



Water Transport: The expected outcome is to ensure an active and vibrant domestic marine transport service. To achieve this, the key strategy will be developing an efficient and productive maritime transport system that meets national requirements.

Nsanje World Inland Port: The expected outcome is to have an alternative and cheaper transport route for imports and exports by re-opening the Shire-Zambezi waterway to navigation. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Dredging up the Shire and Zambezi rivers up to the Indian Ocean;
- Constructing a port in Nsanje;
- Constructing and rehabilitating the railway and road system from Nsanje to Blantyre, Lilongwe, Salima and Mchinji; and
- Constructing an international airport in Nsanje.

Air Transport: The expected outcome is to maintain a competitive, self-sufficient and sustainable civil aviation environment that ensures safety and enables provision of services in a reliable and efficient manner. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Providing a safe, efficient, and reliable aviation infrastructure that complies with international standards; and

- Providing a competitive and efficient airline industry.

Rail Transport: the expected outcome is to have a well-managed, viable and sustainable rail system that promotes accessibility as well as affordable and reliable movement of people and goods. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Maintaining and rehabilitating the railway infrastructure;
- Improving operational efficiency and commercial viability of the railway transport service; and
- Promoting railway safety and environmental protection.

5. Climate Change, Natural Resources and Environmental Management

The environment plays a significant role in influencing social and economic development at household, community and national levels. Although Malawi is endowed with abundant natural resources, current trends indicate persistent degradation on account of unsustainable use. The problem has further been compounded with the advent of climate change which poses risks and threats not only to the environment but economic growth and development in general.

Goal: To conserve, manage and utilize natural resources and the environment in a sustainable manner so as to reduce degradation and adverse socio-economic impacts.

Forestry: The expected outcome is to ensure the sustainable development, management and utilization of forestry resources. To achieve this, key strategies include the following:

- Conservation and development of forest plantations and natural woodlands;
- Provision of forest extension services and enforcement of forest legislation;
- Promotion of forestry research services;
- Improve skills in fire and forestry management by forestry staff and communities; and
- Promoting use of non-wood forest products.

Wildlife: The expected outcome is development, conservation and management of protected areas and wildlife to effectively contribute towards sustainable development of biodiversity and the tourism industry in Malawi. To achieve this, key strategies include the following:

- Rehabilitating and developing protected area infrastructure;
- Improving capacity for pests, diseases and problem animal control;
- Improving eco-tourism in protected areas; and
- Promoting wildlife research and monitoring.

Environment Management: The expected outcome is conservation of the environmental base through sustainable use and compliance to its management. To achieve this, key strategies include the following:

- Establishing an environmental management information system;

- Improving cooperation in environmental management, natural resource management and sustainable development; and
- Improving enforcement of environmental policies and legislation;

Climate Change Management: The expected outcomes are improved community resilience to climate change; improved agricultural production under changing climatic conditions and improved climate monitoring and preparedness to cope with related disasters. To achieve this, key strategies include the following:

- Integrating climate change management into national and sectoral development planning;
- Reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases;
- Developing forecasting and early warning systems of adverse climatic changes;
- Develop adaptation and mitigation measures to climate change related impacts;
- Promoting production and marketing of alternative energy technologies;

6. Integrated Rural Development

Government is committed to promoting the development of rural growth centers and emphasis is being placed on infrastructure development such as roads and communications, energy supply, agro-processing and manufacturing. This is envisaged to promote private sector investment that will create employment and improve incomes of the rural people.

Goal: To develop rural growth centers that will contribute effectively to economic growth through the creation of employment opportunities thereby enhance redistribution of wealth to all citizens.

The expected outcome is to create employment in rural areas to reduce rural-urban migration trends. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Promoting the growth and development of rural growth centers through the provision of utilities and communications network to facilitate the linkage of production areas to markets;
- Implementing rural electrification programme effectively; and
- Promoting and implementing economic empowerment programmes.

7: Public Health, Sanitation and HIV and AIDS Management.

The MGDS prioritizes public health, sanitation and HIV and AIDS management in order to raise the health status of Malawians. A clean environment and healthy nation are not only essential, but also a prerequisite for a highly productive society.

Goal: To improve the health status of Malawians to effectively contribute to socio-economic development.

