



# RAPPORTEURS' REPORT

## Optimising Energy, Oil, and Gas Production in Malawi

Report of the symposium on exploring energy, oil, and gas to achieve Pillar II of the Malawi Vision 2063, Bingu International Convention Centre, 18 July 2023, Lilongwe, Malawi.

Rapporteurs: **Dan Kuwali, LL.D.** | **Marion Chirwa-Kajombo, PhD** | **Prince Bright Majiga**



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Group photograph of Panelists and Session Moderators with Senior Officers from the Malawi Defence Force Command and Staff College in Salima

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## Acknowledgement

The Organisers of this Symposium are grateful to NICO Holdings PLC, Ener-G-Africa, and Illovo Sugar Company PLC for their timely and generous support that made it possible to hold the Symposium in collaboration with the National Planning Commission. Particularly, the Symposium would not have been possible if it were not for the platinum sponsorship of NICO Group of companies and its subsidiaries. The Symposium was held under the theme: "Optimising Energy, Oil, and Gas Production in Malawi." It was held on 18 July 2023 at the Bingu International Conference Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi.

## Rapporteurs

Prof Dan Kuwali is the Commandant of the National Defence College and Executive Director of the Centre for Strategic Studies. Dr Marion Chirwa-Kajombo is the Head of the Language and Communications Department at the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST). Captain Prince Bright Majiga is currently Officer Commanding of the Academic Affairs Department at the MDF Peace Support Operations Training Centre. He is also a Researcher at the Centre for Strategic Studies, MUST.

## Disclaimer

The Rapporteurs take full responsibility of the views expressed in this Symposium Report. The views expressed in this Report do not, in any way whatsoever, represent the views of the respective institutions the Rapporteurs serve nor those of the Partners who supported the hosting of the Symposium.

## Acronyms

<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>BICC</b>	Bingu International Convention Centre
<b>CSS</b>	Centre for Strategic Studies
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>MW2063</b>	Malawi 2063
<b>NDC</b>	National Defence College
<b>NPC</b>	National Planning Commission
<b>SADC</b>	Southern Africa Development Community
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UN</b>	United Nations



Dr Thomas Munthali, Director General of the National Planning Commission, making his remarks at the Symposium



## Executive Summary

The Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) at the National Defence College (NDC), in collaboration with the Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the National Planning Commission (NPC) held a Symposium at the Bingu wa Mutharika International Convention Centre (BICC), Lilongwe, on 18 July 2023 under the theme: "Optimising Energy, Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in Malawi."<sup>1</sup>

Despite various policies and programmes, Malawi remains largely energy insecure, a development ascribed to several factors, within and outside the country's control. Close to 60 years after independence, Malawi's heavy reliance on hydropower generation has proven to be a myopic approach to national economic development as it is often constrained by drought and low water levels, including flooding when it rains heavily. With a high population density of 172.23 people per square kilometre, Malawi has one of the lowest per capita gross domestic products (GDP) in the world. The country uses imported coal because the local power generation cannot manage to satisfy demand. Over and above the limited energy generation capacity, the country faces enormous challenges relating to transmission and distribution facilities, culminating in persistent power outages.

Therefore, this solution-oriented Symposium brought together thought leaders and industry experts to assess key social, political, economic, and environmental issues facing the energy sector with the view to identify measures that would inform strategies to revitalise the country's energy sector, promote energy stewardship, bolster efficiency and sustainability of power generation and supply towards accelerating the attainment of zero energy deficit and reduce energy insecurity in Malawi.

The overarching goal of the Symposium was in alignment with Malawi Vision 2063 of building an "Inclusively Wealthy and Self-reliant Nation." The inadequate availability and supply of energy limits industrialisation to realise Pillar 2 of Malawi Vision 2063 (MW2063), which is a catalyst necessary for socio-economic development that is key to achieving the other two pillars of agricultural production and commercialisation as well as urbanisation. Further, even though oil, gas, and mineral sectors are key priority areas that can lead to sustainable economic growth under industrialisation Pillar of MW2063, they have mostly been underutilised.

This Symposium provided a platform where local and foreign experts engaged in a fruitful exchange of ideas to overcome not only energy supply challenges to enable Malawi in order to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, which promotes access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, but also to navigate other contemporary issues of insecurities emanating from 'energy insecurity' in Malawi.

<sup>1</sup> The Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), in collaboration with the Malawi Defence Force (MDF), entered into partnership to establish a Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS), which is envisioned to address the overarching issue of development, not only in Malawi but the region as a whole. The CSS is a centre of excellence in maritime, defence, security studies, and international political economy. Traditionally, strategic studies, as an interdisciplinary academic field, is centred on the study of conflict and peace strategies with particular emphasis on the relationship between international and/or global politics, geo-strategy, international diplomacy, international economics, and military power.

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The Symposium drew 18 expert speakers into six thematic clusters each led by a seasoned moderator. The Symposium took the format of Panel Discussions where Panelists delivered policy-relevant and evidence-based presentations on key themes. Plenary sessions followed from each panel discussion, allowing for questions, and discussions informed by the presentation. The rapporteurs canvassed the major issues addressed at the Symposium to discern concrete and practical policy recommendations presented in this Symposium Report.

