

India-Malawi Relations

Political:

Relations between India and Malawi are marked by cordiality, friendship and cooperation. The two countries hold identical views on regional, international and multilateral issues. India had established a resident diplomatic mission in Lilongwe in 1964, the same year of Independence of Malawi. The diplomatic mission was closed down in May 1993 and re-opened in April 2012. Initially the High Commission was headed by the Cd'A until May 2013. The newly appointed High Commissioner Shri Vanlalhuma arrived in Lilongwe on 21st June 2013 and presented his Credentials to the President of Malawi on 25th June 2013. The High Commission held its first Republic Day Reception on 28th January 2014 in which the then Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Mr. Ephraim MgandaChiume was the Chief Guest. Leader of the Malawi Congress Party and current Leader of Opposition Dr. Lazarus Chakwerawas also present among other dignitaries.

Malawi had opened its Mission in Delhi in February 2007.

There is considerable goodwill among the Malawian leadership for India especially late Prof. BinguwaMutharika. He was an alumnus of the University of Delhi and obtained his Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1961 and Mastersdegree in Economics in 1963. University of Delhi had conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters on late President Mutharika on 4 November 2010 during his visit to India. The current Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation George Chaponda studied in Delhi University from 1963 - 1968.

Exchange of Visits:

From Malawi:

1983: Dr. H. Kamutzu Banda, the first President of Malawi to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

2006: Mr. Davies Katsonga, Minister of Foreign Affaris, May 10-12, 2006.

2008: Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food Security for Food Security Conference.

2010: Late Prof. BinguwaMutharika, President of Malawi from November 2-7, 2010.

2011: Mr. Daniel Liwimbi, Deputy Minister of Development Planning and Cooperation for Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) held in New Delhi from February 18-19, 2011.

2012: Ms. OtriaJere, Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology for the India Africa Science and Technology Ministers Conference from March 1-2, 2012.

Mr. John Bande, Minister of Industry and Trade and Mr. MahommedSidik Mia, Minister of Transport and Public Infrastructure for the India-Africa Trade Minister's Conference and 8th CII EXIM Bank Conclave on India Africa Project Partnership from 17-20 March 2012.

Prof. Peter Mwanza, Minister of Agriculture & Food Security and Mr. Ritchie Muheya, Minister of Water & Irrigation from 21- 30 September, 2012.

From India:

1964: Smt. Indira Gandhi, Minister of Information and Broadcasting to participate in celebration of Malawi's Independence.

1979: Shri SamrendraKundu, MOS for External Affairs

2010: Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India from 7-9 January, 2010

Agreements signed:

- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors (2010)
- Protocol for Consultations between Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malawi and Ministry of External Affairs of India (2010)
- National Small Industries Corporation of India and One Village One Product of Malawi for cooperation in the development of small scale enterprises in Malawi (2010)
- General Cooperation Agreement (2010)
- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources Development (2010)
- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development (2010)
- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine (2010)

Economic & Commercial:

Bilateral Trade: The trade figures for the period 2006-2013 between India and Malawi:-
(Figures in US\$ Million)

S. No	Year	India's Export to Malawi	India's Imports from Malawi	Total Trade	% change
1	2006-07	42.56	5.07	47.63	
2	2007-08	64.34	15.64	79.99	67.92
3	2008-09	89.38	7.08	96.47	20.60
4	2009-10	81.36	103.76	185.12	91.90
5	2010-11	101.34	19.89	121.34	-34.45
6	2011-12	148.26	19.97	168.23	38.65
7	2012-13	153.30	43.11	196.41	16.75
8	2013-14 (Apr-Dec)	145.27	13.07	158.34	n/a

Source: Department of Commerce

Major export commodities from Malawi to India are: Pulses, chickpeas and other agricultural commodities. Malawi's major import commodities from India are: Textile yarns, fabrics, transport equipment, pharmaceuticals, machinery and equipment.