Public Health: The expected outcomes are increased utilisation of the Essential Health Package (EHP) and other services; reduced under-five and infant mortality rates; improved maternal health; reduced incidence of HIV and AIDS, Malaria, TB and other communicable and non-communicable diseases. To achieve this, key strategies include the following;

- Developing sound and cost-effective interventions to ensure personal protection from communicable diseases and addressing their environmental determinants;
- Strengthening institutional and community capacity to ensure safe motherhood and healthy child development;
- Strengthening the capacity of the health care delivery system in the diagnosis and management of communicable and non-communicable diseases; and
- Promoting operational research on health systems for evidence based decisions.

Sanitation: The expected outcomes are an increased proportion of the population using improved on-site facilities including latrines and better management and disposal of solid and liquid waste. To achieve this, key strategies include the following;

- Undertaking intensive and targeted public awareness and education campaigns;
- Constructing toilets in schools, health care centres, community based child care centres, markets and all other public places;
- Rehabilitating existing sewage infrastructure and solid waste (landfill) sites; and
- Constructing sewage facilities in newly established settlements.

HIV and AIDS: The expected outcomes are behaviour change of people particularly the high risk groups; increased number of people accessing voluntary counseling and testing (VCT); and improved health status or extended life of the infected people through increased uptake of ARVs and nutrition therapy. To achieve this, key strategies include the following:

- Improving knowledge and capacity of Malawians to practice safer sexual intercourse and increase their access to HIV testing and counselling;
- Initiating and strengthening joint planning, monitoring and evaluation processes among national authorities, stakeholders and development partners;
- Implementing and increasing equitable access to ARVs and treatment of opportunistic infections;
- Expanding services for prevention of mother to child transmission, testing and counselling, access to condoms, STI management, and access to behaviour change communication; and
- Producing, enacting and enforcing HIV and AIDS legislation;

Nutrition: The expected outcomes are effective utilization of quality food and the biological utilization of nutrients in the body and strengthened structures and coordination for implementation of policy and programme. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Promoting the control, prevention and treatment of micro-nutrient deficiency disorders;

- Promoting control, prevention and treatment of diseases that have direct impact on nutrition and human well-being;
- Reviewing and including nutrition in curricula of all learning and training institutions; and
- Enhancing co-ordination of nutrition programmes and targeted nutrition services.

Interaction of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS: The expected outcomes include: increased knowledge of the interaction between nutrition and HIV and AIDS and increased provision of HIV and AIDS-related nutrition interventions.



To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Compiling and disseminating best approaches to providing nutritional therapy to PLHA;
- Building capacity for nutrition service providers on specialised nutrition care for PLHAs;
- Providing workplace-based nutrition therapy to enhance positive living for PLHAs;
- Facilitating access to sustainable economic social protection for households affected by HIV and AIDS.

8. Youth Development and Empowerment

The youth, people aged between 10 and 29 years, constitute over 40 percent of the population in Malawi yet they lack the skills and opportunities that would enable them develop to their

full potential. They are hampered by challenges which include HIV and AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs); marginalization in key decision making processes; inadequate technical and vocational training; early marriages, teenage pregnancies and unemployment.

Goal: To economically empower the youth to meaningfully contribute to national development. The expected outcome is healthy, highly productive and self-reliant youths. To achieve this, key strategies include the following:

- Providing training in vocational and entrepreneurial skills and start-up tools;
- Establishing the Youth Entrepreneurship Development Fund aimed at economically empowering the youth;
- Constructing and rehabilitating sports infrastructures; and
- Promoting participation of youth in sports and training in other life skills.

9. Energy, Mining and Industrial Development

Energy development, exploitation of mineral resources and industrial development are crucial for economic growth and development. Although Malawi is relatively well-endowed with a wide variety of energy and mineral resources, the full potential of the sectors remains far from being realized due to a number of structural, operational and institutional challenges that have resulted in stagnation of industrial development.

Goal: To provide adequate energy to meet the economic and social demands and increase the contribution of the mining and manufacturing sectors to GDP growth.

Energy Development: The expected outcome is an accessible, reliable and sustainable electricity, liquid fuel and gas supply. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Improving efficiency in generation, transmission and distribution;
- Promoting alternative energy sources including renewable energy; and
- Encouraging private sector investment in the sector.