## Policy Recommendations

The following ten (10) key policy recommendations emerged from the Symposium:

Enhance renewable energy production to cease or reduce reliance on fossil fuels by investing more capital in the continued development of clean energy to reduce its carbon footprint even further. The country must develop educational benefits for the youth seeking to be a part of the new clean energy market.<sup>2</sup>



**L to R:** Prof Robert Voltera, Dr Sunduzwayo Madise, Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi, banging heads with the Vice Chancellor of MUST, Prof Address Malata.

<sup>2</sup> A shift in energy storage, charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, carbon-capturing technologies, and the development of innovations to run it all will create new jobs and demand workers with new skills.

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2. Incentivise the energy industry to make the energy space attractive for investors, especially in renewable energy.<sup>3</sup>
3. Expand carbon-based energy projects, including transportation, such as pipelines and rail, to refineries and export facilities. At the same time, the country should reduce carbon dioxide emissions to improve the environment using a diverse strategy.
4. Government should subsidise new technologies, reward businesses that develop the security of supply and incentivise industries that maintain clean energy affordability. Investors require security and need assurance that they will have a return on their investment. The country should have green finance, which should be ring-fenced with robust governance structures.<sup>4</sup>
5. Accountable governance is necessary for attracting investors and utilisation of revenue generated from energy, oil, and gas is used for national development and poverty alleviation.<sup>5</sup>
6. Develop and adopt clear and comprehensive strategies for coal, solar, and nuclear power to ensure that it is not only producing enough energy but also breaking “free from the shackles of dependence on a single form of energy.”<sup>6</sup>
7. Increase energy storage capabilities by enhancing research and development of technological know-how for building batteries, possibly using hydrogen and ammonia, to reduce global power's current advantage in mineral development.
8. Optimise nuclear power to fill the gap and providing grid stability that intermittent renewable sources cannot achieve. The nuclear power sector should be encouraged to make investments to provide a safe, diverse, and efficient electrical grid that ensures energy security in the country. The government must consider the development, manufacturing, and construction of nuclear power plants and infrastructure.<sup>7</sup>
9. Enhance rural electrification to provide power to the majority of Malawians who make up over 80 per cent of the population living, relying on fuelwood for domestic energy supply. This reliance on biomass has had severe environmental consequences, leading to deforestation, indoor pollution, and poor water quality.<sup>8</sup>
10. Promote energy stewardship so that any exploration and drilling activities, especially on Lake Malawi, must be conducted with utmost care and adherence to stringent environmental standards.



**L to R:** Chief Executive Officer of NBS Bank, Mr Kwanele Ngwenya, Group Managing Director of NICO Holdings, Mr Vizenge Kumwenda, and NICO Holdings' Group General Council, Mrs Emily Makuta.

<sup>3</sup> Remarks by Mr Ben Wandawanda at the Energy Symposium.

<sup>4</sup> Remarks by Mr Kwanele Ngwenya at the Centre for Strategic Studies, National Defence College the Energy Symposium, which was held under the theme: “Optimising Energy, Oil, and Gas Production in Malawi” on 18 July 2023 at the Bingu International Conference Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi (“Energy Symposium”).

<sup>5</sup> Keynote address by Dr Sunduzwayo Madise at the Energy Symposium, 6.

<sup>6</sup> Madise, “Keynote Address,” 3.

<sup>7</sup> Dan Kuwali, “Reenergising National Security in Malawi,” Paper prepared for the Energy Symposium, which was held under the theme: “Optimising Energy, Oil, and Gas Production in Malawi” on 18 July 2023 at the Bingu International Conference Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi (“Energy Symposium”), 4.

<sup>8</sup> Madise, “Keynote Address,” 1.



## Introduction

For more than a decade, Malawi has looked to the extractive sector as a potential engine of the economy and a major additional source of government revenue. However, our national expectations have not been met. Yet, in the context of our national development agenda, the importance of this sector to the development of Malawi, cannot be overemphasised. This solution-oriented Symposium brought together thought leaders and industry experts to assess key social, political, economic, and environmental issues facing the energy sector with the view to identify measures that would inform strategies to revitalise the country's energy sector, promote energy stewardship, bolster efficiency and sustainability of power generation and supply towards accelerating the attainment of zero energy deficit and reduce energy insecurity in Malawi.

The Symposium drew as its point of departure, the Malawi Vision 2063 (MW 2063) that seeks to build an 'Inclusively Wealthy and Self-reliant Industrialized Upper-Middle-Income Country'.<sup>9</sup> It is noted that inadequate availability and supply of energy limits industrialisation to realise Pillar 2 of MW2063, which is a catalyst necessary for socio-economic development that is key to achieving the other two pillars of agricultural production and commercialisation as well as urbanisation. Further, the mineral sector is one of the key priority areas that can lead to sustainable economic growth under industrialisation Pillar of MW2063.

Malawi's heavy reliance on hydropower generation has proven to be a myopic approach to national economic development as it is often constrained by drought and low water levels, including flooding when it rains heavily. With a high population density of 172.23 people per square kilometre, Malawi has one of the lowest per capital gross domestic product (GDP) in the world.<sup>10</sup>

Despite the adoption of the 2019 Energy Policy, extensive reforms, and partner support in the energy sector, hydroelectricity, fossil fuels and biomass that are the most frequently used sources of energy; Malawi cannot meet the increased energy demand in the country.

