

2ND MALAWI LAND SYMPOSIUM

**THEME: INITIAL STEPS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MALAWI LAND LAWS:
IMPLICATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL AGRICULTURE**

DATE: 8TH MAY, 2017 | VENUE: GOLDEN PEACOCK - LILONGWE



MEDIA ADVISORY

Initial steps in implementation of the Malawi Land Laws: Implications for Commercial Agriculture

What: The 2nd Malawi Land Symposium & Launch of the Land Policy Initiative, “Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa” (MELA) project - pilot study in Malawi.

When: May 8, 2017

Where: Golden Peacock Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi

Who: Organized by the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MoLHUD) and Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development (MoAIWD) with support from USAID through the New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support Project (NAPAS;MALAWI), and the Delegation of European Union (EU). The Land Symposium will be officially opened by the Minister of Lands Housing and Urban Development, Hon. Atupele Muluzi. MP

Keynote Address: The New Land Acts and implications on, customary land holding, access to land for large commercial agriculture, women’s and youth access to land.

Why: To provide a dialogue on the newly adopted Land Laws and what they entail for agriculture development in Malawi. The symposium will also provide information on the status of several New Alliance commitments that are related to land: Identify land in phases, suitable for large scale commercial agriculture (10,000 ha/year from 2013) every year; 2) Enactment of the new Land Bill into law (which happened but now remains to be disseminated and implemented); 3) Introduction of agricultural zoning based on priority crops and growth.

The symposium is being organized in consultation with stakeholders in the Land and Agriculture sectors to ensure that the forum provides a platform for coordinated interventions in the land sector that promote development of a commercially viable agriculture sector. The program will be as follows:

Session 1: Practical Presentations

- 1) MoLHUD presentation on the New Land Laws and implications on: customary land holding, access to land for large commercial agriculture, women's and youth access to land, etc.
- 2) LandNet presentation on regional/international guidelines to guide countries, including Malawi on responsible land acquisitions for agricultural investments by corporations and the extent to which these guidelines are domesticated and being implemented.
- 3) MITC and Green Belt presentation on trends in acquisition of land by foreign and domestic commercial investors in agriculture and on access to land for irrigation purposes by large (medium and small scale) farmers and the steps involved in accessing land for such purposes.
- 4) MoLHUD presentation to update stakeholders on Estate Land Identification process and whether benefits from this exercise are now being realized.
- 5) MoAIWD (Department of Land Resource Conservation) presentation on land profiling and zoning work and possibly soil analysis work and a summary of how land issues have been incorporated in the National Agriculture Investment Plan.

Session 2: Technical Presentations

- 6) Does Land Size Matter? Revisiting the Inverse Farm Size-Productivity Hypothesis in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 7) Do Farm Land Rental Markets Really Promote Efficiency and Equity in Smallholder Agriculture? Evidence from a Matched Tenant-Landlord Sample in Malawi.

Session 3: Launch of the Land Policy Initiative “Monitoring and Evaluation of Land in Africa (MELA) project - pilot study in Malawi.

Session 4: Panel discussion

Session 5: Digital voting on some of the policy implications coming out of the symposium.

Expected Outputs of the Symposium

- 1) The PowerPoint presentations and any papers associated with them.
- 2) Awareness and coordination of activities that intersect in the Land and Agriculture sectors
- 3) Awareness of the Land Laws and how they may impact agriculture development
- 4) Stakeholders' perceptions on policy options that the MoLHUD and MoAIWD could take to solve any land-related issues that are affecting agriculture development.

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