

# MALAWI

CELEBRATING 61 YEARS OF SOVEREIGNTY AND STRATEGIC GROWTH



## THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA

Malawi and Qatar have established a friendly and cooperative relationship that holds significant promise for mutual economic growth and development. As both countries continue to engage in dialogue and collaboration, there are vast opportunities for Qatar to explore in Malawi's diverse sectors, including agriculture, tourism, mining, energy, manufacturing, transport and public infrastructure development.

The two countries' friendly relations are founded on mutual respect and cooperation. In October, 2021, the Government of the Republic of Malawi under the esteemed leadership of His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, the President of the Republic of Malawi, took a crucial step towards strengthening the ties between Malawi and Qatar by establishing a Resident Diplomatic Mission in the State of Qatar's Capital, Doha, with His Excellency Mr. Roy Akajuwe Kachale as the first resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the State of Qatar. This diplomatic move reflects the unwavering commitment of both nations to strengthening their bond and promoting greater cooperation and friendship between their governments and people.

In response to the Malawi Government's appeal for immediate humanitarian aid towards the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Freddy in March 2023, the Qatari Government, through its foreign assistance agency, the Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD), in collaboration with Qatar Red Crescent, donated humanitarian aid to the survivors of the Cyclone. The Cyclone devastated 15 districts in the southern region of Malawi, displacing nearly 700,000 people and causing the loss of life of over 500 people. For this timely humanitarian support, the Government of Malawi remains

grateful to the Government and the people of Qatar. This act of assistance confirmed the strong bond between the friendly nations of Malawi and Qatar. Additionally, Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD) has been actively involved in Malawi, funding initiatives through the Education Above All (EAA) Foundation, which has been operational since 2014. This foundation aims to support Out of School Children (OOSC), successfully aiding the enrolment of nearly 19,592 children.

In March, 2023, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera visited Qatar as the then Chairperson for the United Nations Group of Least Developed Countries (LDC) to attend the 5th United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries (LDC5) that was successfully hosted by the Qatari Government. He expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and the Qatari Government. President Chakwera also welcomed Qatar's generous pledge of US\$60 million to support the Doha Programme of Action (DPOA), reaffirming Qatar's commitment to LDCs. These acts of solidarity highlight Qatar's ongoing support for Malawi and the broader LDC community.

In January 2021, President Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera launched Malawi Vision 2063, aiming to transform Malawi into an industrialised, upper-middle-income country by 2063. The government is focused on inclusive wealth creation and is inviting private investment in key sectors—agriculture, mining, and tourism. This strategic direction offers strong opportunities for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), including from the Qatari business community. With a diverse export base and growing productivity, Malawi presents a promising environment for investors.

Malawi's unique resources and strategic location in Southern Africa offer vast opportunities for Qatari investors across sectors such as agriculture—with its fertile land and export potential—tourism, thanks to its natural beauty and cultural heritage, mining of untapped minerals, and infrastructure development including roads, schools, and healthcare facilities.

To further solidify the relationship, Malawi's government is actively engaging with the Qatari government to enhance connectivity and promote travel between the two nations. Regular contact and high-level discussions are crucial for exploring the economic opportunities available in Malawi.

The strong relationship between Malawi and Qatar offers a solid foundation for expanded cooperation. Qatar has valuable opportunities to invest in Malawi's key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, mining, and infrastructure. Continued dialogue and engagement will further strengthen this partnership, benefiting both nations. With growing prospects for collaboration, now is an ideal time for Qatar to explore Malawi's investment potential.

### MALAWI

Supplement Team

**Marketing Manager** Violette Falihry

**Editor** Amjad Vanimal

**Layout / Graphics** A.K. Vinay Kumar

**Circulation In-charge** Sheriff Samy

**Printed by** Raya Commercial Printing Press

**Advertising Office**

Gulf Times / Arrayah Building,

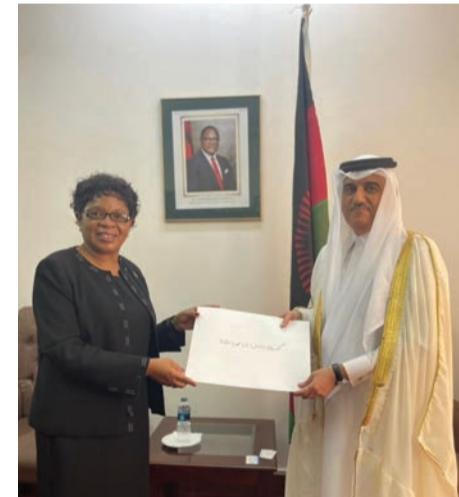
C Ring Road

P.O. Box 533, Doha Qatar

Tel: (+974) 44456652

Fax: (+974) 44360986

email: gtadv@gulf-times.com



Her Excellency, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi, Honourable Nancy Tembo M.P., received a copy of the credentials of HE Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar (non-resident) to the Republic of Malawi H.E. Hussain bin Ahmed Al Hamid.



Qatar's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, HE Sultan bin Saad Al Muraikhi, met with HE Ambassador of the Republic of Malawi to the State of Qatar, Roy Akajuwe Kachale.



His Excellency, President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, received the credentials of HE Fahad Rashid Al Muraikhi as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar (non-resident) to the Republic of Malawi.



His Excellency Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, met with His Excellency Dr. Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs, on the sidelines of the LDC5 held in Doha, March 2023.



Qatar's Minister of Labour HE Dr. Ali bin Samih Al Marri met with Ambassador of the Republic of Malawi to the State of Qatar HE Roy Akajuwe Kachale.



Qatar Chamber board member Mohamed bin Ahmed al-Obaidi meeting with Simplex Chithyola, Minister of Finance of the Republic of Malawi, and Roy Akajuwe Kachale, ambassador of Malawi to the State of Qatar, and other members of the minister's delegation during a meeting held in Doha.



Qatar's Minister of State for Energy Affairs, HE Saad bin Sherida Al Kaabi, met with the Hon. Monica Chang anamuno, M.P. and Minister of Mining of the Republic of Malawi. Discussions during the meeting dealt with energy relations and cooperation between Qatar and Malawi, and means to enhance them.



His Excellency, President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, received the credentials of HE Fahad Rashid Al Muraikhi as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar (non-resident) to the Republic of Malawi.

## AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Qatari citizens and residents,

As Malawi proudly celebrates its 61st Anniversary of Independence on 6th July, 2025, I am greatly honoured to address you on this significant occasion. It is a moment to reflect on Malawi's journey of resilience, unity, and progress while also celebrating the warm and cordial bilateral relations between our two friendly countries of Malawi and Qatar. Allow me, firstly, to take a special moment to commend His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Amir of the State of Qatar, for his great leadership in steering the State of Qatar's commitment to maintaining peace and security in the region and beyond. Malawi shares His Highness the Amir's belief in the peaceful resolution of conflicts through dialogue and mediation. The Malawi Government recognizes and applauds His Highness the Amir's extensive diplomatic efforts, not only across the Middle East but globally and notably within Africa, where his role in mediating disputes has been instrumental. Malawi is eager to learn from Qatar's experience and expertise to foster mutual benefits for our friendly nations. We envisage a future of continued cooperation, dialogue, and shared prosperity for the benefit of our two peoples of Malawi and Qatar.



On this momentous occasion of Malawi's 61st Independence Day, celebrated under the profound theme 'Restoring Broken Foundations: Taking Malawi Forward,' we reflect on our nation's journey with renewed determination. This theme embodies our Government's resolute commitment to rebuilding the essential pillars – strong governance, sustainable economic structures, and resilient communities – that will propel Malawi towards greatness and shared prosperity. As we chart this course forward, the value of our deep and growing bilateral relationship with the State of Qatar cannot be overstated. We see Qatar not only as a valued friend but as a crucial partner in this foundational restoration. Through strengthened cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, health, and knowledge exchange, our partnership offers tangible pathways to accelerate Malawi's progress. Together, building on the bedrock of mutual respect and shared vision, Malawi and Qatar can forge a future of enduring prosperity and upliftment for our peoples, truly taking Malawi forward.

In 2022, I had the honour of being appointed by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, as Malawi's inaugural Resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the State of Qatar. This esteemed diplomatic appointment marked a significant milestone in bolstering the esteemed bilateral relations between Malawi and Qatar. Since my arrival in Qatar, the benevolent support and warm hospitality extended by His Highness the Amir and the Qatari Government have been instrumental in advancing our collaborative efforts across various sectors, aiming at the mutual prosperity of both nations. These encouraging engagements have deepened my appreciation of Qatari culture and fostered a spirit of enduring friendship and understanding. In this spirit of cooperation, both the Malawi and Qatari Governments are in the process of establishing a range of bilateral agreements aimed at enhancing cooperation in areas, including trade and investment, air services, tourism, health, labour, climate change, education, as well as defence and security. These ongoing efforts underscore our shared commitment to fostering a strong and enduring partnership for the benefit of our peoples.

Malawi, fondly known as "The Warm Heart of Africa," continues to be a land of unparalleled beauty, peace, and opportunity. It is my earnest invitation to the citizens of Qatar and its residents to discover the wonders of Malawi – a country blessed with magnificent landscapes, vibrant culture, and a welcoming spirit. From the pristine shores of Lake Malawi – the third largest lake in Africa by surface area and the ninth largest freshwater lake in the world – to the majestic peaks of Mount Mulanje – host of Sapitwa the highest peak in Malawi and the highest mountain in tropical southern Africa – our nation offers a diverse array of attractions and unforgettable experiences for travellers and explorers. The peaceful and hospitable spirit of Malawi makes it a perfect destination for both leisure and business.

As we deepen our friendship, I extend a special invitation to Qatari investors and businesses to explore Malawi's lucrative sectors of agriculture, tourism, and mining. Malawi's commitment to creating an investor-friendly environment stems from our drive to achieve inclusive wealth creation and sustainable development. The agricultural sector, ripe with opportunities for advanced technology and innovation, the tourism industry, offering unmatched natural and cultural treasures, and the mining sector, abundant in untapped rare earth minerals and precious gemstones, stand ready for partnerships and investments.