Over and above the limited energy generation capacity, the country faces enormous challenges relating to transmission and distribution facilities, culminating in persistent power outages. The energy sector is also severely hit by environmental degradation resulting from deforestation. It is imperative for the country to begin to diversify its energy sources beyond hydropower, investment in new infrastructure to improve supply and security to meet the fast-growing demand for renewable energy in the country. Furthermore, threats to individual human wellbeing such as energy insecurity, climate insecurity, food/water scarcity, resource shortages, population growth, just to name a few, must be constantly on Malawi's security radar.

<sup>9</sup> National Planning Commission (2020) Malawi Vision 2063: An Inclusively Wealthy and Self-reliant Nation, Lilongwe

<sup>10</sup> The World Bank, 2023 available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/malawi/overview> accessed 16 July 2023.

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## Objectives of the Symposium

The Symposium brought together thought leaders and industry experts to critically reflect on the country's implementation of its international law obligations and its foreign policy dynamics including achievements, challenges, and prospects in international affairs in light of a changing regional and global environment. The meeting also provided a platform where local and foreign experts exchanged ideas to address challenges in the energy, oil, and gas sectors in the country to optimise exploration and production. Generally, the Symposium sought to achieve the following two key objectives:

1. To assess key social, political, economic, and environmental issues facing the energy sector with the view to identify measures that would inform strategies to revitalise the country's energy sector, promote energy stewardship, bolster efficiency and sustainability of power generation and supply towards accelerating the attainment of zero energy deficit and reduce energy insecurity in Malawi.
2. To generate ideas to overcome not only the energy supply challenges to enable Malawi in order to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7, which promotes access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all, but also to navigate other contemporary issues of insecurities emanating from 'energy insecurity' in Malawi.



**L to R:** Secretary for Homeland Security and Former Inspector General of Police, Mr Oliver Kumbambe, listening to Brigadier General Luke Yetala, Commandant of the MDF Command and Staff College.

The deliberations at the Symposium were focused on six broad themes: industrialisation: realising Pillar Two of the Malawi Vision 2063; mapping expansion of the Malawi energy, oil, and gas landscape; energy and national security; negotiating energy, oil, and gas agreements; private sector involvement in the energy sector; and the role of traditional and community leaders in the energy sector.

In his Keynote Address at the beginning of the Symposium, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi, Dr Sunduzwayo Madise set the tone by remarking that the event served “as a pivotal platform for us to collectively address the pressing challenges and seize the immense opportunities facing Malawi's energy sector.” Dr Madise echoed Professor Address Malata, the Vice Chancellor of MUST, who called on participants to deliberate on the future of energy exploration and production in Malawi with a profound sense of responsibility and shared vision. Dr Madise noted that the overarching goal of this Symposium is in perfect alignment with to achieve the audacious aspiration of an inclusively wealthy and self-reliant nation outlined in the vision of Malawi 2063.

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Dr Madise noted that the country's "energy supply is deficient and unreliable" hence the "need to reverse this trajectory if we are to get on the road to Malawi 2063 in earnest." The University of Malawi Deputy Vice Chancellor called for unlocking "the true potential of our energy resources, promote energy stewardship, enhance efficiency, and ensure the sustainability of power generation and supply." As a way forward, the keynote address recommended that the country should develop its energy sector by diversifying energy sources, reducing overdependence on hydro-generated power, and embracing renewable and sustainable energy solutions.

At the end of the Symposium, the Group Managing Director for NICO Holdings PLC, Mr Vizenge Kumwenda, applauded the Symposium as "very enlightening and impactful" while one of the panelists, Dr. Leonard Kalindekaffe, an Associate Professor and Director of Mining at the Malawi National Service, hailed it as "a success having open and frank discussions." One of the Moderators, Dr Candida Nakhumwa touted the Symposium as "a very valuable forum for policy debate and recommendations." On his part, Inkosi ya Makosi M'belwa V appreciated for being invited as a panelist as it was "important for traditional leaders to be involved in discussion of issues of national importance."

## Industrialisation: Realising Pillar Two of The Malawi 2063

The energy sector plays a pivotal role in driving economic growth, enhancing living standards, and meeting the increasing energy demands of its population. However, the power sector in Malawi is small, if not the smallest, in sub-Saharan Africa with a capacity of about 500 megawatts and serving 11 percent of the population. Of a total population of about 20 million, 13 per cent are urban dwellers in Malawi and 4 per cent have access to electricity. At 150 kilowatts per hour per capita, the country is the least in terms of consumption of energy in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>11</sup> However, the country is endowed with significant renewable energy resources, including hydrocarbons yet to be explored. The possibility of oil seeps in Lake Malawi and the geological and structural setting of the East African Rift System offers an opportunity for the country to diversify its energy sources.

