



MANIFESTO 2019



EDUCATION FOR ALL | EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL | JUSTICE FOR ALL

UMODZI PARTY 2019 MANIFESTO

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CONTENT

FOREWORD	Pg 10
-----------------	-------

ETHOS

THE FOUNDING OF UMODZI PARTY	Pg 13
-------------------------------------	-------

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES	Pg 15
-------------------------------	-------

1. Ensure Respect for the Rule of Law
2. Ensure Respect for Human Rights
3. Ensure Inclusiveness

THE PILLARS OF UMODZI PARTY	Pg 18
------------------------------------	-------

1. Employment for all
2. Education for all
3. Justice for all

DECLARATION FOR MALAWIAN SELF-EMPOWERMENT

1. GOVERNANCE	Pg 22
----------------------	-------

- 1.1 Decentralisation of government
- Power to Local Governments
- 1.2 Independence of Parastatal organisations
- Privatisation of ESCOM
- 1.3 Introduction of a Senate - Yes to Chiefs and Experts in Parliament
- 1.4 Transparency- Access to information about public office
- 1.5 Strict financial management -
Corruption must go
- 1.6 Long Term Development Strategies
- Planning for the next generation
- 1.7 Sharing Responsibility
- 1.8 Monitoring development projects through zone officers
- 1.9 Amendments of Acts that do not serve the Malawian people

2.	INDUSTRIALISATION	Pg 27
2.1	Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrialisation	
2.2	The Development Bank – Loans for industrialists	
2.3	Industrialisation Initiative – Tax incentives f or industry development	
2.4	Three factories per district	
2.5	Long term payment plans for Loans	
2.6	Each district factory employs 1,000 Malawians	
2.7	Branding standard to identify Malawian products	
3.	ENTREPRENEURSHIP	Pg 32
3.1	Creating millionaires and billionaires	
3.2	Banking collaboration to procure funds	
3.3	Low interest rate loans	
3.4	Careful consideration of loan applicants	
3.5	New enterprises pledge to employ 100 people	
3.6	Identifying profitable markets	
3.7	Business support from Development Bank	
4.	PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS	Pg 37
4.1	Public-private partnerships	
4.2	Market protection	
4.3	Prioritising Malawian products	
4.4	Strengthening the stock market	
5.	ELECTRICITY GENERATION	Pg 39
5.1	Decentralisation of power generation - Local power generating enterprises	
5.2	Diversification of power generation	
5.3	Separate power generating grids for domestic and industrial use	
6.	WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS	Pg 41
6.1	Build rainwater harvesting tanks in villages	
6.2	Expanding centralised sanitation and water systems	
6.3	Construction of dams for irrigation,	

-aquaculture and domestic use

7. POVERTY REDUCTION Pg 43

7.1 Development strategies for local Malawians by local Malawians

7.2 Empowerment of Chiefs

7.3 Supporting local entrepreneurs & market support

7.4 District tax collection for local development

7.5 Village banks for revolving loans

7.6 Initiative to intensify productivity of Agriculture businesses

7.7 Training vocational skills

7.8 Mentoring future entrepreneurs

7.9 Creation of enterprises for recycling and production of organic fertiliser

8. AGRICULTURE Pg 49

8.1 Revolving farm inputs

8.2 Mechanization of agricultural systems

8.3 Supervision of agricultural systems

8.4 Public-private partnerships between farmers and government

8.5 Financial Support for commercial farms

8.6 Crop specialization for international markets

8.7 Providing better market links for farmers

8.8 Annually grow as many crops as possible

8.9 Factories to preserve food

8.10 Crop diversification

9. EDUCATION Pg 55

9.1 Where there is a primary school there will be a secondary school

9.2 Number of students attending a particular university to match its infrastructure and human resource capacity

9.3 Universities offering a diversity of skills will be built to lower pressure on the current ones and improve standards for competition at the international level

- 9.4 Teachers who stay in government will be offered housing and mobility loans**
- 9.5 Increased student accommodation for public universities**
- 9.6 Improved management of college cafeterias.**
- 9.6 Students selected into public universities to be offered student loans for fees**
- 9.7 Secondary schools will become A-level institutions and training colleges**
- 9.8 Training institutions that are not universities will be in consortium with universities**
- 9.9 Scholarships to be given for courses that directly address public sector needs**

10. YOUTH

Pg 62

- 10.1 Arts, music, and sports will be promoted in the public school curriculum**
- 10.2 Athletic competitions will be introduced**
- 10.3 Young people will be encouraged to pursue careers in areas they excel in**
- 10.4 Youth recreational facilities and skills will be introduced**
- 10.5 Education will be compulsory up to 18 years of age**
- 10.6 Youth mentorship programs will be introduced in each development zone**
- 10.7 Re-introduction of youth week where prizes will be awarded for innovation and outstanding performance**

11. HEALTH

Pg 66

- 11.1 Referral central hospitals to be turned into teaching hospitals**
- 11.2 District hospitals to be turned into referral hospitals**
- 11.3 Improve the standard of primary health care centres (PHC)**
- 11.4 Medical officers to be referring and seeing patients at improved health centres**
- 11.5 There will be a pharmacy next to every hospital**
- 11.6 Extend availability of healthcare insurance**

- 11.7 Government will offer public-private partnerships to health cadres
- 11.8 Local communities supporting their health centres to supply local food banks
- 11.9 Local taxes will be used for essential emergency items

12. CORRUPTION

Pg 72

- 12.1 Independence of key statutory institutions
- 12.2 Independent commissions to appoint the directors of statutory institutions
- 12.3 Strict court procedures for dealing with corruption cases
- 12.4 Trial processes to have strict deadlines
- 12.5 Establish a high court division for corruption cases
- 12.6 Corruption offences to face stiffer penalties up to life sentences
- 12.7 Cybersecurity companies to check and monitor financial management information systems
- 12.8 The award of public contracts is to be done procedurally and based on merit
- 12.9 The bidding process and subsequent dealings with contractors should be made public

13. NATIONAL SECURITY

Pg 79

- 13.1 Provide better infrastructure, transportation and housing for law enforcement officers
- 13.2 Enforcement of Capital Punishment
- 13.3 Abolition of open ended bail
- 13.5 Streamline court cases so that justice can be served
- 13.6 Decentralization of law enforcement authorities
- 13.7 Appointment of Inspector General on merit – not via political affiliation
- 13.8 Improve training of police officers
- 13.9 Improving on security studies
- 13.10 Better integration with private security companies
- 13.11 Prisons system reformation for productivity

- 14. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** Pg 84
- 14.1** Appropriate measures for appointments of diplomatic staff
- 14.2** Special training of Ambassadors and other diplomatic staff
- 14.3** Showcasing Malawi art and culture in embassies
- 14.4** More informed ratification and adherence to treaties and other agreements
- 14.5** Mutual respect with allies and neighbouring nations
- 14.6** Strong and transparent relationships with international bodies

- 15. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY** Pg 88
- 15.1** Prohibition of Street Roaming
- 15.2** Taking homeless children off the street
- 15.3** Supporting civil society organizations
- 15.4** Supporting persons with disabilities
- 15.5** Supporting the elderly

Foreword

Since the inspection of democratic rule in Malawi, it has been a struggle to deliver fair and sound political governance. With tribal divisions, a growing pollution putting pressure on an already insufficient infrastructure and undisciplined institutions failing to deliver required services to citizens; many Malawians have grown tired and frustrated with government and politics. Umodzi Party is here to bring hope, to bring vision and focus to Malawian governance, so that we stop fighting amongst ourselves and our failing government system and work together to build our nation. It is our mission to usher in a government that protects and supports its citizens to achieve their full potential and spearhead national development.

Good governance in any democratic dispensation thrives on understanding the needs and desires of the citizens. The leaders that are voted into government are the representation of their people, so it is vital when formulating laws, policies and programs for the country, that citizens are continually consulted. It was very important to us to develop a people orientated Manifesto rather than imposing our own extravagant ideas that may not be feasible in Malawi. We did this by conducting a nation-wide cross-sectional survey where we asked random Malawian citizens living in both rural and urban areas about the difficulties they face and some of the best ways to solve Malawi's problems. We interviewed a total of 138 people in 6 districts (2 from each region) to get an overall view of how they felt about issues of development and governance. The results from this survey were used to reconsider and fine tune the strategies and policies we created for this Manifesto. Readers will find that the survey is referenced to throughout the Manifesto document. Further, references of relevant economic reports and news articles are also made to validate either the problems or solutions that we present to you.

Lastly, we would like to thank the many people that were involved in the creation and documentation of this Manifesto. We thank our team of writers, George Chikhadwe, Kondwani Susuwele and Wesley Macheso, who eloquently articulated our policies and editors Towela Chisi and Pemphero Mphande for the coordination of the project. Many thanks go to all members of Umodzi Party for their input to the Manifesto and the various partners who have made this publication possible.

ETHOS

VOTE 21 MAY 2019



PRESIDENT : PROF. JOHN E CHISI
RUNNING MATE: MR TIMOTHY KAMULETE

EDUCATION FOR ALL | EMPLOYMENT FOR ALL | JUSTICE FOR ALL

THE FOUNDING OF UMODZI PARTY

Many African states received their independence from colonial rule in the late 1960s. Malawi attained independence in 1965 under the leadership of Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda. In the years that followed, Dr Banda ruled the country under a one party authoritarian system. Eventually under this system, Malawians grew dissatisfied. The lack of human rights and rule of law, poor economic development and the collapse of the Soviet Union were some of the major factors that contributed to the growing dissatisfaction among Malawians that led to the call for a referendum. This referendum ushered in the multi-party era in 1994. The multi-party era saw the rise of many political parties, some which still stand today, and others which have not withstood the test of time. It is against this background of multi-party democracy that the mighty Umodzi party was born in 2013 under the leadership of Professor John Chisi.

Umodzi party began as a small party with sound democratic principles to bring development and equal opportunity to all Malawians. The visionary party president, Professor Chisi, identified the many challenges facing ordinary Malawians and the lack of political will to end these challenges. Several political parties have come into power since the inception of democracy in 1994 but none have quite managed to harness the full potential of Malawi and turn the lives of ordinary Malawians around. Another feature of Malawian politics is the divisive nature of political parties.

Tribalism and emphasis of ethnicity has created divisions among the people of Malawi. Political party leaders often put much importance on one's tribe and ethnic background as a means of pulling votes from one particular ethnic group which has led to Malawian dividing themselves into groups and has perpetuated animosity towards each other and creating rivalry among tribes. It is also for this reason that Umodzi party was born. Umodzi party believes in unity, love and the cooperation of all people to work together and achieve greatness together as a country. Umodzi party was born to integrate the people of Malawi and remove any rivalry and animosity among different tribes.

Umodzi party contested in the 2014 tripartite elections under the three pillars of education for all, employment for all and justice for all. The quality of the education system in Malawi has declined over the years. The education sector is marred with many challenges including inadequate funding, poor infrastructure and poor access to higher education. Umodzi party recognized these challenges in the education sector and wants to put an end to them. Under the pillar of education for all, Umodzi party was born to create equal employment by educating all Malawians to reach their full potential and to create a trained and skilled human resource that Malawi can capitalize on to bring development. Another pillar that holds the mighty Umodzi party is employment for all. Since the inception of democracy, there has been a steady rise in the unemployment rate. Many people have been laid off and thousands of college students graduate yearly from public and private universities with no job prospects. Professor John Chisi, an academician and doctor by profession, understands the plight of no employment facing the youth. Umodzi party was therefore born to bring hope to the youth and those facing employment challenges. By developing infrastructure and industrializing Malawi, Umodzi party will create employment for all.

Lastly, Umodzi party stands on the pillar of justice for all. Professor Chisi, a man of honour and integrity, with no record of corruption and dishonesty, hopes to create a Malawi where there is the swift delivery of justice for all; a Malawi where every citizen is treated equal in accordance with the law. Umodzi party was born to streamline the justice system that ordinary citizens should have faith and trust in the justice system. Umodzi party's dream is to have a justice system that does not favour any individual simply because they are in a position of power. The law should always take effect in a timely and efficient manner.

Umodzi party was created in 2013 to bring solutions to the myriad of problems facing Malawians. Poverty, illiteracy, unequal opportunity and slow delivery of justice are just a few of these challenges. Coupled with ethnic divisions and rivalries, the challenges may seem impossible to deal with. Though it began as a small party, Umodzi party has grown drastically over the years and is still growing in numbers and political influence.

Under the wise and visionary leadership of Professor John Chisi, Umodzi party will continue to grow and take the reins of power to bring change to Malawi, real change that will make Malawi a conducive environment for people to flourish. Umodzi party is the party that truly stands out from the rest; a party that does not involve itself in cheap politics and name-calling but one that focuses on issues of national development. Umodzi party is the party born to change the political landscape.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Introduction

This article articulates the values enshrined in constitutional and internationally recognised documents which will guide implementation of all proposals in this manifesto and the government by Umodzi party members in public office. We recognise that it is imperative that we are bound to specific principles and values to ensure that we will adhere to developmental agenda which supports humanity.

The principles below are universally accepted as ensuring that in whatever we will do, the law will be upheld, rights will be respected and that all people will be included.

Declaration

We hold these principles to be a true reflection of what we believe is the best and most humane way to advance national development agenda.

The three precepts stated herein below will guide Umodzi Party all through its existence in all conditions, notwithstanding of changes in its goals, strategies or leadership, until a time when amendments to the same have been made.

Through this declaration, we make our solemn pledge to mother Malawi that we will;

1. Ensure Respect for the Rule of Law

That no man regardless of their political power and association, and social status will be above the law. This principle is aimed at curtailing impunity in political governance.

We believe that a country can only work well in trying to achieve its national strategies if the constitution remains the supreme law of the land and that it is upheld universally. Impunity promotes lawlessness and creates weakness in the system of delivery of justice thereby creating room for plunder of public resources and wastage of resources in the justice system.

Our Pledge

We pledge to punish crime timely and accordingly, through ensuring the independence of key law enforcement agencies including the Malawi Police Service and Anti-Corruption Bureau, to create a conducive environment for delivery of justice.

2. Ensure Respect for Human Rights

That no man regardless of their social standing will be deprived of any of their human rights granted by the universal declaration for human rights and protected by the constitution of the republic of Malawi. This principle is meant to uphold the world's and Malawi's commitment to ensuring that human beings and citizens of Malawi are treated with dignity and equality. We acknowledge and believe that society and the government can only work together to develop Malawi if people are not oppressed. Absence of oppression is a result of respect for human rights.

Our Pledge

We pledge to defend and protect human rights of all Malawian citizens, to adhere to the legal international and local declarations for upholding human rights and punish according to law those that take away other people's human rights.