Indian investments:

Indian companies in Malawi are engaged in agro processing, chemicals, energy, financial service & insurance, food processing, Information Technology & software development, logistics, textile, cosmetics & pharmaceuticals, mining, manufacturing, hotel & hospitality etc. The prominent ones are Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Hi Tos Linear Agency Pvt Ltd, Weismann Ltd etc. In 2012, M/s Dhunseri Petrochem & Tea Ltd (DPTL) invested in Tea Estates in Malawi. To promote trade and investment from India, the Malawi High Commission has opened a business centre in Surat, Gujarat on 16th October 2013.

Lines of Credit /Grant Assistance:

In February, 2008, India extended to Malawi a Credit Line of US\$ 30 million and was utilized for small holder irrigation project, grain storage silos project and tobacco threshing unit. Another LOC of US\$ 50 million announced during the visit of Hon'ble Vice President to Malawi in January 2010 was fully utilized for setting up of three cotton ginning facilities, Greenbelt Initiative (project to improve irrigation network along lakes and major rivers by providing equipment for construction of canals for irrigation and irrigation equipment to farmers) and equipment for 'One Village One Product' project (equipment hire center for providing modern farming equipment and machinery to farmers and to set up Toor Dal processing center).

Under the LOC of US \$ 100 million offered during the visit of late President Mutharika to India in November 2010, proposals worth US\$ 76.5 million for development of fuel storage facilities, development of irrigation network and for setting up of refined sugar processing equipment under Greenbelt Initiative was approved by GOI in June 2012. The contract for the above projects was awarded to M/s Apollo International Ltd. in March 2013 and work is in progress.

Under a grant of US \$ 5 million offered during the visit of Vice President of India to Malawi in January 2010, Science and Laboratory equipment worth US\$ 1.5 million was handed over on 10th June 2012. Medical equipment worth US\$ 1.5 million consisting of mammography machines and ultra-sound machines as part of the above grant has arrived in Malawi and a formal ceremony of its installation was held at the Kamuzu Central Hospital on 5th February 2014.

Human Resource Development:

India is assisting Malawi in the field of capacity building through its ITEC programme and ICCR scholarships. The ITEC slots started as 10 in 2007-08 was

increased to 60 in 2012-13. From 2007-08 to 2013-14, over 250 Malawians have availed of ITEC civilian training programme in India. Malawi is also utilizing the 10 ICCR slots for long term courses. In addition, Malawi is utilizing the training programmes conducted under IAFS and special agricultural scholarships, CV Raman fellowships etc. Opening of mission in Lilongwe has increased the participation of candidates from Malawi.

Culture:

There have been a few ICCR sponsored cultural troupes from India to Malawi. A 10-member Thang-Ta Manipuri Martial Arts Group led by Mr. Laishram Rajen Singh and an 11-member Composite Group led by Ms. Ranjana Gauhar and Dr. Mustafa Raza visited Malawi in 2008. A 12-member National Dance troupe "Aka Kwacha" from Malawi participated in the Africa Festival held in New Delhi in May, 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.

A 10-member Rajasthani folk dance troupe led by Mrs. Moru Sapera of the Moru Sapera Dance Company, Jaipur visited Malawi from 24-27 April 2014. The High Commission, in association with Indian Country Club, Lilongwe and the Crossroads hotel organized a public performance at Sapitwa Hall, Crossroads hotel on 25th April 2014, which was attended by over 850 guests. In association with local distributors of Tata automobiles and Godrej, another public performance was organized at College of Pharmacy Sports Complex, Blantyre on 26th April 2014. The event was attended by over 600 guests that included Malawian, Chief Executives of private sectors, government officials, general public and Indian community. The two-hour programme enthralled the audience in both the places and made them spell bound as the artistes demonstrated intricate, swift and incredible body movements through different dance items.

Indian Community/PIO:

There are about 7000 Persons of Indian origin in Malawi. The number of Indian nationals is about 2000 and are mainly engaged in trading, Agriculture & Agro business and Pharmaceutical retail business, besides a few professionals. The members of the Indian community arrived in Malawi mainly from Gujarat. They are mainly concentrated in important cities such as Blantyre, Zomba, Lilongwe and Mzuzu.

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