Mining Development: The expected outcome is the development and value addition of all known mineral resources in the country. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Strengthening the institutional capacity of Geological Surveys and Mines Departments to effectively collect and disseminate geological information;
- Supporting small-scale miners to increase their value-adding capacity; and
- Providing up-to-date geological information.

Industrial Development: The expected outcome is increased contribution of the industrial sector to economic growth. To achieve this, the key strategies include the following:

- Improving the quality of products and productivity of both labour and capital;
- Developing additional incentives for investment;
- Enhancing technology upgrading, packaging and standardization to compete with the rest of the world; and
- Establishing industrial parks and incubation centres to reduce logistical bottlenecks.

III MGDS THEMES

Theme One: Sustainable Economic Growth

The achievement of sustainable economic growth is necessary if the vision of creating wealth and employment, transforming the country from a predominantly consumption-based economy to a predominantly production-based economy, and turning it into a middle-income economy is to be achieved. To this end, Malawi will seek to increase domestic and foreign private investment in productive sectors. It will also seek to promote exports by addressing supply-side constraints, diversify the economy and ensure that this growth is shared among all Malawians. The strategy for sustainable economic growth requires action on multiple fronts. In order to generate immediate economic benefits for the people, Government will in the short to medium term prioritise agricultural productivity of key crops such as maize, tobacco, tea, sugar and cotton to improve the food security situation and agro-processing for export. As such, issues of agriculture and food security have been isolated as a key priority area as outlined above.

Summary of Theme One: Sustainable Economic Growth

Sub Theme	Long-Term Goal	Medium-Term Outcome
1.Potential growth sectors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the contribution of tourism to GDP from 1.8 percent to 8.0 percent by 2011. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High growth is realised from the tourism sub sector; To establish Malawi as a principal and leading eco-tourism destination in Africa.
2.An enabling environment for private sector led growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase private sector foreign and domestic investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased business enterprises that produce goods that are competitive domestically.
3. Export led growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malawi becomes a net exporter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of businesses that are competitive regionally and internationally.
4.Economic Empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create wealth for all Malawians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased employment and income of the poor from on and off farm activities; Increased the productivity of rural communities / businesses and their contribution to economic growth; Increased participation of women, youth and people with disabilities in economic activities.
5. Land and Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure tenure security and equitable access to land Increase access to housing by all income groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficient use of land and land based resources and equitable access to land by all productive Malawians and other investors. Improved housing delivery systems that ensures equitable access

Theme Two: Social Protection & Disaster Risk Management

Achievement of sustainable economic growth and development by itself may not automatically translate into improved quality of life for the most vulnerable Malawians. It is therefore necessary to design programmes that will protect them as they may not be able to take advantage of the benefits from economic growth. It is also necessary to protect those that are not chronically vulnerable, but fall into vulnerability due to economic shocks from time to time.

Thematic Focus Area Two is further divided into two sub themes: protecting the vulnerable and improving disaster risk management.

Protecting the Vulnerable

Vulnerability can be defined as the likelihood of being harmed by unforeseen events, or susceptibility to exogenous shocks. The most vulnerable broadly include individuals or households affected by disasters; households headed by orphaned children, the elderly and single-parents (especially female heads); physically challenged persons; under-five children, lactating and pregnant mothers; orphans; the unemployed and underemployed; and the land-constrained in rural areas.

Improving Disaster Risk Management

Malawi is frequently affected by natural disasters and calamities. Apart from disasters that hit traditional disaster-prone areas like the Shire Valley, acute food shortage is the worst form of humanitarian crisis in Malawi. Lakeshore areas are also prone to severe flooding during years of heavy rains. Hailstorms also destroy crops, livestock, and other infrastructure thereby reducing productivity and removing the sources of livelihoods. It is therefore, important to harness wealth creation and poverty reduction by putting in place adequate disaster risk management measures that go beyond emergency response to preparedness, prevention and mitigation as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction. The key strategy is enhancing disaster management, planning and response. Efforts will be made to promote the integration of disaster risk management into sustainable development planning and programming at all levels.

