



Government of Malawi – Office of the President and Cabinet

National Action Plan Workplans

Open Government Partnership (OGP): Open Parliament



TONY BLAIR
INSTITUTE
FOR GLOBAL
CHANGE

Open
Government
Partnership





OGP Open Parliament TWG Update

Commitment 1: Strengthen scrutiny of the legal framework for public finance management to increase transparency on public debt to enable responsive budget and loan authorization Bills: Actions and

Activities completed:

1. Orientation Session for Budget Committee, Legal Affairs Committee, Committee Chairpersons on loan authorization Bills procedures and implications of public debt
2. Train Legal Officer on Legislative Drafting
3. OXFAM, ECAMA, CISANET and CISAT engaged Budget Committee Chair and other stakeholders to promote transparency, inclusiveness and accountable governance on Malawi's Economic Recovery and Growth

Outputs delivered

(including links to documents produced):

1. Well informed MPs on loan authorization procedures and implications of public debt.
2. Commitments from the Committees to support the Open Parliament initiative
3. Capacity building in legislative drafting
4. High level Dialogue Communique on Malawi's Economic Recovery and Growth

Lessons Learnt:

1. There is commitment from the relevant Parliamentary Committees to review the loan authorization procedures;
2. Members of Parliament require adequate time for consultations and scrutiny of Money Bills;
3. Urgent need to revise Standing Orders relevant to Money Bills.

Next Steps:

1. Draft new Loan Authorization Procedures (Standing Orders);
2. Legal Affairs Committee to adopt new Loan Authorization procedures;
3. Orient Members of Parliament on new Loan Authorization procedures;
4. Orient Clerks, TWG Members on new Loan Authorization Procedures.

Photos and screenshots of documents and news articles:



REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE
ON ITS CONSIDERATION OF BILL NO. 14 OF 2023: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR THE FINANCIAL ACCESS FOR RURAL MARKETS, SMALLHOLDERS AND ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME) LOAN (AUTHORISATION)

ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON 10TH AUGUST, 2023

REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE
ON ITS CONSIDERATION OF BILL NO. 15 OF 2023: INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (ADDITIONAL FINANCING FOR THE PROGRAMME FOR RURAL IRRIGATION DEVELOPMENT) LOAN (AUTHORISATION)

ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON 10TH AUGUST, 2023





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Commitment 2: Carry out consultative meetings with relevant MDAs and the Parliamentary Committee on Budget and Finance to inform situational analysis of challenges faced and proposed solutions to issues relating to transparency in sovereign public debt and loan authorizations

Actions and Activities completed :

1. Briefing meetings with Heads of Section on the OGP and Loan Authorization Bills.
2. Organize sensitization meetings with the Committee of Chairpersons on financial and loan authorization Bills,
3. Refer two loan authorization bills to the Budget Committee

Outputs delivered:

(including links to documents produced):

1. Feedback on how to improve loan authorization process;
2. Committee Reports on Loan Authorization Bills.

Lessons Learnt:

1. Need for presiding officers to enforce procedures in the House;
2. Need for adequate supporting documents for Loan Authorization Bills;
3. Need for House to refer money Bills to relevant Committees for further scrutiny

Next Steps:

1. Conduct meetings with relevant MDAs and CSOs on issues relating to the transparency of public debts.

Photos and screenshots of documents and news articles:



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Commitment 3: Conduct a Situational Analysis on public debt and loan Authorization

Actions and Activities completed:

1. Develop a proposal to mobilize resources for consultancy services;
2. Develop Terms of Reference for a consultant to undertake the assignment;
3. Engage a consultant to conduct the debt situation analysis in the country.
4. Produce draft report.

Outputs delivered

(including links to documents produced):

1. Proposal for consultancy services
2. Terms of Reference for a consultant
3. Consultant engaged
4. Consultations with stakeholders
5. Draft Situational Analysis Report on Public Debt produced

Lessons Learnt:

1. Situation Analysis as a very crucial activity for the Open Parliament Initiative;
2. Need to engage Partners to support the activity;
3. Need for transparency and objectivity in the commitment

Next Steps:

1. Conduct meetings with Staff, TWG, Parliamentary Committees to validate the report;

Photos and screenshots of documents and news articles:



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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE AND PUBLIC HEARING ON MALAWI'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND GROWTH HELD AT THE BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE ON THE 26TH MARCH, 2024.

ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON 10TH AUGUST, 2023

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Commitment 4: Present Situational Analysis Report findings and consultation with MDAs and parliamentary committee chairs to inform the process of development of templates for committee briefs (public debt and loan authorization)

Actions and Activities completed:

1. All activities for this Commitment are awaiting completion of commitment 3.

Lessons Learnt:

1. **Need for results of commitment 3**

Photos and screenshots of documents and news articles:



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Outputs delivered

(including links to documents produced):

1. Not Applicable

Next Steps:

1. Present the Debt Situation Analysis Report to the Budget Committee, Legal Affairs Committee.
2. Produce Fact-Sheets on Report Findings

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Commitment 5: Increase access to information for citizens on public debt through parliamentary committee public hearings

Actions and Activities completed:

1. Produce infotainment programs/kits on Parliamentary committees and public hearings
2. Broadcast programs/kits on Govt 817, Kiliyekiliye Channels, Facebook.

Lessons Learnt:

1. Need to quantify the programs
2. Need to isolate Open Parliament issues for both parliamentary and NICE television.

Photos and screenshots of documents and news articles:



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Outputs delivered

(including links to documents produced):

1. Parliamentary programs/kits
2. Informed public on public debt

Next Steps:

1. Continue airing programs on public debt
2. Co-opt NICE to be part of the Open Parliament TWG
3. Engage NICE to sensitize the public on Public Debt and Open Parliament related issues
4. Conduct Public Hearings on Debt Situation Analysis Report

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