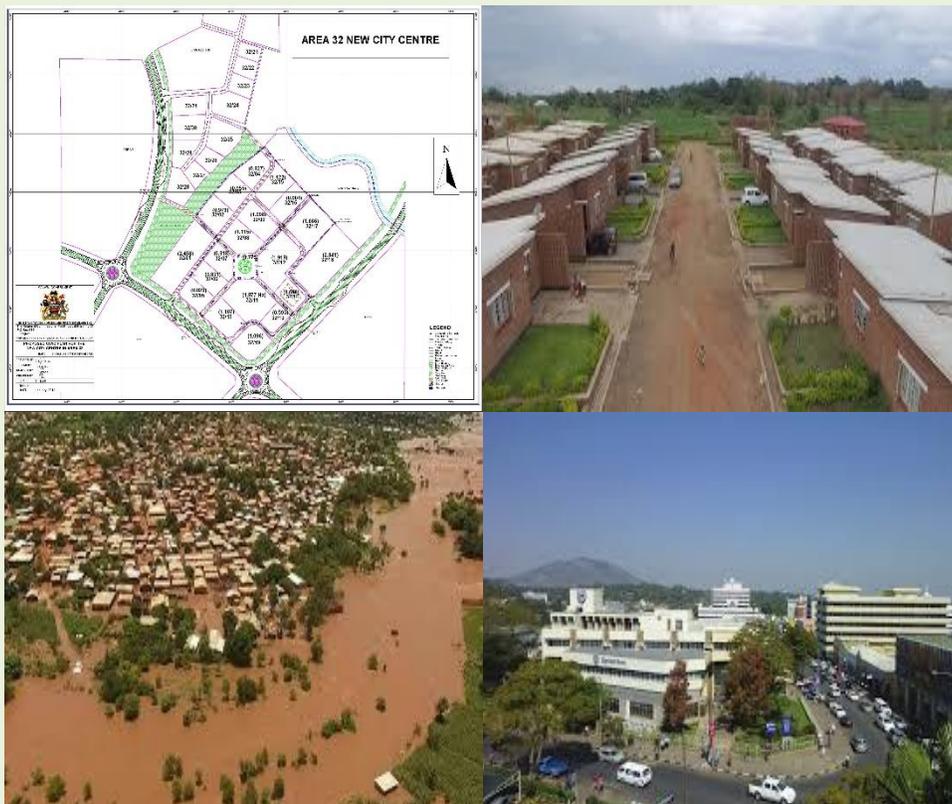




MALAWI GOVERNMENT



NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

APRIL 2019

Abridged Version

1.0 BACKGROUND

The National Urban Policy (NUP) seeks to create an enabling environment for the attainment of sustainable urbanization. Evidence demonstrates that sustainable urbanization plays a critical role in fostering national economic development. This Policy identifies key challenges that hinder achievement of this aspiration and presents the priority areas and strategies to address the challenges. The Policy highlights the need for strengthened institutional coordination among stakeholders to ensure smooth implementation of activities.

Malawi is one of the most rapidly urbanizing countries in the world, currently at 5% per annum, according to the Malawi Habitat III Report of 2015. The share of national population residing in urban areas has progressively increased from 6.4 percent of the national population at independence in 1964 to 10.1 percent in 1987 and was estimated at 17 per cent in 2018 (UNDESA 2018).

2.0 URBAN DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

- Unclear hierarchy of urban systems
- Weak urban governance
- Poor planning and management of urban development.
- Inadequate capacity to deliver urban infrastructure and services.
- Limited economic opportunities and urban poverty.
- Weak urban resilience to climate change, disaster risks and shocks.
- Social exclusion and inequitable urban development
- Limited financial resources to fund urban development

3.0 PROBLEM STATEMENT

Malawi continues to experience challenges in managing the country's rapid urbanization sustainably. Thus, urbanization in the country has grown against a backdrop of mushrooming

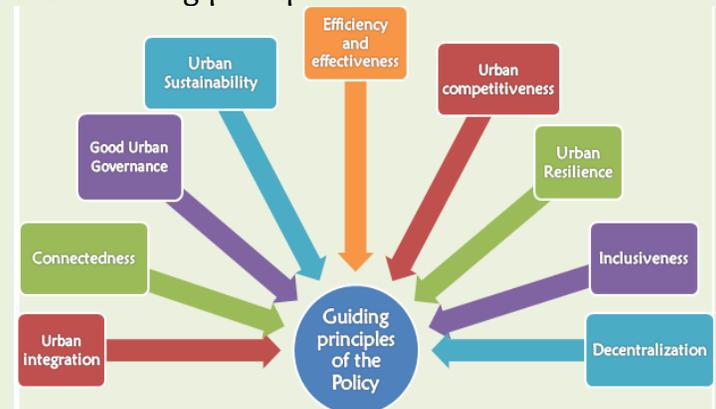
and expansion of informal settlements, inadequate infrastructure and basic service delivery, urban poverty and poor coordination in implementation of urban development programmes.

