

High Commission of India

Lusaka

Brief on India-Malawi bilateral relations

Political: The relations between India and Malawi are historical, marked by cordiality and longstanding friendship. The two countries hold similar views on several international and multilateral issues and cooperate with each other at international fora, such as the UN, NAM, CHOGM and WTO.

2. India used to maintain a resident diplomatic mission in Lilongwe. It was closed down in May 1993. Malawi has opened its Mission in Delhi in February, 2007. India may consider reopening its Mission in Lilongwe. Presently, there are about 15 diplomatic missions in Lilongwe including those of the USA, EU, UK, Germany, South Africa, Japan, China and Zambia. In December, 2007 Malawi shunned its long term ally Taiwan and established diplomatic relations with China.

3. There is considerable goodwill among the Malawian leaders for India. The Malawi government has supported India on the Jammu & Kashmir issue, and showed understanding of India's nuclear tests in 1998 and was one of the few countries that supported India's position on this issue in the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in 1998. Malawi supports India for the Permanent Membership of the expanded UN Security Council.

4. **High Level Visits:** The first President of Malawi, Dr. H. Kamutzu Banda visited India in 1983 to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. A multi-Ministerial delegation led by Malawian Foreign Minister Hon. Davies Katsonga including Minister of Finance, Minister of Transport & Public Works and; Minister of Local Government & Rural Development visited India from May 10-12, 2006. The ministers' visit was preceded by official level meetings from May 8-10, 2006. The main objective of the visit was to develop linkages with India in all spheres of economic and development cooperation. In November, 2008 Malawian Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food Security visited India to take part in Food Security Conference hosted by India. President's brother Prof. Peter Mutharika, then Legal Advisor to the President, paid a visit to India in December, 2008 to receive the "International Jurist Award-2008" conferred on him by the Indian Council of Jurists. The award was presented

to him by the Prime Minister of India on December 13, 2008. Prof. Peter Mutharika is now the Minister of Education, Science and Technology.

At the invitation of the President of India, the President of Malawi Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika paid a State Visit to India from November 2-7 , 2010. Prof. Mutharika was accompanied by Madame Callista Mutharika and six ministers and a 45-member business delegation. During the visit H.E. Prof Mutharika held fruitful discussion with the President of India, the Vice President Shri Hamid Ansari and the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh. During the talks the two sides discussed issues of mutual interest- bilateral as well as regional and international. During the visit India and Malawi signed the following Bilateral Agreements/MoUs:-

- a) General Cooperation Agreement
- b) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources Development
- c) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development
- d) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.

President Mutharika, addressed the interactive session on “India and Malawi : Partners for Progress” at the Taj Mahal Hotel organized by India’s industry chambers and attended by a over 50 Indian business captains. Mutharika invited Indian business captains to come and do business in Malawi. Delhi University on November 4 conferred an honorary degree a doctor of letters degree on President Mutharika. During the visit Prime Minister of India announced the reopening of the Indian mission in Lilongwe.

5. From the Indian side, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Minister of Information and Broadcasting visited Malawi in 1964 to participate in Malawi’s independence celebrations. In 1979, Shri Samrendra Kundu, MOS for External Affairs paid a visit to Malawi.

Hon’ble Vice President, Shri M. Hamid Ansari paid an Official visit to Malawi from 7-9 January, 2010. He was accompanied by Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Shri Harish Rawat, three Members of Parliament, senior officers and media. A business delegation separately accompanied the Vice President’s delegation. This was first ever visit at such high level from India to Malawi. Hon’ble Vice President announced a new line of credit of US\$50 million to Malawi for its developmental projects. He also announced a grant of US\$1 million as relief for earthquake which had recently hit some parts of Malawi, and a grant of US\$4 million for projects in social sectors. Following agreements were signed during the visit:-

- 1) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors
- 2) Protocol for Consultations between Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malawi and Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- 3) National Small Industries Corporation of India and One Village One Product of Malawi for cooperation in the development of small scale enterprises in Malawi.

6. **Bilateral Cooperation & Trade:** India is providing assistance to Malawi under its ITEC programme. In 2007-08 the total no. of Slots under civilian training of ITEC were increased from 10 to 20, which after India Africa Forum summit was further increased to 35 in 2008-9 , 40 in 2009-10 and 36 in 2010-11. So far 123 Malawians have availed of ITEC civilian training programme in India. Malawi had utilized the services of TCIL for execution of a contract in the telecom sector worth US\$ 20 million in the year 2000.

7. A number of draft Agreements/MoUs are under consideration with a view to strengthening the institutional framework of bilateral relations between the two countries, which are in the field of Mineral Resources Development, MoU on Cooperation in the Field of Rural Development, MoU on Human Resource and Development and Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for holders of Diplomatic and Officials Passports.

