



THE INSTITUTE OF
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
IN MALAWI

MALAWI

HAS FIRST LOCALLY QUALIFIED CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT





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All along, people had to qualify as chartered accountants in the country through international professional bodies. In 2014, the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malawi (ICAM) entered into a partnership with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) to embark on training accountants locally up to the chartered level. Frazer Moffat has therefore become the first Malawian to qualify through the route.

Moffat explains: "I am delighted to have qualified. It was hectic. It took hardwork but at last I am pleased to have broken the record."

Adding his voice on the remarkable achievement, ICAM CEO Dr. Francis Chinjoka Gondwe stated that more students will now see that it is possible to qualify locally, cost-effectively and be internationally recognised.

Apparently Atuweni Kadam'manja, Hannock Kachala and Patrick Muliya are also on the cause to qualify as they are all remaining with a subject each to complete the program.

he Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), a partnering professional body to ICAM at the Chartered Accountant level, is the leading accountancy professional body in the world.

DEFINE HOW YOU WANT TO BE PERCEIVED



Women ought to rise beyond hopelessness but to rise against that tide, Dr, Watipaso Kasambara has said, they have to appreciate what Oprah Winfrey said: “When you undervalue what you do. The world will undervalue who you are.”

Speaking at the Professional Women’s conference that was held in Mangochi, the Head of National Microbiology Reference Laboratory who also doubles as the Antimicrobial Resistance coordinator in the Ministry of Health highlighted that in workplaces women feel left out, are victims of harassment and discrimination and highly struggle to find the right work and life balance. Nevertheless, it is possible to rise beyond such challenges.

Dr. Kasambara unmasked the formula: “Learn to create opportunities in your career through skills training and development. Get yourself organised as an expert and in this regard perceive yourself as an expert and continue working hard to develop your expertise.”

The holder of a doctor of philosophy degree in medical microbiology from KwaZulu-Natal University added that women better learn making themselves more appealing. She referenced this to being remarkable as an irresistible business asset, breaking down the barriers, being fearless and using what she termed as ‘your human voiced resume.’

Dr. Watipaso Kasambara spoke on Hopeless no more: helping women rise above feminine challenges and frustrations.

A portrait of Akonda Supuni Yakobe, President of FOWAMA. She is a Black woman with dark, curly hair, wearing a black top with a large purple flower brooch on the left side. The background is black.

FOWAMA

**FOR PROMOTION OF FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN THE
ACCOUNTANCY PROFESSION**

The Forum for Women Accountants in Malawi (FOWAMA) is meant to be the springboard for promoting female participation in the accountancy profession, the forum's president Akonda Supuni Yakobe has said.

Set to thrive on resilience and growth mindset, communication and transparency, professionalism, knowledge sharing, creation of opportunities, competency and efficiency, and integrity, the forum is set to host women in leadership positions seminars, partner with other women professional bodies and corporates, engage in social responsibility and embark on mentorship and coaching initiatives.

Speaking on membership eligibility Akonda Yakobe said: "Membership is open to all female accountants who are registered with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Malawi (ICAM). This includes students, technicians, associates and fellows of the Institute."

WHAT WOULD ROLAND NGOSI HAVE DONE ?



Vice President of the Republic of Malawi
Rifht Honourable Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima
showcased his story telling prowess when
he slightly departed from his written
speech to challenge accountants to
embrace integrity, modelling themselves on
the amazing life of one Roland Ngosi, an
accountant who survived the sinking of the
boat in July 1946 and swam four
kilometres with the box of money that was
meant for salaries of civil servants for
Karonga, Rumphu and Chitipa.

Chilima informed the conference
delegates:

"That month, each and every civil servant
in those three districts was paid their
salaries. This is what is called integrity."

Indirectly referring to moral decay among
accountants and auditors, he left people
murmuring their disbelief when he said: "I
am not sure what would have happened if
this was today."

Challenging accountants to be
ethical, he finally said: "Please be the
Rowland Ngosi of your time. Always ask
what would have Rowland Ngosi done in
this situation?"

The country's Number 2 was Guest of
Honour at the ICAM lakeshore
conference that was held under the theme
'Navigating the rough economic terrain:
moving forward regardless of challenges.'
Over 881 delegates attended the
conference.