3. Ensure Inclusiveness

That every Malawian citizen has a right and is encouraged to part take in the development process of Malawi. Regardless of one's social standing, race, sexual, orientation, religious group or physical disabilities, one will not be segregated to take part in conversation and implementation of development strategies. This principle aims at ensuring that we curtail social injustices that render certain sections of the society marginalized.

We believe that a country divided on race, tribe, regions, religious beliefs, etc. cannot form a good framework for socio-economic transformation. We want to make sure that every Malawian who is able and willing to take part in developing Malawi is given the chance. This will ensure that the best minds are not left out simply because they hold different beliefs or have a different background.

We are umodzi, a party of unity and from this name derives the key ideology that only through unity and inclusiveness, will we deliver change for Malawi.

Our Pledge

We pledge to unite Malawi, fight social injustice, give everyone regardless of who or what they are a chance to act for change, advance equality of all people and to make sure that every Malawian has a voice which will be heard.

THE PILLARS OF UMODZI PARTY

The main goal of Umodzi Party is to establish an effective, transparent, and efficient system of government that will see Malawians being uplifted from poverty and underdevelopment to a state of socio-economic growth, stability, and sustainability. Umodzi Party wants to ensure that no Malawian is poor and that the country achieves sustainable levels of development where every citizen is economically empowered and the government itself is self-reliant. This can only be achieved by abiding by the party's three pillars which are employment for all, education for all, and justice for all. Umodzi Party believes that these pillars are a recipe for sustainable economic growth and development for the following reasons:

1. Employment for all

Umodzi Party will ensure that every Malawian is employed and that they are earning a decent living. The party wants to do away with both urban and rural poverty by, among other things, eliminating the dependency syndrome that is characteristic of most Malawians. Umodzi Party will empower citizens by giving them employment both in formal and informal sectors of the economy. This is because it is only through employment that one can become financially empowered to look after themselves and their families and eventually contribute to their nation's economic growth.

Umodzi Party will also ensure industrialisation so that the country moves from a predominantly importing country to a producing and exporting country in order to attain a positive balance of trade. This will be implemented by the Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrialisation, which will be established by the Umodzi Party government. Through the creation of local factories and championing entrepreneurship, Malawian-made goods and local services will flood both the local and international market. The government will incur international and local debt to offer capital to Malawian entrepreneurs to run these factories through the Development Bank. Districts like Mulanje, for example, where people grow a lot of pineapples, bananas, and other fruits, will have factories that will enable farmers to produce finished food products like juices and fruit jams for both local and international markets. The loans offered to local entrepreneurs will be payable over

a long period of time – ranging from between 10 to 30 years. Each factory will also have the capacity to employ more than 1000 Malawians. We project that this industrialization project will employ more than 84, 000 taxpayers.

Unnecessary imported goods and services will also not be allowed into the country. These policies will ensure that our tax base increases so that the government can invest in other important social services such as healthcare and education. This will be a positive step towards economic growth and sustainability.

2. Education for all

Umodzi Party understands that education is of utter priority in order to develop a well-trained and skilled workforce. Education will also help in developing responsible citizens by imparting them with ethics and morality through the school system. In its approach towards education, the party will emphasize on promoting young individuals' talents and supporting innovation. The Umodzi Party government will create an enabling environment that supports innovation and talent will be awarded accordingly. The party will also ensure that every citizen goes to school by making education compulsory for all up to the age of 18 years. This will be a step towards an informed, empowered, and productive citizenry which the country needs in order to make positive strides in development.

In order to increase access to education, the party will ensure that where there is a primary school there is also a secondary school. This comes from the realisation that students are forced to walk long distances to access secondary education or most are not selected to continue their education in secondary schools due to the small number of such institutions. Umodzi Party will also change the curriculum by transforming secondary schools into advanced level institutions in order to enhance the capacity of secondary school graduates, to properly prepare them for college, and to ensure specialisation of skills at the earliest stage possible. Relevant educational programs in sustainable and renewable energy technologies, medicine, information and communication technology, education, and sustainable agriculture will be given extra resources to support both the programs and the students so that they contribute to swift and sustainable national development.

3. Justice for all

Economic growth can only be achieved in an environment that has peace and tranquillity. For this to be achieved, all citizens must first of all be equal under the law. Umodzi Party will ensure that no person, in spite of their position in society, is above the law. The party will make sure that there is discipline and confidence in the citizens of the country and that all are rewarded and/or punished fairly under the constitution of the republic of Malawi. This will also ensure that corruption and embezzlement of public funds are eliminated and that public funds are directed to their promised intent of developing the nation. Umodzi Party also aims at establishing stable police and army forces that will ensure security for the citizens of this country so that they operate their businesses freely and their property is securely protected.

How these three pillars will build a strong economy and a happy place to live in:

- Employment and industrialisation are at the heart of the manifesto and these will generate the long-term funds for the expansion and sustenance of public services such as education and healthcare. This will also enable economic growth and stability for the country.
- Education is what will sustain economic growth and flexibility as a skilled and committed labour force will be able to improve methods of service delivery and production, as well as to adapt to changing demands of the clientele.
- Justice for all will ensure a thriving and tranquil environment where citizens will feel safe, secure, and fairly treated so that they can enjoy building their own livelihoods.

MANIFESTO:

THE DECLARATION FOR
MALAWIAN
SELF-EMPOWERMENT

1. GOVERNANCE

Objectives

- 1. Inclusive, fair and effective governance of Malawi**
- 2. Efficient Public service delivery**
- 3. Responsible and reliable and financial management in public institutions**
- 4. Clear and planned policy implementation that are approved by experts**

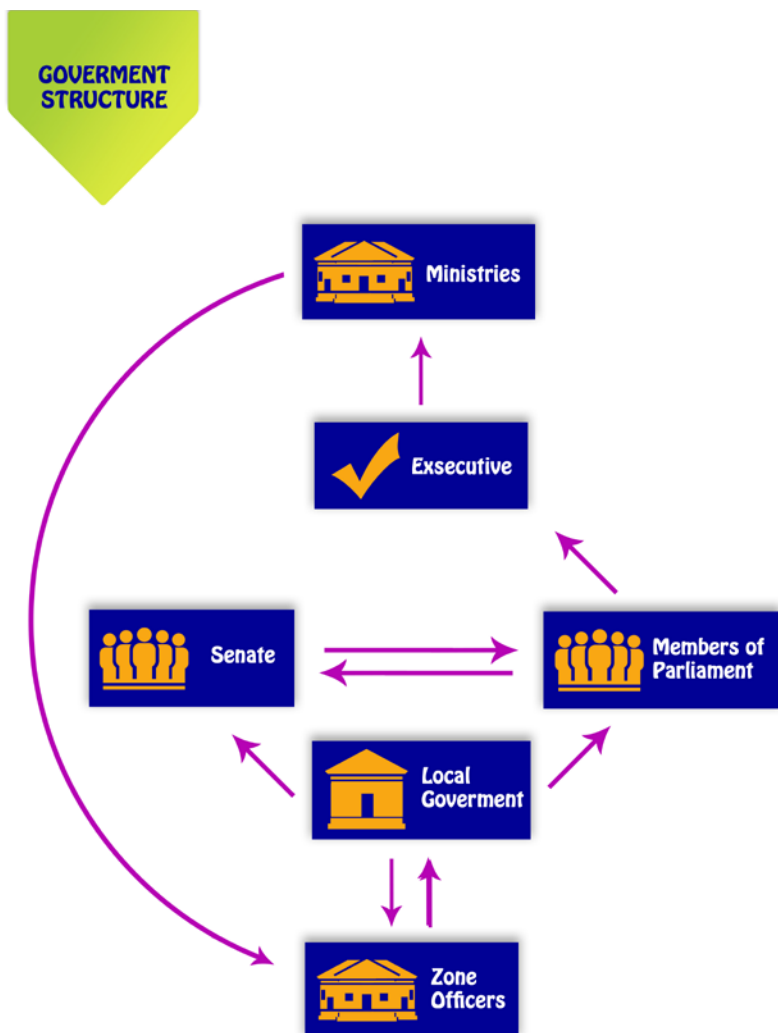
Introduction

It is well known that there has been and continues to be a grotesque amount of mismanagement in Malawi's governing process. A tremendous amount of disloyalty, immaturity, theft and intimidation by members of authority has led to a frustrated political climate and disheartened citizens who fail to take the governing executive seriously. Underdeveloped political structures and lack of involvement of leaders at grassroot level has resulted in ineffective development programmes. As citizens of Malawi it saddens us to see such misconduct and motivates us to provide a true alternative for a cohesive and productive governing system. We are advocating for a more inclusive, transparent and accountable type of governance that will allow for more participation of committed citizens, local leaders and experienced professionals in the decision making and implementation of the development of our nation.

Strategies

1.1 Decentralisation of government- Power to Local Governments

Though, we recognize the initiative of the decentralisation policy of 1998 and congratulate the government for bringing councillors to our ballot papers so that we can vote a local government, this does not suffice. Umodzi Party wants true decentralised governance. More attention and efforts need to be given to local governance; local leaders and local governments must be empowered with transport and have offices where they can meet, plan and document their progress.



We believe that sustainable development for rural infrastructure and community building projects must come from the inclusion and initiatives of local communities. The power to motivate and regulate these communities lies with committed local leaders who must be taken seriously in their advocacy for fellow Malawians. We endeavour to seek out, empower and work closely with local leaders for the eradication of poverty across Malawi.

1.2 Independence of Parastatal organisations

- Privatisation of ESCOM

It cannot be that due to mismanagement of the government, that we experience a collapse of vital infrastructure services such as electricity and water supply. Water and electricity shortages are a disruptive frustration to our lifestyle and devastating to the competitiveness of our businesses. Furthermore, the responsibility of such parastatals should not be given to our politicians but should be taken care of by professional experts, that understand the challenges and requirements needed to run successful infrastructure services. That is why we want profit making parastatal organisations such as ESCOM, Water Board and ADMARC to be privatised and be independent from government. The Government must only play a regulatory role in ensuring that these services are provided in an efficient manner at affordable prices.

1.3 Reintroduction of the senate

- Yes to Chiefs and Experts in Parliament

According to the Constitution of Malawi issued in 1994, our Legislature is entitled to a Senate (section 68). The senate is to be composed of Chiefs, experts in production & services (e.g. health, education, farming, business, etc) and religious leaders. However, the senate was never realised as the government of 2001 passed a bill which abolished this cabinet.¹ We at Umodzi Party feel it vital that we work with tribal leaders and experts directly in parliament. MPs are the voted in to represent and lobby the wants of the citizens across Malawi, but they often lack the skills required to draft feasible and detailed bills that can be effective in implementation and generate the desired results. This is why the senate is needed. It is the people with expertise that can advise, access and correct the proposed bills by MPs and the executive. We believe this will allow the parliament to produce effective implementation strategies and greatly reduce resource and monetary wastages that result from inexperience.

1.4 Transparency- Access to information about public office

We want the public to be informed about the decision making and implementation process of the government. Being a public office, all citizens have a right to follow and check on the activities of the government to make sure that the government carries out its responsibilities to the public and upholds the values of our constitution. Every effort will be made to create an atmosphere of transparency by having a free flow of information through regular press conferences with the president or his spokes-person. Public institutions will document and provide reports on bills, amendments, budget and expenditure plans to those concerned with them, and provide enough information for effective monitoring.

1.5 Strict financial management- Corruption must go

Financial leakages are detrimental to any institution and cannot be tolerated. Umodzi party understands that tax paying citizens invest in Malawi for the collective betterment of the nation. As such the expenditure of public funds cannot be compromised by misconduct. The inefficiency and mistrust that results from unreliable financial management has caused the collapse of many if not all public services offered by the government. Therefore, prudence must be observed in financial management, including in the contracting and use of loans, in the estimation of resources, revenues and reserves, and in the use of exceptional revenue. Large procurements will have to be verified, vetted and followed up by a special procurement committee which will report to parliament on any problems or abnormalities. The Anti-corruption Bureau will be expected to be effective and efficient prosecuting anyone caught in corruption with highest priority and metering out stiff penalties which will deter any corrupt activities. The head of the Anti-corruption bureau and other employees will be appointed by the Law Society of Malawi and will receive police protection at all times.

1.6 Long Term Development Strategies - Planning for the next generation

We recognise that much work needs to be done in establishing the fundamental foundations of a productive and forward-looking economy. It is our ambition to build a nation on Umodzi Party's principles of education for all, employment for all and justice for all.

With these pillars in place we can achieve sustainable and continual national growth. We will take a long-term perspective and planned approach towards the future of Malawi with a sense of what is needed for its continual development. In addition, our contextual understanding of the historical, cultural and social complexities will be used when making decisions in government.

1.7 Sharing Responsibility

We believe in empowerment of the people and with power comes responsibility. Rather than individual decisions being made by the president, decisions will be delegated to the responsible bodies and made in a collective manner. All decision-makers, collective and individual, will have to take responsibility for their decisions. Decisions will be reported on, explained and can be sanctioned.

1.8 Monitoring development projects through zone officers

District will be assessed according to their needs for development. Each section of the district will be earmarked for its most needed development agenda. The development agenda might mirror the wards in the district. These development areas will be called zones. They will then be managed by a zone officer, who will work with ministries, to make sure that the development strategy has taken place in each zone. District commissioners and councilors will come up with the development agenda for the zones.

1.9 Amendments of Acts that do not serve the Malawian people

We want the acts implemented by the executive to empower the local Malawians. Any acts that have shown through their implementation to not be favoring the ordinary Malawian will be put under review and either nullified or corrected. Example, the land act and other protocols signed on behalf of Malawians; at the international level, for example the protocols of SADC, COMESA, etc.

Reference

1. BBC News. January 2001. No go for Malawi senate.
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/1113585.stm>. BBC.