The Malawi Vision 2063 (MW 2063) seeks to build an 'Inclusively Wealthy and Self-reliant Industrialized Upper-Middle-Income Country'. However, inadequate availability and supply of energy limits industrialisation to realise Pillar 2 of MW2063, which is a catalyst necessary for socio-economic development that is key to achieving the other two pillars of agricultural production and commercialisation as well as urbanisation.



A cross-section of the participants listening to the opening address.



Further, energy deficit stalls the mineral sector is one of the key priority areas that can lead to sustainable economic growth under industrialisation Pillar of MW2063.

To build an equitable, clean, and resilient energy future-which is urgently needed to mitigate the existential risk posed by climate change-the nation must first overcome its energy deficit and achieve energy security. The country should diversify its oil and natural gas refinement, transportation network, and export facilities to create resiliency in response to climate change and reduce risk emanating from geopolitical energy insecurity. For example, the government should offer tax incentives to energy firms to invest in new infrastructure to diversify the distribution of oil and natural gas to refineries located in areas other than the traditional spots.

Specific government policies and investments are required to support the significant shift from fossil fuels are required to spur development, support the transition of the oil and gas sectors, and force a change in world energy development in line with Pillar II of the Malawi Vision 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7. As energy affects almost all aspects of life, execution of the Energy and National Security Policies should take a whole-of-government approach. Government should create a supportive policy environment, including tax incentives, clear regulations, and equitable profit-sharing arrangements to attract investments and stimulate the growth of the energy, oil, and gas sector.<sup>12</sup> Success will be measured not only by economic growth but also by the well-being and prosperity of the people. In the development of the energy, oil, and gas sectors, the government must prioritise social inclusivity, equitable distribution of resources, and environmental sustainability in every effort.<sup>13</sup>



**From L to R:** Mr Fredrick Josiya, Dr Andrew Jamali, Prof Jonathan Makuwira, and Mr Vizenge Kumwenda

<sup>11</sup> Remarks by Dr Leonard Kalindekafa at the Centre for Strategic Studies, National Defence College the Energy Symposium, which was held under the theme: "Optimising Energy, Oil, and Gas Production in Malawi" on 18 July 2023 at the Bingu International Conference Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi ("Energy Symposium").

<sup>12</sup> Madise, "Keynote Address," 1-2.

<sup>13</sup> Madise "Keynote Address," 6.

## Mapping Expansion of The Malawi Energy, Oil, and Gas Landscape

The continued use of fossil fuels negatively impacts the environment, accelerates climate change, and causes serious health problems. Government should designate locations for, approve and fund, renewable energy sources (wind, solar farms). The transition to cleaner energy will require workers with new skills thereby creating new jobs and new skills for people, especially the youth. The new infrastructure.

The country is endowed with vast renewable energy resources, including hydrocarbons that are yet to be explored in Lake Malawi. Malawi should seize the opportunity to diversify its energy sources than solely depending on hydropower as a primary source of energy. However, as Malawi strives to diversify energy resources, the country must strike a delicate balance between economic growth and environmental sustainability. Our actions today will determine the legacy we leave for future generations. To this end, Government must ensure that energy exploration and production are carried out with strict adherence to environmental regulations and investing in clean technologies to safeguard the environment.

To optimize energy, oil, and gas exploration and production, the country must prioritize investment in research and innovation to develop the energy infrastructure. Research institutions and industry experts must develop cutting-edge technologies and methodologies in the energy, oil, and gas sectors. From exploring renewable energy sources to implementing advanced oil and gas extraction techniques, innovation will be the cornerstone of sustainable energy practices in Malawi.<sup>14</sup>

The country must continue to invest in renewable energy resources. State ownership and control with a protracted monopoly by the public sector power utilities have contributed to the stunted growth of the sector. Therefore, the government should step up and support reform by separation of generation, transmission, and distribution of power in the country through commercialisation or privatisation.

Diversification of energy sources will result in jobs and economic development for Malawians, especially the youth. The government must work with automobile manufacturers and suppliers to make the initial costs of electric vehicles more affordable. Since oil and gas exploration is a long and complex process that requires time, investment, and global market dynamics to align favourably, nuclear is critical to the country's transition from fossil fuels to renewables. The country should use the available uranium to generate its own electricity. If the government country does not solve the electricity and environmental degradation problems, the country will not solve the deforestation problem that has emanated from the use of firewood for domestic energy needs.<sup>15</sup> Government should address the energy injustice where power is mostly available to the people in urban areas at the expense of those in the rural areas. To do this, the government should drive small-scale rural electrification and diverse energy sources.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Madise "Keynote Address," 4-6.

<sup>15</sup> Madise, "Keynote Address," 1.

<sup>16</sup> Remarks by Inkosi ya Makosi M'belwa at the Energy Symposium.



From L to R: Mr Daud Suleman, Mr Lincoln Bailey, and Dr Candida Nakhumwa.

