

REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

NATIONAL SPORTS POLICY

Ministry Of Youth Development and Sports

REVISED 2007

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Department of Sports, as it is known today, dates back to 1972. Its formation was as a result of the dissolution of the Council for Culture, Social Welfare and Sports, which was then located in Kwacha Cultural Centre Building, Blantyre.

In 1972, Government dissolved this Council and formed the Department of Sports, which was located in Kamuzu Stadium and was placed under Ministry responsible for Local Government. It is during this period, 70s to early 80s, that Malawi registered fast and steady development of sports largely due to the work of missionaries and other expatriates particularly educationists who introduced sporting activities in schools in rural and urban centers.

It should be noted that since then, the Department has rotated between Ministries of Local Government, Education and Youth. This trend has hampered the development of sports and its stability was not assured. This state of affairs resulted in the department operating without a Policy to guide the development of sports in the country. However, the notable development during the period mentioned above is that Government decided to establish a parasternal sports body called “Malawi National Council of Sports (MNCS),” which was to act as an implementing arm of the Department of Sports. This body was enacted in 1974 in Act No. 10 of 1974.

1.2 Rationale

For the past two decades ‘Sports’ has been taken as non-developmental by the general public. Mismanagement at association level and prevalence of hooliganism and violence have caused, sports standards in the country to deteriorate. Other constraining factors to the deteriorating standards of sports include:-

- Lack of access to basic modern sports facilities;
- Inadequate funding;
- Inadequate trained sports personnel;
- Non availability of specialized sports training institutions to train athletes, administrators, coaches, technical officials,
- Lack of incentives for sports persons;
- Inadequate and high cost of sports equipment;
- Decline in the enforcement of physical education and sports programmes in schools and other institutions of learning; and
- Haphazard sponsorship of sports programmes.

These constraints have consequently hampered sport development to serve the total population of the country. This policy has been developed to redress the aforementioned constraints with a view to giving each and every Malawian equal opportunity to practice the sport of his/her choice.

The National Sports Policy is a Sport Policy for all. It encompasses both ‘high performance sport’ and ‘mass sport’ and has been formulated on the rationale that such activities form an integral part of the overall development efforts of the Government directed towards the entire population. Sport deserves the same recognition, respect and encouragement as accorded to other basic social programmes.

Sports is important to the individual, community and the country:-

Individual: sports provide recreation and enjoyment, social interaction, health and fitness, protection from delinquency and idleness and for those with interest and talent, an opportunity to pursue professional sporting careers;

Community: sports provides a common interest and entertainment, promotes interaction, contributes to good health, quality of life and economic empowerment; and

Country: helps to develop and maintain a healthy community, engenders economic benefits, promotes national identity and unity and enhances international recognition and co-operation.

1.3 Linkages with other Relevant Policies

The National Sports Policy is an integral part of Government of Malawi and many of the policy areas within the document flow across, and relate to, other government sectors. The National Sports Policy implementation process will ensure that there is full coordination and cooperation with other government ministries and institutions.

In addition, there are issues that cut across the Malawi development agenda and are therefore, relevant for the sports sector. This policy, therefore, will have linkages with other policies i.e. Youth, Gender, Disability, HIV/AIDS, Decentralization and Education. These cross-cutting issues, which will be specifically addressed in the various policy themes as outlined below include:-

- HIV/AIDS;
- Gender and empowerment;
- Decentralization;
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups;
- Environmental protection; and
- Community participation.

Government will, therefore, ensure that sports is accessible to all the people regardless of age, sex, language, religion, nationality, disability, birth or other status.

2.0 BROAD POLICY DIRECTIONS

2.1 Vision

Excellence in sports for national identity and unity.

2.2 Mission Statement

To promote the Malawian national identity and unity in diversity through athlete empowerment, promotion and management of sports, recreational and physical fitness activities, for education, posterity and poverty reduction.

2.3 Policy Statement

Against the identified background of trends, problems and opportunities, the government of Malawi has decided that the central aim of this policy shall be to make optimal use of the positive social value of sport, by:-

- safeguarding and improving the quality of participation in sports;
- improving the quality of sports infrastructure and numbers of persons involved in sports;
- harmonizing policies connected with sports; and
- utilizing sports to address emerging social challenges to society.