Theme Three: Social Development

Building a healthy, educated and gender sensitive population is important for Malawi as such a population would ensure sustained economic growth. The strategy recognizes the interrelated nature of issues such as health, HIV and AIDS, nutrition, education, and gender, hence, the need to deal with these in a coherent and balanced manner. The overall goal is, therefore, to develop human capital for full participation in the socio-economic and political development of the country.

This theme carefully examines challenges in health, education and gender. It also designs strategies to address these challenges affecting human capital development.

Health and Population

Improving health requires a multifaceted approach with a combination of preventative, educational and clinical measures. Key strategies include: increasing and retaining the number of well qualified health personnel; increasing availability and supply of drugs; preventing theft of drugs and equipment; improving health facilities and equipment; and improving financial management, monitoring and supervision of health care services.

Education

In the education sector, emphasis will be on equipping students with basic knowledge and skills to enable them function as competent and productive citizens. Key strategies include: the provision of teaching and learning materials; training of teachers; and construction of appropriate classrooms.

Gender

The overall goal is to mainstream gender in the national development process to enhance in order participation of women, men, girls and boys for sustainable and equitable development. Key strategies include: undertaking affirmative measures to include women in decision-making positions; and promotion of advocacy for gender.

Theme Four: Infrastructure Development

Infrastructure is critical to achieving the growth and social objectives of this country. The Strategy focuses on five main areas of infrastructure namely: transport; energy; water and sanitation; information and communication technologies; and science and technology research. All these are seen as prerequisites for the achievement of economic growth and development. However, Government has prioritized transport infrastructure and the Nsanje World Inland Port. Particular emphasis is being placed on reducing transportation costs by connecting production areas to both domestic and export markets.

Energy generation and supply, green-belt irrigation and water development have also been identified as priority areas within the infrastructure theme. It is a national consensus that unless Malawi improves its energy generation and supply, particularly electricity, the MGDS will remain a mere dream. In light of this, Government has also isolated energy generation and supply as a component of the key priority areas of the MGDS.

The other focus area within the infrastructure development theme is information, communication and technology and is given below.

Summary of Information and communication technology

Sub-theme	Long and medium term goals	Expected Outcome
ICT Telecommunications	Ensure universal access, connectivity and affordable information and communications technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of public/private sector partnerships in the provision of telecommunications services.
Information Technology	Improve use of technology in companies, education, and service delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased technical skills and updated knowledge are used by public and private sector institutions
Broadcasting	Empower the nation and accelerate economic growth and development through the collection, analysis, processing and dissemination of accurate and timely information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed its broadcast infrastructure using the modern telecommunication technologies and develop the sub-sector to be private sector driven and oriented.

Theme Five: Improving Governance

The success of the strategies suggested in the first four themes depends on the prevalence of good governance. The main tenets of good governance are issues to deal with good public sector management, absence of corruption and fraud, decentralization, justice and rule of law, security, good corporate governance, and respect of human rights. In addition, the need for political will and change of mindset within a democratic political environment is also envisaged to contribute positively towards the attainment of economic prosperity and poverty reduction. Malawi will, therefore, endeavour to address concerns in these areas as they underpin the achievement of all economic growth and social development objectives in the medium term.

Good governance requires action on the following:

- Achieving and sustaining macroeconomic growth;
- Strengthening public policy formulation and implementation in a transparent and responsive manner;
- Improving service delivery and accountability at the local level through decentralization;
- Developing a strong justice system and rule of law;
- Ensuring personal security;
- Establishing an institutional setting for good corporate governance; and
- Promotion of human rights.