2. INDUSTRIALISATION

Objectives

- 1. Employ all Malawians through the industrialisation initiative**
- 2. Nationwide industrialization through the development bank**
- 3. Three factories in every district**

Introduction

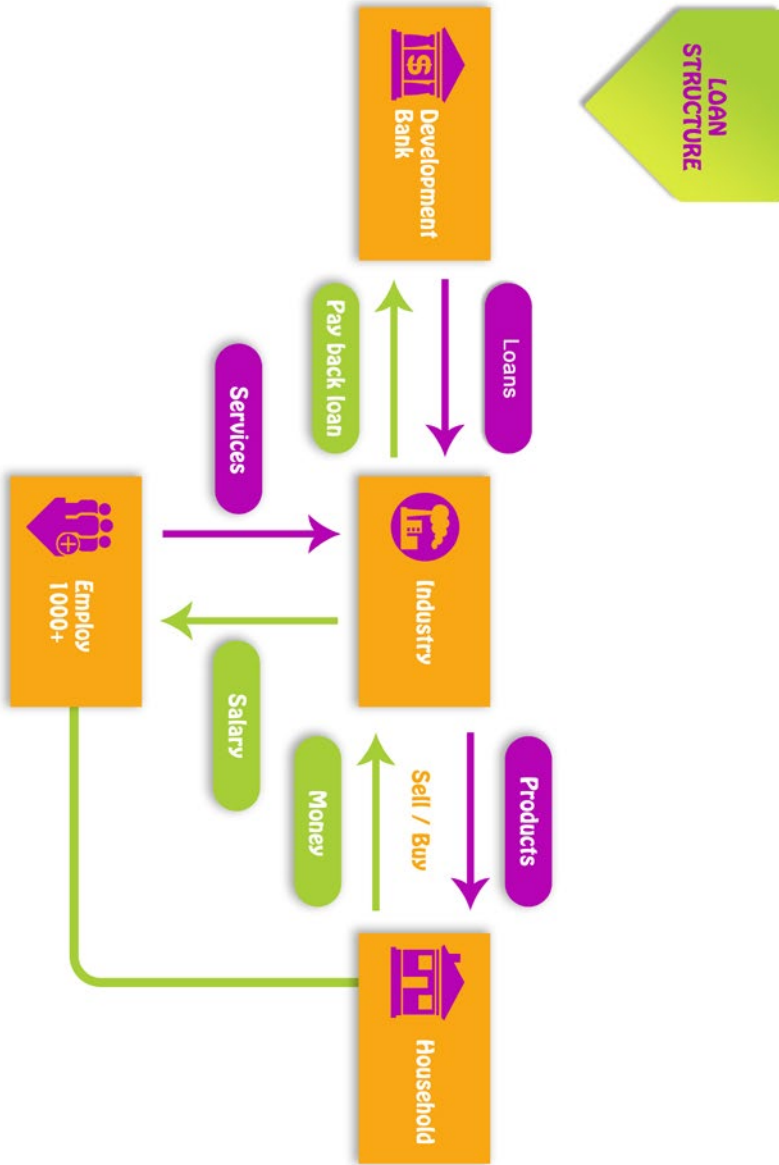
Malawi's economy remains one of the poorest in the world. Comparative with other countries our nation was ranked in the top 10 poorest economies in 2017, with a gross domestic product (GDP) of 7.4 billion USD and GDP growth rate of 4.5 per cent.² The industrial sector of Malawi continues to lag behind our neighboring countries in production capacity and standard of quality. The current industrial sector is dominated by a few foreign companies and individuals while a majority of Malawians struggle to even set-up small sustainable businesses. Our unproductive nation has burden us with high levels of unemployment and an unhealthy dependency on imported goods, resulting in low domestic revenues and lack of innovative trade ideas for foreign exchange. The pervious and current government has failed to implement innovate plans to create a dynamic environment for production, trade and job creation.

In our commitment to develop a people orientated Manifesto, we asked the Malawian populace about their views on employment, business and manufacture. Through the survey, it has been noted that a lot of Malawians are unemployed and lack capital and entrepreneurship skills to venture into serious business investments. 57 percent of the respondents indicated that they are unemployed and are finding it hard to gain employment due to a high demand for jobs in the job market and a few companies and industries to offer them jobs. This situation has forced a lot of them to live in dire conditions as indicated by one respondent, Carlo Karroti, from Magombo, Thyolo who indicated that families are suffering due to lack of jobs and that she would prefer that she was working so that she would be able to assist her family with their day to day needs.

Betty, a student from Thyolo, expressed that “the government needs to provide them with the necessary factory equipment and also provide them with loans so that they hire more workers to increase production capacity.” 63 percent of the respondents agreed with her, arguing that government should consider establishing small-scale industries and factories in rural areas and provide loan assistance for interested individuals to establish businesses to support themselves.

A commercial farmer from Chilobwe, Blantyre shared his challenges with developing his agri-business by saying “I am a commercial farmer. Accessing loans is a problem. There is no bank which has come in the open to provide loans to farmers.” Similarly, 6 out of 10 respondents are of the view that government should be providing business loans to indigenous Malawians and that it should source funds for this initiative from financial agencies. Francis Malichi from Thyolo, is also of the view that the government should ensure that there are readily available markets for products from rural areas so that their businesses grow and generate more income.

It is from this backdrop that has prompted us to advocate a strategic Trade and Industrialization strategy which we believe will lead to more jobs as well as business opportunities for most Malawians. It cannot be that we the educated and experienced Malawians of the public can allow further suffering and mismanagement of wealth creation and resource distribution in our country. We at Umodzi Party will revamp the economy through extensive trade deals and industrialization. Our intention is to create the Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrialization and the Development Bank. This ministry will develop policies that will usher Malawi into an era of innovative trade initiatives, mega public-private business partnerships and massive nationwide industrialization.



Strategies

2.1. Ministry of Economic Planning and Industrialisation

The aim of this ministry is to spur economic growth and job creation through the production of goods using locally available raw materials for local and international trade.

2.2 The Development Bank

This bank will be established as a statutory corporation (SC) under the ministry of economic planning and industrialization. It will be tasked with responsibility of borrowing on behalf of the government to fund the industrialization project. Sole focus is to procure funds from local and international institutions to invest in local industrialisation and business initiatives that aim to employ a 100 or 1000 people.

Under this initiative, companies or individuals will be expected to develop business plans and apply for mega loans from the DB to construct factories manufacturing specific goods. In the same plan, several other business plans will be funded in a bid to create multiple billionaires and millionaires.

2.3 Industrialisation Initiative- Lower taxes

Under this initiative, Umodzi party will lower corporate taxes to attract more domestic and foreign investors. This will serve as an incentive to bring in more business opportunities and therefore employ more people, bring in more revenue and foreign exchange. It will give Malawian entrepreneurs access to investment capital.

2.4 Three factories per district

Industrialization will take place to massively increase production of goods, create jobs thereby increase the gross domestic production. A minimum of 3 factories per district of the 28 districts will be constructed using locally available raw materials. These factories will be dependent, in size and type of production, on the demand, need and type of raw materials locally available. Production will increase giving Malawi a stake at foreign markets and therefore foreign exchange. This will boost the GDP.

2.5 Long term payment plans for loans

The government will incur international and local debt to offer capital to Malawian entrepreneurs to man these factories through the Development Bank. For example, in Balaka district where cotton is grown on a large scale, ginneries, spinners, and fabric making factories can be constructed. The loans offered to local entrepreneurs will be payable over a long period of time depending on the size of the project and the amount involved. For example, some maybe payable in 10, 20 or 30 years. The reduction in corporate tax will enable corporations to reinvest their money into the expansion of their companies. This continued growth, will result in high and steady employment rates and further economic growth. There will be Strict monitoring by the Development Bank that primary profits will indeed be paid back into the factories, and not used for personal gain. When negotiating the loan agreement both the duration of the loan payback and reinvestment expectations will be articulated. The Development Bank will mentor and support the business until the loan has been paid off.

2.6 Each district factory employs 1,000 Malawians

Each factory will employ not less than 1,000 Malawians. By our projection, this major industrialization project will employ 84,000 tax paying Malawians. We will increase production capacities by reducing capital investment and corporate taxes for industries that can manage and employ more than a 1000 people. Industrialists will be required to submit business plans in which we will offset their capital investment requirements on a long-term loan.

2.7 Branding standard to identify Malawian products

We must take pride in the things we produce and give each other momentum. All products produced in Malawi will be labeled accordingly with a brand symbol that will easily be identified by buyers. Local purchases support our production and allow for growth and international competition.

Reference

2. United Nations. 2017. Economic Report on Africa 2017: Urbanization on Industrialization for Africa's Transformation. Addis Ababa: United Nations.

3. ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Objectives

1. **The creation of Malawian millionaires and billionaires**
2. **Loan distribution with a focus on local entrepreneurs**
3. **Development of vibrant job opportunities**
4. **The creation of sustainable business ventures that will see exponential economic growth**

Introduction

Entrepreneurship is at the heart of economic growth of every modern nation. To be an entrepreneur is to have the capacity and willingness to develop, organize and manage a business venture. The entrepreneur takes on risks in order to make a profit and in doing so creates a business entity which many can benefit from. However, many Malawians understand the intervention of entrepreneurship as a form of subsistence, which can be counter progressive as many businesses have short lifespans and remain stagnant as noted in the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Policy for Malawi of 2012.³ The challenge is to enable stable long-term business ventures that can employ thousands and have experienced management to usher in development and innovation initiatives. It is of utmost importance to Umodzi party to empower and support entrepreneurs to improve their livelihood and contribute to the economic growth of their communities and our nation.

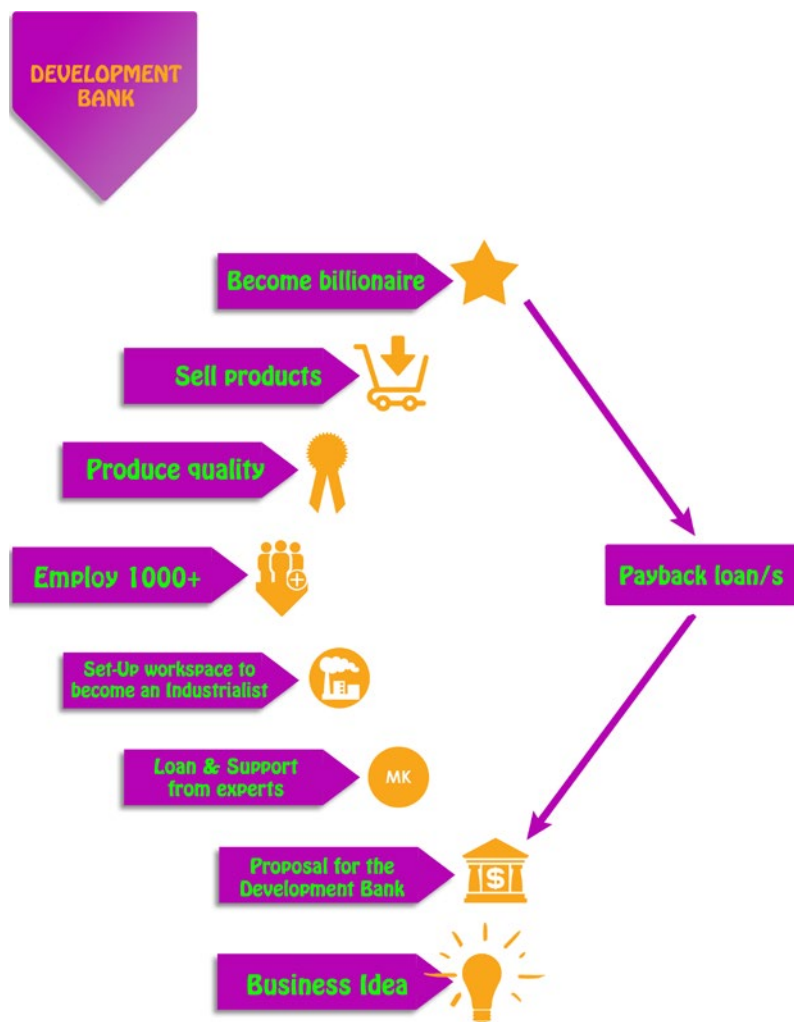
A lot of Malawian businesses still find it hard to source funds for business recapitalization and face stiff competition on the global market due to the poor product quality that they offer on the market. Access to markets is another challenge these businesses face regardless of different regimes strategies to improve the same. Daniel Mtawali from Chilobwe, Blantyre, who is a commercial farmer, is of the view that accessing loans for farmers is difficult because most banks do not have loan packages specifically designed for farmers. He is of the view that government should use already established relationships with international trade organisations like the Common Market for East and Southern Africa to find markets for Malawian farmers as well as loans for value addition. His views are further echoed by Chimwemwe Botha, from Karonga who says she is failing to operate any business venture because she lacks the necessary business skills and capital to venture into any meaningful

business. She believes that if the government were to source funds on behalf of local entrepreneurs it would be beneficial for them since most of them lack the necessary collateral demanded by banks to access loans.

We feel the Government has not done enough in procurement and management of loans. Though attempts have been made to provide loans, such as MARDEF and YEDEF loans, the have often proven unsuccessful due to lack of regulation. We as citizens are also disappointed when we see that often certain political party cadres and government elites manage to get access to the loans but defaulted on payments⁴ leaving more eligible candidates for loans neglected.

The government has become shy to issue loans due to the risks associated with entrepreneurship and the failure of borrowers to payback their loans. When borrowing out loans it is vital for the success of the business venture as loans must be paid back. Failure to do so is a detrimental loss of value of the overall economy. It is understood that business ventures which fail to break into a market due to inexperience, mismanagement or other barriers of entry such as failing to compete against rival products, are a big loss to the investors. This is why we Malawians must unite and work together to crack down on our initiative on successful entrepreneurship.

Our strategy will ensure the creation of new jobs across the country, economic empowerment and reduce the levels of wealth disparities in the country. The government of Malawi has developed policies such as the National Industrial Policy (NIP), the National Trade Policy and the Malawi Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) policy in a bid to improve the economic climate of our country. However, despite all these interventions, the Malawi government continues to face trade imbalances and a lack of effective and efficient participation by a majority of its citizens in productive business enterprises. We believe that this is due to lack of inclusiveness and support of entrepreneurship at a grass root level and it is ambition to kindle entrepreneurship spirit of collaboration, long-term planning, commitment and hard work.



Strategies

3.1 Support local entrepreneurs to create millionaires and billionaires

Ultimately, we want the power of wealth creation to lie with committed individuals who will carry the responsibility of managing key industries that will grow our economy. With this thought in mind, Umodzi will openly take a leading role in helping Malawians with innovative business ideas to produce more products and create more services so that our entrepreneurs can reach billionaire status. These in turn can employ others, help others open businesses and by doing so we will have automatically developed a revolving plan to help even more Malawians become millionaires and billionaires.

3.2 The Development Bank to work with other banks to procure funds

This initiative will see the government establishing a Development Bank which will be tasked with providing funds to willing and enterprising local entrepreneurs to pursue their business dreams of owning a company. The government will establish a Development Bank which will be responsible for sourcing funds for entrepreneurs in all districts depending on need and availability of funds.

3.3. Long term loans with payable installments and low interest rates

In order to achieve our ambition of creating productive factories we need steady growth and reinvestment until the enterprise is self-sustaining. This is why the loan plans given by the development bank will allow borrowers to payback their loans in small installments over several years with a low interest rate.

3.4 Careful consideration of Loan applicants

Loan distribution must not be based on political affiliation. Structured loan plans, that give clear deadlines for loan paybacks in installments much consideration needs to be given to how the product or service will be marketed and in what timeline loans need to be paid back.