ICAM Partner

RITZ ATTORNEYS



ECONOMIST UNMASKS THAT **MALAWI** IS GETTING POORER



While one would have thought that Malawi is slowly becoming an economic miracle, thus uplifting the masses from the meshes of poverty, fate has it that the reality is the inverse, an economics professor at the University of Malawi has highlighted.

To the disbelief of delegates at the ICAM conference, Associate Professor of Economics Dr. Ronald Mangani displayed data that points the nation heading into the deep zone of exacerbated poverty as years pass by.

The data was straight forward. In 2010, Malawi was not on the list of the ten poorest countries on earth. Fast forward to 2015, Malawi drifted into the league of the 10 poorest nations and sat on position five. By the year 2019 Malawi slipped further into becoming the fourth poorest country on earth.

Speaking the previous evening on 16th September during opening ceremony of the ICAM Conference, the Vice President of the country Dr. Saulos Chilima also bemoaned that that even in the poverty stricken league of countries ‘as Malawi we Chair the Least Developed Countries. Ndithu, ngati dziko lamalawi ndife apampando amayiko osaukisitsa padziko lonse lapansi.’

Nevertheless, the economist can foresee Malawi uplifting herself if it becomes a factor-driven economy whose primary attention should be on institutions, infrastructure, the macro-economy, basic health services, and basic education.

Dr Mangani voiced out his formula: “Malawi must transform from a regime overly preoccupied with growth-dampening macroeconomic stability into one that is growth-focused and export-oriented.”

The academic don was speaking on the topic Remodelling the economy into shape: the economic chisels we need

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GABRIELA FIGUEIREDO DIAS TO LEAD THE INTERNATIONAL ETHICS STANDARDS BOARD FOR ACCOUNTANTS (IESBA)



Ms. Gabriela Figueiredo Dias will become the first Chairwoman of the IESBA from January 1, 2022. Ms. Figueiredo Dias will succeed Dr. Stavros Thomadakis, who has led the IESBA since 2015.

Ms. Figueiredo Dias has extensive experience in international standard setting, legal and regulatory structure and governance, and academia. She currently serves as the President of the CMVM (Portuguese Securities Market Commission), the authority responsible for regulating and supervising the markets of financial instruments, covering listed companies, asset managers, auditors and investment firms.

There, she provides strategic direction to the Board, manages the organization and represents it before International Organizations such as IOSCO and OECD, the European Commission and the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as well as the Portuguese Government, the National Council of Financial Supervisors and market stakeholders.

She has also served as head of the international and regulatory policy department and of the issuers and financial information department at CMVM and has extensive experience in and understanding of financial regulatory frameworks.

In addition, she has served as a member of the ESMA Board and Management Board, member of the IOSCO Board, Vice-Chair of the OECD Corporate Governance Committee, Chair of the ESMA Investment Management Standing Committee, and she will remain in office as non-executive President of the General Board of the University of Coimbra in Portugal. She holds a master's degree in law from the Coimbra University Law School.

"I am honored to be selected as the next IESBA Chair during this critical time of transition for the Board and the profession," said Ms. Figueiredo Dias.

"As President of the Portuguese Securities Commission, I have advocated for strong international standards, based on robust ethical principles and developed with the public interest in mind.

The IESBA's work in setting high-quality, internationally appropriate ethics standards for auditors, including in respect to their independence, and other professional accountants in business, the public sector and public practice is critical to the integrity and robustness of the global financial system and architecture, and I look forward to leading the IESBA in playing an impactful role toward a more sustainable global economy and society."

"Having experienced firsthand the demands of this role, I am confident Gabriela's knowledge of the field and unwavering commitment to enhancing ethics on behalf of the public interest will be invaluable assets to the IESBA," said Stavros Thomadakis, IESBA Chairman.

"I look forward to Gabriela's service to the IESBA and believe she will be a strong and assiduous proponent of the Board's collective vision."

Ms. Figueiredo Dias' appointment was recommended by the Interim Nominating Committee after an independent and extensive global search. Her appointment was endorsed by the IFAC Board and approved by the Public Interest Oversight Board, which oversees the IESBA.

"I'm pleased to convey that the Interim Nominating Committee recommended Ms. Figueiredo Dias via a very competitive process," said Makoto Sonoda, Interim Nominating Committee Chair.