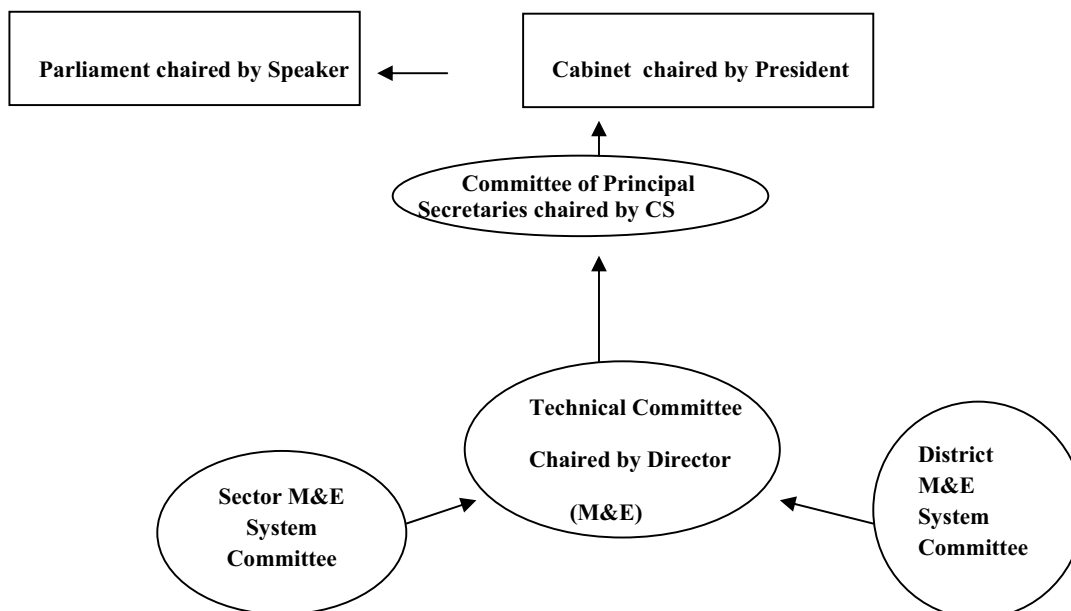
IV. MGDS IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The implementation of the MGDS will involve numerous stakeholders including: the Executive, Parliament, Judiciary, civil society organisations, private sector and the general public. It is, further, expected that donors and co-operating partners will align their support and activities to the Government development agenda. The main tool for implementing the MGDS will be the annual national budget through medium term expenditure framework. The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) will be aligned towards the medium term outcomes and strategies. Budget submissions that either include activities outside the MGDS or exclude activities inside MGDS will be rejected. The monitoring of the MGDS will be in accordance with the monitoring and evaluation master plan developed by Government in collaboration with the donor community. The stakeholders will align their strategies in accordance with the MGDS themes and sub themes. The Government will also strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity at the Districts and Town Assemblies level and enforce regular maintenance of infrastructure.

A number of specific implementation issues have been mentioned under the five themes. The following have been identified as critical issues that must be pursued to achieve the set targets of the MGDS:

- Political-will and change of mindset. Government and Parliament should play their constitutional roles in ensuring that the ultimate objective of the Strategy is achieved thereby moving the country towards achieving the long-term goals.
- Government should improve donor coordination through adherence to the Development Assistance Strategy (DAS).
- Donors and co-operating partners should align their support and activities to the MGDS. Government will lead the dialogue with donors on this alignment and seek to ensure that aid flows are predictable. On its part, Government will seek to ensure that resources are disbursed in a timely manner.
- The MGDS highlights important issues such as social protection, economic empowerment and HIV and AIDS. These issues are cross cutting and would therefore require effective coordination to avoid duplications and overlaps. In this regard, the Government will create a National Economic Committee to oversee implementation of such cross cutting issues.
- There is need to develop a strong and motivated civil service that will ensure that Government remains committed to its policies, targets and obligations.
- There is need to put in place mechanisms and modalities for implementing activities that require heavy financial investments. These include development of public-private partnerships and build, operate and transfer.

NATIONAL M&E FRAMEWORK



At the Cabinet level the MGDS will be chaired by the President. The Cabinet will review the annual progress in the implementation of the MGDS. It is expected that various ministers will brief the Cabinet based on reports on the actual outputs and outcomes of the implementation of the Strategy.

Prior to the budget session of Parliament, all parliamentarians will comment on the progress of the implementation of the Strategy. The Parliament will base their debates from the mid-year development reports as well as annual development reports produced by Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation.

The Committee of Principal Secretaries will be chaired by the Chief Secretary. The technical committee will consist of development partners, senior civil servants, civil society and the private sector.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation will be the secretariat for implementation of the MGDS. The Government is developing capacity building at district level to monitor all aspects of Strategy and PSIP. The Government will continue to develop capacity at sector level to monitor specific issues of the sector. The Government will also strengthen monitoring and evaluation capacity at the District and Town Assembly levels and enforce regular maintenance of infrastructure.