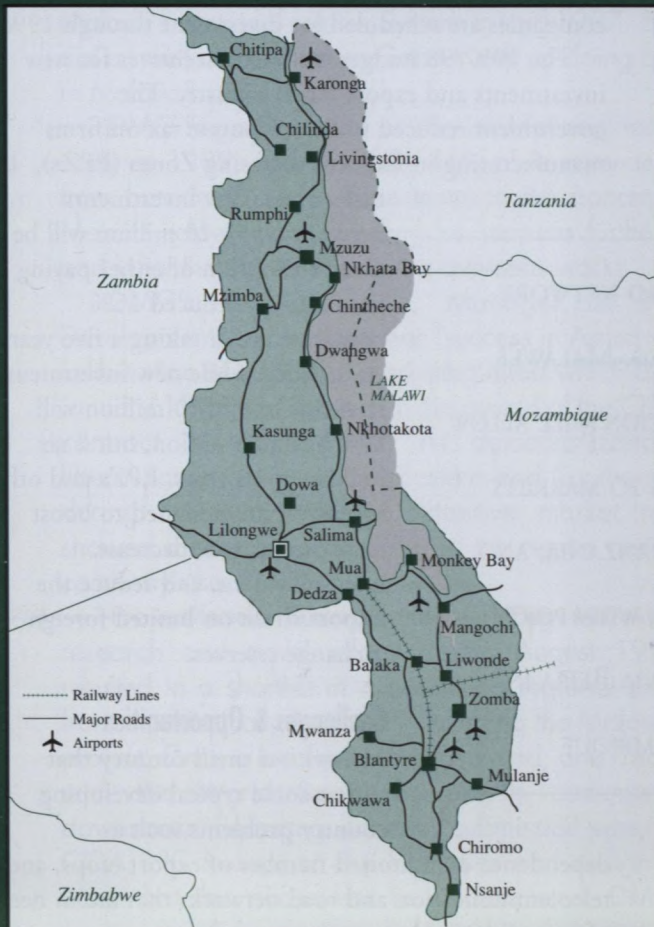


## COUNTRY PROFILE

# MALAWI



<b>Official Name:</b>	Republic of Malawi
<b>Area:</b>	118,484 sq. km
<b>Population:</b>	11 million (1997 est.)
<b>Pop. Growth:</b>	3.3%
<b>Official Languages:</b>	English and Chichewa
<b>Int. Organizations:</b>	UN, Commonwealth, OAU, ADB, ACP-EU Lome Convention, SADC, COMESA, MIGA
<b>GDP Growth:</b>	10.3% (1996)
<b>Debt:</b>	US\$1.8 Bn (1993)
<b>Currency:</b>	Malawi Kwacha (K)
<b>Forex:</b>	\$1 Canadian = 11.1 kwacha (July 1997)
<b>Inflation:</b>	7% (1996)
<b>Agriculture:</b>	approx. 50% of GDP/80% of labour force
<b>Main Exports:</b>	Tobacco, tea, sugar, beans, peas
<b>Main Imports:</b>	Petroleum products, capital equipment, industrial inputs, consumer goods
<b>Telecom:</b>	<1 mainline per 100 people Cellular system operational

Malawi, popularly known as the Warm Heart of Africa on account of its friendly and hospitable people, is bordered by Tanzania to the North, Mozambique to the East and South-West, and Zambia to the West.

The general elections in May 1994 marked an end to three decades of one party rule, and ushered in both a new Constitution and a democratically elected government. The Constitution of a modern democratic Malawi guarantees its 11 million people all fundamental human rights and freedoms.

The United Democratic Front (UDF) government, which is headed by His Excellency President Bakill Muluzi, has implemented a wide range of bold economic policies to good effect. In 1995 real gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 9.0 per cent; reversing the decline of 11.6 per cent recorded in 1994. In 1996 the economy registered unprecedented growth of 10.3 per cent. Prospects for 1997 look good.

However, the Government realizes that a vibrant private sector is a sine qua non for sustainable social economic development. In this regard, promotion of foreign investment is, therefore, not an option but an imperative and a top priority. To this end, the Government has put in place a comprehensive and competitive package of investment incentives and tax concessions which confer far-reaching comparative advantage on foreign investors (for details please contact the nearest Diplomatic Mission for Malawi). Investing in Malawi is indeed a "Smart Choice".

I invite you to visit Malawi, a country of unparalleled and wondrous beauty. While there, after relaxing on the golden sands of Lake Malawi and enjoying the breathtaking panoramic vista from Nyika and Zomba Plateaux, may I suggest that you take full advantage of the excellent trade and investment opportunities.

B.M. Msaka, High Commissioner

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