2.4 Principles

The concept of mass participation in sports shall be the guiding principle of physical education and sports development in Malawi since sports is an important factor for human development. Every individual shall therefore have the right to participate in sports for recreation or for competition. Government on the other hand, shall take cognizance of sport in its social sector development programmes.

2.5 Goals

The national sports policy embraces the concept of “Sports For All” and encompasses mass and high performance sports.

Its main goals are:-

- promotion, development and evaluation of all kinds of sports to make it a self-supporting social economic activity;
- creation of a conducive environment for individual and private sector investment in sports;
- creation of an enabling environment for mass participation in sports; and
- making sports a tool for poverty reduction, national identity; unity, development, prestige and international cooperation.

3.0 POLICY AREAS/THEMES

3.1 Sustainable Sports Development.

Central to the United Nations notion of development, is sustainable development. Development is a process of enlarging people's choices and increasing the opportunities available to all members of the society.

3.1.1 Specific Goal

To make sports accessible to the masses.

3.1.2 Specific objectives

- 3.1.2.1 To promote mass awareness on the importance of general fitness, health, recreation and leisure for the Malawian citizen through sports;
- 3.1.2.2 To promote studies and research in all areas of physical education, sport and health;
- 3.1.2.3 To provide and promote access to sports for persons with disability, the aged, women and children; and
- 3.1.2.4 To use sports as a tool for disseminating information on HIV and AIDS and other health related matters.

3.1.3 Specific Strategies

- 3.1.3.1 Launching National Sports Policy
- 3.1.3.2 Reproducing and distributing the Sports Policy
- 3.1.3.3 Sensitizing the Public on Sports Policy
- 3.1.3.4 Establishing national sports and games week
- 3.1.3.5 Monitoring and Evaluating Policy implementation
- 3.1.3.6 Creating country wide sports awareness campaign and advocacy.
- 3.1.3.7 Designing and implementing sports and recreation programmes for community participation.
- 3.1.3.8 Influencing balanced and positive reporting in sports through media.
- 3.1.3.9 Identifying and establishing areas of research in physical education and sport.
- 3.1.3.10 Instituting research in physical education and sport.
- 3.1.3.11 Reinforcing physical education in the national school curriculum.
- 3.1.3.12 Conducting Research in PE and Sports.
- 3.1.3.13 Establishing sports resource centre.
- 3.1.3.14 Developing sports programmes for persons with disability and the aged.
- 3.1.3.15 Modifying the existing sports infrastructure to make them user friendly.

- 3.1.3.16 Adapting and improving sports programmes to cater for persons with disability, the aged, women and children.
- 3.1.3.17 Increasing public awareness and profile of sports persons with disability.
- 3.1.3.18 Empowering women in sports.
- 3.1.3.19 Facilitating the incorporation of HIV and AIDS, and SRH issues in sports activities.
- 3.1.3.20 Coordinating implementation of Behavioural Change Interventions among the Sport fraternity.
- 3.1.3.21 Intensifying HIV and AIDS awareness campaign through sports.
- 3.1.3.22 Developing HIV and AIDS messages and jingles for use in the Stadia.
- 3.1.3.23 Promoting sports for health.
- 3.1.3.24 Licensing of physical fitness personnel

3.2 Sports for Economic Development and Poverty Reduction.

Sports in Malawi has all along been treated as non-developmental. With lack of remarkable career path in sports many people do not take sports seriously as a result it is taken as a pass time job.

3.2.1 Specific Goal

To make sports a tool for economic development and poverty reduction.

3.2.2 Specific Objectives

- 3.2.2.1 To identify, develop and nurture talent and potential early;
- 3.2.2.2 To utilize sports as a tool for promoting discipline, national unity, pride and International cooperation;
- 3.2.2.3 To create employment through sports; and
- 3.2.2.4 To expand revenue base for sporting activities.