I further wish to highlight that in January, 2021, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, formally inaugurated the Malawi Vision 2063 as a strategic framework aimed at attaining Malawi's ambition to evolve into an industrialised upper-middle-income nation by the year 2063. To facilitate the realisation of this vision, the Government of Malawi is dedicated to fostering inclusive wealth generation and actively soliciting private sector investment in the country's three principal industries: Agriculture, Tourism, and Mining (ATM), hereby referred to as the ATM strategy. This policy direction presents a prime opportunity for Foreign Direct Investors (FDI), such as the Qatari Business Community, who will not only contribute to a thriving economy but also become integral partners in shaping the future of our nation. Malawi's economy has the potential to expand, with a diverse export base and rising productivity, making it a compelling environment for investment. In this context, I will continue to engage with the Qatari Government and its private sector to explore win-win investment opportunities in Malawi for the Qatari investors and business community.

On this joyous occasion, I wish to reiterate that Malawi is ready to welcome Qatari citizens and residents with wide-open arms, whether as tourists seeking extraordinary adventures or investors seeking promising returns. Let us continue to build on the strong foundation of cooperation, forging new alliances and achieving greater heights together.

As we honour the achievements of the past and look forward to a brighter future, I encourage you to explore the special supplement in today's edition of Gulf Times. Within its pages, you will find insights into Malawi's vibrant culture and tourism sector, promising investment opportunities, and the enduring partnership between Malawi and Qatar.

Together, let us celebrate Malawi's 61st year of independence and the flourishing friendship between our nations. Thank you for your support, and I look forward to welcoming you to Malawi – the Warm Heart of Africa.

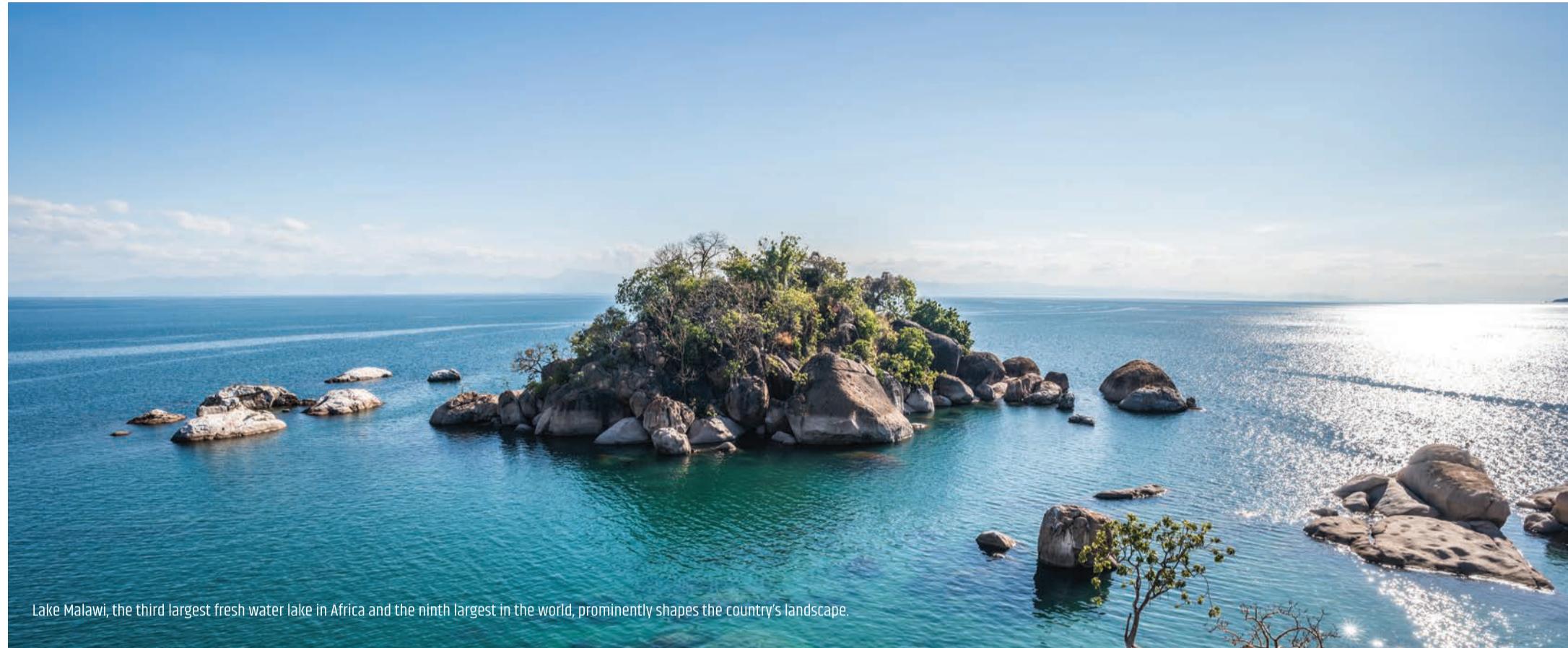
Zikomo Kwambiri.

Roy Akajuwe Kachale,  
Ambassador of the Republic of Malawi to the State of Qatar.



# DISCOVER MALAWI

Africa's hidden jewel for family-friendly travel



Lake Malawi, the third largest fresh water lake in Africa and the ninth largest in the world, prominently shapes the country's landscape.

**M**alawi shares its borders with Tanzania to the east, Zambia to the west, and Mozambique to the south. It encompasses a total area of 118,114 square kilometres, of which 20% is covered by water.

Lake Malawi, the third largest lake in Africa and the ninth largest in the world, prominently shapes the country's landscape.

The history of Malawi dates back to prehistoric times when the land now known as Malawi was inhabited by the Akafula, who migrated from the Congo Basin. The lives and history of these early inhabitants are preserved in the Chongoni Rock Art, which is Malawi's second UNESCO World Heritage site, featuring rock paintings that date back to the Stone Age era.

Dr. David Livingstone, a Scottish missionary, was the first European to visit the region in the 1850s. His efforts significantly influenced the establishment of the area as a British Protectorate District. Administration in 1891, aimed at safeguarding the local population from the slave trade. This Protectorate was subsequently named Nyasaland in 1907 and remained in that designation until 1964, when the country gained independence from British rule and officially adopted the name Malawi.

## Unique tourist attractions

Malawi, known as the "Warm Heart of Africa," can be characterized in three words: Authentic, Diverse, and Safe. Malawi is a country like no other in Africa: Small yet with an immense diversity of scenery and attractions.

The country is endowed with rich natural and cultural assets. Located at the southern end of the Great Rift Valley, between Southern and Eastern Africa, Malawi serves as a gateway to both regions, offering travellers the best of both worlds. The country features dramatic landscapes composed of plains, valleys, mountains, rivers, and lakes. Key attractions include the following:

### Lake Malawi

Africa's third-largest lake and the ninth-largest in the world, measuring 365 miles in length and 52 miles in width, is popularly known as the "Calendar Lake." It is home to the world's largest diversity of freshwater cichlid species, featuring over 1,000 identified species of vibrant tilapia fish, with many more yet to be discovered.

The lake boasts one of the highest levels of biodiversity, second only to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador. It includes 13 bird islands, two of which are inhabited, making it the only destination in the region to offer an inland freshwater island experience.

Additionally, Lake Malawi is home to Lake Malawi National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that protects 350 species of cichlids. The Park serves as both a terrestrial and aquatic reserve and is recognized as the world's first marine park.

### Mount Mulanje

As the highest peak in Central Africa, Mount Mulanje features the longest rock climb on the continent.



measuring 1.7 kilometres. This massif comprises over 65 peaks, each exceeding 2,000 metres above sea level, with Sapitwa being the highest point at 3,002 metres. The massif serves as a forest reserve and a global biosphere, protecting more than 500 endemic animal and plant species. Notably, it is home to rare species such as the dwarf chameleon and the Mulanje cedar, which are also found on Table Mountain in South Africa.

### Liwonde National Park

One of Malawi's prime national parks with Big 5 and offers game drives, boat and walking safaris.



### Majete Wildlife Reserve

A big 5 destination and renown conservation case study in public private partnership following its restoration from a completely plant and animal depleted park to providing elephants for restocking in the country's other protected areas. It was also home to the world's largest translocation of elephants, involving 500 elephants.



### Nyika National park

Malawi's largest national park covering over 3,000 square km and located on a plateau from above 1,800m above sea level.

## Cultural and heritage tourism

Malawi has one of southern Africa's diverse cultures with four of its traditional dances (Gule wamkulu, Tchopa, Vimbusa and Minoghe), music heritage (Mbira music shared with Zimbabwe) and food (nsima - a thick corn porridge which is a staple for both southern and eastern Africa) inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for Humanity. Malawians are renowned for their warmth, friendliness, hospitality and smiles hence the tagline "Malawi - the Warm Heart of Africa".



Malawi's capital, this ambitious project envisions the development of a fully integrated resort. Plans include 5-star, 4-star, and 3-star hotels, a 1,000-seater conference facility, an entertainment center, sports complex, golf course, housing estate, casino, aquarium, and luxury villas. The government has already secured 52.7 hectares of land for the project and is currently constructing an access road to and around the site.

- **Mount Mulanje Cable car project**  
The project entails development of a cable way on Mulanje Massif, a 60 room mountain inn (at 2,000m above sea level), 40 room eco-lodge at base camp, restaurant on both the mountain and at base camp, wellness Centre and spa.

- **Likoma Island Integrated Resort**  
The project includes development of a 60 room luxury lodge at Likoma island, casino, shopping facilities, fast food outlet, activity centre, entertainment centre and casino.

The other six projects are a Transit facility near Malawi/Tanzania border in Karonga which will include a truck inn, hotel and fast food outlets; a 60 room mid-market resort at Livingstonia in Rumphi and Waterfront and an eco-lodge development at Nkhatabay waterfront.



## Tourism investment opportunities

Malawi's rich natural and cultural resources remain un-fully utilized and developed for tourism. To increase utilization of its tourism resources, the country is implementing a 20-year National Tourism Investment Masterplan which was launched by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, in April 2022.

The Tourism Investment Masterplan is a blueprint that guides tourism development and investment in the country. It zones the country's 28 districts into 10 Tourism nodes. Each node has a priority project that has been developed to prefeasibility study level. In total there are 103 tourism projects spread across the four nodes available for tourism investment.

The country is prioritizing investment in the 10 priority projects which are mixed use projects consisting of hotel accommodation, conferencing facilities, entertainment complexes, casinos, shopping complexes, golfing and housing estates and sporting complexes.