"The Committee has full confidence in Ms. Figueiredo Dias who will bring her extraordinary experience, a clear vision, and a vast network to the IESBA, all of which will contribute to the Board's public interest mandate and mission of strengthening ethics standards globally."

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COVID-19**

**STAY HOME
STAY SAFE**

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NEW IFAC BOARD MEMBERS AND MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS CONFIRMED



Nov 12, 2021 | New York, NY | English

The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the voice of the global accountancy profession, this week announced its new board members, and that it is maintaining a female-majority board for the third consecutive year in a row.

Over the course of the past decade, IFAC is proud to have improved the gender balance on its key governing bodies.

The new and reappointed IFAC Board members and their nominating member organizations are:

New appointments:

- Gregory Anton (Association of International Certified Professional Accountants, USA)
- Tashia Batstone (Chartered Professional Accountants of Canada, Canada)
- Jeanine Poggiolini (South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, South Africa)

Reappointments:

- Lisa Padmore (Institute of Chartered Accountants of Barbados, (Barbados)
- Margret Pétursdóttir (Nordic Federation of Public Accountants, (Iceland)
- Dr. Jianhua Tang (Chinese Institute of Certified Public Accountants, China)
- Ayşe Ariak Tunaboğlu (Union of Chambers of Certified Public Accountants of Turkey / Expert Accountants' Association of Turkey, Turkey)

NEW IFAC MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS ADMITTED

In addition to the election of new Board members, the IFAC Council also approved new members and associate member organizations.

New IFAC Members:

- Institut Akuntan Publik Indonesia (IAPI) – Indonesia
- Vietnam Association of Certified Public Accountants (VACPA) – Vietnam

New Associates:

- United Arab Emirates Accountants and Auditors Association (UAE AAA) – United Arab Emirates
- Yemeni Association of Certified Public Accountants (YACPA) – Yemen

The new appointments, reappointments and membership decisions were approved at IFAC's 2021 Council meeting, held virtually on November 10-11.

ORGANIZATIONS OF THE FUTURE



“The case for digital transformation has never been more urgent”. This statement by Satya Nadella, Chairman & CEO of Microsoft, so simple yet so profound, fundamental, and powerful was delivered at the 2021 Microsoft Ignite virtual event on the 2nd November 2021. I couldn't agree more with Nadya.

The globe went through a disruptive pandemic which exposed the need for digital services and products, while at the same time providing a fast-track for digital transformation plans for many organizations.

The past two years have informed the direction of emerging technology trends and innovations in different businesses and industries. Every industry has been affected in one way or another.

This has resulted into digital services affordability while at the same time increasing productivity.

It is believed that the next 10 years will see more digital transformations than for all the transformations combined in the past 40 years. That's an awful lot of innovations for a 10-year period.

To position themselves correctly for the future, organizations must know what will happen in the next 5-10 years, what will be the emerging trends which will drive the global economy? The knowledge from this enquiry will provide tremendous opportunity for the visionary organizations.

But tremendous opportunity also comes with enormous responsibility. This applies to both large and small organizations, as they all must transform to realize the benefits and to survive. In general, the global technologies are moving from mobile and cloud-based technologies into more ubiquitous computing and artificial intelligence.

These sound like big words to non-technical leaders; however, the good thing is that you do not have to know the complexity of the technology.

You need to understand how the technologies work, the impact they have on business and how you can apply them to your business.

HYBRID WORK

The biggest trend which has shifted is human capital. There has been a mindset change as workers have realized the control which comes with flexibility of work. Workers now have a choice for a hybrid of working remotely or in person.

The experience which workers have been exposed to, albeit amid challenging times, they do not want to let go. There are implications of course for such a hybrid model. The matrices which were broadly used to measure levels of productivity must change.

Employers must adopt purpose driven approach rather than measuring employee presence. Employers must embrace the collaboration and productivity platforms to facilitate work delivery as if workers are in the same physical space.

SECURITY

Cyber security is the number one threat to digital transformation and organizations around the world are facing a surge of cyber-attacks, which means cyber security is a subject for discussion at the strategic table and not in the server room. It should not come as a surprise that security is featuring under emerging trends unlike the old school of thought where security was featuring under challenges and threats, things have evolved so much and there is data to attest to the fact that security cannot and should not be overlooked in any digital transformation story.