3.2.3 Specific Strategies

- 3.2.3.1 Developing and implementing sports programmes for learning institutions;
- 3.2.3.2 Strengthening the established School Sports Associations to cater for a variety of sports disciplines
- 3.2.3.3 Reinforcing the teaching of PE in schools.
- 3.2.3.4 Developing suitable sports programmes for out of school youth.
- 3.2.3.5 Identifying talent in all learning institutions.
- 3.2.3.6 Providing PE and sports equipment to Schools and Youth Centre
- 3.2.3.7 Facilitating hosting and participating in international sports events.

- 3.2.3.8 Develop networks with other countries for sports exchange programmes;
- 3.2.3.9 Instilling national identity, recognition and respect for national colours;
- 3.2.3.10 Promoting linkages with other economic sectors.
- 3.2.3.11 Facilitating commercialization and entrepreneurship of sports
- 3.2.3.12 Encouraging local production of sports equipment.
- 3.2.3.13 Recognizing outstanding former national sports persons;
- 3.2.3.14 Providing appropriate incentives to excelling athletes.
- 3.2.3.15 Creating careers in sports
- 3.2.3.16 strengthening supervision of revenue collection at Stadia.
- 3.2.3.17 Facilitating introduction of sports levies
- 3.2.3.18 Soliciting donor support
- 3.2.3.19 Rehabilitating existing Sports Infrastructure to attract and accommodate more users.
- 3.2.3.20 Preventing hooliganism and vandalism at sports venues
- 3.2.3.21 Introducing Sports Foundation
- 3.2.3.22 Explores opportunities for sports benefits from National Lottery.
- 3.2.3.23 Sensitizing the private sector on the need to support Sports.
- 3.2.3.24 Introducing tax rebate to the Private Sector.
- 3.2.3.25 Introducing Sports Levies
- 3.2.3.26 Twinning the Private Sector with district, town and city assemblies.
- 3.2.3.27 Establishing local and international partnerships

3.3 Sports and Fair Play

Failure to use approved rules and regulations has resulted in undeserving athletes or teams win. Compliance with rules and regulations is instrumental for the enforcement of fair play.

3.3.1 Specific Goal

To promote 'fair play' in sports

3.3.2 Specific Objectives

- 3.3.2.1 To curb sports related violence
- 3.3.2.2 To improve efficiency of the officiating personnel;
- 3.3.2.3 To promote good management and administration of sports at all levels; and
- 3.3.2.4 To control doping in sports.

3.3.3 Specific Strategies

- 3.3.3.1 Designing and enforcing code of conduct to fight against hooliganism in sports.
- 3.3.3.2 Instituting heavy penalties for perpetrators of violence and vandalism at sports events/fields.
- 3.3.3.3 Developing and running programmes for advocacy against hooliganism in sports.

- 3.3.3.4 Seeking full support from the law enforces.
- 3.3.3.5 Facilitating the training of officiating personnel.
- 3.3.3.6 Conducting refresher courses for officiating personnel.
- 3.3.3.7 Conducting periodic Sports personnel appraisals.
- 3.3.3.8 Enforcing accountability and transparency in all Sports Associations.
- 3.3.3.9 Encouraging sports governing bodies to develop and utilize strategic plans.
- 3.3.3.10 Designing policies that ensure that associations are run by people with high integrity and moral standards.
- 3.3.3.11 Adopting constitutions and regulations that ensure effective management and administration of associations.
- 3.3.3.12 Ratifying WADA Anti-Doping Code.
- 3.3.3.13 Establishing National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO)
- 3.3.3.14 Facilitating the implementation of Anti-Doping Code.

3.4 Sports and Resources Development

Sports development has stagnated because of lack of trained staff in the sports sector. The problem has been compounded by lack of sports training institutions in the country.

3.4.1 Specific Goal

- 3.4.1.1 To make training an integral part of sports development.

3.4.2 Specific Objectives

- 3.4.2.1 To provide specialized training for athletes and sports personnel.
- 3.4.2.2 To facilitate the provision of land for sports development.