*The following are the 10 flagship tourism projects:*



### Golden Sands Ecolodge project

A 60 room luxury ecolodge situated in Lake Malawi National Park, Mangochi encompassing a UNESCO World heritage site protecting and terrestrial park. The project also includes the development of a 10-bed luxury ecolodge at Mfula Beach. The site is ready for development as it is accessible by tarmac road, has electricity and a wildlife education center.

### Salima Integrated Lakeshore Resort

Located in Salima, a scenic lakeshore district approximately a 1.5-hour drive from Lilongwe,

The other projects are a tourism resort and houseboat harbor along the lakeshore in Nkhata Bay; a Riverside Board walk in Lilongwe and a waterfront development along the Shire river at Liwonde. Full details of the project can be accessed from the National Tourism Investment Masterplan accessible at: [www.visitmalawi.mw](http://www.visitmalawi.mw).

## Tourism investment incentives

Investors in the tourism sector in Malawi can access tourism sector specific investment incentives from the Malawi Revenue Authority. Foreign investors constructing hotels with a minimum of 50 rooms qualify for the incentives. The incentives include duty and VAT free importation of building materials, furnishings and fittings, hotel equipment, furniture, water sports facilities, kitchen facilities and chinaware and gym equipment. Investors can also import two utility vehicles duty free every five years.

*More details on tourism incentives can be accessed at: [www.mra.mw](http://www.mra.mw)*

# ‘Malawi is an authentic, diverse, and safe tourism destination for all’

**S**ince her appointment in January 2023, Malawi’s Minister of Tourism, Dr. Vera Kamtukule, has spearheaded transformative reforms aimed at repositioning the country as a premier tourism destination in Africa.



In this interview with Gulf Times, the Minister highlights key milestones—from legislative overhauls and investment-driven initiatives to international partnerships and sustainability efforts. As Malawi celebrates a strong post-COVID tourism rebound, Dr. Kamtukule extends a heartfelt invitation to travellers from Qatar and the GCC to experience the unmatched warmth, cultural richness, and natural beauty of this emerging gem in Southern Africa.

**Q: Since your appointment in January 2023, what have been your top accomplishments and ongoing priorities in developing Malawi’s tourism sector?**

**A:** Since taking office in January 2023, I have been instrumental in driving significant advancements within Malawi’s tourism sector, aligning these efforts with the national Agriculture, Tourism, Mining and Manufacturing (ATMM) strategy and Vision 2063. Some of the key accomplishment includes the enactment of the new Tourism Act 2025. This

landmark legislation replaces the outdated 1968 Act, modernizing and professionalizing the industry. It establishes the Malawi Tourism Authority (MTA) to regulate the sector and lead marketing, freeing the Ministry to focus on policy. The Act also upgrades the Malawi Institute of Tourism to the Malawi College of Tourism, enhancing professional training and addressing the long-standing skills gap.

Under my leadership, significant strides have been made in increasing accessibility and investment. We successfully advocated for visa waivers for 79 countries, a crucial step in boosting international arrivals. Furthermore, our lobbying efforts led to a substantial increase in the tourism budget, from MK 4.8 billion (USD 2,764,800.00) to MK 18 billion (USD 103,680,000.00) in the 2025/26 fiscal year.

These initiatives, coupled with active investment promotion, have already yielded tangible results, including the construction of a 189-room hotel in Lilongwe by Blantyre Hotels Limited and a 109-room hotel in Blantyre by the Public Pension Fund. My tenure also emphasizes a collaborative approach to destination marketing, encouraging all sectors to contribute to promoting Malawi. Overall, my focus on legislative reform and strategic initiatives is clearly creating a more structured, competitive, and sustainable tourism sector in Malawi, poised to significantly contribute to the nation’s economic growth.

Further, I have also driven home that tourism development and promotion is not only the responsibility of Government alone but everyone and tourism is not only about hotels and car hire companies. Tourism is everything and everyone has a role to play. I am happy to say that this message has struck the right code with most people as we have seen many institutions and individuals that thought they had nothing to do with tourism now partnering with us in our efforts to transform the Malawi tourism sector. To me, this represents a major step in the right direction.

**Q: Malawi welcomed about 1.1 million International Visitors in 2024- as strong rebound surpassing the pre-covid level of 800,000. How has this recovery progressed recently, and what are the latest figures?**

**A:** Malawi’s tourism sector has demonstrated a strong resilience by recovering quickly from the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as its performance has significantly surpassed pre-pandemic levels. We are currently in the process

of compiling the 2024 official Tourism Statistics Annual Report, which is anticipated to indicate arrival figures totalling approximately 1.1 million. This figure substantially exceeds the pre-COVID level and once the official report is out will share.

**Q: Do you see growing interest from Qatar leisure travellers—or mostly business travellers? How are you tailoring experiences to attract more holidaymakers from this region?**

**A:** Historically, most travellers from Qatar to Eastern and Southern Africa have been business travellers visiting the region for trade and investment purposes. Of late, there has been growing interest to visit Malawi and neighbouring countries from leisure travellers from Qatar and the broader Gulf region, driven by increased awareness of Africa’s rich wildlife, unique landscapes, and rich culture.

While business travel still dominates Qatar-to-Africa trips, leisure tourism is steadily growing. Malawi is targeting this leisure segment by enhancing its beach and wildlife tourism products tailored to the preferences of Gulf holidaymakers alongside marketing efforts and improved accessibility to the region.

**Q: Malawi is often called ‘the warm heart of Africa.’ How are you positioning its diverse experiences—such as Lake Malawi, wildlife safaris, cultural heritage, and eco-tourism—to appeal to international markets?**

**A:** Malawi is renowned as “The Warm Heart of Africa,” a designation that reflects the genuine warmth and hospitality of its people towards visitors. This welcoming spirit distinguishes Malawi as a destination where guests feel truly valued and at home.

Complementing this heartfelt welcome is Malawi’s safe environment and diverse tourism offerings. The country presents a rich variety of experiences, ranging from the breathtaking, crystal-clear waters and expansive sandy beaches of Lake Malawi to the rugged highlands of the Nyika Plateau. Additionally, Malawi provides vibrant wildlife safaris in protected parks that feature the Big Five. Furthermore, the country is home to a rich cultural heritage, lively festivals, eco-tourism experiences on the islands of Lake Malawi, and opportunities for exploration in mountainous and forested areas.

Together, the warmth of our people and the diversity of our landscapes and experiences position Malawi

as an authentic, diverse, accessible, and unforgettable African destination appealing to nature lovers, culture seekers, adventure travellers, and eco-tourists alike.

**Q: Are any bilateral tourism agreements or MoUs with Middle Eastern countries in the pipeline to facilitate travel, cultural exchange, or investor interest in hospitality projects?**

**A:** Malawi is actively pursuing a strategy to deepen and diversify its diplomatic relations and partnerships across the Middle East. This evolving cooperation spans a broad range of sectors—from Mining, Tourism, and Trade, to Education, Skills Training, Energy collaboration, and cultural exchange. Through the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and targeted diplomatic engagement, Malawi aims to attract investment, enhance knowledge transfer, and strengthen bilateral ties that support its national development goals. To achieve this end, there is a tourism MoU in the pipeline between the governments of Malawi and Qatar.

**Q: What measures are you implementing to guarantee sustainability, community development, and eco-tourism—especially in culturally rich or sensitive areas?**

**A:** Malawi’s tourism policy framework emphasizes environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, and economically beneficial development. It stresses rigorous planning, community involvement, biodiversity protection, and industry standards—all underpinned by capacity building and structured marketing. Since the country’s tourism offerings are centred around nature and culture, Malawi has prioritised sustainability and local community benefits in its tourism development. The nation also guarantees full and active participation of local communities in tourism planning to ensure that tourism does not exploit or undermine deeply rooted and sensitive cultural practices.

**Q: Finally, is there a message you’d like to send directly to Qatar and GCC travellers to inspire them to visit Malawi?**

**A:** Malawi is a hidden gem awaiting discovery, particularly for travellers seeking a diverse array of experiences within short distances. Whether you are an adventurer, a culture enthusiast, or simply in search of peace and serenity, Malawi offers a truly unique and heartwarming experience. It is a destination for all. Malawi is an authentic, diverse, and safe tourism destination, and we look forward to welcoming you to the “Warm Heart of Africa.”

## A JOURNEY TO THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA

**Q**atar national and former diplomat Mohamed Saeedan Alahmad recently visited Malawi, often referred to as ‘The Warm Heart of Africa.’ Known for his service in various diplomatic roles across the globe, Alahmad embarked on a meaningful journey combining philanthropy, cultural exploration, and personal tribute. In this interview, he shares his reflections on the country’s warm hospitality, natural beauty, and the deep cultural connections he experienced during his time there.

**Q: What inspired your visit to Malawi, and what were your initial expectations before arriving?**

**A:** My visit to Malawi was inspired by a longstanding personal interest in exploring countries across Africa. In addition, the journey had a charitable purpose—as part of an initiative to combat malaria in Muslim communities through the distribution of mosquito nets. But more significantly, my family and I chose to build a mosque in Malawi in memory of our late mother. It was a heartfelt tribute, and we wanted to contribute something lasting and meaningful to a community in need.



**Q: As someone who has served in various diplomatic roles, how would you describe your overall impression of Malawi compared to other countries you’ve visited?**

**A:** Honestly, I was pleasantly surprised by the warm welcome we received, especially from the President of the Muslim Association of Malawi (MAM), Sheikh Idrees. Normally, in countries without a Qatari embassy, coordinating arrival logistics can be a challenge. But Sheikh Idrees’ reception exceeded all expectations. I also extend my gratitude to the Malawian Ambassador and his officer, Mr. Bright Feluzi, who greatly facilitated our trip—from assisting with visa arrangements to issuing an official letter to MAM. Their support made our experience smooth and rewarding.

**Q: What stood out to you most about the culture and hospitality of the Malawian people?**

**A:** From the very beginning, the hospitality was exceptional. Sheikh Idrees and his team greeted us at the airport with great warmth. The

hospitality continued at the hotel where we stayed. What left a deep impression on us was the reception we received from families in the village near Mount Mulanje, where we planned to build the mosque. Their warmth and genuine appreciation strengthened our belief that our charitable efforts were both timely and meaningful.