## Energy and National Security

Malawi, being a land-locked country, has excessive dependence on foreign oil, which is a clear and present risk to the country's economy and security. This state of affairs emanates from a host of reasons including political, economic, social, and technical. Madise sounded an alarm with regards to electricity where the country mostly relies on the Shire River for electricity by asking what would happen if it ran dry, or indeed flowed backwards.<sup>17</sup> Kuwali notes that there are at least three challenges regarding energy that impact national security. First is the energy deficit. First, is the energy deficit. Despite the adoption of Malawi's 2019 Energy Policy, which contains significant reforms, and partner support in the energy sector, the nation is unable to meet the rising demand for energy. This insufficiency introduces a state of vulnerability for the country. Second, the three types of energy that are most frequently used either contribute to, or are affected by, climate change are biomass, fossil fuels, and hydroelectricity. Third is the disjointed or silos approach in the implementation of the Energy and National Security Policies.<sup>18</sup>

The country needs to address the issue of energy security and independence. Malawi, like many other countries, relies heavily on imported energy sources.

Embracing a pragmatic approach to energy exploration and production can pave the way for greater self-reliance. By developing our domestic energy resources, we reduce our dependence on external suppliers, stabilize energy prices, and mitigate the impact of global energy fluctuations. In doing so, we would also be reducing our import bill, saving forex and starting the journey towards a positive balance of payment.<sup>19</sup>

Considering the current energy interdependence, Malawi should also maintain a cordial relationship with its neighbours and tap into their energy sector and resources.<sup>20</sup> The country should capitalize of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) power pool together with the Tanzanian and Mozambican energy production networks. To reverse the negative effects of climate change, national security leaders must recognise the difficulties presented by it and take immediate action while relying on the liberal international rules-based order.

<sup>17</sup> Keynote address by Dr Sunduzwayo Madise at the Energy Symposium. A copy is on file with the author.

<sup>18</sup> Kuwali, "Reenergising National Security in Malawi," 2.

<sup>19</sup> Madise, "Keynote Address."

<sup>20</sup> Kuwali, "Reenergising National Security in Malawi," 4.



The Director General of National Intelligence Service, Mr Dokani Ngwira, and Dr Atikonda Mtenje-Mkochi of MUST

## Negotiating Energy, Oil, and Gas Agreements

By and large, Malawi has demonstrated inability to negotiate energy, oil, and gas deals over the years. It is critical for policy makers and legal experts to understand that energy is divided into electricity and hydrocarbons and require different approaches. Since corruption has contributed to the dispiriting situation in the energy sector in Malawi, the industry should be insulated from the interference of the political class and the state bureaucracy.<sup>21</sup> There should be minimal government interference in the energy sector as a whole, in particular tariff setting. The role of the government should be limited to policy making and the setting up of a legal and regulatory framework that is appropriate to the changes. All else should be left to market forces.<sup>22</sup> The country should also develop capacity to negotiate energy, oil, and gas deals for the benefit of the country as a whole.<sup>23</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Kuwali, "Reenergising National Security in Malawi."

<sup>22</sup> M R Bhagavan (ed), "Introduction," *Reforming the Power Sector in Africa*, (London: Zed Books Ltd), 5-6.

<sup>23</sup> Remarks by Professor Robert Voltera at the Energy Symposium. See also remarks by Mr Patrick Mpaka at the Energy Symposium.

## Private Sector Involvement in the Energy Sector

The private sector has a critical role in the development of the energy, oil, and gas industry in the country. Government must create an enabling environment for businesses to attract investment in environment-related sectors and energy projects. The industry requires bankable projects that can attract both foreign and domestic investment. The private sector cannot invest in projects that are not sustainable or have no economic potential. Development partners' support also play a pivotal role in bolstering efforts to tackle climate change and adapt to its impacts. However, Malawi needs to exercise care and not end up dancing to other actors' tune.

The private sector, with its entrepreneurial spirit and financial resources, is a key player in advancing energy, oil, and gas exploration and production in Malawi. Private companies can invest in modern exploration techniques, infrastructure development, and sustainable energy projects. By adopting best practices in corporate social responsibility, the private sector can also contribute to the well-being of local communities, fostering a positive relationship and trust with stakeholders.



## The Role of Traditional Community Leaders in the Energy Sector

Traditional leaders play a vital role in preserving cultural heritage and maintaining the balance between economic development and environmental sustainability. As custodians of ancestral lands and resources, they have the responsibility to ensure that exploration and production activities respect the delicate ecosystems and the livelihoods of local communities. Traditional leaders are an entry point and pivotal to success. Their deep-rooted knowledge of the land and its people can contribute significantly to crafting policies that prioritise sustainable practices and foster positive relationships between stakeholders. In developing the energy, oil, and gas sectors in the country, attention should be paid to communities affected by energy exploration and production. Engaging in community development initiatives and addressing social issues related to energy operations will create a harmonious relationship between the industry and the people it serves. <sup>24</sup> Government should encourage cooperatives (community-based systems) to engage in industrialisation. The government and private sector must continue to sensitise the population about the benefits of renewable energy. Experts believe that fossil fuels will be totally depleted by the year 2060. This runs counter to aspirations in Malawi's 2063 Vision, suggesting that we may be running out of time. <sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Madise, "Keynote Address."

<sup>25</sup> Kuwali, "Reenergising National Security in Malawi," 3.



