**MALAWI GOVERNMENT REVIEWS THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY**

The National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) is a Malawi Government Policy document which aims for a holistic approach to the fight against corruption. It was launched by the then State President, late Professor Bingu wa Mutharika during the National Anti-Corruption Day commemorations on 5th February, 2009. The Strategy among other things was designed to coordinate a holistic approach in fighting corruption in Malawi and its development was a result of the then State President’s Zero Tolerance stance on corruption, and an effort to translate theme five of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) into action. Theme five of the MGDS recognised that corruption retards economic growth and development by diverting resources for socio-economic development activities into the pockets of a few.

The NACS was implemented through the eight pillars of the National Integrity System namely; Executive, Legislature, Judiciary, Media, Civil Society, Private Sector, Faith Based organisations and Traditional leaders. Through each pillar various activities aimed at fighting corruption have been implemented thus far. One notable mile stone for the NACS has been the establishment of Institutional Integrity Committees (IICs) in various Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies. Some IICs or similar structures have been formed in other pillars like the Media, Civil Society and Private Sector. Other mile stones include the inclusion of Corruption in the School Curriculum, Development of Corruption Prevention Policies in both public and private institutions, strengthening of anti-corruption legislation and institutional policies, just to highlight a few.

The NACS expired in 2014 but it still remained relevant to date with the absence of a successor strategy. In this regard the process of having the successor strategy in place began in August 2018 and is now nearing completion.

The review process of the NACS has been carried out with the financial assistance from DFID through the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR). The process began by constituting a review committee which comprised of Mrs Mary Phombeya, Mr Ipyana Musopole, Mrs Susan Phiri, Mrs Egrita Ndala, Mr Patrick Mogha, Mrs Lydia Kawiya Phiri and two representatives from ICAR.

Since the NACS is a National document, coming up with NACS II necessitated that consultation with relevant stakeholders be carried out across the country. In this regard twelve consultation workshops were conducted in Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Blantyre and Zomba from November 2018 to March 2019 with participants drawn from all the eight pillars plus the Youth and academia. The consultations were officially launched in Mzuzu by the Director General of the ACB Mr Reyneck Matemba who reiterated the importance of getting input from all stakeholders into the new NACS. The consultations were co-facilitated by consultants from Institute of Public Opinion and Research (IPOR) and the ACB. From the consultations participants were tasked to nominate members from their sectors who would form the Oversight Committee whose role would be to oversee the process of the NACS review.

In May 2019 the Oversight Committee (OC) was constituted with the following members; Mr Alfeo Banda (Local Government, Chair of the committee), Mr Wezi Kayira (Executive), Mrs Fiona Kalemba (Legislature), Justice John Chirwa (Judiciary), Mr Chancellor Kaferapanjira (Private Sector), Ms Theresa Ndanga (Media), Alhaj Twaibu Lawe (Faith Based, Moslem), Bishop Alinafe Kalemba (Faith Based, Christian), Mr Jeff Kabondo (Civil Society), Mr Charles Kajoloweka (Youth), Dr.. Phoebe Chifungo (Women), Senior Chief Chikumbu (Traditional Leaders) and Professor Edge Kanyongolo (Academia). The OC was orientated by the ACB in May, 2019.

A drafting committee was also put in place to draft the new strategy and the members include: Dr. Boniface Dulani and Dr. Edister Jamu from IPOR; Mr Justin Nyondo, a consultant; Mrs Mary Phombeya, Mrs Susan Phiri, Mr Patrick Mogha and Mr Victor Chiwala from ACB; Ms Margaret Munthali and Mr Chiza Nyirongo from Ministry of Justice; Dr Phoebe Chifungo and Mr Jeff Kabondo representing the OC. The drafting of NACS II was coordinated by experts from Basel Institute of Governance led by Claudia Baez-Camargo Phd and Cosimo Stahl who worked hand and in hand with a team of international experts in the field of corruption namely Professor Robert Klitgaard from United States of America and Professor Blessings Chinsinga from the University of Malawi.

The process of drafting NACS II has been evidence based, consolidating information from consultation workshops, one-on-one interviews with key informants, corruption perception survey which was carried out in 2019 by IPOR and a Political Economy Paper on the state of corruption in Malawi. This is subscribing to best practices in coming up with Anti-Corruption Strategies as stipulated by the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC)[[1]](#footnote-1).

NACS II is set out to be a policy document that will harness the gains made by the 2008 NACS and address the gaps identified during its implementation. NACS II has also been aligned to best international practices, protocols and conventions on corruption. Further NACS II will focus both on law enforcement and prevention as key in the fight against corruption with a realization that the battle against corruption can best be won when both law enforcement and prevention work together. NACS II will also include the Youth, Women and Academia as stand-alone pillars which was not the case in the 2009 NACS this is in recognition of the important role that these sectors play in the fight against corruption.

1. UNCAC (2015) –National Anti-Corruption Strategies: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation [↑](#footnote-ref-1)