8. In February, 2008, India extended to Malawi a credit line for US\$30 million.. The Agreement in this regard was signed on May 14, 2008. The Government of Malawi has utilized this Line of Credit of US\$30 million for irrigation, grain storage, tobacco threshing and one village one product projects.

9. Malawi in 2007 signed an MoU with TCIL of India for setting up by Indian assistance the Pan African e-networking to facilitate tele-education and tele-medicine with India and video-conferencing with all the 53 Heads of State/Government of Africa. The e-networking project has been implemented. The TCIL completed the PAN African e-network project in Malawi in March, 2009 at the three sites – VVIP Video Conferencing facility at the New State House, Lilongwe, Tele-medicine facility at the Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe and Tele-education facility at the Chancellor College, Zomba. The PAN African e-network project was successfully inaugurated through video-conferencing at the Chancellor College, Zomba on August 16, 2010.

Malawian Minister of Information and Civic Education, Mr. Symon Vuwa Kaunda interacted with our EAM at the Tele-education facility installed under the project at the Chancellor College, Zomba.

10. In February, 2008 India also extended them grant of Rs. One crore for flood relief. ISRO in June, 2008 offered exchange of remote sensing data and setting up of such data reception centre in Malawi. Malawi is interested in Indian assistance in \$6bn Shire Zambezi integrated rail, road, waterway project between Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia.

11. India's trade data with Malawi are as follows:

(Figures in US\$ Million)

<i>Year</i>	India's exports to Malawi	% change	India's imports from Malawi	% change	<i>Total Trade</i>
2003-04	38.21		4.98		43.19
2004-05	58.26	52.49%	5.08	2.07%	63.34
2005-06	43.63	-25.10%	1.80	-64.57%	45.43
2006-07	42.57	-2.44%	5.01	178.41%	47.58
2007-08	64.34	51.13%	15.64	212.18%	79.98
2008-09	89.38	38.92%	7.08	-54.73	96.46
2009-10	81.36	-8.97%	103.76	1,364.62	185.12

India's export items include fabrics, transport equipment, machinery and instruments, pharmaceuticals, rubber and plastic products, processed items, iron and steel products. India's imports from Malawi consist of pulses and other commodities.

12. **The Sixth Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership**: A 54 member delegation, headed by the Foreign Minister Prof. Etta Elizabeth Banda which also included seven other Ministers, participated in the Sixth Conclave on India-Africa Project Partnership held in New Delhi from 14-16 March, 2010. The delegation included 20 business persons. Malawian Ministers made a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Vice President of India.

13. **Cultural** : There have been a few ICCR sponsored cultural troupes from India to Malawi; their performances have been appreciated by the local Indian community. A 10-member Thang-Ta Manipuri Martial Arts Group led by Mr. Laishram Rajen Singh visited Malawi from July 1-7, 2008. A 11-member Composite Group led by Ms. Ranjana Gauhar (Odissi x 7) and Dr. Mustafa Raza (Vichitra Veena x 4) visited Malawi from 28th October to 1st November, 2008.

A 12-member National Dance troupe “Aka Kwacha” from Malawi participated in the Africa Festival held in New Delhi from May 18-19, 2010. In addition to the performance in Delhi on May 19, 2010, the group also performed on May 21, 2010 at Haridwar (UP). The expenditure on international air travel, local hospitality including meals during the troupe’s stay in India was provided by the ICCR.

14. **Queen’s Baton Relay**: Queen’s Baton for the Commonwealth Games 2010, which are being hosted by India, visited Malawi from January 21-23, 2010. The Queen’s Baton was received on 21st January, 2010 by H.E. Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi at the Kamuzu International Airport, Lilongwe. At the reception function Vice President of Malawi Joyce Banda and several Cabinet Ministers were present. On 22nd January, 2010 the Queen’s Baton relay started from the Civic Offices through the Lilongwe City and culminated at the War Memorial. Indian community hosted Dinner at the Captial Hotel in Lilongwe in honour of Queen’s Baton.

15. **Ministerial meeting of LDCs in New Delhi**: Hon. Daniel Liwimbi, Deputy minister of Development, Planning and Cooperation represented Malawi at the Ministerial Meeting of LDCs in New Delhi from 18-19 February 2011. Highlight of this Conference was showcasing by India of its own national instruments of mutually beneficial cooperation that are in the forefront of assisting the LDCs – (i) ITEC, (ii) Duty Free, Quota Free (DFQF) regime for LDC’s exports to India, (iii) E-connectivity Project; and (iv) Government of India’s credit line Programme.

15. **Indian Community/PIO**: There are about 7000 persons of Indian origin in Malawi. Most of them hold Malawian, British, or American nationalities. The number of Indian nationals is about 1500. About 75% of the Indian community are Muslims. Most of the Indian community are engaged in trade, besides a few professionals. The members of the Indian community arrived

in Malawi mainly from Gujarat in the 1920s and afterwards. They are mainly concentrated in important cities such as Blantyre, Zomba, Lilongwe and Mzuzu.

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