

India-Malawi relations

Bilateral

The relations between India and Malawi are cordial and friendly. The two countries hold identical views on many regional, international and multilateral issues. India established diplomatic ties with Malawi in 1964, the year when Malawi gained its independence. The diplomatic mission was closed down in May 1993 and was reopened in March 2012. Our interests were looked after by our Mission in Zambia between May 1993 and February 2012. The first High Commissioner Shri Vanlalhuma assumed charge on 21st June 2013 and left Malawi on completion of his tour of duty on 13th June 2016. Shri Suresh Kumar Menon assumed charge as the new High Commissioner of India to Malawi on 09th August 2016. The current President of Malawi is Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika who was sworn in as the fifth President after May 2014 elections.

Malawi opened its Mission in Delhi in February, 2007. There is considerable goodwill among the Malawian leadership for India. Among large number of Malawian who have studied in India, there are some Malawi leaders who are alumni of Indian Universities viz. the former President of Malawi, Late Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika and Dr. George Chabonda, the current Malawi Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development.

Exchange of Visits

Major 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 Affairs, May 10-12, 2006.
2008	Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Food Security for Food Security Conference
2010	Late Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika, 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. Otria Jere, Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology for the India Africa Science and Technology Ministers Conference from 1-2 March 2012.
2012	Mr. John Bande, Minister of Industry and Trade and Mr. Mahommed Sidik 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.
2012	Prof. Peter Mwanza, Minister of Agriculture & Food Security and Mr. Ritchie Muheya, Minister of Water & Irrigation from 21- 30 September, 2012
2015	Mr. Henry Mussa, Minister of Labour & Manpower Development led delegation on study visit to India 20-24 April 2015 visiting National Skill

	Development Agency (NSDA) in New Delhi. He also met Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri. R.P. Rudy.
2015	A high-level delegation led by Dr. George Chabonda, Minister of Foreign Minister Affairs and International Cooperation attended the 3 rd India Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) in 26-29 October 2015 in New Delhi.
2016	Mr. Henry Mussa, Minister of Labour & Manpower Development visited India again in August 2016 for medical reasons. He also met Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri. R.P. Rudy and handed over invitation to visit Malawi.

Major Visits from India:

1964	Smt. Indira Gandhi, Minister of Information and Broadcasting to participate in celebration of Malawi's Independence.
1979	Shri Samrendra Kundu, MOS for External Affairs
2010	Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India from 7-9 January, 2010
2011	Smt. Preneet Kaur, Hon'ble MOS for External Affairs in May 2011 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister to handover invitation to President Bingu wa Mutharika to attend the 2 nd India-Africa Forum Summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
2015	Shri G.M. Siddeshwara, Hon'ble MOS for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises in July 2015 as Special Envoy of Prime Minister to hand over invitation to President Peter Mutharika to attend the 3 rd IAFS in New Delhi

Agreements

Agreements signed on 8 January, 2010 when Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri M.H. Ansari visited Malawi:

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

Agreements signed on 3 November, 2010 when President of Malawi H.E. Bingu wa Mutharika visited Malawi:

- General Cooperation Agreement
- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Mineral Resources Development
- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Rural Development
- MOU on Cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine

Economic & Commercial

Bilateral Trade: The trade figures for the period 2006-2015 between India and Malawi are as under:

(Figures in US\$ Million)

S.No.	Year	India's Export to Malawi	India's Imports from Malawi	Total Trade
1	2006-07	42.56	5.07	47.63
2	2007-08	64.34	15.64	79.98
3	2008-09	89.38	7.08	96.46
4	2009-10	81.36	103.76	185.12
5	2010-11	101.34	19.89	121.23
6	2011-12	148.26	22.83	171.09
7	2012-13	153.30	43.11	196.40
8	2013-14	221.05	15.15	236.20
9	2014-15	214.02	36.78	250.80
10	2015-16	176.13	64.31	240.44

(Source: www.commerce.nic.in)

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. The balance of trade is dominantly in favour of India.