3.4.3 Specific Strategies

- 3.4.3.1 Training athletes in various sports codes.
- 3.4.3.2 Training sports personnel.
- 3.4.3.3 Conducting talent development programme.
- 3.4.3.4 Providing Scholarships to athletes and sports persons.
- 3.4.3.5 Facilitating refresher courses
- 3.4.3.6 Promoting Sports exchange programmes
- 3.4.3.7 Providing land for sports development

3 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Institutional Arrangements

Management and supervision of sports is not the responsibility of the Ministry responsible for Sports alone. This policy recognizes the importance of the collaboration of various government ministries, institutions and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) for the effective development and the delivery of sports services. The successful implementation of the policy strategies will require substantial amount of financial and material resources. These resources are expected to come from Government and other development partners. The following are the roles and responsibilities of structures at macro and micro level;

4.1.1 Ministry responsible for Sports

The Ministry shall:-

- Coordinate policy formulation, co-ordination, implementation and evaluation in all sectors;
- create an enabling environment for the development and promotion of sports
- represent government at all national and international fora on sports issues.
- Provide directions, guidance, advice and support to agencies within and outside government that are involved in the implementation of the policy.
- control and direct the activities of the Council;
- support periodic policy reviews, production of relevant strategic plans, research and planning for sports and promote international co-operation;
- implement and initiate relevant legislation through relevant agencies
- ensure that Council's funds (grants, subventions and donations) are accounted for;
- ensure that all youth of Malawi have equal opportunity to participate in sports for personal and/or community benefit;
- provide regulatory framework;
- empower Council to be financially sound.

4.1.2 *Ministry responsible for Gender, Child Welfare and Community Services*

The Ministry responsible for Gender, Child Welfare and Community Services in collaboration with Ministry responsible for Sports will support the efforts of this Government policy in mainstreaming gender concerns in the development and promotion of PE and sports by ensuring that:-

- opportunities in sports are available to all gender and children regardless of their status;
- communities are aware of what it takes to properly socialize through sports;
- different communities are provided with the necessary equipment, skills and facilities; and
- participation in sport by various communities in both rural and urban areas of the country is facilitated.

4.1.3 *Ministry responsible for People with Disabilities*

As enshrined in the Republican Constitution, discrimination of persons in any form is prohibited and all persons are, under any law, guaranteed equal and effective protection against discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, nationality, ethnic or social origin, disability, property, birth or other status. Sports is therefore, important to all people. The Ministry responsible for people with disabilities shall collaborate with the Ministry responsible for Sports to:-

- ensure that all sports facilities are user friendly and adaptable;
- facilitate the provision of sports equipment for people with disabilities;
- ensure equal sports opportunities to people with disabilities; and
- arrange for the availability of appropriate expertise in sports for people with disabilities.

4.1.4 *Ministry responsible for Education (MoE)*

Education and training are important in the development, management and organization of PE and sports in learning institutions. Therefore, MoE in collaboration with the Ministry responsible for Sports shall:-

- maintain and strengthen discipline at all levels of the education system (primary, secondary and tertiary) during sporting activities;
- ensure that extracurricular sports activities take place in all learning institutions through regular sports competitions and festivals;
- support learning institutions in the development and maintenance of their own sports facilities;
- ensure that all institutions, public and private have sports equipment and infrastructure;
- increase the number and status of PE teachers in all learning institutions; and
- provide the youth with appropriate PE and sports programmes for their enjoyment and health.

4.1.5 *Ministry responsible for Local Government(District, Town and City Assemblies)*

The District, Town and City Assemblies in liaison with the Ministry responsible for sports as stated in the Local Government policy shall:-

- develop, provide and maintain sports and recreation facilities;
- manage facilities and infrastructure;
- allocate adequate funds in their annual budget for the development of sports and recreation infrastructure;

- mobilize financial resources from Government and private sector for sports development and recreation;
- employ and train sports officers; and
- allocate land for sports and recreation infrastructure.

4.1.6 Ministry of Finance (MoF)

Finance is very crucial for the development and promotion of sports. In the above understanding, the MoF shall:-

- ensure that adequate funds are available for the development of PE and Sport in the country ;
- ensure proper utilization of granted financial resources;
- ensure accountability of all financial support to the organizations; and
- encourage appropriate and meaningful allocation and utilization of any resources identified through its grants.

