

ACTION MATRIX DRAWN FROM THE 2017 ECAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTIONS

Theme: Rethinking the Pillars and Structures for Malawi's Transformative and Inclusive Economic Development

NO	ISSUE	ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION	TIME FRAME
1.	Agricultural productivity remains low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Irrigation development be made a priority to overcome change of weather patterns 2) Diversification into the production of other crops need to be emphasised. Identify ready markets and facilitate export of these crops by the farmers. 3) Shift from peasant farming to small, medium and large scale merchandised farming 4) Review efficiency of Farm Input Subsidy (FISP). 5) Develop the entire value chain from production, value addition/agro-processing and marketing to ensure that farmers get a good return on their produce. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ministry of Agriculture 2) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 3) Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development 4) Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism 5) Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs 6) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) 7) Donor Community 	3-5 years
2	Lack of strong and visionary leadership to spur sustainable development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Leaders need to focus on long-term development plans with well-defined and identifiable rolling investment plans 2) Citizens need to organise themselves and take collective action to hold their leaders accountable to implement long-term development policies. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) CSOs 2) Donor Community 	On-going process

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3.	Education levels and quality remain low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Authorities need to review the existing education policy and come up with holistic policy that will promote education at all levels i.e. primary, secondary, and tertiary levels Maintaining high standards of tertiary education 2) Investment in education infrastructure is also required 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ministry of Education, Science and Technology 2) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 3) Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs 4) CSOs and 5) Donor Community 	3 -5 years
4.	Health Sector challenges remain	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Increase funding for drugs and equipment 2) Government to appropriately compensate medical personnel to improve retention of skilled personnel 3) Mainstreaming nutrition to deal with nutrition challenges 4) Build Cancer Centre and a State of the Art referral hospital to save large foreign exchange outlays incurred on foreign referrals 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ministry of Health 2) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 3) CSOs 4) Donor Community 	3 -5 years
5.	Weak institutions to support growth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Need for collective efforts to revive public institutions such as the judicial system and ensure that key economic institutions (RBM, MRA and Ministry of Finance) are more autonomous. 2) Executive arm of government needs to break the political dominance that stifles efficient operation and 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs 2) Legislature 3) Office of the President and Cabinet 4) Ministry of Local Government and Local development 5) CSOs 6) Donor Community 	3 -5 years

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		<p>autonomy of other arms of government (Judiciary and Legislature)</p> <p>3) Citizens need re-orientation in order to have trust in the country's institutions</p> <p>4) Donors need to provide their assistance in ways that would help to strengthen institutions</p>		
6.	Weak civil service to drive economic development	1) Need to revive civil service and move away from rewards system of political patronage and embrace meritocratic principles in promoting civil servants to top positions	<p>1) Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC)</p> <p>2) CSOs</p> <p>3) Donor Community</p>	3 -5 years
7.	Private sector deterioration	<p>1) Need to address the bottlenecks that impinge private sector growth, namely; high cost of finance, electricity power outages, corruption, non-effective tax rates, high inflation rates, and poor infrastructure services.</p> <p>2) Government should take advantage of the many existing professional bodies such as ECAMA, Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malawi (ICAM) and other professional bodies to harness ideas specific to sectors.</p>	<p>1) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development</p> <p>2) Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism</p> <p>3) Reserve Bank of Malawi</p> <p>4) Malawi Revenue Authority</p> <p>5) Professional bodies</p> <p>6) CSOs</p> <p>7) Donor Community</p>	3 -5 years
8.	Energy sector challenges stifling growth	1) Government needs to put in place long-term policies to address the	1) Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and	3-5 years

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		prevailing power supply challenges 2) Private sector should be encouraged to invest in the sector to complement government	Mining, 2) Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs 3) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 4) Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism 5) Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA) 6) CSOs 7) Private Sector 8) Donor Community	
9.	Cost of finance still high	1) Government i.e. Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development and the Reserve Bank of Malawi should continue with some of the recent reforms –credit reference bureaus (CRBs), collateral, and warehouse receipts systems, improved payment infrastructure and innovations in electronic payments. 2) Develop financial market that can offer long term financial products to finance long term development projects 3) RBM should consider coming up with other development funds (such as agriculture development fund,	1) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 2) Reserve Bank of Malawi 3) Commercial banks 4) Other financial institutions	3-5 years

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		<p>mortgage development fund, and among others) to address financing needs in specific sectors</p> <p>4) RBM requested to expedite the establishment of the Development Bank to address some long-term financing gaps</p>		
10.	Corruption impinges growth	<p>1) Government institutions need to implement the reforms that are being drafted to ensure transparency and accountability of public funds.</p> <p>2) It was recommended that to ensure highly sound public financial management system and processes there is a need to improve the IFMIS infrastructure and migrate to use of e-payments for government services.</p> <p>3) To improve the provision of services that facilitate business automation of government systems such as licensing and business permit systems to reduce corruption and improve ease of doing business</p>	<p>1) Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs</p> <p>2) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development</p>	On-going
11.	Tourism remains underdeveloped	<p>1) To come up with deliberate policies to promote the tourism sector in Malawi as the sector remains largely underdeveloped</p>	<p>2) Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism</p> <p>3) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development</p> <p>4) Private Sector</p>	3-5 years

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12.	Transport infrastructure is poor	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Government should prioritise transport infrastructure development 2) Revamping rail transportation due to its cost effectiveness 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ministry of Transport and Public Works 2) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 	3-5 years
13.	Youths constitute the significant proportion of the population	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Government recommended to implement policies that empower the youths such as introduction of community colleges would empower the youths through skills development. 2) Suggested to export youth skilled labour to developed economies and in return receive remittances which would help to reduce foreign exchange financing gaps 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ministry of Labour, Youth, Sports and Manpower Development 2) Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 	3-5 years
14.	Culture and religion not very supportive for growth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It was suggested that as a country we need to do away with culture that perpetrates tribalism and nepotism as this prevents the country to benefit from national wide talent 2) Need to do away with some religious beliefs in the country that do not demand hard work 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ministry of Civic Education, Culture and Community Development 2) CSOs 3) Religious organizations 	3-5 years