Globally there has been a 667% increase in phishing attacks and there are 50 million password attacks annually at the global level. Globally organizations spend \$ 6 trillion on cyber security, this number is expected to grow to \$ 10 trillion in 2025.

One might argue that these figures do not apply for the case of Malawi. As the globe is becoming more interconnected the risks faced globally are becoming common and not unique to specific regions.

Cyber security solutions are considered as business enablers to ensure that online business takes place with no risk which boosts customer confidence due to transactions safety.

Organizations should take cybersecurity seriously. Cyber security should be considered as an opportunity for doing more business online.

Organizations should realize that implementing more digital services and products raises the risk profile for cyber security attacks.

This means the advantages of digital transformation should go hand in hand with strong cybersecurity systems, frameworks and policies.

HYPERCONNECTIVITY

Success of progressive organizations is based (to some extent) on how connected they are to other service organizations. In this way they can extend more services over and above their standard services. Hyperconnectivity manages issues of value chain, supply, and demand by converging all services in a certain profile of customers under one roof.

For hyperconnectivity to succeed there is need of real-time connectivity and a lot of data interaction with the consumers. To implement hyperconnectivity organizations should assess the gaps which they have in their service portfolio and look for partners who supply those as outsourced services

BIG DATA AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

At the core of big data is Artificial intelligence, we cannot talk about big data without talking about artificial intelligence as these are inseparable partners.

Artificial Intelligence is getting computers to do what people can do, and even do them better, computers getting to do adaptive, goal-oriented tasks.

Artificial Intelligence dates to 1956, where early systems were concentrating on rule-based system, conditional configuration, leveraging on computing power. But without big data, artificial intelligence was not as useful.

There are several encounters which most of us have experienced big data and artificial intelligence at play. Online shopping management tracks the whole cycle for consumers from the first search to purchase, and thereafter targeted advertising in relation to the searches consumers make. Targeted marketing personalizes ads to consumers based on consumers interest and past pages visited.

Advanced banks track real-time consumer spending to develop customized service packages. Retail companies use social media suggestions for opinions of other consumers, loyalty brand ambassadors, advocates to woo more consumers.

Big data and artificial intelligence are powerful tools to any industry for making informed decisions, understanding customers better, collecting better market intelligence, delivering smarter services, and improving business operations.

CLOUD TECHNOLOGIES

An isometric illustration on a dark blue background. A large computer monitor displays a white cloud icon with a circular arrow inside. To the right of the monitor is a stack of three white coins, with a yellow folder icon featuring a circular arrow on top. In the foreground, a man in a blue shirt and tie sits at a white desk with a laptop. To the left, a woman in a white top and black skirt stands. The background is filled with floating icons of folders, documents, and a smartphone. A large number '15' is in the bottom left corner.

The jury is still out on the value addition of cloud technologies in developing countries as the challenges and dynamics which affect countries like Malawi are different from the developed countries. The major barrier to this technology is the resilience and the cost of connectivity costs.

In an ideal setup operating from the cloud should be more affordable and should offer higher productivity than operating from an on-premise model. The good news is that the regional connectivity costs are reducing year on year.

The cloud, if implemented correctly, will reduce costs for organizations while improving on performance of service delivery. With the cloud the capital costs are removed from the organizations books thereby reducing the value of 'fixed assets' most of which are classified as non-interest earning and depreciating in nature. There is also no need for physical infrastructure like servers.

Cloud computing offers the ability for expansion and scalability for organizations especially the smaller organizations. This is a concept where a company must pay for what it needs at a particular moment unlike purchasing high-end expensive infrastructure.

Most of the companies offering cloud services are far more advanced technologically than any ordinary organization whose core business is not information technology services, hence their infrastructure is more secure than the local servers. Statistics also show that most attacks originate internally, so if the applications are outsourced that risk is reduced to a larger extent.

Cloud computing empowers an organization to concentrate on its core business and not on operational issues.

With cloud computing smaller companies could have access to high end technologies at affordable prices, which in normal circumstances they could not have afforded to produce the required capital investment.

THE OPPORTUNITY

T O R E V I E W A N D A S S E S S



As the year ends it is high time every organization reflected on how they plan to position themselves to benefit from the new trends within the next 10 years. Technology will be important for every nation, organization, and person.