We want to have a high success rate of applicants that is why it is vital that we work with candidates on their business plans. Local entrepreneurs will be given funds after writing proposals to the Development Fund. These funds will depend on competence of the business, size of the business as well as the time frame of the loan. These business ventures will be supported with business and financial management skills which will be provided by a special department within the Development Bank in each district.

3.5 Pledge to employ 100 or 1000 people

The managing director of the business will be tasked with the responsibility of employing 1000 plus people for his/her business. This we believe will not only make the company productive but also help reduce unemployment and poverty levels.

The government will also provide support to small-scale and medium enterprises which can employ not less than 100 people. Unemployment will be reduced due to new jobs which will be created.

3.6 Identifying profitable markets

There will be close collaboration with Government, Development Bank and Entrepreneurs to identify prospective profitable markets and realistic business ventures which will respond to the demands and needs of Malawians.

3.7 Support from the development bank till loans are paid back

These business ventures will be supported with business and financial management skills which will be provided by a special department within the Development Bank in each district.

References

3. Ministry of Trade and Industry. 2012. Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Policy Strategy for the Republic of Malawi: Enabling Enterprise Growth in Malawi 2012-2017. Lilongwe: Malawi Government.
4. Golden Matonga. December 2016. Govt gives up Yedef loans. <http://mwntation.com/govt-gives-up-yedef-loans/>. The Nation Online.

4. PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS

Objectives

- 1. Supporting private sector businesses by protecting and providing markets for their products**
- 2. Expand the stock market**

Introduction

A healthy private sector is vital for a resilient and growing economy. We want local entrepreneurs in the private sector to make local businesses a vibrant and productive scene with a lot of employment and mentorship opportunities. Small and medium Malawian Enterprises must grow to house more employees and develop into stable established retailers and service providers. Umodzi Party wants to work with local business stakeholders to identify profitable markets and implement policies to protect said markets from foreign goods. We must also encourage the formation of business communities and networks that will allow the expansion and involvement of local business to trade in a stock market.

Strategies

4.1 Public-Private partnerships

Create Public-Private Partnerships to manage key sectors such as mining industries, agribusinesses and natural resource mobilization.

4.2 Market Protection

Cheap foreign products that directly or indirectly compete with local producers will be taxed.

4.3 Prioritising Malawian Products

Malawian manufactures and brands will be directly supported by government institutions by giving priority to Malawi products in tenders and procurement.

4.4 Expanding the stock market

We will strengthen and expand participation in the stock market by creating a conducive environment for brokers and shareholders to deal. The expansion of the stock market in terms of participation will be achieved through dissemination of stock market related information to be made available in each district. A lot of Malawians will be able to invest in the stock market since information about it will be readily available in all districts. Money raised from share sales will help in the expansion of industries as well as their operating capital base. The stock markets provide a free flow of capital to finance industrial expansion.

5. ELECTRICITY GENERATION

Objectives:

- 1. Privatization of ESCOM to a group of shareholders**
- 2. Introduction of alternative power generation enterprises**
- 3. Provision of reliable and stable supply of electricity through diversification measures**

Introduction

Stable electricity supply is essential for industrialisation and is in high demand for household usage. However, the current state of power supply and generation is so erratic that it fails to meet the national demand. The country for the past decades have been experiencing intermittent power cuts in all sectors be it in industries as well as households. This has led to huge losses in business and households spending more on alternative energy supplies such as charcoal burning. The continuous power cuts have also negatively affected foreign direct investments whereby foreign companies have opted to invest in neighboring countries bypassing Malawi due to its unreliable power supply even though it is politically stable. This has costed the country potential employment opportunities for most of its unemployed citizens as well as potential revenue from business taxes. The continuing down spiral of Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi (ESCOM) and its sister company, Electricity Generation Company (EGENCO) has been orchestrated by gross mismanagement and extensive and frequent political interferences by the ruling elites in the affairs of these two companies. This has negatively affected the performance as well as delivery of these two institutions.

During our survey 70 percent of the respondents cited blackouts as some of the biggest problems their businesses were faced with. Dorothy Zimba from Matawale, Zomba who is a fresh fish seller lamented intermittent blackouts as one of the contributing factors to her businesses downward spiral. She is of the view that had there been alternatives to power supply in her area, her business would have been at another level.

This has therefore, prompted Umodzi Party to insist that ESCOM should become a privatised entity independent from the government.

In addition, we must use a multipronged approach to power production, when expanding our electrical supply service. New enterprises must rise that use solar, wind, water and fossil fuel power to generate electricity. It is of priority of Umodzi Party to usher in further power generating enterprises, preferably local so that a stable electricity supply can be available at the grass roots.

Strategies

5.1 Decentralisation of power generation - Local power generating enterprises

Electricity production will be decentralized and split into zones with certain districts, areas or regions using their own power plants.

5.2 Diversification of power generation

Sources of power will be diversified with hydro-electricity being complimented with solar, wind energy, and coal. Coal power plants, Solar and wind farms will be constructed in certain districts, regions or areas depending on feasibility in this diversification process so as to complement hydroelectricity production. This will help to reduce the strain on the national power grid which as of now uses 93.3% hydroelectric power.

5.3 Separate power generating grids for domestic and industrial use

The provision of reliable and stable supply of electricity through diversification measures and decentralization of electricity production is essential for industrialization. Factories will cut down on a lot of unwanted overhead costs and there will be an increase in industrial production due to stable electricity supply. Usage of power will be split between domestic and industrial use with the industry sector taking up much of hydro-electricity. Hydroelectric production is ideal for industrialization, as it can generate a lot of power. In comparison, the domestic sector, which demands less power, will be reallocated to alternative methods of power generation.

5.4 Privatising ESCOM to a group of qualified shareholders

We will ensure that ESCOM will no longer be mismanaged as it will be privatised to a group of well qualified experts, that government will hold accountable for delivering efficient and affordable electricity.

6. WATER AND SANITATION SYSTEMS

Objectives

- 1. Expand and build new water and sanitation systems**
- 2. Ensure that citizen living in rural areas have access to clean water by building rainwater harvesting tanks in villages**

Introduction

Clean water is essential for the good health of all human beings. This is why it is unacceptable that citizens are still complaining about lack of access to clean water. Many experience sickness from cholera or typhoid outbreaks due to poor sanitation and consumption of contaminated water. This results into otherwise preventable deaths annually. We believe this is an urgent matter which needs immediate attention and we have devised short and long-term plans for the problem as follows;

Strategies

6.1 Build rainwater harvesting tanks in villages

We appreciate the need to expand and develop centralised water works at district level which can clean and recycle water for continued safe water use. However, for immediate relief, we will use the ministry of irrigation and water development to work with zone officers to ensure that every village suffering from water shortages has a rainwater harvesting tanks with filtration systems built immediately in their proximity.

6.2 Expanding centralised sanitation and water systems

All sewage and water systems in our cities will be reviewed while changes and expansions will be done accordingly. New systems will be developed in our districts, particularly in rural areas to improve the welfare of our people as regards sanitation and hygiene. All newly built houses will be connected to a central sewage drainage system. This will lead to construction of sewage processing centres where, sewage can be processed into clean water ready for irrigation and domestic use.

6.3 Construction of dams for irrigation, aquaculture and domestic use

Construction of dams for irrigation, aquaculture and domestic water use will be embarked on. This will be done according to feasibility studies which will show the best places to construct them. The flow of the shire river will be regulated to sustain the water levels in Lake Malawi. The possibility of diverting the flow of the shire river to make sure that the water is used more than once for electricity generation will be seriously looked at.

7. POVERTY REDUCTION

Objectives

- 1. Eradication of poverty in Malawi**
- 2. Community lead development programs**
- 3. Empowerment of traditional leaders**
- 4. The advancement of Village banks to issue capacity building loans**
- 5. Vocational training and mentorship programs for the youth**
- 6. Sustainable business ventures from Recycling**

Introduction

Poverty remains one of the biggest problems in Malawi. Since independence, we have come up with several poverty reduction strategies; yet, to this day the majority of Malawians still languish in poverty, living below the poverty line. More than 50% of Malawians live below the poverty line (less than \$1.90) per day while 25% live in extreme poverty.⁵ A lot of Malawians live without the basic needs and necessities of life like shelter, food and clothing. This can be evidenced by the growing number of street children in our urban centers. In addition, homelessness has also gripped the nation with a majority of Malawians sleeping in public service areas like bus depots, unfinished buildings as well as under bridges. Daily food intake of a majority of Malawians have also decreased leaving them desperate and weak and failing to lead productive lives.

Quite a number of reasons have contributed to this status quo. Among them are; weather-related complications like drought which lead to many communities failing to sustain themselves. High unemployment rates have also led to an increase in numbers of people trapped in poverty. High prevalence rate of diseases like HIV/AIDS have also worsened the situation leading to grandparents as well as young children taking the role of breadwinners, unable to adequately feed themselves as well as their dependents. Corrupt public officials also contribute to Malawi's poverty situation since they divert vital resources meant to assist the people for personal gain. These have collectively contributed to economic stagnation and a low pace of poverty reduction in the country.

During our survey, it was clear to see that underprivileged Malawians felt unsupported and robbed by our government. When asked to express their views on why the situation is like this in their areas, 3 out of 10 participants viewed lack of education as a contributing factor to poverty in their area. While, another 3 out of 10 participants were of the view that government officials are corrupt and often neglected their roles in the development process. For example, one respondent explained that they only interact with workers from Non-Governmental Organizations while those from the government are corrupt and rude. As such poverty would be hard to reduce in their area due to the behavior and work ethic of government employees. There is a lack of effective participation on the part of development aid beneficiaries as well as targeted communities for development projects. This has led to gross misallocation of resources, fostered corruption in development allocation processes and has led to unsustainability of development projects due to lack of ownership of such projects. 53 percent of survey participants indicated that development initiatives being carried in their communities are being carried out without their full participation and they had no roles whatsoever in the implementation.

We at Umodzi Party find this deprived form of living completely unacceptable. It saddens us that we as Malawians have failed to come together and help those in need. We want to create a Malawi where every person has a roof over their head, decent clothing and enough food all year round. Empowerment of local communities whereby the members can implement their development choices is vital. Umodzi Party believes that an all-out decentralization and community empowerment drive is the way to go. Malawians in their own communities carry the knowledge and understanding of their own problems; it is our role to find the relevant resources needed and let the people decide what poverty reduction initiatives and programs will best work in their communities, so that they can effectively mitigate poverty. Let us have more faith in our people! By allowing community members to be the drivers of their development initiatives, the country will be able to reduce corrupt practices, nepotism as well as ensure the sustainability of development projects through enhanced ownership of the same. Community members will be able to choose development projects according to their situation since different areas have different needs.

Strategies

7.1 Development strategies for local Malawians by local Malawians

We believe that decentralization, which is the transfer of authority and responsibility of public services from the central government to local governments is the best way to empower local communities to be a driver of their own poverty reduction.

1. Districts will be empowered by transferring political, fiscal and administrative powers in the hands of district councils, elected representatives and local traditional leaders.
2. Districts will develop specific district development strategies which are independent of influence from the central government.
3. Each district will establish its own five-year development strategy which will be supported at ministry level. The formulation and implementation of these strategies will be participatory where all key stakeholders in that particular district will be involved and consulted.
4. Government will provide enforcing mechanisms as well as assistance whenever required through ministries involved.
5. Districts will be sorted into development zones under the direction of Zone Officers. Through the zone officers, central government will monitor and evaluate progress in terms of the specific goals outlined by each district in their five-year development strategies. It will also ensure that the councils are formulating and implementing specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-bound projects to avoid wasting valuable and scarce resources.
6. Zone Officers for each district will be employed to supervise human capital for development. Their role will be to provide technical assistance to local stakeholders during formulation and implementation of the five-year development strategies; so that set standards are met and maintained.

By increasing the sense of ownership of development plans we believe communities will be more motivated and committed to support and realise sustainable development solutions, unlike the usual fate of centrally produced plans, which often lose momentum or become neglected over time. It may also result in more efficient and cheaper service delivery as initiatives will be in response to local demand and supply, since the local authorities know better the actual needs and costs of production in their areas. Furthermore, we are optimistic that there will be more participation of various interest groups in local communities i.e. traders, youth, women and the elderly in development projects.

7.2 Empowerment of Chiefs

Umodzi Party believes that local chiefs have the ability to help in poverty reduction. Chiefs are held in high regard in their communities hence empowering them to lead the development of their areas is critical in poverty reduction. Local chiefs know the opportunities, indigenous resources and comparative advantages on which development can be based in their local areas and will be able to mobilise their people for development projects. This why Umodzi Party want to work directly with Chiefs. Local councilors and zone coordinators must work in teams to assist chiefs to achieve their set development goals. Chiefs will be empowered with resources to mobilise their people in rural infrastructure development, farming, businesses and industries.

7.3 Supporting local Entrepreneurs & Market support

Local entrepreneurs are drivers of local economies worldwide and Malawi is not an exception. Due to the decentralization drive which we will embark on come 2019 after winning the elections, Umodzi Party sees it fitting that local entrepreneurs are protected from unfair trade practices and given support where they are lacking. Government will be purchasing locally made commodities for example; furniture, packaged groundnut flour or locally processed seed oil to be used in public service offices. Entrepreneurs will be paid for delivered goods within 30 days.

7.4 District tax collection for local development

Each district will manage its own taxes collected from its own gainful employment. Gained revenue will be pooled into special district-based development banks which will be responsible for lending business capital to local entrepreneurs to help grow their businesses.

7.5 Village banks for revolving loans

Creation of village banks whereby the revenue in these village banks will be given out as revolving loans among bank members (shareholders). These village banks will be member owned and controlled. However, experts from government will from time to time check-up on these banks and provide professional support to ensure their sustainability and continuity. It will be of the interest of these banks to issue capacity building loans to local entrepreneurs aimed at enhancing the capacity and ability of local businesses to grow and survive in prevailing economic conditions.

7.6 Initiative to intensify productivity of Agriculture businesses

We must be able to provide food security for our people and so priority loans must be given to agriculture businesses so that they can cultivate more produce and expand their business.

7.7 Training vocational skills

Students will be imparted with special skills at secondary school level for example in accounting, media and other trades.

Vocational skills will be taught to students at secondary level.

Sustainable skills that work at local level will be identified and made part of the secondary education curriculum. The youth will be able to engage in profitable post-secondary school initiatives due to skills attained there

7.8 Mentoring future entrepreneurs

The learned business skills will be sustained through continued mentoring schemes to be run by district-based entrepreneurs. We believe that a carefully run entrepreneurship and business model infused in the education sector will help create well informed and skilled entrepreneurs. These will be able to create and sustain their

business enterprises while at the same time employing others in their business ventures. Unemployment rate will be reduced since most will be self-employed from the skill attained in vocational training.