Inkosi ya Makosi M'belwa V making his point



Professor Blessings Chinsinga moderating the last session

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## Policy Recommendations

The following ten (10) key policy recommendations emerged from the Symposium:

- Enhance renewable energy production to cease or reduce reliance on fossil fuels by investing more capital in the continued development of clean energy to reduce its carbon footprint even further. The country must develop educational benefits for the youth seeking to be a part of the new clean energy market.<sup>26</sup>
2. Incentivise the energy industry to make the energy space attractive for investors, especially in renewable energy.<sup>27</sup>
3. Expand carbon-based energy projects, including transportation, such as pipelines and rail, to refineries and export facilities. At the same time, the country should reduce carbon dioxide emissions to improve the environment using a diverse strategy.
4. Government should subsidise new technologies, reward businesses that develop the security of supply and incentivise industries that maintain clean energy affordability. Investors require security and need assurance that they will have a return on their investment. The country should have green finance, which should be ring-fenced with robust governance structures.<sup>28</sup>
5. Accountable governance is necessary for attracting investors and utilisation of revenue generated from energy, oil, and gas is used for national development and poverty alleviation.<sup>29</sup>
6. Develop and adopt clear and comprehensive strategies for coal, solar, and nuclear power to ensure that it is not only producing enough energy but also breaking “free from the shackles of dependence on a single form of energy.”<sup>30</sup>
7. Increase energy storage capabilities by enhancing research and development of technological know-how for building batteries, possibly using hydrogen and ammonia, to reduce global power's current advantage in mineral development.
8. Optimise nuclear power to fill the gap and providing grid stability that intermittent renewable sources cannot achieve. The nuclear power sector should be encouraged to make investments to provide a safe, diverse, and efficient electrical grid that ensures energy security in the country. The government must consider the development, manufacturing and construction of nuclear power plants and infrastructure.<sup>31</sup>
9. Enhance rural electrification to provide power to the majority of Malawians who make up over 80 per cent of the population living, relying on fuelwood for domestic energy supply. This reliance on biomass has had severe environmental consequences, leading to deforestation, indoor pollution, and poor water quality.<sup>32</sup>
10. Promote energy stewardship so that any exploration and drilling activities, especially on Lake Malawi, must be conducted with utmost care and adherence to stringent environmental standards.

<sup>26</sup> A shift in energy storage, charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, carbon-capturing technologies, and the development of innovations to run it all will create new jobs and demand workers with new skills.

<sup>27</sup> Remarks by Mr Ben Wandawanda at the Energy Symposium.

<sup>28</sup> Remarks by Mr Kwanele Ngwenya at the Centre for Strategic Studies, National Defence College the Energy Symposium, which was held under the theme: “Optimising Energy, Oil, and Gas Production in Malawi” on 18 July 2023 at the Bingu International Conference Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi (“Energy Symposium”).

<sup>29</sup> Keynote address by Dr Sunduzwayo Madise at the Energy Symposium, 6.

<sup>30</sup> Madise, “Keynote Address,” 3.

<sup>31</sup> Kuwali, “Reenergising National Security in Malawi,” 4.

<sup>32</sup> Madise, “Keynote Address,” 1.





Directing Staff from the MDF Command and Staff College keenly following the proceedings



A cross-section of participants with Ener-G-Africa's Tendayi Rashid in the background

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The contributions during the plenary sessions immensely enriched the discussions

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## Annex I-Symposium Programme

## PROGRAMME

OPTIMISING ENERGY, OIL AND  
GAS PRODUCTION IN MALAWI

THE ENERGY SYMPOSIUM  
TO ACHIEVE PILLAR II OF THE MALAWI VISION 2063  
18 JULY 2023



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## TUESDAY, 18 JULY 2023

- Venue** : Bingu wa Mutharika International Convention Centre, Lilongwe, Malawi.
- 09:00 - 10:00** : **Welcome Remarks and Launch of the Centre for Strategic Studies.**  
 : **Co-Host: Prof Address Malata**, Vice Chancellor, Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST).  
 : **Co-Host: Maj Gen Francis Kakhuta Banda**, Commander, Malawi Maritime Force.  
 : **Co-Host: Dr Thomas Munthali**, Director General, National Planning Commission (NPC).  
 : **Keynote: Dr Sunduzwayo Madise**, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Malawi.
- 10:00 - 10:10** : **NICO GROUP PLC Presentation: Ms Lorraine Phiri**, Group Head of Marketing and Customer Experience, NICO Group PLC.
- 10:10 - 10:30** : **Coffee Break and Group Photograph**
- 10:30 - 11:30** : **Session 1: "Industrialisation: Realising Pillar Two of the Malawi 2063"**  
 : **Chair: Mr Vizenge Kumwenda**, Group Managing Director, NICO Holding PLC.  
 : **Prof Jonathan Makuwira**, Deputy Vice Chancellor, MUST.  
 : **Dr Andrew Jamali**, Head of Research, NPC.  
 : **Mr Fredrick Josiya**, Oil and Gas Expert, Ndata School of Climate and Earth Sciences, MUST.
- 11:30 - 12:30** : **SESSION 2: "Mapping Expansion of the Malawi Energy, Oil, and Gas Landscape"**  
 : **Chair: Dr Candida Nakhumwa**, Country Director, Agricultural Transformation Initiative, Malawi.  
 : **Dr Leonard Kalindekaffe**, Director of Mining, Malawi National Service and former Secretary for Mining, Malawi Government.  
 : **Mr Lincoln Bailey**, Chief Executive Officer, Rukuru Power Company Limited.  
 : **Mr Daud Suleman**, Director General, Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA).
- 12:30 - 13:30** : **Lunch**
- 13:30 - 14:30** : **SESSION 3: "Energy and National Security"**  
 : **Chair: Dr. Atikonda Mtenje - Mkochi**, Director, Bingu School of Culture and Heritage, MUST.  
 : **Ambassador Oliver Kumbambe**, Secretary for Homeland Security, former Inspector General of the Malawi Police Service and former Deputy Ambassador, Brussels.  
 : **Mr Dokani Ngwira**, Director General, National Intelligence Services.  
 : **Brig Gen Luke Mwetseni Yetala**, Commandant, MDF Command and Staff College.
- 14:30 - 15:30** : **SESSION 4: Negotiating Energy, Oil, and Gas Agreements**  
 : **Chair: Mr Kalekeni Kaphale**, SC, Former Attorney General, Malawi and Partner, Kalekeni Kaphale Lawyers.  
 : **Prof Robert G. Voltera**, Partner, Volterra Fietta, London, United Kingdom.  
 : **Mr Patrick Mpaka**, President, Malawi Law Society, Lilongwe.  
 : **Mrs Emily Makuta**, Group General Counsel and Head of Compliance, NICO Holdings PLC.

