

**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.

Bilateral:

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 May 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.

Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India visited Malawi from 7-9 January 2010.

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.

Malawi has conveyed her support to the G4 - India, Brazil, Germany and Japan initiative, **but maintains that she will abide by the decision taken by AU, in so far as reforms in the UN are concerned.** Malawi is aware of the launch of text based negotiation in the IGN, the initiative <http://indembassyeth.in/indian-mission-djibouti/> of the G4, to achieve concrete progress on the Security Council reform.

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 (I) 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

The 2nd Joint Working Group meeting on Mineral Resources to operationalise the MOU signed on Mineral Resources Development was held in Malawi, in August, 2017.

The 1st Joint Working Group meeting was held in New Delhi on 21st August 2018 operationaize the MOU signed in the field of Health & Medicine signed in November 2010.

ITEC & IAFS Scholarships - The year 2017-18 saw a record 115 slots allocated to Malawi, and 113 slots utilised. 73 IAFS scholarship have been utilised by Govt. of Malawi officials in 2017-18. Accordingly, 188

officials have availed of the Training programme, for upgradation of human capacity in this year compared to 93 last year.

ICCR Scholarship – The year 2017-18 saw an allocation of 17 ICCR scholarship. The allocation for 2018-19 is 15 slots and we have requested ICCR to raise the number of slots.

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 in three cities, Cotton Ginneries in three cities, Dal Processing Plants in two cities etc.

EXIM Bank has now extended another US\$ 23.5 million LoC to Government of Malawi for Blantyre Water Project in August 2016. The work for laying an 80 km pipeline, has begun with M/s SMC Infra, Mumbai executing the contract under the revised guidelines of LoC of EXIM Bank of India.

With the completion of the above project by mid-2019, US\$ 180 million worth of LOC projects would have been extended by EXIM Bank to Malawi.

Project Preparation Facility (PPF): The GOI has offered free Project Preparation Facility to the Malawi Government for its projects where it does not have the capacity to undertake pre-feasibility study or related initial studies and only after which the LoCs would be considered.

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.

Grant Project in 2018

Donation of Rice - GoI 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.

International Convention Centre - Malawi had sought to construct an International Convention Centre in Blantyre city, the commercial capital of Malawi with LoC assistance of US\$10 million. In response, a counter offer was made to Malawi that the LoC project can be converted into a Grant project, if the Convention Centre can be named after Mahatma Gandhi. Malawi have conveyed their acceptance to name it as Mahatma Gandhi International Convention Centre and also allocated a piece of land totalling 4 acres in a prime area in Blantyre city.

Gandhi Bust: Malawi has a road named after Mahatma Gandhi since 1970, which is located in Blantyre city, where the Indian High Commission was located in the 1970s. The capital was shifted from Blantyre (Zomba) to Lilongwe in 1974. However, there was no bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Malawi. With the assistance of ICCR, a bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi has been received and the consent of the Govt of Malawi, obtained to install the bust on the Mahatma Gandhi road. The unveiling of the bust is proposed during the visit of Hon’ble VPI to Malawi in November, 2018.

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. A revamped version is to be rolled out by 2019.

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.

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.

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.
