

## **CHURCH AND SOCIETY CCAP NKHOMA SYNOD PROGRAM**

Church and Society CCAP Nkhoma Synod was established as department of the synod in 2004 to deal with social-economic issues particularly human rights issues. The department promotes democracy, good governance, and gender equality with institutions of similar mandate through advocacy, training, mediation, networking, empowerment and civic education for a vibrant and just Malawian Society. The Society is striving to consolidate Malawi's emergent democracy by raising awareness about roles and responsibilities in a democracy through community mobilization aimed at bridging the knowledge gap. Church and Society CCAP Nkhoma Synod department has implemented a number of donor funded projects. Notably, the organization is currently implementing a project on Issue Based Voter Education Campaign. It is being implemented in Lilongwe Rural, Dowa, Kasungu, Mchinji and Ntchisi district.

### **PREAMBLE**

#### **WE THE CONSTITUENTS OF NTCHISI NORTH EAST CONSTITUENCY**

#### **UNDER**

#### **KONGWE PRESBYTERY IN NTCHISI DISTRICT**

**RECALLING** our history of political, economic and constitutional instability witnessed through economic stagnation and moral degeneration;

**RECOGNISING** our struggle against the forces of oppression, exploitation, corruption, inequality, moral degeneration and low levels of civic consciousness that have threatened the very existence of our ;

**CONCERNED** that the citizens' basic rights and freedoms guaranteed by the constitution of Malawi are being endangered by in adherence to the rule of law ;

**COMMITTED** to building a brighter future and a governance system based on popular participation, equality, respect for people's rights, and cultural values;

**DESIROUS** of advancing a citizen driven agenda in all the social, political and economic spheres of the society by putting citizens at the forefront of shaping an accountable, democratic and just society;

**EXERCISING** our sovereignty and inalienable right to determine our own destination collectively as citizens of Malawi;

**DEMONSTRATING** our resolve and commitment to the vision, principles, values and demands in the Citizens' Manifesto;

**DO HERE BY** give unto ourselves and our posterity, this Citizens' Manifesto to be adhered to, respected and executed by all whom we shall entrust with authority or aspire to manage the public affairs of Mtsiro and Langa wards in Ntchisi North East Constituency of Traditional Authority Nthondo which is under Chinthebwe CCAP Nkhoma Synod presbytery for full effect of positive socio-economic and political transformation of this constituency.

## **INTRODUCTION**

This Manifesto is a Political Statement by ordinary citizens outlining their aspirations and demands in the quest for a peaceful, prosperous nation with happy people. It is a document derived from consultations in Ntchisi North East Constituency which is under Chinthebwe CCAP Nkhoma Synod Presbytery.

## **STRATEGIC FOCUS: THE COMMUNITY WE WANT!**

### **Key Community Values**

The challenge of declining morality in the community and the need to put in place a value system upon which the soul of the community is built and national interests anchored, has to be tackled head-on. Accordingly, we citizens have generated 8 Values upon which governance and development should be based. These are presented with indicators and suggestions of how they can be rebuilt and sustained.

### **Values**

God Fearing; Hard Work; Equity; Tolerance; Honesty; Transparency & Accountability; Self-Respect; Gender Equity

### **Important Indicators**

Respect for life and human dignity; Justice and Honesty ; Creativity and Innovation; Commitment to quality work; Enterprise; Shared Visions and Goals; Collective action and responsibility; Respect for the constitution and the rule of law; Balanced planning and investment incentives; Inclusion of clan leaders in lower levels of governance; Effective communication strategies; Effective systems of checks and balances; Sustained Civic Education and Exemplary Leadership

### **How we can rebuild and sustain it**

Promotion of ‘divine’ ‘godly’ values; Freedom of Worship; Independent Religious Institutions ; Regional balance in terms of resource allocation and political representation; Social and economic justice in terms of rural-urban disparities and inequalities in terms of gender, people with disabilities, the elderly, and marginalization of ethnic minorities

## **3. CITIZENS’ POLICY DIRECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES**

The constitution guarantees the sovereignty of citizens of Malawi in the governance of the country. This shows how central the citizens’ power is in governance and management of public affairs of the country. This categorically makes citizen’s involvement and participation in influencing public policy and governance a human right. It’s against this constitutional background that we citizen make the following directives:

- i. That all citizens, institutions and agencies of the state shall respect and uphold constitutionalism and the rule of law at all times;
- ii. That all Citizens especially those executing state functions shall respect and uphold human rights and human dignity as basic entitlements of humanity and civilization;
- iii. That the right to life and other human rights entail a commitment to provide livelihood to the citizens as a reflection of dignity that they aspire for. Constitutional provisions for

rights to health, education, clean environment and development shall be translated into concrete actions to enhance livelihood and service delivery as human rights issues;

- iv. That all leaders shall be accountable to the citizens first and foremost, and accountability demands by the citizens for the exercise of political power and execution of social advancement programmes shall be made as a matter of tradition;
- v. That State policy shall make a direct commitment to deepening the decentralization process by removing all barriers to autonomy, legitimacy and independence. Local governments shall be availed a productive environment for pursuing the aspirations of their populations while reducing their dependence on the Central Government;
- vi. That Malawi's governance shall be guided by the need to ensure political pluralism and tolerance of divergent views. This system shall best be articulated by the multiparty form of Governance;
- vii. That all leaders shall ensure that they value and respond to the views expressed by citizens whether formally made through elected representatives or through other civic groups and actions. This will encourage citizens' use of peaceful, non-violent and acceptable means, for reforming or informing state policy through petitions, peaceful demonstrations, minimum agenda, citizens manifestos and other demands;
- viii. That the State and all its organs and agencies, political parties and civic organizations shall respect and support the need for regularity of free, fair elections and credible elections as part of Malawi's democratization process;
- ix. That the Government shall consider equity in the allocation of national development resources in order to remove the disparities in poverty index of the different regions of Malawi.

#### **4. CITIZENS' STRATEGIC INTERESTS**

These strategic citizens' interests are primarily for the community's survival and security, the pursuit of wealth and economic growth and power, and preservation of community heritage and culture. The country needs to act strategically in the best interest of its citizens. At the moment,

issues facing the country are viewed through rather narrow individual or group lenses and this means that not enough attention is paid to the needs of Malawi as a whole.

The lack of strategic thinking also means the national policies often fail to be proactive and forward thinking. It is against this background that we the citizens push for these strategic interests below to guide state actors in formulation of strategic political, economic and development policies and programmes.

- I. Build a democratic society founded on Strong political institutions, democratic ideals such as constitutionalism, rule of law, respect and protection of civic and political liberties, and a recognition of and respect of the superiority of Citizens;
- II. Anchor the development of the country on agriculture with the state investing her resources towards research, mechanization, expansion and industrialization of the agricultural sector as the backbone for development;
- III. A strong uncompromised and uncompromising parliament that will independently execute its legislative and oversight role over the governance and management of the public affairs of the country;
- IV. Sustainable exploitation and protection of Malawi's natural resources from all forms of greed, abuse and misuse;
- V. Build a strong and vibrant Civil Society, free and independent media and a focused and strong opposition as pillars of democratic and accountable governance;
- VI. A moral economy founded on principles of national ownership, social justice and equity, and massive investment in human capital formation.

## **5. THE TOP CITIZENS' DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS AND DEMANDS**

In consultations, citizens raised several development issues and concerns and below we present the Top 10 most mentioned issues in the community meetings and focus group discussions.

1. **Issue:** Poor quality and inaccessible education services

**Objective: Improve the quality and accessibility of education services**

**Action proposed:** Measures to be taken to address the issue

- Construction of 4 hostels at Kayoyo CDSS, 2 school blocks and 4 teacher houses at Vikula primary school, 4 school blocks and 3 teacher houses at Kanolo primary school, 2 school blocks and 4 teacher houses at Kalonga primary, 3 school blocks and 2 teacher houses at Multa primary, and 2 school blocks and 3 teacher houses at Mjima primary by August, 2017
- Provide adequate teaching and learning materials in all primary schools and Community Day Secondary Schools by November 30, 2014.
- Construction of sports grounds at Vikula and Kalonga primary schools by July 30, 2015
- Construction of TDC office at Tsiro Primary School by August 30, 2015