**Q: Did you have any memorable interactions with local communities or leaders during your visit?**

**A:** Absolutely. In addition to the MAM staff, I’d like to acknowledge Sheikh Ismail, who is the director overseeing the new project’s implementation on behalf of MAM. We signed an agreement with MAM stating that we would provide the funding, and MAM would handle supervision and contract a qualified construction company to build the mosque and its facilities. This spirit of partnership and accountability was very reassuring.



**Q: Malawi is often called “The Warm Heart of Africa.” Did you have the opportunity to explore any of its natural attractions, such as Lake Malawi, Mount Mulanje, or its national parks?**

**A:** Yes, we had the opportunity to explore Mount Mulanje, which was a true highlight of the trip. When we arrived in the area, we met our guide, Juma, who took us up the mountain. Eventually, we reached a point where the road ended, and we continued on foot through a dense, slippery forest trail. We finally reached a natural swimming pool, a serene and beautiful spot. We found some local teenagers joyfully jumping into the freezing water, which encouraged us to join them. It was an exhilarating experience, and later I learned that the water temperature was close to zero degrees Celsius!



**Q: How do you evaluate the potential for stronger tourism ties between Malawi and Qatar? What could encourage more Qatari travellers to visit?**

**A:** After we returned and shared a short documentary film of our trip, many of my family members and friends expressed a strong interest in visiting Malawi. I believe there is still so much more to see such as Lake Malawi, wildlife safaris, and other natural wonders. On our next visit, we plan to spend more time exploring these destinations. Promoting such experiences through visuals and personal stories could certainly attract more Qatari travelers.

**Q: How would you describe Malawi’s infrastructure and development journey from your perspective as a former diplomat?**

**A:** Malawi is a peaceful and welcoming country with kind people and widespread English usage, which makes communication easy for visitors. From a tourism infrastructure perspective, I believe there is great potential. Increasing the number of high-end hotels would help accommodate more international tourists, as finding reservations can sometimes be challenging. Also, further development of road networks would significantly improve transportation access across the country.

**Q: Would you recommend Malawi to your fellow Qatars, and what message would you like to share with those who may not be familiar with the country?**

**A:** Yes, I would strongly recommend Malawi, especially for those interested in safari experiences and exploring nature untouched by modern development.

# FLAVOURS, FACES AND FOLKLORE

## Discovering the heart of Malawi



There are many reasons to visit Malawi, but perhaps the country's greatest treasure is its people. Malawians are widely regarded as some of the friendliest people in the world—warm, welcoming, and full of charm. It is this spirit of kindness and generosity that has earned Malawi its well-deserved reputation as "The Warm Heart of Africa."

One of the most authentic ways to experience this side of Malawi is by visiting local communities and immersing yourself in rural life. Living alongside villagers, even for a short time, offers a window into the heart of the nation. For many travellers, these interactions become the most memorable part of their journey.

Discover a different side of Malawi and create unforgettable memories by farming with local families, learning to cook nsima—the national dish—fetching water from the village well, playing with children, and exchanging stories and laughter under the open sky. It's in these simple, meaningful moments that the true essence of Malawi is found.

Let's take a closer look at what makes this country so captivating—its rich history, vibrant people, unique culture, expressive art, mouthwatering cuisine, traditional dance forms, and more.

### HISTORY OF MALAWI

The first people to settle in the area of present-day Malawi were the Akafula people who came from DRC. They settled in small groups scattered in different parts of Malawi. Later, in the late 15th century, the Maravi people arrived from the south-east of DRC and settled in the Dedza/Salima area on the southern shore of Lake Malawi, establishing the Maravi Empire.

The Maravi are now known as the Chewa. The country's current name, Malawi, is thought to derive from this word Maravi, which means 'Flames'. The Maravi then greatly expanded their power and came to dominate a larger area, but by 1700 the empire was broken up into individual tribes.

Other tribes such as the Tumbuka, Balowoka, Yao, Swahili, Kalolo, Lomwe, Ngoni and British came to Malawi at various times and settled here. Arab slave traders landed on the shores of Lake Malawi from the Indian Ocean island of Zanzibar in search of slaves, and the slave trade continued from 1840 until the late 19th century.

The current borders of Malawi were established when it became a British Protectorate in 1891. In 1907, the Protectorate was renamed Nyasaland and retained this name until the end of British rule.

In 1953, the British Nyasaland Protectorate was made a Protectorate within the semi-independent Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. The Federation was broken up in 1963 and Nyasaland became independent as Malawi on 6 July 1964. Two years later, the country became a republic with Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda as its first president.

### ETHNICS GROUP

Many of today's Malawians are descended from the Bantu people who migrated across Africa to Malawi for hundreds of years until the 15th century. Malawi has a diverse mix of tribes with the Chewa being the largest group, accounting for 34% of the population according to a 2018 census.

Other ethnic groups include the Lomwe (19%), Yao (13%), Ngoni (10%), Tumbuka (9%), Sena (4%), Mang'anja (3%), Nyanja (2%), Tonga (2%), Nkonde (1%), Lambya (1%) and Sukwa (1%). The Chewa who make up the largest percent-age of the population are concentrated in the Central and Southern parts of the country. The Yao are mostly found around the southern part of Lake Malawi, while the Tumbuka live in the North. Each ethnic group has its own culture in terms of dress, dance and language. Masks are often used in various dances and ceremonies, but these usually vary from group to group. The most well-known dance is the Gule Wamkulu which is performed by the Nyau of the Chewa group.

### RELIGION

Christianity was introduced to Malawians in the late 19th century by missionaries such as David Livingstone, who worked along the lakeshore. Approximately 77% of Malawi's population is Christian, making it the largest stronghold in Malawi. The next common religion is Islam, with around 14% belonging to this religion. Islam was introduced to Malawi between the 16th and 19th centuries with Arab and Swahili traders who settled on the East African coast and traded in ivory, gold and slaves. Most of Malawi's Muslims are from the Yao tribe, who are said to be 'the most important source of Islam in Malawi'. Other religions make up about 7%, and atheists make up about 2% of the population.

Malawi is one of the most peaceful countries in Africa and religion has never been a source of conflict. The two main religions, Christianity and

Islam, coexist happily, and in some places mosques and churches are even located next to each other.



### THE PEOPLE

Malawians are, by and large, honest, conservative, good-humoured, and mild-tempered. They tend to be quiet and are always smiling. The Malawian traits of discipline, hard work, and perseverance come from a long tradition of strict social discipline that is imparted from birth.

Children in Malawi learn to fear and respect elders. These attitudes are implanted at different stages of life, but the most important time for this is at puberty, when both girls and boys undergo community counseling. For strangers, this strict disciplinary code translates into warmth and helpfulness. Visitors are welcomed with open arms, offered meals and, where necessary, a typical Malawian village as a community will host or help a total stranger. The legendary hospitality of Malawians is well known to people who have visited or worked in Malawi.



### THE ARTS

#### MUSIC

Malawi's music is a mixture of different musical styles and has a rich character that is unique to the country. Malawi's traditional music, dance and drumming festivals are an integral part of social and religious life, not only for entertainment but also for celebration, healing and welcoming important visitors.

Malawian musical instruments are similar to those found in East and Southern Africa, but have local names and special characteristics. These include the small 'Ulimba' made from gourd, the ceremonial 'Giant' made from tree trunks, the 'Zeze' one-stringed violin, the 'Maseche' rattles worn on the legs and arms of dancers, and the 'Mambilira' which resembles a western xylophone.

#### ARTS

Malawian artists have traditionally preferred the three-dimensional world of sculpture to painting and drawing. Elaborately carved wood and stone sculptures are a traditional art form in Malawi.



Malawian art often depicts people, animals, everyday village life and dances, and can be found everywhere from the oldest rock paintings to traditional wood carvings.

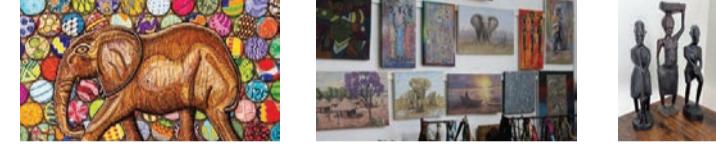


In recent years, there has also been a growing appreciation of painting as well as digital art, especially among young people. Of note are the rock paintings found in the Chongoni Rock Art Area in central Malawi. This area has been inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List as having the highest concentration of rock paintings in Central Africa.

The red paintings by the Akafula depict scenes of hunting, while the white paintings depict scenes of peaceful farming by the Chewa who later settled in the area. Masks are also a common type of artwork typically associated with festivals and ceremonies. Making masks from bronze, wood, feathers and other objects has been a traditional practice in Nyau society for centuries. A typical Nyau mask features an elongated face and a beard made of cloth, leather or human hair.

### ART GALLERY

Malawi is a country that has rich culture which is reflected in the arts. One of the places where art lovers can go to explore various art is the La Galleria art gallery in Old Town Mall, off Paul Kagame Road, Lilongwe.



La Galleria is a pleasant gallery that sells vivid African paintings, greeting cards, sculptures, bags and jewellery from across Malawi. The gallery displays paintings that depict the Malawian style and way of life by top and upcoming Malawian artists. The gallery was opened in 2011, and currently works with more than 150 artists, collecting art and connecting them to clients within and outside Malawi. There are roughly 200 paintings in stock at La Galleria. For tourists looking to take home artwork of the Warm Heart of Africa, this is one of the best art galleries. Enjoy the art by Malawi's talented artists and craftsmen.

### FOOD

#### Nsimma

Nsimma is Malawi's national dish, made from maize flour mixed with hot water and stirring (Kuthyakula) until thickened. Nsimma is most popular in Malawi, although other types of carbohydrates such as rice, cassava and potatoes are also eaten. Nsimma is usually eaten with bare hands with stewed vegetables, fish, beans or meat.

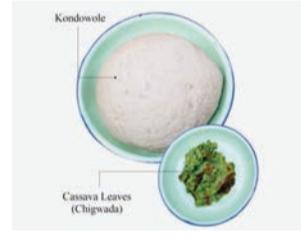
#### Kondowole

Kondowole is a staple food eaten mainly in northern Malawi, similar to Nsimma, but Nsimma is made from maize flour, Kondowole is made from cassava flour. Kondowole is usually eaten with fish, but can be eaten with any type of side dish. It is sticky and filling, and some people say that if they eat Kondowole for lunch, they are not hungry at night, even if they have not eaten anything else. Try this delicious dish when travelling in northern Malawi.