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**15:30 - 15:45 : Health Break**

**15:45 - 16:45 : SESSION 5: Private Sector Involvement in the Energy Sector**

- : **Chair: Mrs Priscilla Sani-Chimwele**, Chief Executive Officer, Wala Limited.
- : **Mr Ben Wandawanda**, C-Suite Banking Executive and Consultant, Lilongwe.
- : **Mr Kwanele Ngwenya**, Executive Director, NBS Bank.
- : **Dr John Taulo**, Head of Department of Energy, MUST.

**16:45 - 17:45 : SESSION 6: The Role of Traditional Community Leaders in the Energy Sector**

- : **Chair: Prof Blessings Chinsinga**, Professor of Governance, University of Malawi and Director, Centre for Social Research.
- : **Paramount Chief M'belwa V, Paramount Chief, Mzimba.**
- : **Dr Joseph Chizotera Mkandawire**, Secretary for Mining, Malawi.
- : **Lt Col Wana Wuludi**, Commanding Officer of the Transport Battalion, Zambia Army.

**End of Programme**



Mrs Priscilla Sani-Chimwele chairing a session



Maj Gen Francis Kakhuta-Banda, Commander of the Maritime Force, delivering opening remarks on behalf of the Defence Force Commander, Gen (Dr) Paul Valentino Phiri



Ms Lorraine Phiri, Group Head of Marketing and Customer Experience, NICO Holdings PLC



Dr Leonard Kalindekafe, Director of Mining of the Malawi National Service sharing his wealth of experience



## Annex II-List of Participants



The Chief Executive Officer of the Malawi Energy Generating Company (EGENCO), Mr William Liabunya, provided valuable insights

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The former Attorney General of the Republic of Malawi, Senior Counsel Kalekeni Kapphale poses a question to Professor Robert Voltera of Voltera Fietta, London



Lieutenant Colonel Wana Wuludi of Zambia Army sharing her thoughts and insights



Mr Lincoln Baily, Chief Executive Officer of Rukuru Power Company listening to other Panelists



The President of the Malawi Law Society, Counsel Patrick Mpaka, was one of the Panelists

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## List of Participants

- |                                  |                                                |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Prof Address Malata           | MUST                                           |
| 2. Maj Gen Francis Kakhuta Banda | Malawi Maritime Force                          |
| 3. Dr Sunduzwayo Madise          | University of Malawi                           |
| 4. Mr Vizenge Kumwenda           | NICO Holding PLC                               |
| 5. Dr. Thomas Munthali           | National Planning Commission                   |
| 6. Dr Andrew Jamali              | National Planning Commission                   |
| 7. Dr Fredrick Josiya            | MUST                                           |
| 8. Dr Candida Nakhumwa           | Agricultural Transformation Initiative, Malawi |
| 9. Dr Leonard Kalindekafe        | Director of Mining, Malawi National Service    |
| 10. Mr Lincoln Bailey            | Rukuru Power Company Ltd                       |
| 11. Mr Daudi Suleman             | Malawi Communication Regulatory Authority      |
| 12. Mrs Mary Dominica Kachale    | Ministry of Foreign Affairs                    |
| 13. Ambassador Oliver Kumbambe   | Ministry of Home Affairs                       |
| 14. Brig Gen Luke Yetala         | MDF Command and Staff College                  |
| 15. Brig Gen (Prof) Dan Kuwali   | National Defence College                       |
| 16. Mr. Dokani Ngwira            | National Intelligence Services                 |
| 17. Mr Kalekeni Kaphale          | Kalekeni Kaphale Lawyers                       |
| 18. Dr. Robert G. Voltera        | Volterra Fietta                                |
| 19. Mr Patrick Mpaka             | Malawi Law Society                             |
| 20. Mrs Emily Makuta             | NICO Holdings PLC                              |
| 21. Ms Priscilla Sani-Chimwele   | Wala Limited                                   |
| 22. Mr. Benhamin Wandawanda      | C-Suite Banking Consultant                     |
| 23. Mr. Kwanele Ngwenya          | NBS Bank                                       |
| 24. Dr John Taulo                | MUST                                           |
| 25. Prof Blessings Chinsinga     | University of Malawi                           |
| 26. Paramount Chief M'belwa II   | Mzimba District                                |
| 27. Mr Mpatso Chikoti            | Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources       |
| 28. Dr Marion Chirwa-Kajombo     | MUST                                           |
| 29. Lt Col Wadi Wuludi           | MDF Command and Staff College (Zambia Army)    |
| 30. Mr William Liabunya          |                                                |
| 31. Brig Gen PBZ Chilangwe       | Malawi Defence Force                           |
| 32. Brig Gen John Chaika         | Malawi National Service                        |
| 33. Brig Gen Cleveland Kachala   | Malawi Defence Force                           |
| 34. Brig Gen LGD Phiri           | Ministry of Defence                            |
| 35. Brig Gen Blaise Saenda       | Office of the President and Cabinet            |
| 36. Col Rose Nalibwe             | Malawi Maritime Force                          |
| 37. Mr Emmanuel Kambale          | Office of the President and Cabinet            |