But before I delve into the steps that need to be taken, I decided to look at recently rolled out Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan, MIP-1. I noted that Agriculture remains the mainstay of the economy, contributing close to a quarter of the country's GDP and employing about 64 percent of the labour force.

But the sector is constrained by low commercialization and mechanization levels, limited access to land, poor land management practices and many other impediments.

I was listening to a Reserve Bank official who was predicting GDP growth for next year depended on the rains. It really dawned on me that Agriculture is not Malawi's competitive advantage. Infact, we are really bad at it.

Other countries do it much better than we do. Why are we so fixated it as the solution for the future?

But I also noticed that Industrialization is another strategic pillar in the plan with the objective of having a vibrant knowledge-based economy with a strong emphasis on manufacturing industry driven by productive and commercially vibrant agriculture and mining sector.

Our fixation on agriculture for the future, in my opinion, is part of our limitation. Recently the Tech giant Google has announced that will invest \$1 billion in Africa's innovation journey over the next five years. Much of that is going to Rwanda.

Rwanda is currently exploring various areas of cooperation with American tech giant Google to accelerate the country's digital transformation. Rwanda's first domestically built car recently rolled off the assembly line at Volkswagen's new factory in Kigali.

Mauritius is classified as a high-income economy. Another example, Mauritius is also ranked as the most competitive, and one of the most developed economies in the African region. It has grown from Agro based economy to growing industrial, financial, ICT and tourist sectors.

Becoming a financial services hub is a source of foreign currency. Can you imagine, the Financial services sector does not need to be an enemy of economic growth but a source of economic growth.

BOTH RWANDA AND MAURITIUS WERE AGRO-BASED ECONOMIES.

Madam President, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, If we insist that Agriculture remains the mainstay of our economy and the driver of economic growth then let us be serious about it.

We profess that agriculture is the game changer yet we only do that in conferences and published papers. We talk of investments yet we invest not. It is time that the learned people, the technocrats start putting their great ideas into action. The tragedy is that we have quarantined agriculture to the rural people who have little resources to go into commercial farming. They have little knowledge of markets for their produce.

Surprisingly, we expect a lot from them. This has to change. Agriculture must be the domain of the educated and well-resourced people. We need knowledge and scientific based agriculture that is driven by experts who do it on a large commercial scale.

But of course, you can say to me, Madam Shaba these are big and lofty ideas. But what does Malawi do now? I ask myself, what is Malawi's competitive advantage? A competitive advantage can either be developed or given to you by God. In the case of Malawi, the lake is an OBVIOUS competitive advantage – Low hanging fruit that we are only using for conferences. If this lake was somewhere else, the level of tourism and fishing would be the best in the world.

However, when we look at our current circumstances, the rising cost of fuel has skyrocketed prices of many goods and services. The domino effects have been rampant and have led to shrinking disposable income. But this economic downward spiral is what we have to contain. If we do not, we risk shifting deeper into the deep abyss of poverty.

Apparently, we are ranked one of the poorest countries on earth but we have the ambition to resurrect from such a quagmire into an economic stardom country – to a middle to upper income economy as the Malawi 2063 aspirations document states.

Along the way we have to bite the bullet. We have to take the economic medicine that is very sour to swallow. Firstly, our appetite for foreign goods and services must be curtailed. Distinguished colleagues, we are externalising millions of United States dollars in foreign goods and services that we can manage to procure locally, and by doing so boost trade, uplift the small and medium enterprises to become big and make an economic difference.

The bottom line remains that we have little appetite or rather we undermine the resources, potential and creativity that we have to the extent that anything foreign looks superior to us. As long as we have no love for what we have, we better not expect people outside this country to have love for what we produce.

Although, I must admit that sometimes people choose foreign goods and services because of the poor quality of some of our locally produced goods and services. But how will we build our capacity unless we are forced to do so by limiting what we can import?

We are a predominantly importing economy. It is time we carry out an audit of the goods and services we import which are draining a lot of forex thus resulting into forex shortages and shrinking the forex cover. When we do that audit the next step has to be singling out those that we can embark on producing on our own. Is it not surprising that a country that produces cotton at a cheap rate also happens to be a big importer of clothes including second hand clothes?