4.0 RATIONALE FOR NATIONAL URBAN POLICY

Malawi has had no comprehensive policy framework to guide its urbanisation agenda holistically. A comprehensive National Urban Policy will provide such guiding framework to assist in harnessing the benefits and opportunities of urbanisation process. It will provide the necessary direction and strategies to be implemented to support urban development.

5.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE POLICY

The National Urban Policy will be guided by the following principles:



6.0 POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

6.1 Spatially Balanced and Integrated Hierarchy of Urban Centers and Human Settlements.

Under this priority area the policy will seek to;

- Formulate a national spatial framework.
- Promote classification of urban Centres.
- Promote polycentric planning and development.
- Enhance cooperation and interconnection of urban networks.
- Ensure strong rural-urban linkages.
- Strengthen inter and intra physical connectivity and communication

networks amongst urban centres and rural areas.

- Strengthen institutional partnerships amongst local government authorities.
- Promote regional planning and development.
- Formulate a sustainable urban development programme.

6.2 Urban governance and coordinated urban development.

Under this priority area the policy will seek to;

- Develop legal framework for urban development
- Strengthen National and local urban based management structures
- Promote transparency, accountability and democratic decision making.
- Decentralize urban development functions.
- Harmonize and align policies to ensure coherence in urban development.
- Promote participation of non-state actors including professional bodies in urban development issues.



6.3 Integrated Planning and urban development

Under this priority area the policy will seek to;

- Formulate integrated urban development plans.
- Devolve urban planning and management functions.

- Facilitate capacity building programmes in local authorities.
- Promote high density, compact neighborhoods to curtail urban sprawl.
- Promote slum prevention, upgrading and urban renewal programmes.
- Strengthen development control and enforcement mechanisms.
- Promote creation of public amenities including open spaces and parks.
- Establish an integrated land management system for sustainable urban development.

6.4 Shelter, infrastructure and services

Under this priority area the policy will seek to;

- Develop human and technical capacity for urban development.
- Promote regular research on urban issues.
- Establish a harmonized urban development information system.
- Facilitate development and implementation of urban strategic plans for urban infrastructure and service provision.
- Facilitate development and optimum use of green infrastructure.
- Promote provision of sufficient energy
- Delivery of serviced land for all income groups is efficient and transparent.
- Facilitate transfer of land administration and management functions to Local Government Authorities in line with the provisions of the new land laws.
- Strengthen coordination mechanisms among land management agencies.

6.5 Competitive and inclusive urban economic development

Under this priority area the policy will seek to;

- Strengthen partnerships.
- Promote creation of special economic zones.
- Enhance security and safety in urban centers.
- Local economic development is promoted.

- Facilitate development of SMEs
- Facilitate implementation of local economic development initiatives.
- Facilitate access to capital for all income groups.
- Initiate social protection programmes.

6.6 Urban resilience, climate change adaptation and disaster risks management

Under this priority area the policy will seek to;

- Mainstream resilience in urban planning, development and management.
- Support the establishment and operations of urban disaster management structures.
- Promote climate change adaptation and mitigation programmes.

6.7 Socially inclusive urban development

Under this priority area the policy will seek to;

- Develop and implement communication strategy
- Promote the participation of the special groups in the formulation and implementation of urban development programs
- Mainstream gender, HIV/AIDS activities in urban development programme.
- Promote the development of programmes for social economic empowerment of special groups
- Integrate social inclusion into the design and implementation of urban development programmes.

6.8 Resource mobilization for urban development

Under this priority area the policy will seek to;

- Promote private sector participation in housing and urban infrastructure development
- Facilitate the establishment of Urban Development Fund.
- Develop innovative and sustainable financing mechanisms
- Promote and strengthen Public Private Partnerships in urban development.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

For effective and efficient implementation, the policy has laid out objectives and strategies for each priority area. The policy has also laid out a multisector collaboration and coordination by assigning roles, responsibilities and targets to all relevant stakeholders which include Government Departments, Local Government Authorities, The National Assembly, Private Sector, Academic and Research Institutions, NGO's and CSO's.

8.0 POLICY REVIEW

The policy will be reviewed after a period of five years from the date of its approval, after the key milestones and targets have been monitored and evaluated, and the coordination will be done by the Department of Urban Development within the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.



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