4.1.7 Ministry responsible for Lands

Considering that availability of land for sports infrastructure is instrumental to sports development, the Ministry responsible for sport shall work with the Ministry responsible for Lands to:-

- allocate land for sports and recreational development.

4.1.8 Malawi National Council of Sports (MNCS)

The role of Council in sports development is of paramount importance. Main function of Council is to develop, promote, encourage and control all sports in the country, in accordance with the Council's Act (1974). Specifically, the Council shall:-

- assist national sports associations and national, regional, district and local authorities in promoting the development of sport and physical recreation in Malawi
- provide a resource and information base;
- provide grants to registered sports associations;
- produce and submit an annual report of the activities to the ministry responsible for sport;
- procure sports equipment and goods on concessionary terms;
- formulate appropriate short, medium and long-term development strategies based on findings of the Research and Planning Unit;
- introduce and promote national campaigns for sports development and participation;

- initiate and sustain an annual national award of merit scheme for outstanding sports persons;
- facilitate the training of sports personnel;
- receive audited accounts of all registered sports associations at the end of each financial year;
- approve national and international sports competitions;
- set guidelines on modus operandi for associations; and
- undertake fundraising activities.

4.1.9 National Sports Associations

All Associations will be responsible for producing systematic short, medium and long-term development plans for their particular sport. The main theme of these plans must be “Sports For All.” Associations shall therefore:-

- submit to the Council an annual report of their activities with a balance sheet and statement of accounts by June of each year;
- finance their own programmes;
- be encouraged to enter into business ventures, commercialize the sports disciplines and undertake fund-Raising initiatives to enhance their financial position;
- guarantee equal and effective protection against discrimination on grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, nationality, ethnic or social origin, disability, property, birth or other status. Ensure availability of opportunity for exploitation of their sport by people with disabilities; and
- Insure sports persons under them.

4.1.10 Volunteer Organizations

Realizing the important role volunteer organizations play in the promotion of sports, there is need to recognize and support them hence, they, in liaison with the Council shall:-

- complement Government’s and Council’s efforts in the development of sporting activities which are not in the mainstream; and
- render sporting services to the community through the provision of accessible facilities and equipment.

4.1.11 Service Organizations

The Services e.g. Army, Police and Prisons have, traditionally nurtured and produced sports persons performing to a high standard. The Services with the support of the Council shall:-

- identify young sports persons and provide an enabling environment to allow them to reach internationally recognized levels of excellence; and
- participate in international competitions, as representatives of Malawi.

4.1.12 Religious Organizations

Due to their crucial role in the development of young people, religious organisations with support from Council shall:-

- promote, develop and encourage a wide range of sporting activities within the religious community; and
- provide sport and recreational facilities for the youth.

4.1.13 Private Sector

The private sector has a very important role to play in the development of sports. It also has a social obligation to the employees and the general public, in as far as provision of social amenities are concerned. Therefore, the private sector shall be encouraged to:-

- fund and sponsor sporting activities;
- provide recreational infrastructure for the employees and the general public; and
- monitor activities of the sponsored organizations/institutions.

4.2 Implementation Plan

The Ministry responsible for sports shall be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the National Sports Policy. On the other hand, Sports Council shall implement the National Sports Policy through sports associations registered under it.

The National Sports Policy also recognizes the importance of collaboration of various other Government Institutions and Non-Governmental organizations for effective implementation of the policy. Therefore a detailed implementation plan has been prepared, individually and collectively spelling out the roles and responsibilities of the core institutions as well as those of the other stakeholders.

The action programme is therefore a bold attempt to operationalise the statements contained in the National Sports Policy. The indicative specific time frames, have been assigned in the action programme that will be subject to periodic review.

4 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

5.1 Means of Monitoring

Progress towards achieving the vision and goals of the National Sports Policy will be monitored by the Department of Sports and Sports Council through a detailed monitoring and evaluation framework that will be developed in consultation with the sector institutions.

5.2 Review of Policy

Development of Sports is a dynamic process that has to respond to the needs of the nation. It is therefore essential that the National Sports Policy shall be reviewed and updated from time to time as may be required.