7.9 Creation of enterprises for recycling and production of organic fertiliser

Infrastructure and structures will be built at the community levels to support for recycling of local materials for businesses for example plastic bottles can be collected and recycle to make other plastic packaging.

Farm manure collection ventures will also be encouraged whereby the collected manure will be processed into organic fertilisers. Small-scale manageable businesses will be created from recycling and manure collection ventures. The environment will be sustainably managed at a profit.

Reference

5. The World Bank. 2017. Economic Development Document for the Republic of Malawi: Assessment Letter for the IMF. New York: World Bank.

8. AGRICULTURE

Objectives

- 1. Revolving farming inputs**
- 2. Mechanisation and supervision of agricultural systems**
- 3. Development of agribusinesses and commercial farms for local and international markets**

Introduction

Agriculture remains the biggest contributor to the country's economy. However, many challenges continue to hit the sector. Environmental hindrance, lack of access to farm inputs and low market prices continue to stunt the industry. It is noted, that government has offered different strategies in a bid to improve these situations. Still, a lack of seriousness in implementation has rendered these strategies ineffective. Responds from our survey mention that extension workers at times are unwilling to cooperate when farmers report problems. Corruption also is a major factor in the agriculture sector whereby inputs meant for poor farmers usually find themselves with undeserving recipients. For example, Chimwemwe Botha, a poor subsistence farmer from Karonga indicated that she has never received government or aid agency agriculture assistance since she started farming regardless of the fact that she qualifies to be on the beneficiaries list. This has led to many subsistence farmers having poor harvests each and every growing season. Betty from Thyolo explained that only a few people receive agriculture assistance from her area and also explained that corruption is the main problem affecting agriculture programs like FISP. She is of the view that the government should revise FISP so that every farmer benefit from the initiative by reducing fertilizer prices above board.

Lack of value addition for agriculture products also negatively affect a lot of farmers who end up selling their products at a cheap price. Most of these farmers are small scale and grow a variety of crops on small farms like tobacco, maize, groundnuts, soybeans, beans and millet among others.

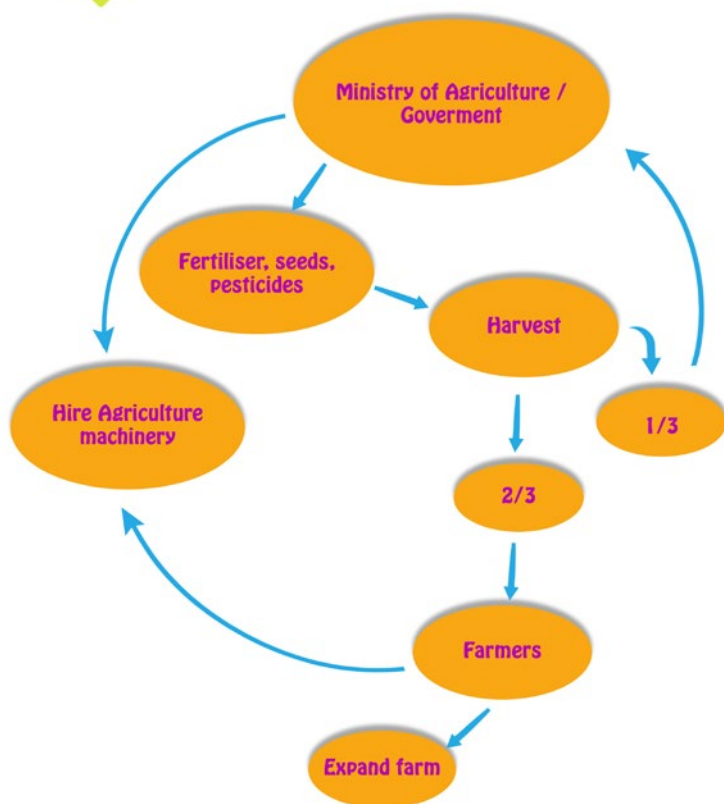
However, there has been a noted lack of diversification in the crops they grow. For example, if one is a maize farmer, the trend has been that several years will pass with this very same farmer relying on maize only for his survival. This has led to many farmers missing out on the economic and food security benefits crop diversification brings since diversification allows farmers to cushion themselves in times of crop failure but also profit from the economies of scale. . This problem is also enhanced by a lack of access to markets for agriculture products.. 76 percent of the respondents indicated that they sell their product cheaply to vendors because there are no readily available markets for their goods and that the government takes long to buy farm produce from them. They say they would prefer it if the government established more agriculture produce markets and improve the market value of their produce so that they generate enough income for their families.

From these testimonies, Umodzi Party has created an agriculture policy which will not only help diversify the agriculture sector to accommodate for more profitable agriculture products, but also make national and global markets available. We will also increase the production capacity of farmers by mechanising and commercialising farms. These initiatives will not only improve the economic standing of our farmers but will also help in achieving food security and nutritional standards for the country. To tackle the expensive fertiliser problem, Umodzi Party government will introduce fertiliser manufacturing companies in the country which will be responsible for producing affordable commercial fertilisers for the local farmer.

8.1 Revolving farm inputs

This program will target farmers in all districts who lack the necessary farm inputs. The government through the Ministry of Agriculture will be providing farm inputs to selected farmers each growing season.

REVOLVING FARM INPUTS



1. We will provide funds to the Ministry of Agriculture for the purchase of necessary farm inputs each growing season.
2. Agriculture extension agents with assistance from local leaders in villages will identify subsidy beneficiaries.
3. Farming inputs such as fertilizer, seeds and pesticides will be given to villages according to how many hectares of farmland they have.
4. Fertiliser and other farm inputs will be shared amongst local farmers who will be supervised by experts from Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR, Bunda).
5. The farm produce will be divided for domestic use and for sell after harvest.
6. One third of the produce to sell will be given to the government as payment for the farm inputs. This one-third will be sold by the government to generate revenue for farm inputs for the next growing season. This will also ensure the sustainability of the program.
7. The farmers will be free to sell the remaining two-thirds as they chose to generate revenue for themselves.

8.2 Mechanisation and supervision of agricultural systems

Mechanisation of farms will allow for the cultivation of large hectares of land within a short period of time. The rapidity and speed of work with which farming operations are performed will be increased allowing farmers to have time to conduct other productive activities. The government through the Ministry of Agriculture will purchase machinery and equipment like tractors, ploughs, etc. This equipment will be disbursed in each district under the supervision of Agriculture District Divisions (ADDs). To hire this equipment local farmers will be required to fill out application forms and pay an affordable fee to their local ADD representatives. The fees collected will be used to maintain the equipment as well as to pay personnel manning the equipment. Farm mechanisation will also lead to commercialisation of agriculture in the country since they will likely be a shift from

subsistence farming to commercial farming. This shift will be encouraged due to the need for more land and capital to be allocated to the farmer in order to reap the full technological benefits and to make the equipment hire fee more affordable.

8.3 Supervision of Agricultural systems

Trained personnel from LUANAR will be providing modern agriculture methods and techniques to local farmers. The LUANAR experts will also help in supervising farms and providing necessary information and help whenever required. Conservation of land will be achieved since the farmers will be supervised by trained personnel who will be giving them information and knowledge on good farming practices.

8.4 Public-private partnerships between farmers and Government

We will enter into public-private partnerships with local farmers to venture into commercial farming. In this arrangement, farmers will take out loans using their land as collateral. Profits realized from these ventures will be used to pay off this loan while the government will provide support and supervision. Local farmers will be allowed to buy government shares in the partnerships and be independent after successfully paying back their loans. The government will also assist local farmers to shift from subsistence farming to commercial farming.

8.5 Financial Support for Commercial Farms

The loans for establishing commercial farms will be provided by the Development Bank which will be set up by the government. These commercial farms will be producing fruit, vegetables, seeds and cereals. Produce will further be processed for export purposes or sold nationally as high-grade commodities.

8.6 Crop specialization for international markets

Specialization of crops which can thrive in the Malawian climate and with a high international demand will be advanced by farmers with assistance from agriculture experts. These crops will be intensively cultivated, and high-end products will be created from them for export. For example, sunflower production will be intensified and the produce from these sunflowers will be processed into oil, margarine,

animal feed and bio-fuel for both the domestic market and for export. Trained personnel from LUANAR (Bunda), will supervise these ventures. They will work with local farmers and chiefs to ensure that proper farming methods are being used. The country's GDP will increase due to revenue collected from export products.

8.7 Providing better market links for Farmers

Better links will be provided between farmer and the market so that farmers have better access to good prices with collection centers for different agricultural products located in rural areas.

8.8 Annually grow as many crops as possible

We will encourage the cultivation of crops throughout the year by encouraging irrigation as well as through rain-fed agriculture. Land which is conducive for different types of crops will be identified across the country. Crop rotation will be practiced on this land. Irrigation will be encouraged throughout the year to supplement rain-fed cultivation. This strategy will help increase the yield per year for farmers across Malawi.

8.9 Factories to preserve food

No Malawian should go hungry after the harvesting season. Farmers and government (that have acquired harvest through the revolving farm input program) will sell part of their harvest to industries which process food. The preservation methods used by factories will be decided according to feasibility studies. The food products will be stored for later consumption and sold to grocery stores accordingly.

8.10 Crop diversification

Evaluate agricultural systems so as to introduce additional crops which can mitigate hunger. Establish a national seed bank which will ensure that seeds of different varieties of plants are stored and easily accessible to farmers who need them. This will increase food security and the nutrition levels of the Malawian population.

9. EDUCATION

Objectives

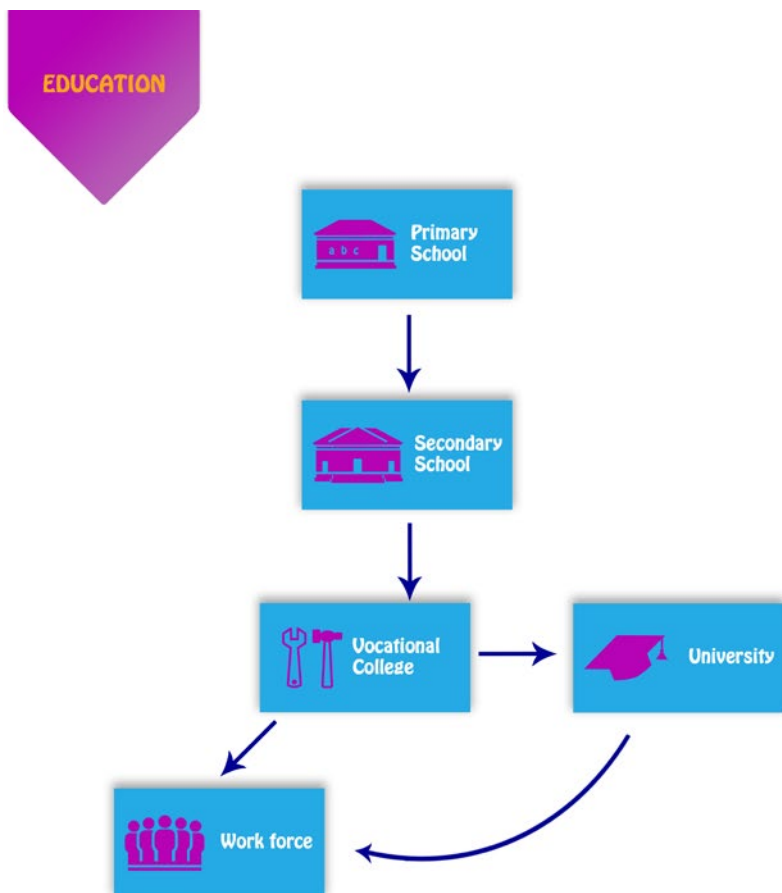
- 1. Expand the capacity and accessibility of learning institutions to the general public**
- 2. Support teachers so that they are motivated and well-trained to deliver quality education**
- 3. Decrease student dropout rates by supporting students**
- 4. Form a curriculum that is relevant to the country's development needs**
- 5. Put an emphasis on vocational training to ensure employability of students**

Introduction

Being a developing country, Malawi's primary efforts towards sustainable development and the eradication of poverty must target the grassroots. The education system is the primary infrastructure for development and social change. To quote Nelson Mandela, "education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated". With the majority of the population below the age of forty, Malawi needs to invest in the youth if it is to eradicate poverty and underdevelopment in the foreseeable future. The youth need to be empowered and imparted with the knowledge and skills they need to transform the country's economy. This can only be achieved through serious investment in education.

A survey conducted by the party revealed that Malawians, in both rural and urban areas, are not satisfied with service delivery in the current education system. More than 80% of the interviewees cited shortage of learning materials, schools blocks, and trained teachers as some of the challenges affecting service delivery. One of the interviewees in the survey, 25 year old Esnat Magola from Ntchisi pointed out that in her district, students are also forced to walk long distances just to access basic education.

As such, Umodzi Party has come up with a number of transformative strategies aimed at revamping the education system so that the country benefits from the citizens it trains. The current education system and the policies in support of it prove to be lacking as they do not provide what the country needs. The Umodzi Party government will address this discrepancy between policy and practice and make the Malawi education system relevant and more vibrant.



Strategies

9.1 Where there is a primary school there will be a secondary school

Most school-going age children, especially in the rural areas, dropout of school due to lack of accessibility to training institutions. Students are forced to walk long distances to access secondary education or most are not selected to continue their education in secondary schools due to the small number of such institutions. Umodzi Party will advance the above stated policy in order to deal with this problem.

9.2 The number of students attending a particular university will be revised to match its infrastructure and human resource capacity

One of the reasons the quality of education in the country is getting lower and lower is that there is too much pressure on the few available resources. For example, the recommended lecturer – student ratio in Malawi’s public universities is 1 – 25 but at Mzuzu University, for instance, one lecturer handles a class of not less than 140 students. To address this problem, Umodzi Party will train and employ more lecturers in order to ensure quality of service delivery in education by reducing the lecturer – student ratio so that our university education meets international standards.

9.3 Universities offering a diversity of skills will be built to lower pressure on the current ones and improve standards for competition at the international level

Currently, Malawi only has four public universities that fail to admit all the students that qualify for university education. Each academic year, more than 9000 eligible students are left out in public university admissions due to limited space in the universities (UNESCO 2010, 21). To address this problem and to advance the attainment of education for all in the country, Umodzi Party will build 15 extra universities.

9.4 Teachers who stay in government will be offered housing and mobility loans at no interest

Malawi's education department is one of the most neglected among government departments. Teachers form the group of the lowest earners and most undervalued professionals in the country. This reveals our government's grave misplacement of priorities. In a survey conducted by the party, most respondents expressed the need for more well trained and motivated teachers in the country. Lazarus John Banda, a 29 year old teacher from Thyolo, bemoaned the lack of incentives especially for teachers in rural areas and sees this as a challenge to quality service delivery. In view of this, Umodzi Party will make sure that;

- **Teachers are well trained and well paid.**
- **All teachers are provided with standard accommodation for their families**
- **The government will enter into agreements with dealers of second-hand cars so that teachers buy those cars on interest-free loans to address problems of mobility.**
- **Teachers willing to work in rural areas will be offered hardship allowances.**

9.5 All students selected into public universities will be offered accommodation and food allowances through re-opening of college cafeterias.

