

**High Commission of India
Lilongwe (Malawi)**

India-Malawi - Bilateral relations

Malawi gained independence from Britishers on 6th July, 1964. Diplomatic relations were established with Malawi since it became Independent. The first Independence Day was attended by Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Information and Broadcasting Minister. The relations between India and Malawi have been cordial and friendly since independence. A resident Mission in Malawi was established immediately after Malawi obtained Independence. However, due to some administrative reasons, our Mission in Malawi was closed in 1993, though we continued to have diplomatic relations. Malawi was concurrently accredited to our Mission in Zambia until February 2012. A resident mission again re-opened in March, 2012. Malawi opened its Mission in Delhi in February, 2007. There is considerable goodwill among the Malawian leadership for India.

VVIP Visits:

Late Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of Malawi visited India from 2-7 November 2010. Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, Vice President of Malawi visited India from 25-27 March 2018.

Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India visited Malawi from 7-9 January 2010. Sh. M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India visited Malawi on 4-5 November 2018.

Multilateral

The two countries hold identical views on many regional, international and multilateral issues.

UN Security Council: Malawi has been supportive of expansion of the Security Council in the UN. Malawi agrees that the current composition and function of the Security Council does not reflect the realities of the international communities in the 21st century.

International Solar Alliance: Malawi was one of early countries who signed and ratified the ISA Framework Agreement in November, 2017. Mr Aggrey Masi, Minister for Natural Resources, Energy and Mining represented Malawi at ISA Founding Conference held on 11 March, 2018 in New Delhi.

MOUs

Two MOUs were signed during visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M.H. Ansari visited Malawi on 8 January, 2010 which are (1) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors; (2) Protocol for Consultations between Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malawi and Ministry of External Affairs of India.

Four MOUs signed during the visit of President of Malawi H.E. Late Bingu wa Mutharika 3 November, 2010, which are (i) General Cooperation Agreement for promotion of bilateral agreements under various regional and international organisations' including establishing a JPC; (ii) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources Development; (iii) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development; and (iv) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine

Three MoUs were signed during the visit of the Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in November 2018 viz. (i) Exemption of Visa for Diplomatic & Official Passport Holders; (ii) Extradition Treaty; and (iii) MoU for capacity building in regulating the mining of Radio-active/Atomic Minerals and Rare Earth materials,

ITEC & IAFS Scholarships – In the year 2018-19 out of 130 slots available to Malawi, 125 have been utilized. 63 IAFS scholarships have been utilized by Government of Malawi officials in 2018-19.

ICCR Scholarship – The year 2018-19 Malawi utilized 11 slots for ICCR scholarship.

Lines of Credit to Malawi

Since 2008, India has extended and completed LoC projects worth US\$ 156.5 mn for Malawi Government for various infrastructure development projects like Sugar Factory in Salima; 60 mn litre capacity Fuel Storage Facilities, Cotton Gineries, Dal Processing Plants. LoC worth \$ 23.50 Million for water project for Blantyre Water Board presently being implemented. With the completion of this project by June 2019, US\$ 180 million worth of LOC projects would have been extended by EXIM Bank to Malawi.

In November 2018 Hon'ble Vice President of India during the visit to Malawi announced new LoC of US\$ 215.68 million for drinking water supply schemes in Malawi.

Grants to Malawi: Under a grant of US \$ 5 million offered during the visit of Vice President of India to Malawi in January 2010 - Science & Laboratory equipment worth US\$ 1.5 million and medical equipment worth US\$ 1.5 million consisting of mammography and ultra-sound machines were donated to Malawi government. The mammography machines were installed in all the four Central Hospitals at Lilongwe, Blantyre, Zomba, and Mzuzu. US\$1 million worth of tractors and agricultural implements supplied by India were handed over in August 2015 to Government of Malawi. A grant of US\$1 million worth of essential medicines and drugs were handed over to Government of Malawi on 1st July 2015 towards disaster relief operations in 2015. The GoI has also extended another grant of US\$ 1 million in response to an international Appeal declaring Malawi on "State of Disaster" by President of Malawi in 2016.

Government of India has agreed to provide 1000 MT of Rice in January 2018 in response to request for Aid due to failure of crop and declaring of 20 districts as disaster struck out of the 28 districts of Malawi. The donation is likely to be implemented soon.