This means that something is wrong. We are not working in harmony in growing the economy. Each individual thinks of their own economic survival regardless of its impact on the whole population.

Is it not strange that a country which boasts of having Lake Malawi is also a big importer of fish from South Africa and Zambia. We are talking of fish which is harvested in dams by smallholder fish farmers.

What are we doing about it? Surprisingly we have the knowledge resource at Luanar which can accord us great guidance of fish farming but alas, possibly we are not utilising that knowledge. As long as the knowledge is there for referees in the academic journals then we are losing a lot as a country.

Import substitution. Import substitution. Import substitution is the base on which we have to start building the economy. This will force us to develop our economy through value addition and manufacturing. Most developed economies grew their economies through the development of SMEs.

The second pill we need in our economic medicine is the widening of the tax base. The tax regime seems to be hitting the very same sectors and since the base is narrow, the very same sectors get hit hard year in year out.

You will recall how the extension of VAT on what are termed as non-banking services offered by banks brought an outcry. You will recall how VAT on cooking oil has been a thorn in the disposable incomes of the people of the country.

It is understandable that the government must generate adequate revenue to provide the many social services it renders and also spearhead infrastructure developments like roads, schools, hospitals and many others. The point is that there is a wider market on which taxes can be collected but it remains untouched. Many people in Malawi are landlords yet they do not pay tax on the income generated from rentals. Many SMEs do not pay tax.

Of course, people do not like paying taxes. Given an opportunity, we would also not love to pay taxes. The problem that further leads to the reluctance to pay taxes is the utilisation of the collected taxes by the government. When people feel that their taxes are not put to good and effective use, they will find means to avoid paying taxes. We need transparency in the way our resources are spent.

Allow me madam President to touch a thorny issue which is a crucial ingredient in the economic medicine dose for the country. Madam president, corruption is so pervasive in Malawi to the extent that it is almost impossible to think that any tender can be supplied without dirty hands conniving beneath it.

Our appetite to corrupt or be corrupted is so entrenched in us that uprooting it becomes almost impossible. Tenderpreneurship is on the rise. Naturally we always rush to blame the public sector, but truth be told, the private sector is not immune at all. It's a collaborative effort to loot the coffers of the country dry.

I submit to you all distinguished dinners tonight that as long as we do not take stringent measures to curb this cancer of corruption, we shall forever remain in one of the poorest countries in the world.

Madame President, let me address a final point that is dear to my heart; that is the state of education in this country. When I first came to Malawi, I remember a relative celebrating that her son was “selected” to go to secondary school. I was confused.

Does that mean some were “de-selected?”. Are they not going to secondary school? What is the alternative for those that have been “de-selected” by this “selection” process? We are losing a lot of talent through this “de-selection” process. Not all of us were top performers throughout our school life.

In the Malawi 2063 First 10-year Implementation Plan, Human capital development is one of the priority strategies with the aim of having a globally competitive and highly motivated human resource. This is URGENT Madame President. Only 58% of children complete primary school in Malawi. Only 16% proceed to secondary school.

A quarter of those complete secondary school. Only a very small fraction goes to technical college or higher educations. Stories of school drop outs that go on to be successful business men are few and far between. We are all living a decent life in this room because we received an education.

I have been talking about industrialization, value addition, developing commercial and science based agriculture, producing goods for ourselves, building our digital financial services and more.

How will we do that with an uneducated workforce. Even if Google was to come today our youth are not educated enough to be hired at that company except as cleaners. By not educating over 95% of our youth, we are sentencing them to a lifetime of poverty. When investors look at the attractiveness of a nation they look at the level of skills in that country.

If we are serious about economic growth in the next 10 years, we need a “No Child Left behind Education policy” otherwise the future of this country is in peril. All Children must go to secondary school and the quality of education must be relevant to the times we are living in.

Madam President, there is hope for Malawi, as long as we think big, think outside the box, take steps to address current challenges and educate our children. We have the solutions. We can do this.

Allow me, madam President, to finish on this note. I am very much grateful to ICAM for according me the honour to be the Guest of Honour at this event. I thank you.

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A background image showing three business professionals in a meeting room. One man stands on the left, gesturing towards a large world map on the wall. Two other men are seated in chairs, facing him. The room has large windows showing a sunset or sunrise. The year '2021' is overlaid in large red font with a white outline.

2021