Most students in public universities come from poor backgrounds and needy families. Currently, university students are admitted on non-residential basis and most of them have no access to soft loans for school fees and upkeep. Umodzi Party will support these students by offering them basic needs like food and accommodation so that they do not fail to perform competitively in their studies due to economic problems.

9.6 All students selected into public universities will be offered student loans for fees, which will become payable 5 years after employment.

One of the main pillars for Umodzi Party is 'education for all' and as such the party wants to make sure that it provides equal opportunities to education for all citizens of the country despite their economic inability, hence the provision of student loans. The Umodzi Party government will also offer a considerable and flexible period of loan repayment (5 years after employment) in order to reduce unnecessary economic pressure on the productive citizens it hopes to produce through the loan schemes.

9.7 All secondary schools will become A-level institutions and training colleges offering a secondary school diploma

This means that students in secondary school will study up to form six (where they will enroll into specialised subjects of their choice in the additional two years). Umodzi Party will transform secondary schools into advanced level institutions in order to enhance the capacity of secondary school graduates, to properly prepare them for college, and to ensure specialisation of skills at the earliest stage possible. The current system dwells on general training and it fails to prepare students for their desired careers. Students are only given basic and general lessons across the board with no real focus. For example, students are forced to take more than 10 subjects (a combination of sciences and humanities) and they find it hard to specialise and choose career paths as early as possible.

9.8 Training institutions that are not universities will be in consortium with universities

Umodzi Party will make sure that training institutions such as technical and vocational training colleges, community colleges, and teacher training colleges work hand in hand and receive support from universities. This, will among other things assist in;

- **Advancing the quality of training that students receive.**
- **Advancing the skills of teaching staff in the institutions.**

- **Preparing students in these training institutions for upgrading to degree levels in universities upon completing their studies at the lower level.**

9.9 Courses that directly address public sector needs will receive support from the government to develop scholarships to attract and utilise the potential of the brightest students.

Umodzi Party will make sure that it invests in training sectors that serve the needs of Malawi as a developing country. For example, educational programs in sustainable and renewable energy technologies, medicine, information and communication technology, education, and sustainable agriculture will be given extra resources to support both the programs and the students so that they contribute to swift and sustainable national development.

10. YOUTH**Objectives**

- 1. Accepting and developing natural talent**
- 2. Educate and mentor all citizens until the age of 18**
- 3. Introduction of awards and competitions to incentivise the youth**

Introduction

Understanding that the majority of the population in the country is below the age of 40, Umodzi Party intends to invest in this youthful generation for a prosperous future. Despite being in majority, the youth are marginalized and left out in making decisions that affect the future of this country. In a survey that the party conducted, most young respondents (who comprised 59.2% of the total survey population) expressed the view that the youth are not empowered enough to contribute effectively to the development of the country. The respondents cited lack of education and employment opportunities for most young people in the country as some of the challenges in the current system. Umodzi Party believes that there is need to harness and nurture the potential that our youthful generation has by empowering young people through giving them the necessary skills and knowledge needed for socio-economic progress.

More than 70% of people interviewed in our survey think that the youth in Malawi are not given adequate opportunities or enough power to participate in national development. There is no political will or deliberate efforts to truly empower the youth. About 80 out of 104 respondents expressed the need for youth guidance and counselling as one way of promoting young people and ushering them in the right direction. There is also need to enhance vocational skills' training and having more young people in politically influential positions. The argument is that when it comes to youth empowerment, more needs to be done.

Presently, the major policy for youth empowerment in Malawi is the National Youth Policy which has the overall goal of creating an enabling environment for all young people so that

they can develop to their full potential in order to contribute significantly to personal and sustainable national development. In Malawi, natural talent, which has huge economic potential if developed, often goes to waste as the government does not recognise and develop it. As such, talented youths end up being unemployed and become prone to poverty and drug and substance abuse because the environment does not enable them to pursue their desired careers. Umodzi Party will deal with this problem by doing the following:

Strategies

10.1 Arts, music, and sports will become part of the public school curriculum

Umodzi party will ensure that the Ministry of Sports and Culture is merged with the Ministry of Education since sports, education, art, and culture go hand in hand and are inseparable. This will ensure that the youth get a comprehensive education that will address both their physical and mental needs for capacity building. Currently, the governance system divorces sports and culture from the ministry of education and as such the youth have fewer opportunities of developing successful careers that border on sports and performing art. As such, Umodzi Party's strategy will prepare the youth, not only for white collar jobs, but also for athletic and artistic careers that pave the way to self-employment.

10.2 Athletic competitions will be introduced

The introduction of athletic competitions will help in developing talent and potential in young people who want to pursue careers in athletics. The competitions will aim at producing competent athletes who will be able to compete at the international stage. This strategy will also be one way of keeping the youth off drugs, alcohol, and sexual immorality as the competitions will reduce their idle time. The long-term benefits of this are that;

- The Malawi football team will be able to play at international competitions like the African Cup of Nations (AFCON)
- Malawi will be able to export talented players to lucrative leagues as other African countries do.

- Malawi will have a good representation of athletes at the Olympics who will be able to earn a decent living through sports.

10.3 Young people will be encouraged to pursue careers in areas they excel in

As one way of empowering the youth, Umodzi Party will eliminate indoctrination and patronage in career guidance. The party will create an enabling environment where young people will have multiple career opportunities at their disposal from which they will make their choices. The Umodzi Party government, through its youth policy, will identify talent and potential in young people at an early stage and mould them into developing those careers successfully through skills specialisation.

10.4 Youth recreational facilities and skills will be introduced

In order to nurture young people to pursue careers in sports and the arts, the Umodzi Party government will build recreational facilities for the youth. These will include sports academies and arenas, entertainment halls, and performance theatres. Talent and skills will be nurtured and developed in these spaces through mentorship programs. The aim of the programs is to create a cordial environment where young people will contribute to the development of one another's potential.

10.5 Education will be compulsory up to 18 years of age

Malawi wastes a lot of development potential in young people who are just roaming the streets with nothing to do because they were denied education opportunities. Mostly, this is because some parents and guardians have no sense of responsibility towards their children. It is reported that despite the introduction of free primary education in Malawi in 1994, a large proportion of youth (54.2% in 2012 and 47% in 2014) had not completed primary education or received no schooling⁶. Umodzi Party will usher in a system of social responsibility that will ensure that, by law, every child must be in school up to the age of 18. Parents and guardians who do not comply will face the law. The aim of this policy is to produce a literate and productive generation.

10.6 Youth mentorship programs will be introduced in each development zone

In order to prepare young people for the future, Umodzi Party will introduce youth mentorship programs where specialists in various fields will be training and mentoring the youth in their career paths. The mentorship programs will be conducted in the recreational facilities that the party will build in all development zones across the country.

10.7 Reintroduction of the youth week where prizes will be awarded, and innovation projects showcased

Umodzi Party believes that one of the ways of achieving high levels of sustainable development is by enhancing innovation in the youth. The youth must be encouraged to think outside the box and come up with innovations that are beneficial to the needs of their immediate environment. As such, the Umodzi Party government will reward and award innovative projects by young people in order to encourage creativity and ensure youth participation in national development. Under this program there will be a one month where young people will write innovative projects in several fields up for multiple awards. One week will be put aside for such awards to be awarded.

Reference

6. Mussa, Richard. 2016. Labour Market Transitions of Young Women and Men in Malawi: Results of the 2014 School-to-Work Transition Survey. Geneva: International Labour Office.

11. HEALTH

Objectives

1. **Provide training for health care workers**
2. **Improve and expand the healthcare system**
3. **Stop drug embezzlement and shortages**
4. **Support the needs of private hospitals**
5. **Ensure that every working citizen has health insurance**
6. **Ensure that local communities support their health institutions to tackle malnutrition**

Malawi is one of the countries with high mortality rates and a very low life expectancy. One of the reasons behind this is that the country's health sector has not been run efficiently and access to standard health services remains a challenge to most people especially in remote areas. Bearing in mind that the majority of Malawians are poor and cannot afford access to private health care services, Umodzi Party has devised strategies that aim at improving the quality of and access to healthcare services for a healthier and more productive population.

Umodzi Party understands that the country lacks adequate health facilities like hospitals, laboratories, and counselling centres. The current Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP II) mainly focuses on strengthening the drug supply system and reducing dependence on emergency tenders, making sure that, to ensure quality, preventive and curative health care should target hard to serve and vulnerable groups. However, the plan has not helped much in improving service provision in the country. One of the reasons for this is that the current facilities can no longer meet the demands of our ever-increasing population. The other reason is that most of the current facilities are in dilapidated states. Therefore, we must expand our health care system.

The majority of respondents in a survey that Umodzi Party conducted expressed their dissatisfaction with health service delivery in the current system. The challenges range from lack of infrastructure to poor service delivery by health personnel. Esnart Magola, a 25 year old from Ntchisi, pointed out that most people are discouraged to access health services because of the bad attitude they get from nurses who castigate them for nothing. She also expressed the need for government to work on improving nutrition in the country.

Most respondents highlighted shortage of drugs, shortage of hospitals, lack of ambulances, and poor road networks (especially in rural areas) as some of the biggest challenges facing health service delivery.

Strategies

11.1 All current referral central hospitals will be turned into teaching hospitals

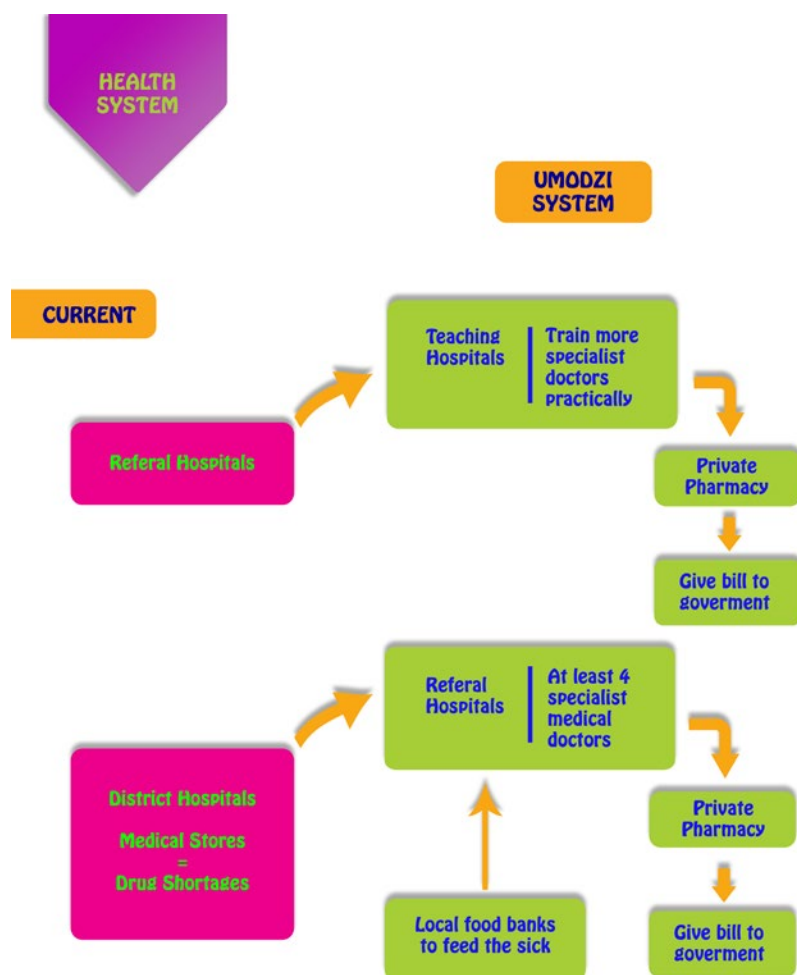
In order to address problems of shortage of trained medical staff in the country, Umodzi Party will ensure that all current central hospitals will be restructured into training institutions for student medical practitioners. This will ensure that more medical personnel are trained as the number of training centres will increase. As such, the country will be able to have adequate health care workers that will meet the demand in the health sector in the foreseeable future.

11.2 The current district hospitals will be turned into referral hospitals

The current district hospitals will be equipped with new and advanced equipment and well trained medical staff so that they reach the level of referral hospitals. This will address the gap created by turning all referral hospitals into teaching hospitals. It will also ensure that reliable and quality health services are closer to the people, addressing problems of access to these facilities.

11.3 Improve the standard of current primary health care centres (PHC)

Most people fail to access quality and effective health care services due to shortage of primary health care centres in their localities. More than 60% of people interviewed in a recent survey by Umodzi Party pointed out the long distances that patients have to travel in order to access health services. This becomes a challenge considering the poor road networks in rural areas. The other problem is that most of the available health care centres do not have the adequate capacity to deliver quality services. To address this problem, all the current health centres will be given more capacity by adding the necessary infrastructure to serve as points of reference for the referral hospitals and centres for primary health care.



11.4 A specific number of hospitals will be assigned 4 medical officers to be referring and seeing patients at the improved health centres

To ensure the quality of service delivery at all levels, the district hospitals that will be turned into referral hospitals will host at least 4 qualified medical personnel who will be working hand in hand with health centres within their vicinity in assisting patients timely and effectively.

11.5 There will be a pharmacy next to every hospital

Shortage of drugs in public hospitals has always been a problem that Malawi is failing to deal with. This has resulted into poor service delivery in health facilities and it has led to a lot of avoidable deaths. The problem is that there is embezzlement and lack of accountability in handling of drugs in the current system. Umodzi Party will address this by abolishing the Central Medical Stores and empower private pharmacies. There will be a pharmacy next to every hospital where patients will get their drugs on government bill through proper procedures. The pharmacist will then claim his/her fees from the government. This will ensure that drugs are readily available, pharmacists are earning a decent living, and stealing of drugs by public servants is eliminated.

11.6 Healthcare insurance

Insurance is a means of protection from financial and other forms of loss. It is often there to help a client (an individual or a business) in times of need or in the event of an emergency. Health insurance serves to provide payments for expenses as a result of sickness, injury, death, or dismemberment. Umodzi Party will champion healthcare insurance in Malawi by;

- **Introducing an affordable and comprehensive healthcare insurance through a Healthcare Act**

The party will put in place a Healthcare Act that will ensure that government amasses adequate resources that will support the healthcare system. In order to achieve this, every citizen of the country will contribute the little they can to a common pool so that they are assisted when they need medical help. People in rural areas will also contribute to the system by assisting with manual

labour or contributing part of their surplus farm produce to their health institutions.