#### Chambo

One of Malawi's most famous dishes is chambo. Chambo is endemic to Lake Malawi and is a type of freshwater fish in the tilapia family. It is dried in the sun, grilled, boiled or fried and eaten with soup. In Malawi, it can be found in many restaurants and hotels, especially on the shores of Lake Malawi. A trip to Malawi is not complete without tasting chambo.



#### Zitumbuwa

Zitumbuwa is a popular snack in Malawi, similar to banana fritters. They are usually fried after mixing maize flour, bananas and sugar together and come in different variations. Desserts are eaten on special occasions in Malawi, and zitumbuwa is one of the cheapest and tastiest desserts available on Malawi's roadsides and markets. If you get hungry while sightseeing or shopping in Malawi, try zitumbuwa.



#### Chigumu

Popularly known as 'African banana cake', Chigumu is a lightly sweetened cake popular in Malawi. Ingredients for this cake include maize flour, eggs, milk, cooking oil, bananas, sugar, baking powder, soda and salt.



Traditionally, this cake is made in pot and baked by placing another pot on top that contains charcoal.

#### Thobwa

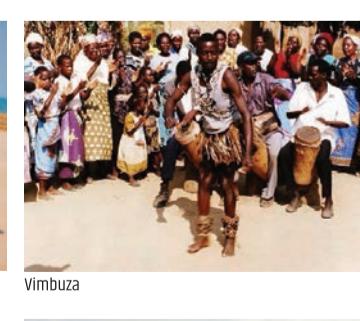
Thobwa is a traditional fermented drink popular throughout Malawi, made from maize and millet or sorghum, with a milky appearance, grainy flavour and grainy texture. Because Thobwa is made from maize, it is very filling and many Malawians take it as their energy drink for the day, and it is sold everywhere in recycled plastic bottles in towns and in clay pots in villages. The name, Thobwa means 'sweet beer' and is non-alcoholic but becomes a local beer when left to ferment for five days.



### DANCES



Malipenga



Vimbuzi



Beni



Gule Wamkulu

# Invest in Malawi

## Africa's hidden gem for strategic investment and growth

In the heart of Southern Africa lies Malawi—a country quietly redefining its economic narrative. A nation of resilience, opportunity, and untapped potential, Malawi celebrates its Independence Day on July 6 with a renewed call to the global investment community: discover a land where the jewel remains untouched and the opportunities are vast.

Malawi offers a rare combination of high-growth sectors—including Agriculture, Tourism, Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, and Information and Communication Technology—underpinned by investment-friendly policies and significant untapped infrastructure needs. Welcome to a place where innovation meets opportunity, and where partnerships can shape a brighter, shared future.

### Malawi's agriculture investment, a hot cake

Malawi's agriculture sector offers diverse and high-potential investment opportunities. The sector contributes 30.4% of GDP and employing up to 80% of the population and is responsible for around 90% of the country's export earnings, underscoring its critical role in livelihoods, trade, and economic stability.

Key investment opportunities include large-scale crop production, value addition, and export-oriented farming. Investors can also tap into critical gaps in irrigation infrastructure, mechanization, storage and cold chain logistics to reduce post-harvest losses ranging 30-40%. With fertile land, regional trade access, and strong government support, Malawi presents a strategic opportunity for sustainable and profitable agricultural investment.

### Tourism

Malawi's tourism sector is gaining strong momentum, currently contributing around 7.6% of GDP and supporting 8% of employment as of 2023. With about 1 million international visitors and revenues near \$300 million, the industry offers significant growth potential in eco-tourism, safari experiences, and cultural heritage tourism.

The Malawi government's Tourism Investment Master Plan, which outlines over 100 projects aimed at transforming tourism into a major economic driver, reinforces this momentum. Supported by infrastructure upgrades and investor-friendly visa reforms, Malawi presents an attractive and sustainable investment opportunity for International, particularly those from the Gulf region.

### A soft spot for mining

Malawi's mining sector, in 2023, accounts for 0.7% of GDP and 3.5% of government revenue, but is strategically poised for a significant transformation. With major projects in rare earths, niobium, uranium, and rutile underway, the industry is projected to

expand to 12% of GDP by 2027. According to a recent study undertaken by the World Bank, Malawi could generate between \$30 billion and \$43 billion in mineral export revenues from 2026 to 2040, with annual mining exports expected to reach \$3 billion by 2034, signalling enormous potential for long-term investment returns.

### Manufacturing sector

Malawi's manufacturing sector is making strategic strides, accounting for nearly 10% of GDP and growing through targeted industrial park development and import substitution strategies. The sector recorded a robust 13.7% growth in industrial output in 2023, largely driven by food processing, which grew to nearly 69%. Efforts to build agro-industrial value chains are well underway, supported by policy discussions and investment promotion through MCCI-led events like the recent Manufacturing Conference.

Key investment opportunities include agro-processing, textiles, and construction materials. Despite challenges such as high financing costs and import competition, ongoing government support and emerging industrial funds position the sector for sustainable growth and job creation.

Malawi's manufacturing sector benefits from a range of attractive incentives designed to encourage investment and growth. These include generous tax allowances such as a 100% investment allowance on new equipment, tax holidays of up to 10 years for priority sectors, and export-related tax incentives. Manufacturers also enjoy customs duty exemptions on raw materials and machinery, especially within Export Processing Zones (EPZs) and Special Economic Zones (SEZs), where additional benefits like reduced corporate tax rates apply. Further support includes allowances for staff training costs and unrestricted repatriation of profits, creating a favourable environment for both local and foreign investors.

### Energy sector

Malawi's electricity demand is rising rapidly at 7-8% annually, yet over 80% of the population lacks access to electricity. The country has vast untapped potential in hydro, solar, and biomass energy. Key projects include the 350 MW Mpatamanga Hydropower, supported by the World Bank and IFC through PPPs, and the private-led Nkhatakota Solar expansion. Regional transmission links with Mozambique and Zambia open up power trade opportunities. The country is offering massive incentives in renewable energy investors such as 10-year tax holidays, import duty exemptions, and guaranteed power purchase agreements.

### Exploring opportunities

Strategically located and richly endowed with



Sector-specific engagement by MCCI: Manufacturing stakeholders convene to shape the future of Malawi's industry.

natural resources, Malawi is fast emerging as a destination of choice for investors seeking growth. The government's commitment to reform, coupled with investor-friendly policies, has created fertile ground for business. Recent initiatives such as visa waivers for over 70 countries and streamlined investment procedures signal a bold shift toward openness and global integration.

While Malawi's domestic market of over 20 million people offers growing purchasing power, its greatest asset lies in its access to regional markets. As a member of SADC, COMESA and AfCFTA, Malawi provides preferential trade access to a combined market of over 600 million consumers, creating vast possibilities for export-oriented ventures.

At the forefront of private sector development is the Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCI). As the voice of the Private Sector in Malawi, MCCI champions trade, investment, and industrial growth. Through flagship events like the Malawi International Trade Fair and the National Agriculture Fair, the Confederation connects local enterprises with global markets, facilitating business-to-business linkages and showcasing Malawi's export potential to regional and international audiences.

MCCI plays a pivotal role in supporting foreign investors. It provides services such as market intelligence and investment advisory ensuring that investors are not only welcomed but empowered to

succeed.

The Confederation also facilitates introductions to credible local partners, organizes sector-specific networking platforms, and advocates for reforms that enhance the ease of doing business in Malawi. Its long-standing track record includes convening high-level summits that have influenced national policy, supporting SME integration into value chains, and promoting industrialization through public-private dialogue.

To the Qatari business community and Gulf investors, Malawi offers more than just returns, it offers relevance. In a world seeking sustainable, inclusive growth, Malawi stands ready with an enterprising population and a private sector eager to collaborate. The country's investment incentives ranging from tax holidays and export allowances to duty-free importation of capital equipment are designed to attract and retain long-term partnerships.

MCCI stands ready to walk this journey with you. Whether you are exploring opportunities in agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, energy, or digital innovation, we are your gateway to doing business in Malawi.

The door is open, the opportunity is real, and Malawi is ready.

For more information, visit: <http://www.mcci.org>



## In conversation with MITC Director General Kruger Phiri

**Q: What are the key priorities for the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre in attracting foreign direct investment?**

**A:** Malawi is on a bold transformation journey to become an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant, industrialized upper-middle-income country by 2063. The nation's investment priorities are anchored in three strategic pillars: Agricultural Productivity & Commercialization, Industrialization, and Urbanization. These are backed by enabling factors such as private sector dynamism, human capital development, economic infrastructure, and effective governance.

Malawi welcomes FDI that drives value-added manufacturing, agro-processing, green industrialization, and smart urban development. With abundant natural resources, a youthful population, and untapped tourism and mining potential, Malawi is building a globally competitive economy through home-grown solutions and strong public-private partnerships.

**Q: How has Malawi's investment landscape evolved recently, and what sectors are you currently targeting for growth?**

**A:** Malawi's investment landscape is transforming through political commitment and the Malawi 2063 vision, shifting from donor dependence to private sector-led, wealth-creating growth. Reforms in governance, anti-corruption, and ease of doing business are making the country more investor-friendly. Key target sectors include agro-industrialization, light manufacturing, smart city development, eco-tourism, mining, energy, and the digital economy—leveraging Malawi's youthful population and strategic location in regional trade.

**Q: What incentives and support does MITC offer to international investors, particularly from emerging markets such as the Middle East and Asia?**

**A:** Malawi offers tax holidays, duty exemptions, and fiscal incentives to investors from priority sectors like agro-processing and electricity, with 0% corporate tax for up to 10 years and duty-free capital goods.

To qualify, foreign agro-processors must invest at least \$5 million, and energy projects \$30 million, with a 35% local value addition requirement. Sector-specific incentives also cover machinery, logistics, construction, and transport.

**Q: What opportunities exist for Qatari and Middle Eastern companies interested in trade or joint ventures in Malawi?**

**A:** Qatari and Middle Eastern companies have opportunity to invest and trade with Malawi,



especially in agriculture, agro-processing, light manufacturing, infrastructure, and renewable energy. This is appreciated through the following:

### 1. Preferential Market Access

Malawi offers duty-free access to regional and global markets through agreements such as AfCFTA, COMESA, SADC, AGOA, and EBA. This makes it a strategic export hub for investors looking to reach Africa, Europe, and the U.S.

