

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BY KEY EXPERTS ON CORRUPTION

REFLECTIONS ON 25 YEARS OF THE MALAWI ANTI-CORRUPTION
DRIVE: CHALLENGES OF THE PAST, PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE



CONTEXT

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) was established under Section 4 of the Corrupt Practices Act (Cap 7:04 of the Laws of Malawi) to take necessary measures for the prevention of corruption in both public and private institutions. The ACB is mandated to spearhead the fight against corruption in Malawi through prevention, education and law enforcement.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) plays a crucial role in global anti-corruption efforts, emphasizing capacity building, legal and policy frameworks, and civil society engagement. UNDP supports governments to enhance the transparency and accountability of institutions, aligning national policies with international standards such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), a landmark international treaty aimed at combating corruption worldwide.

OVERVIEW OF KEY EXPERTS DIALOGUE

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) of Malawi recently marked its 25th anniversary, celebrating a quarter-century of dedication to combating corruption since its inception in 1998. With a dual strategy focused on prevention and law enforcement, the ACB's response to corruption continues to evolve. To commemorate this milestone, the ACB with support from UNDP organized public debates as part of several activities. These discussions are intended to serve as a platform for receiving valuable input from various stakeholders, evaluating the ACB's performance, understanding the challenges encountered, and gathering crucial recommendations for future strategies. The aim is to extract pivotal strategic points from public feedback to guide the ACB's efforts over the next 25 years.

These debates featured insights from distinguished panelists, bringing together a wealth of expertise and perspectives. The panel included:

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Mr. Alison Mbang'ombe
Solicitor General



Mr. Patrick Mpaka
President -
Malawi Law Society



Mr. Jeff Kabondo
Chairperson -
National Integrity Committee (NIC)

PANELISTS



Ms. Martha Chizuma
Director General -
Anti-Corruption Bureau



Dr. Boniface Dulani
Director -
Institute for Policy Research (IPOR)



Mrs. Nadine Rugwe
Governance and Peace Building Advisor -
UNDP

KEY INSIGHTS



9.9K PARTICIPANTS



Fenella Speech – “UNDP has been working closely with the ACB and other stakeholders to strengthen the national anti-corruption framework, enhance the capacity and independence of anti-corruption institutions, raise public awareness and education on anti-corruption issues, and facilitate dialogue and cooperation among various actors in the anti-corruption arena. We are proud of our partnership with the ACB and we look forward to continuing our collaboration in the future.”



Ms. Martha Chizuma – Director General, Anti-Corruption Bureau.

- Balancing high-level and grass roots responses to corruption is key.
- Securing political will.
- Shift focus to prevention.
- The role of media in shaping public perception and combating misinformation is important.



Patrick Mpaka – Malawi Law Society, President.

- Enforcing ethics within government institutions should be prioritized.
- Regulation of judicial officers and enacting laws regarding the Judicial Service Commission should be considered.



Dr. Boniface Dulani – Institute for Policy Research (IPOR) Director.

- Academia has a responsibility in educating and training against corruption.
- Research is key and offers avenues for anti-corruption strategies that is evidence-based.



Mr. Jeff Kabondo –National Integrity Committee (NIC) Chairperson.

- People join an endeavour when they see value, hence it is important to educate people on the evils of corruption; reporting and refraining from corruption.



Nadine Rugwe –Governance and Peace Building Advisor-UNDP.

- UNDP advocates for engaging in a multi-sectoral approach when dealing with corruption.
- Corruption must be treated as a systemic issue rather than symptomatic.
- Advocating for legislation rooted in human rights principles and Emphasizing public service duty is paramount.

ACB DIALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

1. Depoliticizing Anti-Corruption

- The importance of removing political influences from anti-corruption efforts was emphasized.

2. Strengthening Legal Institutions

- The necessity of capacity-building initiatives for oversight and anti-corruption institutions, courts and the judiciary was highlighted.

3. Youth Engagement and Education

- Emphasis was placed on the role of the younger generation in combating corruption as Malawi has a youthful population.
- A point of reflection was raised about the exclusion of civics from primary education in Malawi, underscoring a missed opportunity to instill ethical values.

4. Commendations and Collective Responsibility

- Recognition of ACB's commendable efforts was highlighted, including the development and piloting of the anti-corruption sourcebook in primary schools.
- Emphasis was made regarding the fight against corruption as a collective responsibility shared by all Malawians, extending beyond one institution, the ACB.

POINTS OF REFLECTION

- **Adopting a whole of society approach** in fighting against corruption by promoting ethical behaviors from the individual to the national level.
- **Adopting a multisectoral and multi-stakeholders' approach** will provide a strong foundation for anti-corruption. This includes enhancing the **role of the private sector, the media, and the civil society.**
- **Explore further the opportunities offered by modern technologies** in preventing and fighting against anti-corruption.
- **Identify good practices and promote them** to inspire change.
- **Enhance regional strategies for anti-corruption** to promote impunity.