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## List of Participants

38. Ms Rhoda Lupoka	Office of the President and Cabinet
39. Ms Mary Chingaipe	Office of the President and Cabinet
40. Mr Daught Banda	Office of the President and Cabinet
41. Mr Patrick Kayo	Office of the President and Cabinet
42. Ms Sally Masoakhumbila	Office of the President and Cabinet
43. Col KB Gwembere	MDF Command and Staff College
44. Col HL Phiri	MDF Command and Staff College
45. Col SH Chibwana	MDF Command and Staff College
46. Lt Col Vikazwe	MDF Command and Staff College
47. LtCol I Machangoh	MDF Command and Staff College
48. LtCol NJ Mphonje	MDF Command and Staff College
49. LtCol B Sitali	MDF Command and Staff College
50. LtCol PM Mhone	MDF Command and Staff College
51. LtCol RA Tembo	MDF Command and Staff College
52. LtCol N Kosgey	MDF Command and Staff College
53. LtCol S Wamukoya	MDF Command and Staff College
54. LtCol JK Singini	MDF Command and Staff College
55. LtCol S Mwangi	MDF Command and Staff College
56. LtCol V Moyo	MDF Command and Staff College
57. LtCol JC Mdokhwe	MDF Command and Staff College
58. LtCol DD Mkadya	MDF Command and Staff College
59. LtCol PP Chiphwanya	MDF Command and Staff College
60. LtCol HW Zawanda	MDF Command and Staff College
61. LtCol AEB Mbuna	MDF Command and Staff College
62. LtCol NA Chilamba	MDF Command and Staff College
63. LtCol K Chisembe	MDF Command and Staff College
64. LtCol DL Kaliati	MDF Command and Staff College
65. LtCol RT Nguluwe	MDF Command and Staff College
66. LtCol SM Simfukwe	MDF Command and Staff College
67. LtCol AJ Kalimbuka	MDF Command and Staff College
68. LtCol WM Litete	MDF Command and Staff College
69. LtCol MF Mlowoka	MDF Command and Staff College
70. LtCol MW Ghambi	MDF Command and Staff College
71. Maj ED Zimia	MDF Command and Staff College
72. Maj RW Chavula	MDF Command and Staff College
73. Maj KR Chayenda	MDF Command and Staff College
74. Maj FN Sinoya	MDF Command and Staff College

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75. Maj FK Kayanula	MDF Command and Staff College
76. Maj DP Tengula	MDF Command and Staff College
77. Maj ES Masenda	MDF Command and Staff College
78. Maj CP Chirwa	MDF Command and Staff College
79. Maj CD Thawani	MDF Command and Staff College
80. Maj ID Saikondi	MDF Command and Staff College
81. Maj FN Siliya	MDF Command and Staff College
82. Maj JM Mwakiyo	MDF Command and Staff College
83. Maj SS Nkenguye	MDF Command and Staff College
84. Maj LM Mwapona	MDF Command and Staff College
85. Maj Mwabwengo	MDF Command and Staff College
86. Ms Lorraine Phiri	NICO Holdings PLC
87. Ms Sharon Chirwa	NICO Holdings PLC
88. Ms Efrida Kumwenda	Mirage PR
89. Ms Tendayi Rashid	Ener-G-Africa
90. Ms Mbumba Mlia	NICO Holdings PLC
91. Mr Daniel Mwapasa	National Planning Commission
92. Sgt Andrew Banda	National Defence College National
93. Sgt Oscar Chimbiri	Defence College
94. Mr Oscar Taulo	Malawi Law Society
95. Mr Marcel Chimwala	Renewable Energy Industries Association of Malawi
96. Mr Joseph Mazizi	Media and Communication Sector

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NBS Bank is regulated by the Reserve Bank of Malawi which can be  
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