### 2. Joint Venture Potential

The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework in Malawi encourages joint ventures, with clearly outlined processes, risk-sharing models, and incentives. Sectors open for PPPs include energy, transport, ICT, tourism, agribusiness, and industrial infrastructure, aligned with Qatar's global investment interests.

### 3. Investment Security

Malawi's legal and regulatory framework for PPPs promotes transparency, accountability, and investor protection, backed by institutional support from the Public-Private Partnership Commission and Ministry of Finance.

### 4. Local Partnerships and Incentives

The government promotes local content and technology transfer, offering opportunities for Middle Eastern firms to partner with Malawian enterprises. Incentives include access to the Viability Gap Scheme (VGS) and Infrastructure Project Development Fund (IPDF) for project support.

**Q: How does MITC facilitate market entry and smooth trade processes for new investors and traders?**

**A:** The Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC)

facilitates market entry and smooth trade processes for new investors and traders by operating as a one-stop service centre. MITC assists investors with key procedures such as business registration, licensing, land identification, access to incentives, and regulatory approvals by coordinating with relevant government departments. For traders, MITC provides market intelligence, export documentation support, trade mission coordination, and matchmaking services with buyers or off-takers. The Centre also offers aftercare services to help resolve operational challenges and ensure business continuity. Through its proactive facilitation and policy advocacy role, MITC ensures that both local and foreign investors experience an efficient and investor-friendly environment in Malawi.

**Q: Are there any new policies or reforms planned to attract more foreign investors and streamline investment procedures?**

**A:** Malawi has made significant strides in enhancing infrastructure and regulatory reforms to boost its ease of doing business, making the country increasingly attractive for investors and traders. Malawi has made improvements in Energy Expansion such as Commissioning of the Golomoti (20 MW) and Kanzimbe (60 MW) solar power plants that enhanced grid reliability and reduced power shortages. Road and Transport Networks such as development of One-Stop Border Posts that eases cross border trade, Industrial Zones such as launch of the Magwera Industrial Park (467 ha, near Lilongwe), which is a PPP initiative designed to catalyze manufacturing, agro-processing, and logistics, Digital Trade Systems such as the National Single Window (NSW) which reduced permit processing times from 14+ days to under 3 days by digitizing all import/export documentation.

## MESSAGE

**O**n behalf of the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC) and the people of Malawi, I extend warm greetings to the esteemed business community of the State of Qatar.



Malawi stands ready and open to welcome Qatari investors to explore the vast investment opportunities our country offers. Strategically located in Southern Africa, Malawi is a peaceful and politically stable nation, offering a gateway to regional markets within SADC and COMESA—spanning over 700 million consumers. Our government is committed to fostering a conducive business environment through progressive reforms, investor-friendly policies, and enhanced ease of doing business.

From agriculture and agro-processing to renewable energy, mining, tourism, and infrastructure development, Malawi presents diversified and bankable investment opportunities. The Qatari private sector's growing interest in expanding its global footprint aligns perfectly with Malawi's vision to attract high-quality, sustainable, and mutually beneficial investments.

At MITC, we are ready to facilitate your investment journey—providing end-to-end support, from site identification and business registration to aftercare services. Our one-stop service centre ensures that investors experience efficient, transparent, and streamlined processes.

We invite you to visit Malawi—not just as business partners, but as collaborators in building a shared future of prosperity and development. Let us work together to unlock opportunities, drive growth, and create impact.

Malawi is ready for you.

**Kruger Nyambalo Phiri**

Director General,

Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC).

# UNLOCKING MALAWI'S MINING POTENTIAL

## A Prime Opportunity For Qatari Investors

**M**alawi, a nation endowed with abundant mineral resources, is emerging as a strategic destination for mining investments. The Malawi Mining Investment Company (MAMICO), a state-owned mining company, invites Qatari investors to explore the vast opportunities in this sector, which is poised for growth and innovation.

With a supportive regulatory framework, untapped resources, and a commitment to fostering long-term partnerships, Malawi offers a compelling proposition for investors seeking high returns and sustainable development.

### Investment opportunities

Malawi's mining landscape is rich with diverse mineral deposits, including rare earth elements, rutile, graphite, gemstones, and limestone. MAMICO's key projects include the Gold projects, Mchinji Rutile and Graphite project, Limestone for Lime and Cement production, Rare Earth Element projects and Kimberlite (potential diamond hosting rock) exploration project.

These projects present lucrative opportunities for Qatari investors to participate in exploration, extraction, and value-added processing. Additionally, Malawi's untapped resources offer further avenues for investment. MAMICO is keen to partner with Qatari businesses to develop these resources, leveraging their expertise and capital to drive economic growth and job creation in Malawi.

### Investor-friendly regulatory framework

Malawi's government has implemented a transparent and competitive mining regulatory framework designed to attract foreign investment.

Key incentives include:

► **Tax Breaks:** Tax breaks and reduced royalty rates for early-stage investors.

► **Ease of Licensing:** Streamlined processes for mining licenses and permits, ensuring timely project commencement.

► **Investment Protection:** Bilateral agreements to safeguard investor interests and ensure repatriation of profits.

Join us in shaping the future of mining in Malawi'



Professor Leonard Kalindekafe  
CEO, MAMICO

"Malawi is open for business, and MAMICO stands ready to facilitate seamless entry for Qatari investors into our mining sector. With our strategic location, untapped resources, and investor-friendly policies, we offer a unique opportunity to build mutually beneficial partnerships. Together, we can unlock the full potential of Malawi's mineral wealth while contributing to sustainable development. We invite you to join us on this transformative journey."

These measures underscore Malawi's commitment to creating a conducive environment for mining investments, minimizing risks, and maximizing returns for partners like Qatar's visionary business community.

The time to invest in Malawi's mining sector is now. MAMICO is your trusted partner, offering unparalleled opportunities in a stable and growing market. We look forward to welcoming Qatari investors and working together to achieve shared success.

For more information or to discuss potential partnerships, contact:

lkalindekafe@yahoo.com, info@mamico.org.mw or reach out to the Embassy of Malawi in Qatar.

# STORIES THAT INSPIRE

**S**uccess is not a matter of chance—it is the result of determination, vision, and relentless effort. Across Malawi, countless individuals and groups are proving this every day. From innovative entrepreneurs to committed cooperatives, their stories reflect the spirit of resilience and ambition. Whether it's pioneering agribusiness ventures, empowering communities, or transforming local industries, these champions are shaping a brighter future for Malawi—one step at a time.



## Chinjika Youth Club

### Empowering the Youth of Phalombe through Innovation and Determination

**C**hinjika Youth Club, nestled within the Phalombe Association under the Zikometso IPC, has made remarkable strides in transforming the lives of young people in their community since its inception in 2018. The club, founded with just 15 members, 10 males and 5 females, has grown exponentially over the years, reflecting the success of its goals and efforts.

Initially formed to address the challenges faced by idle youth who often found themselves engaging in negative behaviour, Chinjika Youth Club aimed to instill a sense of purpose and independence. The driving force behind this initiative was simple: empower the youth financially and ideologically. By creating opportunities for small-scale businesses and providing access to training, the club has made significant progress in nurturing entrepreneurial spirits among its members.

One of the first major steps the club took was to establish a Village Savings and Loan (VSL) group. The idea was to encourage members to save, invest, and grow their funds, which would, in turn, help them develop small businesses. By 2025, the group had expanded to 60 members, illustrating the success of their approach. Each member was encouraged to invest in a small-scale business, thus fostering a sense of accountability and responsibility.

A key turning point came in 2023 when NASFAM took the group for training in farming sunflower and processing cooking oil. The training included a demonstration plot where members grew sunflower seeds, which motivated many others in the community to join the club. Among those who benefitted from this training were Benjamin Mulewa (22), who grew sunflower on a quarter-acre of land and harvested 65 kg. The proceeds from this harvest allowed him to pay for his Secondary School MSCE exams. Hilda Sambani (20) also grew sunflower and harvested 4 kg, which she used to boost her vegetable sales. Beatrice Waya (30) harvested 70 kg of sunflower, which she used to rent additional land for farming. Moses Makawa (29) grew 100 kg of sunflower and reinvested in tomato farming. These success stories have served as inspiration for other young people in the community, showing them that hard work and dedication can lead to tangible results.

The group's activities don't stop there. As a collective, they rent an acre of land to grow soybeans and tomatoes, achieving remarkable profits. For instance, they made a profit of 300,000 MWK from tomato sales alone. In addition to farming, the club has ventured into tree seedling sales, further diversifying their income streams.

While these achievements are impressive, the club's

members are not stopping at farming. They have long-term plans to turn their youth club into an NGO, with aspirations to implement projects such as "Back to School" programs to encourage educational attainment. One such success story comes from Grace Ndumanga (23), a first-year student at LUANAR who now runs a poultry farm with the advisory support of the group.

Another notable success is Gladys Dyson (18), a secondary school student who has turned her small-scale tomato business into a profitable venture, earning a weekly profit of 8,000 MWK. Through reinvestment of her proceeds, she has expanded her business into poultry farming and now owns 17 local chickens.

But perhaps one of the most inspiring stories is that of Enock Mangulana, a 20-year-old second-year student at LUANAR University. Despite being away from home for his studies, Enock runs a thriving barber shop in the community. Through his entrepreneurial spirit and leadership, Enock has not only built a business but has also created employment for two individuals who work for him, even in his absence. This remarkable achievement speaks to his commitment to both his education and his community, showing that young people can balance academic pursuits with entrepreneurial endeavours.

## Against the Drought

### How Karonga's Rice Growers Are Turning Crisis into Opportunity



**T**he future of Karonga's renowned "kilombero" rice growers hangs precariously as dry spells and extreme weather patterns escalate in the region. Karonga stands as the indisputable home of kilombero rice. However, in recent years, the district has witnessed prolonged dry spells, particularly during crucial stages of crop development. This unfortunate trend has led to widespread crop wilting, culminating in significant yield losses for local farmers.

For many in Karonga, rice is both a major cash crop and a food staple. Income from rice sales supports families, pays school fees for children, and buys farming equipment. Unfortunately, rice is one of the most water-intensive crops, accounting for up to 30 percent of the world's freshwater withdrawals.