Indian investment

There are 96 Indian companies registered in Malawi from 2005 till date. Indian companies in Malawi are engaged in agro processing, chemicals, energy, financial service & insurance, food processing, Information Technology & software development, logistics, textile, cosmetics & pharmaceuticals, cement, manufacturing, hotel & hospitality etc. The prominent ones are Bharti Airtel, Tech Mahindra, Hi Tos Linear Agency Pvt Ltd, Weismann Ltd, TATA, Mahindra, Godrej, Kirloskar, Ashok Leyland, TVS, and Bajaj Auto, Tech Mahindra, L & T, Kalpataru Power Transmission 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. Its office is located in the South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce of India, Surat.

To promote more business between the two countries, the High Commission of India has started issuing Business and Employment Visas to Malawi national free of charge with effect from December 2015 as per GOI instructions.

Lines of Credit to Malawi

Since 2008, the Government of India has extended and completed LOC projects worth US\$ 156.5 million for Malawi Government for various infrastructure development projects like Sugar Factory in Salima, Fuel Storage Facilities in three cities, Cotton Ginneries in three cities, Dal Processing Plants in two cities, green belt initiative and agriculture machinery. India has now approved US\$ 23.5 million Line of Credit to Government of Malawi and the agreement for Blantyre Water Project was signed on August 2016. This makes a total of US\$ 180.00 million worth of LOC by projects extended by GOI to Malawi.

Grants to Malawi

Under a grant of US \$ 5 million offered during the visit of Vice President of India to Malawi in January 2010, Science & Laboratory equipment worth US\$ 1.5 million and medical equipment worth US\$ 1.5 million consisting of mammography machines and ultra-sound have been handed over to Malawi government. US\$1 million worth of tractors and implements supplied by the Government of India were handed over in August 2015 to Government of Malawi. India extended a grant of US\$ 1 million to Government of Malawi for setting up Business Incubator Centre in Malawi. The agreement has been signed and a team from India would visit in January 2017 to finalize the site to locate the Centre.

A grant of US\$1 million worth of essential medicines and drugs were handed over to Government of Malawi on 1st July 2015 towards disaster relief operations in 2015. India has also provided a donation of medicines and tent ridges to the Government of Malawi in August 2016 towards disaster management operations worth US\$ 100,000 which has also been handed over to Department of Disaster Management in September 2016. The GOI has also extended another grant of US\$ 1 million in response to call for State of Disaster declared by President of Malawi in 2016. We are working on the details of how the grant could be utilized by Government of Malawi.

Pan Africa Agriculture Projects

It was decided during the 2nd Indo-Africa Form Summit in Addis Ababa in 2011 to locate India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development (IAIARD) at Lilongwe University of Agriculture & Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi. The project is being implemented by NABCONS, a subsidiary of NABARD. LUANAR had conveyed the cost estimates to NABCONS which has been accepted by NABCONS in February 2016 and is now expected to sign the MOU with the Ministry of External Affairs to allocate requisite funds to execute the project at the earliest. Since, the actual construction and completion of the IAIARD would take quite some time, GOI has decided to start training programme from a temporary location which has been identified and NABCONS would visit in January 2017 to approve it and the cost towards its refurbishment to start the classes.

Once operational, the institute is expected to provide training and education not only to Malawian students but students from other parts of Africa and will be a Pan-African Training Institute. NABCONS will operate the Institute for 3 years before handing it over to Government of Malawi.