- **Healthcare insurance will become mandatory for all citizens who are employed**

All Malawians who are on formal employment will be reasonably taxed so that the money is a contribution to their medical insurance. This will ensure that they will not have problems with accessing public health services when need arises.

11.7 Government will offer public-private partnerships to health cadres so that they can be supported in building up their own certified health practice

Umodzi Party understands that in order for the country to attain international standards of health care service provision, private hospitals will be as important as public hospitals. The two sectors must complement and not necessarily compete with each other. While in government we will make sure that it supports entrepreneurship in the health sector by providing soft loans to private practitioners and working hand in hand with them so that they provide standard services to the nation. Medical personnel will also be encouraged to develop business partnership with health insurance companies so that they are able to bring in more insured clients in order to operate profitably. This will ease the pressure on public health facilities while at the same time creating an enabling environment for self-employment.

11.8 Local communities supporting their health centres to supply local food banks

In order to make positive strides in public health, local communities ought to work together with their health institutions so that there is mentorship and behavioural change towards healthier living standards and practices. To combat the problem of malnutrition and other nutrition related ailments health centres will have their own food bank. Lack of nutrition often hinders the immune system from fight of disease. Umodzi Party wants to bring the community together to help feed the needy and vulnerable by creating food banks in local health facilities. This contributory system encourages locals to donate food stuffs like maize flour, peanuts, and the like. The food will be collected and given to vulnerable children and the sick.

11.9 Local taxes will be used for essential emergency items

Taxes collected within a specific locality will be used to address the health needs of that community. This means that things like emergency drugs, ambulances, and other support facilities will no longer be a problem. Communities will contribute to their own wellbeing with support from their health institutions.

12. CORRUPTION

Objectives

- 1. Reinstil confidence in the judicial system so that people are confident to invest in Malawi**
- 2. To ensure that no one, not even the president, is above the law**
- 3. To end corrupt practices so that there will be more money available for development**
- 4. Improve public finance management so that no public finds can be syphoned for personal use**

Introduction

The fight against corruption has been a song of many government regimes. The unfortunate reality is that not much progress is being done – it has been a back and forth battle. Umodzi Party believes that this is mainly due to the weak approaches of the past regimes towards the fight against corruption.

In a survey conducted by the Umodzi Party, it was found that many Malawians encounter some form of corrupt practice regularly. 73.6% of When asked what could be done to reduce corruption in Malawi, the commonly cited interventions were stiffer custodial sentences for those involved in corruption (with up to 77% of respondents citing this), as well as independence of Anti-Corruption Bureau and the police (cited by a combined total of 47% of the respondents).

Umodzi party agrees with Malawians that the moment the law is hard on corruption, and the leaders demonstrate the will to allow corruption combating agencies to be independent, it is possible to reduce corruption by a great amount and thus lessen its negative impact on the country's economic growth.

Strategies

12.1 Independence of key statutory institutions

Umodzi Party seeks to ensure independence of the key institutions that are either vulnerable to corrupt practices or are involved in the fight against corruption. These institutions must be free of any political party association or interference. They must be protected by law, such that the current governing parliament cannot manipulate their judgment or threaten their respectable process to carry out their duties for national integrity and security.

The key institutions:

- The key institution that play a major role in the fight against corruption are the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) which was established in 1998 under the Corrupt Practices Act. The ACB has the function of taking necessary measures for the prevention of corruption in public bodies and private bodies; receiving complaints on suspected corrupt practices and investigating all suspected corruption issues; and investigate all matters of suspected corruption after which they may prosecute the matter.
- The Malawi Police Services (MPS) was established by the Police Act and is a key institution in the fight against corruption. The Police are the ultimate watchdogs of the law whose duty is to investigate, arrest and prosecute anyone suspected of breaking any law.
- The Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) was established under the Malawi Revenue Authority Act and is responsible for the assessment, collection and receipt of specified revenue. It is an obvious target for corrupt practices.
- The Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) was established under the Reserve Bank of Malawi Act and has the duties of, among others, regulating financial institutions such as commercial banks, to serve as banker to the government, to maintain external reserves and to issue legal currency. The RBM is an obvious target of corrupt practices.

Watchdog institutions like the ACB and Police should not be in a position where their duties may be directed by the president or any other political figure whereupon they may direct them to either cease an investigation, or to commence one where it is not warranted just so they may advance their political agendas. Vulnerable institutions like the MRA and RBM should not be easily intruded on by people either based on their political or economic might.

The independence shall be achieved by amending the statutes that established the various institutions so that they do not fall within the control of the executive arm of government. This, Umodzi Party believes, is the main source of interference. In Malawi it is usually difficult to separate the executive government from the ruling party leadership such that some politicians by virtue of being party elites exercise actual control on public institutions for their own benefit. Remedying this at legislation level will detach these vital organs from the grip of the political figures and ensure that even they are subjected to the rule of law.

12.2 Independent commissions to appoint the directors of statutory institutions

Some of the salient changes in this regard is the appointment of officials who serve in these major institutions. Appointment of the directors of ACB, the inspector general of police and the RBM governor should not be done by the president. Instead it should be done either by independent commissions or the Public Appointment committee of parliament who should make the appointments on merit and subject the candidates to scrutiny.

It would also be important to make constitutional provisions to secure these legal provisions and protect them from willy-nilly amendments, unless by referendum as is done by section 196 of the Constitution. By ensuring independence, the officials of the critical institutions in the fight against corruption will not be deemed to be serving “at the mercy” of the president and thus will not fear going after the president or his/her political allies. A change that stems from the law ensures that there is continuation and adherence by different regimes.

Umodzi party thus holds the firm view that doing this would reduce corruption and therefore its devastating effects on the economy of Malawi.

12.3 Strict court procedures for dealing with corruption cases

In order for corruption to be dealt with effectively, trials involving corruption should also be treated with much more seriousness. The court processes for corruption cases need to be changed. Legislation such as the Corrupt Practices Act should prescribe new rules for dealing with court processes when the offense is corruption. Umodzi Party agrees with the sentiments made by a business woman in Mzuzu who on answering the survey question "What do you think can be done to reduce corruption in Malawi?" said "justice must be done and there should be nobody above the law."

This procedure must involve stricter bail conditions with shorter deadlines to do away with cold cases. When someone is accused of public corruption, they should be granted bail for a. If after six months, the trial is not concluded, they should be remanded again just so there is no instances where someone is left to go back to normal activities while they have a corruption case to answer.

- *In Malawi, there is usually a struggle to balance between an accused person's rights on the one hand and the need for justice on the other. This proposition may be seen as a violation of the accused person's right to liberty where he/she is being remanded after six months merely because the case has not been concluded. However, that it goes without saying that corruption has the effect of depriving many people of their resources which is in itself a violation of their rights as well. Therefore, where rights are concerned, the issue would be one of rights of the public versus the rights of an individual. For this reason, Umodzi party believes that the limitation of the individual's right to liberty can in this case be justified by the greater cause of seeking justice for the multitude.*

12.3.1 Casestudy Muluzi

To give it a practical context, we may consider the unconcluded Bakili Muluzi case which started in 2006 this case involves the former president Dr Baliki Muluzi who is facing charges of corruption

for which it is alleged by the Anti-Corruption Bureau that while in office, Dr Muluzi diverted funds meant for public use into his personal account. Muluzi's lawyers used several technics to seek adjournment and delay the conclusion of the case. On several occasions, they sought adjournment saying their client (Dr Muluzi) was not fit enough to stand trial and needed medical attention. In 2011 they challenged the constitutionality of section 32 of the Corrupt Practices Act prompting the constitution of a three judge panel sitting as a constitutional court to determine this – another time-consuming process.⁷

If, however, the law on corruption were as is suggested under this strategy by Umodzi Party, it would be absurd for the lawyers of an accused to pull delay tactics while their client is on remand the way the lawyers of Bakili Muluzi have been doing for 12 years. With shorter bail time this case would have been concluded by now.

12.4 Trail Processes to have strict deadlines

The trial process itself must have an overall deadline. Corruption cases must be handled with as much urgency as possible. The cases should also be dealt with publicly to ensure transparency and assurance to the public that corruption is treated as a serious offence.

12.5 Establish a high court division for corruption cases

The judiciary should establish a high court division for corruption cases and specially train judges to hear corruption cases in order to deal with them more efficiently and effectively. This would bring public confidence and prevent public disgruntlement over cases like it has happened with the recent case of former Minister of Agriculture, Dr. George Chaponda.

The importance of these stringent measures involving deadlines and new bail procedures is to ensure justice is delivered and that the public is confident in the judicial system even when the cases involve political elites (which is usually the case with high-stake corruption cases). Good examples are those already alluded to where trials have been ongoing for years without conclusion; and one where an accused person is acquitted under circumstances that cast a great shadow of doubt among the public on whether the process was

handled diligently enough by the justice system.

12.6 Corruption offences to face a custodial sentence of as long as 25 years to life

At the moment, the heaviest punishment one can get for corruption under chapter X of the Penal Code (Cap 7:01, Law of Malawi) is 12 years' imprisonment, with other corruption offences such as fabricating of evidence attracting only seven years' imprisonment. Umodzi Party believes such custodial sentences are a reflection of how the law perceives corruption as not being serious compared to offences like attempt to procure an abortion under section 149 which attracts a sentence of fourteen years.

Umodzi party further believes that the impact corruption has had (and continues to have) on Malawi's economy is worth perceiving corruption as one of the most serious crimes in the country. The extreme poverty conditions today can easily be linked with corruption. As such, corruption should attract custodial sentences of as long as 25 years to life.

The reasoning is that corruption will then be deemed as a serious offence and many people will be deterred.

The long sentences will also do away with scenarios where one would easily risk going to prison for a short time as long as they can benefit from the proceeds of their crime soon after they get released.

12.7 Cybersecurity companies to check and monitor Financial Management Information Systems

The handling and management of public funds is of utmost importance. According to Transparency International, countries with the least corruption tend to have public access to information on public spending. This is likely due to the realization by those countries that public funds are the most prone to corrupt practices. With systems like the IFMIS, which are digital-based systems, it is crucial to have them checked and monitored frequently by cyber-security companies who should ensure that the system is secure. A measure like this would have helped prevent many of the transactions in the cash-gate scandal which involved manipulation of the system and deleting of records.

12.8 The award of public contracts is to be done procedurally and based on merit

Public contracts are contracts for provision of goods or services that benefit the community at large funded by the government. However, spending of public funds by way of public contracts is a common method through which money gets syphoned from public coffers also as witnessed by cash-gate and other unsung public corruption incidents. Umodzi Party will ensure that the award of public contracts is done procedurally and based on merit. Regulations to be strictly abided by should be made under the Public Procurement Act and any other related law which should state clearly the bases and procedure for awarding various types of contracts. *Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) exercise and applied to court for a judicial review*.⁸ *Although eventually the Supreme Court of Appeal gave the project a go-ahead, the fact remains that one contractor was granted such a big contract which creates room for inefficiency and probable corrupt dealings.*

12.9 The bidding process and subsequent dealings with contractors should be made public

A third step for achieving due diligence is making the bidding process and the subsequent dealings with contractors public. By way of granting the public access to information regarding the figures involved, the processes as well as service or goods to be provided, the public will be allowed to monitor the situation closely. Any member of the public (including bodies like CSOs) who finds that something is not adding up would therefore be able to bring these matters up with appropriate regulatory bodies to hold the authorities and contractors accountable to the public. The veil of secrecy that currently exists on the contract awarding process provides a loophole for corruption and abuse.

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13. NATIONAL SECURITY

Objectives

- 1. Improving Welfare of Law Enforcement Officers**
- 2. Decentralise the police force**
- 3. Improve training on security**
- 4. Reform prisons so that they become a place of productivity**

Introduction

Providing excellent national security is an essential component for ensuring peace in a country. Peace in turn is a precursor for development. The Umodzi Party manifesto on national security proposes measures that will ensure the revamping of the security sector to contribute towards development. The measures were inspired by the view of Malawians on the security status of the country. Of major concern is the operation of the police. In a survey it conducted across the country,

Umodzi Party found that 54.8% of respondents did not trust the police and when asked whether they thought the Malawi police does their job well, up to 80% answered in the negative. The measures thus propounded by Umodzi Party for the betterment of this situation include improving welfare of staff in various security agencies, a better way of punishing crime, rehabilitation of offenders and better training.

Strategies

13.1 Provide better infrastructure, transportation and housing for law enforcement officers

To best improve the service delivery of police and army officers, they will be provided with conditions best suited for their work. The conditions include good infrastructure for their working space, more vehicles especially for the police and decent housing for all police and army officers. Where housing is concerned, regulations will be made under appropriate laws to provide for higher minimum standards of housing.

This is also the view of many Malawians. For example, in the survey, when asked whether Police officers are well taken care of by,

47 out of 51 people who responded to the question said NO, representing 92%. Most of the respondents who said NO cited poor housing and low wages as forming a major part of the ill-treatment that police officers face. One respondent from Lilongwe answered saying “they are underpaid; their housing is also poor.” Another respondent, a woman from Thyolo said that “amalamdila ndalama zochepa, kusowa kwa manyumba okhalamo, chifukwa chake amapanga ziphuphu” which translates to they are underpaid and lack housing, that’s why they take bribes. This shows that Malawians attribute the corruption among police officers to their poor conditions of employment.

When police officers are provided with all the necessary amenities that improve working conditions, they will be dedicated and professional due to an encouraging working environment. Not only that but their job will also be made a lot easier. Instances where police officers fail to respond to incidences due to lack of transportation will be done away with.

13.2 Enforcement of Capital Punishment

Capital punishment will be maintained. It will, however, only be implemented after 10 years. During this period, the convicted person will have three chances to appeal the sentence and conviction while in prison so that courts may consider, based on prevailing circumstances, whether the person should still be executed or not.

13.3 Abolition of open ended bail

Open ended bails will be abolished, instead clear timelines will be put in place to progress the court case. People on bail will be given a defined period (such as 3 months) after which they may be put back on remand if the court proceedings have not commenced. Sections 42 and 44 of the Constitution will be amended accordingly to accommodate this need without breaching any international norms.

The judiciary will be monitored to ensure that no cases are discontinued without proper conclusion. Failure to conclude cases without a proper reason will result in discipline for the judicial officers concerned. This is intended to make sure that all offenders face consequences for their offences – an aspect with a significant bearing on national security.

13.5 Streamline court cases so that justice can be served

The Malawi Law Society will be encouraged to find ways to streamline court cases so that justice can be handed down swiftly without letting people linger in prison without receiving justice.