Agnes Msowoya, a seasoned rice vendor at Karonga Market, expresses deep concern over the uncertain future of rice farming in the face of climate change. Without interventions to assist farmers in adapting to the effects of climate change, Msowoya fears a bleak outlook for the industry. She worries that this would spell the end of livelihoods for thousands of farming households not only in Karonga but also in other rice-growing districts.

According to the June 2023 dry spell summary report, Karonga is home to a total of 67,551 farming households. The devastating effects of the 2023 drought were felt by approximately 38,605 farming households, with 8,742 hectares of maize fields and 29,718 farming households bearing the brunt of the impact. Additionally, 10,752 hectares of rice fields were affected, significantly impacting 8,887 farming families.

Concerned about farmers' plight, the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) has collaborated with the Karonga Smallholder Farmers Association (KASFA) to build resilient farming households. With support from partners, the Governments of Ireland and Norway, NASFAM has been implementing climate-smart agriculture (CSA) initiatives. These initiatives promote an integrated approach to managing landscapes, cropland, livestock, forests, and fisheries to address food security and climate change challenges.

Through these interventions, farmers are encouraged to adopt better farming practices, including crop diversification, winter cropping, small-scale irrigation farming, livestock rearing, and improving soil health with manure.

In addition to these interventions, loans accessed from village savings and loans groups have helped farmers recover from the effects of drought and improve their livelihoods. Kenneth Mwakasungula, a 60-year-old rice grower from SC Mwakasungula Village in Traditional Authority Kyungu, Karonga, joined NASFAM in 2001 after experiencing one of the worst droughts in 1997. He sought to learn how to build resilience against climate change effects. Under the Mwakasungula Marketing Action Centre (MAC) in Ntchowo Association, Mwakasungula learned about irrigation farming after undergoing training.

He installed a water pump triggered by low water levels in the stream that supplies water to their fields during long dry seasons with minimal rainfall. With irrigation technologies, he saved water and reduced demand without affecting yield.

"Traditional rice farming involves inefficient resource use, environmental degradation, and lower yields due to overuse of water to control weeds and pests," Mwakasungula explained.

"Overuse of water can cause pollution and habitat degradation," he added.

NASFAM Chief Executive Officer Dr. Betty Chinyamunyamu emphasized the importance of adopting modern rice farming technologies to mitigate climate change effects. She noted that while traditional farming practices cannot be immediately abandoned, farmers need to consider the labor intensity they demand, which can be a constraint for small-scale farmers with limited access to labor. "Traditional farming practices also expose farmers to adverse effects of climate change such as drought, floods, and pest outbreaks. They are economically inefficient due to high input costs, low yields, and dependence on external inputs," she explained.

Mwakasungula agreed with Chinyamunyamu, noting that he now harvests three times a year since adopting irrigation farming. He produces 40 bags of rice every four months, earning MK13.5 million per year compared to less than MK2 million in previous years.

# MADE IN MALAWI

## Usingini Upland Coffee

Handpicked and naturally processed, Usingini Upland Coffee is known for its rich flavor and quality, making it one of the finest coffees from the Warm Heart of Africa. Grown by small-scale farmers across Malawi—including Chitipa, Rumphi, Mzimba, and Nkhatabaya—it's roots trace back to FECKO Farm in Nkhata Bay, overlooking Lake Malawi. Available as ground coffee, roasted, or green beans to suit your preference.



## Kwithu Kitchen

Founded in 2013, Kwithu Kitchen is northern Malawi's first women-owned food processing cooperative. It began with 20 women from the Kwithu Women's Group in Mzuzu, who started preserving tomatoes

to support a child feeding program. With support from Maloto, a US-based nonprofit, they turned this into a thriving business that empowers local women and farmers. A portion of sales supports community programs led by the Kwithu Women's Group.

Kwithu Kitchen, Malawi's first women-owned food processing cooperative, expanded in April 2020 to include high-quality Malawian honey—quickly becoming the country's largest honey supplier. Its products are now stocked in major supermarkets (Shoprite, Sana, Chipiku Plus), leading hotels like Sunbird, and numerous restaurants and institutions nationwide.





**Your favorite go-to snacks**

Quality You Can Trust

**NASFAM**

**f in X**

# Empowering the BACKBONE OF AGRICULTURE

## A Closer Look at NASFAM in Malawi

The National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi, widely known as NASFAM, is Malawi's largest and most influential farmer-led organization. Since its inception in 1997, NASFAM has grown into a vital institution representing more than 130,000 smallholder farmers across 22 of the country's 28 districts.

Established to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers through collective action, NASFAM is now a cornerstone of Malawi's agricultural transformation and a model of rural empowerment in Africa.



NASFAM was born out of a vision to help farmers achieve better access to markets, enhance their production techniques, and organize themselves into commercially viable cooperatives. At its core, the association operates through a network of farmer clubs, associations, and regional offices. This grassroots structure enables members to pool resources, share knowledge, and increase their bargaining power when accessing inputs, financing, or selling their produce.

One of NASFAM's flagship programs is the Anchor Farm Model, an innovative and practical solution to the challenges faced by smallholder farmers. Implemented in Mchinji District, this model groups farmers on shared land where they receive improved seed, fertilizers, and expert training in modern farming practices. Farmers are also supported in marketing their crops collectively. As a result, many have experienced significant yield increases—up to 44% in soya beans and 61% in groundnuts. The Anchor Farm initiative has also facilitated cross-border exports of Malawian crops to neighbouring countries like Botswana and Zambia.



NASFAM's role in enhancing value chains is another critical area of success. Through its commercial arm, NASCOMEX, the association is deeply engaged in processing and trading a variety of crops, including maize, rice, soya, groundnuts, and chilli. These value-added products generate substantial revenues, exceeding MK 3.7 billion annually—an

83% increase over prior targets. The processed products are not only sold domestically but also support vital feeding programs such as Mary's Meals, which provides fortified foods to schoolchildren across Malawi.

In recent years, NASFAM launched the "Farm to Fork" groundnut project, a two-year initiative involving 2,800 farmers. The project aims to boost soil fertility, strengthen food security, and stabilize farmer incomes through improvements in groundnut production, storage, and marketing. It also emphasizes sustainability and nutrition, helping farmers adopt practices that enhance both yield and environmental health.

NASFAM is also a powerful advocate for agricultural policy reform in Malawi. It plays a critical role in national consultations on farm-gate prices and has welcomed recent government decisions to raise baseline prices for major crops, such as increasing maize from MK 900 to MK 1,050 per kilogram, and pegging groundnuts at MK 2,500 per kilogram. While these are steps in the right direction, NASFAM continues to call for stronger price enforcement mechanisms and more consistent application of quality-based pricing that benefits farmers directly.

Inclusivity and gender empowerment are central to NASFAM's operations. Over half of its members are women, and the association is known for its efforts to promote female leadership within its structures. Women have held top roles, including the position of board chairperson on three separate occasions. Its CEO Dr. Betty Chinyamunyamu has often emphasized that empowering women in agriculture is not only a matter of fairness but also of economic strategy. Women farmers who are given equal opportunities tend to invest in their families and communities, driving broader development outcomes.

The success stories emerging from NASFAM's initiatives are compelling. Farmers like Lusekero Mwalwayo from Karonga District have seen transformative changes in their lives. Through fair pricing, training, and access to reliable markets, Mwalwayo has been able to invest in livestock, build multiple homes, and purchase a motorcycle. Others have reported increased food security, higher incomes, and the ability to send their children to school or hire additional farm workers, outcomes that speak to the deep and lasting impact of NASFAM's work.

On the global front, NASFAM is expanding its footprint. It has already begun exporting Malawian rice to Scotland and is exploring new markets in Zimbabwe, Zambia, and South Africa. While foreign exchange shortages and logistical challenges remain, the association is determined to scale up its exports and tap into regional and international demand for quality, sustainably produced agricultural goods.

Partnerships with international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and various European donors have helped NASFAM build capacity, invest in innovation, and align its goals with Malawi's long-term development strategy—Vision 2063. These collaborations provide not just funding, but also technical expertise that strengthens NASFAM's institutional resilience.

In short, NASFAM is more than just a farmers' association—it is a movement that gives voice and strength to smallholder farmers, who constitute the backbone of Malawi's rural economy. By building resilient agricultural communities through collective action, knowledge sharing, and strategic partnerships, NASFAM is not only transforming livelihoods but also redefining what small-scale agriculture can achieve in the 21st century.

**Message from NASFAM's CEO,**

**DR. BETTY CHINYAMUNYAMU**



To Our Esteemed Partners and Friends in Qatar,

As Malawi marks 61 years of independence, I extend warm greetings from the National Smallholder Farmers' Association of Malawi (NASFAM) and from over 130,000 smallholder farmers across our nation who are at the heart of our work. This moment of national reflection is also one of forward looking, focusing on available opportunities and we are proud to spotlight Malawi's growing role as a reliable partner in agricultural trade and investment.

At NASFAM, our mission is clear: to transform smallholder farming into a thriving, sustainable business enterprise that drives inclusive economic growth. We believe the future of agriculture lies in partnerships that connect local production with global markets, and we see Qatar as a strategic partner in this journey.

Each and every one of our product begins with our smallholder farmer members, dedicated men and women across Malawi, who grow under structured contract farming arrangements supported by robust extension services. These services equip our farmers with the latest agronomic knowledge, climate-smart practices and market oriented production techniques, ensuring consistency, traceability, and top tier quality, from farm to fork.

Our flagship product, the world-renowned Kilombero Aromatic Rice, is a proud symbol of Malawian excellence. Grown in fertile valleys and nurtured with care, this unique rice, earned global recognition when it was awarded the Most Ethical Rice in the UK at the Scottish Fair-Trade Awards in 2023, a testament to its premium quality, ethical sourcing, and export readiness.

Our premium product portfolio however goes far beyond Kilombero. Discover also our treasure of delightful export ready delicacies: golden, protein packed groundnuts that crunch with perfection, a variety of nutrient rich beans bursting with wholesome goodness, and our show stopping Malawian chilli sauce that delivers an unforgettable kick of authentic African fire.

You can be assured that with NASFAM products you're not just getting exceptional quality that's conquering regional markets and captivating international buyers worldwide, but you are also investing in a sustainable future that tastes as good as it feels.

Furthermore, through our commercial subsidiary, NASFAM Commercial (NASCOMEX), we are investing in value addition, food safety and modern processing technologies, ensuring that every product meets the highest global standards. Whether it's destined for a supermarket in Qatar or a Fair-Trade store in Europe, NASFAM products deliver one promise "Quality You Can Trust."

