



NATIONAL TEVET CONFERENCE
“Enhancing Skills Development for
Economic Transformation Towards
Malawi 2063”

27th -28th March 2025

Bingu International Convention Centre, Lilongwe

COMMUNIQUÉ

We are delighted to present this communiqué following the highly successful National TEVET Conference (NTC), held on March, 27th and 28th, 2025. The conference, graced by His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, convened over 500 participants from diverse backgrounds, including Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), academia, development partners, employers, TEVET service providers, apprentices, private companies, local and international organisations, researchers and development partners.

The primary objective of the conference was to enhance excellence in skills development and ultimately contribute to high levels of productivity of the Malawian industry, as a way of stimulating economic growth in keeping with current Government policies and strategies. Organized around four themes, the conference focused on critical topics: Quality of TEVET for industrialization; Quality assurance and standards in skills development; Access to TEVET for inclusive wealth creation; and Productivity enhancement for robust private and public sectors.

The conference discussed challenges in the TVET sector, such as low enrolment (especially for females and persons with disabilities), limited investment in training and infrastructure, outdated curricula, and weak collaboration with industry. Key recommendations included increasing financing, introducing innovative programs, and integrating TVET from early childhood education. It also stressed the importance of transformative leadership, policy alignment with emerging trends, innovation, stakeholder collaboration, and cultural integration.

The Guest of Honour, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera highlighted the importance of a skilled population as a catalyst for sustainable socio-economic development, underscoring the importance of TVET in ensuring economic independence. He stressed the need for prudent use of resources meant for the sector and economy at large.

We, the organizers of the conference,

Acknowledge that;

1. Commitment to excellence in TVET through implementation of quality assurance is essential for developing a skilled, adaptable, and innovative workforce that can drive sustainable economic and social progress.
2. Limited engagement between the industry and TVET providers on curricular development leads to misaligned and outdated curricula leading to increased skills mismatch.
3. There is a need to link TVET to the national, regional and global strategies in Science, Technology, and Innovation.
4. There is low access to TVET for marginalized groups.

5. Malawi has a big productivity capacity gap as shown by the productivity capacity index ranking of 193 out of 194 global (UNCTAD, 2023).
6. There is a need to promote entrepreneurial mindset and financial literacy among apprentices to increase job creation.
7. There is a need to mechanize the agricultural sector and value chain through TEVET.
8. TEVET MSMEs and graduates face hurdles in accessing financing - perceived risks and lacking collateral, hindering their entrepreneurial and employment opportunities.
9. Informal sector artisans and small-scale miners face life-threatening challenges in occupational health and safety due to a lack of structured training in the sector.
10. There is high failure among students in fundamental courses.
11. TEVET Authority's positioning under the Ministry of Labour has created a situation where TEVET is being managed in isolation from the education and training sector.

Therefore, propose the following **recommendations**:

1. Review TEVET curriculum and standards to align with national, regional and global TEVET priorities e.g. ATMM strategy, MW2063, AU/STISA and SDGs.
2. Develop capacity development programs for TEVET instructors in testing, measurement and evaluation.
3. Finalize National Qualification Framework
4. Promote collaboration in training delivery and Research and Development between TEVET and Higher Education institutions
5. Expedite establishment of sector skills councils which will allow greater collaboration between TEVET Institutions and industry players.
6. Introduce hybrid apprenticeship programmes including ODeL.

7. Expand Occupational Health Services for informal sector workers including Artisanal and Small -scale Miners through coordinated interventions.
8. Conduct detailed item analysis to facilitate credible qualifications to improve employability of TEVET graduates.
9. Fast track approval of the reviewed TEVET policy and Act
- 10.Strengthen quality assurance and accreditation to enhance standards and accountability within the TEVET system including the informal sector.
- 11.Fast track implementation of Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) to facilitate reintegration of a larger proportion of the population and enhance their access to skills certification and employment opportunities.
- 12.Enhance collaboration with financial institutions to provide tailored loan products for TEVET graduates.
- 13.Develop retention policies tailored to the specific needs of persons with disabilities.
14. Expedite development of the national productivity policy.

APPRECIATION

We wish to express our profound gratitude to His Excellency Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, the Minister of Labour, Honourable Peter Dimba, MP and all government officials for gracing the conference.

Our gratitude also goes to the TEVET Authority Board Chairperson, Mr Pyoka Tembo and entire Board of Directors, Principal Secretary for Labour, Mrs Chikondano Mussa, Principal Secretary for Administration in the Office of the President and Cabinet, Members of Parliament, President of the Pan African Productivity Association (PAPA), Mr. Cyprian Mayamba, Development Partners, Private Sector Executives, Non-Governmental Organizations and Traditional Leaders.

We will not do justice if we don't extend our gratitude to guest speakers, presenters and all the participants present here.

Modesto Gomani

Chairperson, Organising Committee