13.6 Decentralization of law enforcement authorities

The police force will be decentralized to ensure its autonomy. As a result, there will be five inspector generals of Police – one for each region. This will reduce the workload currently available in one office and allow for more effective running of the police force. Each regional police headquarters will be responsible for addressing security needs unique to that region and thereby formulate various rules and put in place measures to best achieve this goal.

13.7 Appointment of Inspector General on merit – not via political affiliation

Appointment of the Inspector Generals will not be by the president but rather by interviews on merit. This way, only people with the right qualifications will be put in charge of the police force, unlike the current situation where people could be appointed on the basis of loyalty to political affiliates.

The survey found that many Malawians felt that the police are not independent. When given an open-ended question on whether they thought there is need to change anything in the way the police operate, 96% of the 62 respondents said yes. Among the reasons were as given by Faith S Nkhoma, a business woman from Blantyre who sees the need for “empowering the police that they are for the nation not for the party.” Another man from Mzuzu said “apolisi asamatumikile a ndale koma agwire ntchito ngati oyima pa okha” which translates to “the police should not serve politicians but should operate independently.”

13.8 Improve training of police officers

Police training will be transformed into a much more robust one. Police academies will be established to train officers in physical tactics, intellectual tactics, discipline as well as ethics.

13.9 Improving on Security studies

At the moment, Mzuzu University is the only public university with a program on security studies. More programs will be introduced to ensure that university study and research on security increases to help with the country's security.

Government will make sure that university training on security works hand in hand with security institutions such as police and the military. Graduates will be put on attachments to various security agencies in the country, including private security firms, so that they get practical experience and apply what they study in university to help improve the country's security – the same way training in education and health is done.

13.10 Better integration with private security companies

Government will ensure a good working relationship between police and private security companies to ensure effective service delivery. The security companies will frequently collaborate with police for the purposes on national security.

Standards will be set that private service providers must abide to in order to operate in the country. The overall effect will be that the police will have more stakeholders to partner with in the fight against crime.

13.11 Prisons System Reformation for productivity

Fighting crime is very expensive especially with incarcerated persons. It is prudent to have the prison system ran in a cost-effective way. Prisons in Malawi are ran by the Malawi Prison Services whose mission statement is "to contribute to public security and socio-economic development in Malawi through the provision of safe, humane custody and rehabilitation of offenders."⁹ Currently however, the service is unable to achieve this goal due to a number of challenges chief of which is inadequacy of resources. Prisons are overcrowded due to a number of factors and the prison service struggles to provide food, medicines and other amenities as a result.¹⁰ In Malawi's prisons, inmates are put to work mostly for punitive purposes.

Lately, due to the Democratic Governance Sector Wide Approach, the focus of the Malawi Prison Services has shifted from punishment to rehabilitation, with inmates being given vocational training. However, since 2014, the efforts have not been geared towards production for economic gain. Umodzi party suggests reforms that will tap into the numbers of the prisoners and turn prisons into areas for making of economically viable products. In this regard:

- Prisoners will be given training in production of various items such as furniture and clothing and even works of art that will be made available on the market. Additionally, they will be helping in cutting government costs by producing food, clothing and furniture for use within the prison facilities. Prisons will become places that contribute constructively to the country's economy.
- Prisons will be properly categorized based on the type of offenders that they hold. This is to avoid the risk of mixing more serious offenders with less serious offenders. People who committed less serious crimes will in this way stand less risk of being indoctrinated by more serious offenders.
- For more effective rehabilitation, persons with mental illness will not be sent to prison upon commitment of crime but to mental hospitals instead. This will ensure that prisons are not unnecessarily congested even by persons who would be better rehabilitated otherwise; and people get better help this way to enable them to continue contributing to the country's economic activities.

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14. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**Objectives**

- 1. Ensure territorial integrity and security of Malawi**
- 2. Market Malawi to increase tourism**
- 3. Give Malawians living abroad a better sense of pride and protection through better embassy etiquette**
- 4. Allow Malawians to take part in important decisions affecting Malawi in relation to other countries**

Introduction

It is important in today's global economy that countries cooperate with each other for the mutual advancement of their socio-economic status. Umodzi Party aims at building new trade relationships and open up new international markets by utilising our embassies. We believe that relations with neighboring countries and other development partners need to be guided by decisive foreign policies that are informed by the goals and ambitions of the Malawi nation. It is imperative therefore, that Malawians are informed, consulted and properly represented in signing treaties that Malawi wishes to be party to. Lastly, Umodzi Party believes in transparency in dealings with international organizations that have major influence on Malawi's and the world's economy. Some Malawians have an understanding of the importance of international cooperation especially by utilization of embassies. When asked what they thought the roles of embassies are during a survey Umodzi Party conducted across Malawi, people gave responses listed below:

- **“to unite Malawi with those countries [the embassies] are in”**
- **“Protecting Malawians in those countries”**
- **“Representing Malawi in trade, education e.t.c”**
- **“Selling the best of [Malawi] i.e. boosting tourism”**

Curiously, however, there was an overwhelming number of people (up to 56.3%) who opted just to skip that question and answer other questions on the subject, with one respondent simply replying “kaya” meaning “I don’t know” and more two respondents saying “palibe” meaning “nothing”. This suggests that the respondents were not conversant with what embassies are really for. Inspired by these findings, Umodzi Party’s strategies on international relations are aimed at ensuring that embassies are utilized to realize the best from relations between Malawi and other countries; as well as ensure that Malawians know what their embassies abroad are doing to benefit them.

14.1 Appropriate measures for appointments of diplomatic staff

The appointment of people into diplomatic service is a vital process towards the achievement. This is very important in ensuring that Malawi’s best interests are attained from diplomatic relations. It also instils confidence in Malawians living in those countries that they have protection of their home nation while they are in that country.

As of May 2018, the Malawi consulate in Dubai in United Arab Emirates was reported to be headed by a non-Malawian and that of all members of staff at the consulate, only one was Malawian. This apparently, was not against the law.¹¹ Such situations cannot be allowed to happen. It is the duty of Malawians to represent their country.

14.2 Special training of Ambassadors and other diplomatic staff

People sent into diplomatic service will undergo special training to ensure that they carry out their duties with proficiency for the benefit of Malawi. The training of ambassadors will be comprehensive (beyond mere orientation) to ensure that they all effectively carry out their duties regardless of their various backgrounds or qualifications. It will include equipping the diplomats with knowledge on socio-cultural aspects of the countries where they are to be based.

14.3 Showcasing Malawi art and culture in embassies

As a way of marketing the Malawi nation in other countries, Malawian embassies will be an ideal place for people of the countries they are situated in to get a feel of what Malawi is about. This will be done

by offering them a first-hand experience of Malawian art and culture such as crafts (be they textiles, paintings, pottery, sculptures etc), music and other folklore as well as food. The embassies will host showrooms resembling minor galleries and will, in their entirety be themed in a typical Malawian style.

Doing this will help Market the country and entice people to visit the country. It will help build the image of the country as a tolerant and peaceful nation ideal for tourism and investment. Finally, this will make embassies more vibrant and visible enough for Malawians even at home to discern their importance.

14.4 More informed ratification and adherence to treaties and other agreements

Umodzi Party will take stock of all treaties that Malawi is party to and analyze their relevance to the goals and ambitions of the Malawi nation. Treaties that are signed without ratification, once found to be beneficial, will be ratified and adhered to in order for the nation to reap the benefits from them. Treaties that are not beneficial or that are detrimental to the goals and ambitions of the Malawi nation will be renegotiated or abandoned. Umodzi Party led government will do this with an aim to put an end to the negative impact such treaties and/or other agreements may be having on Malawi. Further, to best represent the will of the people, treaties will be signed and ratified (where necessary) after parliamentary debate and approval of them.

14.5 Mutual respect with allies and neighboring nations

Umodzi party will strive to ensure that Malawi stands in good relationship with neighboring countries. This is especially so with the understanding that Malawi, as a landlocked country, stands to benefit from healthy relationships with coastal countries. A foreign policy with Malawians' best interests at heart will be put in place to facilitate and guide the relations with other countries.

- A healthy relationship with neighboring countries entails striking trade and other deals that benefit both countries. An example would be negotiating for a railway linkage with Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania to ease movement of goods across the countries from the sea and other parts of the countries.
- Umodzi Party will negotiate for passage across Mozambican waters, at a fee, to enable the operation of the already

constructed Nsanje inland port. The port is currently not operational due to prohibition by the Mozambican government for vessels to cross through their waters into Malawi.

- Mutual respect entails making no allowance for a neighboring country to make claim of land that belongs to Malawi; or to victimize Malawians living near the borders. Similarly, Malawi would not do such. Umodzi Party led government will not hesitate to take decisive action in defending the territorial integrity of Malawi, nor will it handle such matters with any form of secrecy so as to leave Malawians in fear of losing any piece of their land.
- Umodzi Party will develop proposals for mutually beneficial deals between Malawi and development partners. Umodzi Party believes Malawi has so much to offer which many development partners would be willing to trade for. These include minerals, wildlife and other natural resources, agricultural produce as well as strategic investment opportunities. It requires government to take real decisive steps in developing foreign policies that seek to maximize benefit from relationships with other countries.

14.6 Strong and transparent relationships with international bodies

In understanding the crucial role that international organizations like the United Nations (UN), World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) play in the global economy, Umodzi Party considers it very important to have strong but transparent dealings with these organizations. What this means is that the measures these organizations recommend for the country, or any proposals made by the Malawi government to such organizations need to be put in the open for the observation of all Malawians. The importance of doing so is that no organization will be allowed to offend the sovereignty of the country by imposing decisions by way of influencing the Malawi leadership behind closed doors.

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15. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Objectives

- 1. End street roaming to make roads safer**
- 2. Providing support for street children so they have a chance to become lawful and productive citizens**
- 3. Protect and include persons with disabilities in the work force**
- 4. Protect and support the elderly**

Introduction

Social responsibility is every organization's obligation to act towards improvement of the welfare of the society at large. Often times, it is marginalized groups whose interests in a society are not met. These groups include poor people, homeless children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Umodzi Party believes that government needs to be in the forefront of ensuring that all persons in society have their welfare well taken care of. It will, therefore, establish programs and structures aimed at allocating state resources to meet the needs and interests of marginalized groups in Malawi. The goals will include protection of poor children, support for grassroots civil society organizations and persons with disabilities.

Umodzi Party's goals for social responsibility go well with the interests of Malawians in this area as found by a survey conducted across the country by the party. In a survey conducted by Umodzi Party in 2018, 100% of the respondents acknowledged the problem of street children. People were then asked what they thought government should do to address the problem. In response to what should be done to address this problem, 83% of the respondents gave answers such as, "boma limange manyumba oti anawa azikhalamo" meaning "government should build house where the homeless children may live", and "boma likuyenera kukhala ndi malo osamalira ana amenewa monga kulemba anthu aziwasamala anawa" which means "government is supposed to establish centers where the homeless children should be taken care of [and] hire people to look after them." A further 6% gave more general answers about poverty alleviation such as "reduce poverty."

The suggestions raised point towards some form of social welfare program for the homeless children to be paid for with taxpayers' money.

Currently, Malawi government has no social welfare policy in place that provides for homeless shelters or any program to ensure a better future for homeless children living in the streets. The Umodzi Party strategies seek to address this and other social problems that require concerted government intervention.

Strategies

15.1 Prohibition of Street Roaming

Laws will be passed prohibiting street roaming. Anyone under the age of 18 years found living in the streets will be taken back to their parents by police and social welfare officers. Police and social welfare officers will counsel the parents on their responsibility towards their children as well as the rights that the children have.

15.2 Protection and Support of Poor Children

- Government will establish centres for children with no homes to be accommodated so that they do not roam the streets and beg. In these centres, the children will be provided with a place to sleep, food, and clothing. They will also be given education so that they have brighter futures and become responsible citizens.
- The welfare officers will assess whether the parents are incapable of providing their children with basic necessities, whereupon the government can arrange to have the parents supported by means of employment, or where the parent(s) prove to be incapable of taking care of the children regardless of the support (whether due to abusive behaviour or any incapacitation), the children will be taken to the centres for homeless children to be looked after by the state. In these instances, whenever the parent is later capable of looking after their child, the child may be relocated back to their homes.
- Upon attaining the age of 18, the children will be released from the centres, so they can venture into income earning activities and pursue independent lives.

15.3 Supporting Civil Society Organizations

- To ensure better reach of grassroots, government will partner with, and support civil society organizations (CSOs) that work to reduce social injustices and harms. This support will include capacity building, help with sourcing of funds, some tax exemptions and technical support from government through the relevant line ministries. Examples of organizations to be supported will include Network of Organizations for Vulnerable and Orphaned Children (NOVOC), Malawi Health Equity Network (MEHN), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP) and many others, whose activities reach the grassroots and marginalized people in society.

Each of the Civil Society Organizations that government will support will be so empowered so that they employ more people (at least 100 people for each) and reach out to more people especially in the rural areas.

15.4 Supporting Persons with Disabilities

- Government will ensure that persons with disabilities are empowered to realize their fullest potential. Government will ensure that persons with disabilities are employed in all sectors where they can use their various skills. This will be done through policies that make it a requirement for institutions to include persons with disabilities in their activities, as well as make their services and premises accessible to persons with disabilities. An example is the media where materials can also be produced in braille to enable access for the blind.
- Government will empower persons with disabilities by sensitizing them on their rights and provide them with assistive devices to enable them to participate in various activities with ease. More direct support for activities of organizations that improve the welfare of persons with disabilities such as Malawi Council for The Handicapped (MACOHA) and Federation of Disability Organizations in Malawi (FEDOMA) will be given. These organizations and all their affiliates will have their capacity increased so that they hire more people, including persons with disabilities.

This will improve the employment rates of persons with disabilities as well as their welfare in terms of access to various services like healthcare, education as well as water and sanitation. This will also reduce the cases of abuse and violation of rights of persons with disabilities.

- With the help of institutions like MACOHA and through the responsible ministry, government will set up a system through which persons with disabilities who face violation of their rights or any abuse on the basis of their disability can easily lodge complaints and get redress.

15.5 Supporting the Elderly

- The elderly people who do not have anyone to look after them will be registered and provided with government support through the welfare office. Assistance in form of food, shelter, healthcare and security will be made available to all those who cannot source them from anywhere. A special fund will be established for this purpose.
- Laws will be passed to ensure that the elderly are protected from societal abuse stemming from cultural or supernatural beliefs. Elderly persons especially in rural areas are usually associated with ill practices such as witchcraft and thereby fall victim to violence due to such beliefs. The law will make it a punishable offence to victimize the elderly in this way.
- Government will also be able to reach the grassroots by the partnerships established with the civil society organizations whose objectives are to address such issues.
- It will be made mandatory for employers even in the private sector to have pension schemes so that when their employees retire, they get income even in old age.



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