Qatar's visionary food security goals and dynamic market offer exciting prospects for collaboration. We invite Qatari importers, distributors and agribusiness investors to partner with NASFAM in creating resilient, ethical and high-quality supply chains that deliver value to both our economies. Together, we can establish long-term trade relationships rooted in authenticity, traceability, and shared innovation.

As we celebrate Malawi's independence and embrace a new chapter of global partnership, we look forward to seeing Malawian products, on Qatari shelves and tables, symbols of a bold, inclusive future forged between Africa and the Gulf.

Let us grow more than crops, let us grow prosperity, dignity, and impact.

With warm regards,

Dr. Betty Chinyamunyamu

# Getting to Malawi

## Your Journey Starts Here

### EXPLORE, INVEST, AND EXPERIENCE MALAWI

Message from Dr. Vera Kamtukule, Minister of Tourism, Malawi

**O**n behalf of the President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera and the friendly people of Malawi, I am highly honoured to extend an invitation to your readers to visit Malawi as we commemorate our 61st year of Independence on 6th July this year. I am delighted that since attaining Independence Malawi has made several strides in growing its tourism sector. Apart from a resilient tourism industry that survived Covid-19 pandemic, the sector continues to grow and attract investment from both local and foreign investors. Since 2020, Malawi has experienced significant investments in our tourism sector, demonstrating the confidence the private sector has in the Government's policies and vision for the development of tourism in the country.

The Malawi government has redoubled its efforts to create a conducive environment for tourism investors. It has identified tourism in the Malawi 2063, the country's long-term development Agenda, and in the Agriculture, Tourism, Mining and Manufacturing (ATMM) Strategy as one of the country's three key sectors for accelerating economic growth and realising Malawi's aspiration of being a lower-middle-income country by 2030.

To enable Malawi to effectively and efficiently foster the growth of the tourism sector and ensure its alignment with the aspirations outlined in the Malawi Vision, the government, through the Ministry of Tourism, is implementing a comprehensive 20-year National Tourism Investment Masterplan. This plan categorizes the country's 28 districts into 10 designated Tourism Nodes. The Masterplan encompasses a total of 103 projects, including 10 flagships tourism initiatives available for investment. Additionally, a public sector investment program has been established to develop essential public tourism support infrastructure for these projects.

I am also pleased that Malawi is taking a leading role in restoring its Wildlife Reserves and National Parks to Big 5 status. Malawi holds the world record for the largest translocation of elephants which involved movement of 500 elephants from Majete Wildlife Reserve to the country's other parks. This was made possible by a successful public private partnership model government is implementing. Government has also put in place competitive



investment incentives for foreign investors in the tourism sector and has a one stop investment centre, the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC), that facilitate investment.

In addition, Malawi is a diverse, authentic and safe tourist destination. Our magnificent and breathtaking Lake Malawi has the world's largest species of cichlids with over 1,000 recorded so far. The Lake is home to the world's first marine park, a UNESCO World heritage site, protecting 350 species of endemic cichlids. It also hosts the World's longest freshwater yachting

marathon, covering a distance of 500km. Malawi has dramatic and scenic landscapes - mountains, lakes, rivers, valleys and plains. The country has a rich cultural heritage and some of the country's traditional dances, music and food have been inscribed in the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Heritage for Humanity. To crown it all, Malawi offers a unique inland beach-bush-culture experience all within short distances.

Malawi also offers huge trade and investment opportunities not only in the tourism sector but also in the mining, agriculture and energy sectors. We are a peaceful, safe, and affordable destination with halal food options, mosques, and a culture that respects modesty—making it ideal for visitors from the Gulf region. With fewer crowds and rich cultural experiences, Malawi is a hidden gem perfect for relaxation, adventure, and meaningful travel.

Furthermore, a visit to Malawi is more than a trip—it's a meaningful experience. Travelers support sustainable tourism and local communities, while discovering some country rich in culture, peace, and natural beauty. Malawi offers authentic cultural exchange, religious harmony, and personalized, off-the-beaten-path adventures. It's an ideal destination for those seeking travel with purpose, connection, and impact. A visit to the country is more than just sightseeing—it's an adventure and opportunity to connect with nature, people, and culture in a deep and authentic way. With its breathtaking landscapes, warm hospitality, rich traditions, and peaceful atmosphere, Malawi is a destination that touches the heart. For Qataris traveling seeking meaningful, respectful, and soul-enriching experiences, Malawi stands out as a hidden gem worth discovering.

### Experience Malawi's Wildlife

For the first time in decades, Malawi proudly offers Big Five game viewing—lion, leopard, rhino, elephant, and African buffalo—in some of Africa's best-managed and least-crowded national parks and reserves.

The country is home to 12 protected areas, including five national parks, four wildlife reserves, and three sanctuaries, each offering a unique and authentic safari experience. With its commitment to conservation and sustainable tourism, Malawi is fast emerging as one of Africa's most exciting wildlife destinations.

#### Things to Do on a Malawi Safari

Malawi offers a unique blend of adventure, nature, and cultural immersion. Here are some unforgettable experiences to enjoy on safari:

- **Game Drives** – Spot the Big Five and other wildlife in their natural habitats.
- **Hiking** – Explore scenic trails through hills, forests, and reserves.



- **Birdwatching** – Discover over 650 bird species, including rare and endemic varieties.
- **Walking Safaris** – Experience the bush up close, guided by expert rangers.
- **Biking Safaris** – Cycle through trails and landscapes for a more active safari.
- **Botanical Safaris** – Learn about Malawi's diverse flora and medicinal plants.
- **Canoeing** – Glide along calm rivers and lake shores while spotting wildlife.
- **Sport Fishing** – Try your hand at catching species like tiger fish and catfish.
- **Star Gazing** – Enjoy crystal-clear night skies far from city lights.
- **Riverboat Safaris** – Observe animals and birds along the water's edge.
- **White Water Rafting** – Get your adrenaline pumping on Malawi's rapids.
- **Community and Village Tours** – Engage with local cultures and traditions for an enriching experience.

### 10 Reasons to Visit Malawi

1. **Pleasant Climate**  
Enjoy mild weather year-round, perfect for travel and outdoor activities.
2. **Peaceful and Compact**  
Safe, stable, and easy to explore, with short distances between major attractions.
3. **Big on Hospitality**  
Home to Africa's friendliest people, known for their warmth and genuine welcome.
4. **Lake Malawi**  
Discover one of Africa's largest and most beautiful freshwater lakes—ideal for swimming, diving, and boating.
5. **Africa's Newest Big Five Destination**  
Experience thrilling wildlife safaris with sightings of lions, leopards, elephants, rhinos, and buffalos.
6. **Authentic Nature Experience**  
Explore unspoiled landscapes, national parks, and unique biodiversity.
7. **Ideal for Outdoor Sports**  
Great conditions for hiking, mountain biking, kayaking, sailing, and more.
8. **Rich Cultural Heritage**  
Immerse yourself in Malawi's traditional music, dance, arts, and crafts.
9. **Delicious Local Cuisine**  
Savor unique Malawian dishes and flavors made from fresh local ingredients.
10. **Vibrant Festivals and Events**  
Enjoy colorful cultural celebrations and music festivals throughout the year.

### Tea Plantations of Malawi

Malawi's thriving tea industry is rooted in the fertile southern districts of Mulanje and Thyolo, where lush plantations spread across the foothills of Mount Mulanje—the country's highest peak. These scenic estates are not only vital to the local economy but also form an integral part of the region's cultural and natural heritage.

With breathtaking views that stretch as far as neighboring Mozambique, the tea estates around Mount Mulanje offer visitors a unique blend of agriculture and adventure. Many estates welcome the public for guided tours, where guests can



### When to Visit

Malawi is always beautiful. The cooler months (May to August/September) are more comfortable for travellers from the northern hemisphere, but the lush, green summer (November to April) is also a good time to visit.

May and June combine the best of both seasons – cooler, still green with great visibility – and are especially good for photography. Country dirt roads are sometimes impassable to normal vehicles during heavy rains. Game viewing is best in the hottest times of the dry season when the animals are forced to visit water sources, but the countryside is more attractive in the wetter, greener months. Birdwatchers enjoy their best sightings in October and November.

### Things to Do at Mount Mulanje

- 
- **Cycling and Mountain Biking** – Ride through tea-covered hills and rugged terrain.
  - **Nature Trail Walks and Trekking** – Discover waterfalls, forests, and panoramic vistas on foot.
  - **Bird Watching** – Spot endemic and migratory species in this biodiversity hotspot.
  - **Tea Tasting** – Enjoy fresh local brews while learning about Malawi's tea heritage.
  - **Quad Biking and 4x4 Driving** – Explore remote trails with an adrenaline twist.
  - **Climbing and Abseiling** – Challenge yourself on the mountain's granite peaks.
  - **Extreme Sports** – Mount Mulanje Porters Race – Witness or join one of Africa's toughest mountain races.

### Travelling to Malawi from Qatar

#### Seamless Connections via Regional Hubs

Getting to Malawi from Qatar is easy and convenient, thanks to efficient regional air routes and traveler-friendly entry processes.

#### Air Routes

- Qatar Airways offers flights to major African hubs such as Johannesburg (South Africa), Nairobi (Kenya) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).
- From these hubs, travelers can take connecting flights to Malawi's two main international airports:
  - Kamuzu International Airport (KIA) in Lilongwe
  - Chileka International Airport (BLZ) in Blantyre
- Reliable regional carriers such as Ethiopian Airlines, Kenya Airways, and Airlink operate regular services into Malawi.

#### Entry Tips

- **E-Visa Access:** Nationals of Qatar and most other countries can apply for an e-visa online, making entry smooth and hassle-free.
- **Language:** English is widely spoken across Malawi, making communication easy for international visitors.
- **Connectivity:** Local SIM cards and internet services are readily available at both Lilongwe and Blantyre airports, ensuring instant connectivity on arrival.

For more information, contact:  
Embassy of the Republic of Malawi  
Villa No. I36, Street 826, Zone Katifwa, 66, Al Dafna, P.O. Box I7302, Doha, State of Qatar.  
doha.malawi@foreignaffairs.gov.mw  
malawiembassyqatar@gmail.com  
Tel: +974 44415419