



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET

# PRESS RELEASE

## APPROVED REFORMS IN CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES

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The Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) wishes to inform the General Public that His Excellency the State President Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika on 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 approved reforms to be undertaken by four (4) Constitutional Bodies: The Financial Intelligence Authority, the Law Commission, the Office of the Director of Public Officers' Declarations and Parliament of Malawi.

### **BRIEF BACKGORUND**

Public Sector Reforms have been taking place in Malawi since the country attained its independence in 1964; however, the reforms had mixed results and consequently limited impact on overall public sector transformation. The poor performance was partly attributed to the lack of strategic leadership and clear frameworks to guide the Public Sector Reforms process.

Hence, on 11 February, 2015, His Excellency President Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika re-launched the Public Sector Reforms Programme with a renewed impetus covering all the three branches of government in order to create an efficient and effective public sector able to stimulate and promote sustainable socio-economic development as encapsulated in the current national development strategy, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) III.

Currently, the reforms are being implemented in all 17 Government Ministries, 35 Local Authorities and 54 Parastatal Organisations.

### **APPROVED REFORMS IN CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES**

#### **1. Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA)**

Three Reform Areas were proposed: (1) Establish Direct Link or periodic update on critical information held by other Government Agencies; (2) Operationalise reporting of suspicious financial transactions from members of the general public; and (3) Establish a Public Relations Department.

These reforms will result in improved tracing of assets linked to subjects under FIA analysis of law enforcement investigations and prosecution; increased access to financial and related information to help FIA with initiation and enrichment analysis on subjects and increased understanding of roles achievements of the FIA in combating financial crimes respectively.

## **2. The Law Commission**

Two reform areas were proposed: (1) Establish an Abridged version of the law reform process and (2) Institutional Restructuring of the Law Commission/Functional Based Set-Up.

These reforms will result in streamlining the law review process into an efficient and cost effective law reform process and determine numbers, grades and designation of posts necessary for optimal performance of the Law Commission respectively.

## **3. The Office of the Director of Public Officers' Declarations (ODOPOD)**

Two Reform Areas were proposed: (1) Review the Public Officers' Declaration of Assets, Liabilities and Business Interest Act, 2013 and (2) Introduce an On-line Declarations System

These reforms will result into enhanced effectiveness and efficiency in the ODOPOD operations and improved compliance in terms of submissions and completeness of declarations respectively.

## **4. Parliament of Malawi**

Three Reform Areas were proposed: (1) Install Biometric Clocking System (2) Establish an Automated Hansard Production System (3) Upgrade the Chamber Audio Visual System.

These reforms will help improve attendance and security of Members of Parliament in the Chamber; reduce amount of time to produce the hansard and its accuracy and also improve Chamber communications and save time on voting and counting votes respectively.

Significant strides have been registered since the launch of the reforms in 2015 and the Government of Malawi would like to thank all stakeholders, particularly public servants, development partners and technical advisors for their unwavering support and similar should be rendered towards the approved reforms in the four Constitutional Bodies.

For any further details regarding this development, please contact: **The Chief Director, Public Sector Reforms Management Unit, Office of the President and Cabinet, Private Bag 301, Lilongwe, Telephone: 01 789 411** or The Information Officer, Mr. Papiya Mwahara ([mwahara@gmail.com](mailto:mwahara@gmail.com)) - **0888 377 551**.



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