Pan-African E-Network

Under the Government of India's Pan African e-network project, VVIP Video Conferencing facility at the New State House, Tele-medicine facility at the Kamuzu Central Hospital, and Tele-education facilities at the Chancellor College, Zomba, have been made functional. The multi- million dollar project was inaugurated through video-conferencing at the Chancellor College, Zomba on August 16, 2010 by Shri S M Krishna, External Affairs Minister of India and Mr. Symon Vuwa Kaunda, Minister of Information and Civic Education of Malawi. The Chancellor College held its first graduation ceremony for e-learning students on 14 December 2012 and the second one in December 2013 and third in April 2015. More than 2,000 Malawians have benefited under this programme. Every year 200 students pass out from Chancellor College under the e-network.

Cotton Technical Assistance Programme

The Cotton Technical Assistance Programme was started by Government of India in 2012 for African countries including Malawi and the first phase would be completed in September 2016. The programme strengthens the competitiveness of the cotton industry through technology transfer, enhanced capabilities of stakeholders, transferring best practices in cotton cultivation, R&D, extension systems through training, setting up of infrastructure facilities, high quality lint production, improved ginning facilities, development of residue based industry, and production of value added industry activities. The programme has already trained 200 participants and 25 trainers from Malawi through regional training and exposure visits in India. The programme has now been extended for further period of 5 years (2016-2020).

Government of India has set up the 'Skill School for Apparel Manufacturing' with 20 Industrial Sewing Machines, Books and Cutting equipment. The Skill School has trained the Master Trainers from Malawi and has the capacity to train 20 Malawians at a time. The project has been handed over to Government of Malawi in September 2016 along with certificates to the trainees. The school is located at Mkoka Agriculture Research Station in Malawi under IAFS-II.

Medical Tourism

India has also become a major destination for medical tourism from sub-Saharan region. Although South Africa is next door, but Malawians and most other Africans now prefer India for advanced medical treatment. The primary reason for India being preferred destination is its state of the art medical treatment at affordable rates as well as the reasonable cost of living in India. While Malawians visit India for medical treatment according to their personal choices/decision, Artemis Hospital in Gurgaon, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital & Medical Research Institute and Fortis have worked out an arrangement to facilitate medical treatment of government officials and others needing medical attention in India.

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, 65 in 2015-16, and to 80 in 2016-17. From 2007-08 to 2014-15 over 300 Malawians have availed of ITEC civilian training programme in India. Golden Jubilee of ITEC was celebrated in the Mission on December 5, 2014. Malawi is also utilizing the ICCR scholarships for long term courses. The number of scholarships has been increased from 15 in 2016-16 to 17 in 2017-18. 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. The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), New Delhi conducted a specialized Executive Development Programme in International Business in Lilongwe in collaboration with the Malawi Institute of Management in December 2014. India has also doubled the number of short-term ITEC scholarships to African countries including Malawi during the IAFS-III in October 2015. GOI has also offered to train Malawian doctors in India for a specialized training course in India ranging from 2 weeks to 6 months.

Cultural Relations

A 10-member Rajasthani dance troupe led by Meru Sapera sponsored by ICCR visited Malawi in April 2014 and performed in Lilongwe and Blantyre. A fusion music team led by Murad Ali sponsored by ICCR visited Malawi in October 2014 and performed at the Blantyre Arts Festival in Blantyre.

Indian Community/PIO

There are estimate of about 8000 Persons of Indian origin in Malawi who predominantly originated from Gujarat and are concentrated in important cities like Lilongwe, Blantyre, Zomba and Mzuzu. Persons of Indian origin, who have been here for over one generation, generally hold British passport. There are also a sizeable number of Indian origin people holding Malawian passport. The initial flow of Indians to Malawi was after Malawi became a British Protectorate in 1891. Indians were brought to Malawi/Mozambique for the Rail Project that was set up between Mozambique and Malawi. The number of Indian nationals at present is about 2500 including spouses and children hail from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and are primarily engaged in trading, agriculture and agro business and pharmaceutical retail business, hospitality, besides a few professionals.

Useful Resources

Facebook page: *'India in Malawi (High Commission of India, Lilongwe)'*

Twitter Account: *'India in Malawi'*

Website: *hcililongwe.in*

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