During the visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India to Malawi in November grants for following were announced (i) Bhabhatron Cancer treatment machine; (ii) Medicines worth US\$ 2 million;(iii) 10 ambulances; (iv) 100,000 text books for Malawi schools.

The Government of India under its "India for Humanity" initiative launched Artificial Limbs Camp in Lilongwe at Kamuzu Central Hospital. The formal inauguration of the camp was done during the official visit of the Hon'ble Vice President of India. During the camp 551 artificial limbs fitted.

International Convention Centre – Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre in Blantyre city will be constructed by Government of India under a grant of US \$ 10 Million.

Business Incubation Centre(BIC): Hon'ble Vice President of India on 5 November 2018 inaugurated establishment of a Business Incubation Centre worth US \$ 1 million in Malawi to provide short term training in processing of Tomato, Mangos and Kasava, semi-precious stone cutting and polishing techniques; compost processing; and bricketing unit. A group of 14 Master Trainers were trained by Indian experts. The Center was completed in January 2019 and has been officially launched by Mr. Francis Kasaila, Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, GoM on 25 March 2019.

IAIARD: It was decided during the 2nd Indo-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa in 2011 to locate India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) at Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi. It is a grant project from Government Of India worth Rs. 100 crore (US\$ 15 million).

Pan-African E-Network The multi-million dollar project was set up at Chancellor College in Zomba, Malawi and started in August 16, 2010 and ended in March 2017. The programme was successful and more than 2,000 Malawians have benefited under this programme. Every year approximately 120 students used to pass out from Chancellor College, under the e-Network.

GOI initiatives for E-VBAB project will be implemented once MoU between TCIL and Republic of Malawi is signed.

Cotton Technical Assistance Programme (C-TAP)

The C-TAP Programme was started by India in 2012 for African countries including Malawi. The first phase was completed in September 2016 and programme has been extended till 2020. The programme has already trained 200 participants and 25 trainers from Malawi through regional training and exposure visits in India. GoI has set up and handed over the 'Skill School for Apparel Manufacturing' with 20 Industrial Sewing Machines and Cutting equipment to Government of Malawi in September 2016 which has trained the Master Trainers and has the capacity to train 20 Malawians at a time.

Commercial Relations:

India-Malawi trade relations are historic and dates back to 18th century coinciding with the arrival of Indian tradesmen, mainly from the Indian State of Gujarat to the African sub-continent. Malawi as a LDC, is also a beneficiary under GoI's Duty Free Tariff Preference scheme introduced in April 2008. Bilateral Trade between both countries for period 2017- 2018 was \$216.05 mn.

Balance of Trade – The balance of trade is in favour of India by US\$ 183.15 mn. in 2017-18. With the restrictions on imports of Pigeon Peas by India, which was the only product Malawi exported to India, the trade balance is likely to remain adverse for Malawi.

During the months of October-December 2018 Malawi exported 17 tons of mangos to India for the first time.

Medical Tourism: India has become a major destination for medical tourism from Malawi, although South Africa is next door. Malawians now prefer India for advanced medical treatment.

Cultural Relations

A 10-member Rajasthani dance troupe led by Meru Sapera sponsored by ICCR visited India Malawi in April 2014. A fusion music team led by Murad Ali sponsored by ICCR visited Malawi in October 2014 and performed at the Blantyre Arts Festival in Blantyre. A 6-Member Bharatanatyam Troupe sponsored by ICCR New Delhi visited Malawi in January 2017 and performed at two cities. A 10-member Rajasthani Troupe visited Malawi in August 2018 and performed at Independence Day Reception and in Lilongwe and two events in Blantyre, the commercial Capital of Malawi.

Indian Community/PIO

There are estimates of about 8,500 Persons of Indian origin in Malawi who predominantly originated from Gujarat and are concentrated in important cities like Lilongwe, Blantyre, Limbe, Zomba and Mzuzu. Persons of Indian origin, who have been here for over one generation, who British or Malawian passports. The initial flow of Indians to Malawi was after Malawi became a British Protectorate in 1891. Indians were brought to Malawi/Mozambique for the Rail Project that was set up between Mozambique and Malawi. The number of Indian nationals (NRIs) at present is about 2500 hailing from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, primarily engaged in trading, agriculture and agro business, pharmaceutical, hospitality, besides a few professionals.