**2. Issue: Low Agriculture productivity (Deficiency in food production)**

**Objective:** Make a decisive commitment to substantially invest in the agriculture sector for the next 5-10 years

**Action proposed:** Measures to be taken to address the issue

- Introduce and maintain irrigation schemes at Bango, Mchere, Moto, Kaombe, Chibazi and Kavuma by September 30, 2015
- Introduce fish ponds and animal farming at Mchere, Chibazi and Moto
- End the coupon system on farm inputs and introduce universal farm input program by June 30, 2014
- Support revival of farm clubs by October 30, 2014
- Revamp operations of Champhoyo and ensure the availability of Agriculture extension workers at Champhoyo, Mndinda and Mauta
- Construction of market structures at Nthondo and Mpanda

3. **Issue:** Limited access to health facilities and low health standards (increased infant and maternal mortality)

**Objective:** Improved community health standard and increased access to health facilities.

**Action proposed:** Measures to be taken to address the issue

- Construct a Health Centre at Vikula by August 30, 2016
- Provide Nthondo and Mndinda Health Centres with sufficient and appropriate drug and secure them from theft, provide electricity, bicycle ambulances, specialist health personnel by September 30, 2015
- Construction of 4 medical officers houses at Nthondo and Mndinda Health Centres by August 30, 2017
- Ensure protection and enforcement of patients rights at Nthondo and Mndinda Health Centres by August 30, 2014
- Support policies that regulate the overconsumption of alcohol in villages by August 30, 2014

4. **Issue: Poor Infrastructure**

**Objective:** Pay special attention to improving rural network across the constituency

**Action proposed:** Measures to be taken to address the issue

- Ensure that Airtel and TNM companies have installed towers at Wundu by June 30, 2015
- Construct a tar mark road from Ntchisi Boma-Champhoyo- Nkhotakota by October 30, 2017.
- Construction of Chisusu, Mndinda, and Langa bridges by July 30, 2015
- Construction of market structures at Nthondo and Mpanda
- Take action to secure the provision of more public buses from Ntchisi Boma-Champhoyo-Nkhotakota by November 30, 2015

**5. Issue: Ineffectiveness and unresponsiveness of police**

**Objective:** To support and strengthen the role of police in bringing peace and stability at community level (Crime reduction and prevention)

**Action proposed:** Measures to be taken to address the issue

- Establish police units at Mwangala, Mkanga, Matekenya, and Mnsanyama by July 30, 2016
- Support Nthondo Police Unit with a vehicle by July 30, 2016
- Construction of 4 houses for Nthondo Police Officers
- Reinforce community policing operations and equip community policing volunteers with the necessary equipments and materials by November 30, 2014

**6. Issue :** Limited access to safe water and clean water

**Objective :** Increased access to safe and clean water by increasing the number of functional boreholes and dams which provide piped waters.

**Action proposed :** Measures to be taken to address the issue

- Support installation of piped water at Mtsiro ward by August 30, 2015
- Lobby for cheap borehole spare parts and provide communities with training in borehole maintenance by April 30, 2015

**7. Issue:** Limited employment opportunities

**Objective:** Expand employment opportunities

**Action proposed:** Measures to be taken to address the issue

- Take decisive action against corruption in employment and ensure equal opportunities in employment by September 30, 2014
- Support People Living with HIV and Aids with capital to start small scale business
- Facilitate access to capital through lowering of interest rates by July 30, 2015

- 80% of youths and women of this constituency should be employed by December 31, 2016

8. **Issue:** Lack of transparency and accountability in local governance structures

**Objective:** Promote transparency and accountability at local governance level

**Action proposed:** Measures to be taken to address the issue

- Build governance and administrative capacity of traditional authorities, district councils, and village and area development committees (VDC's and ADC's by July 30, 2016
- Increase community control and oversight over constituency development funds by November 30, 2014
- Members of Parliament and Councilors should declare their assets before sworn in
- Support the implementation of Section 65 and review of Section 64

**Key Citizen Demands**

- ❖ Review and amend the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi to take care of several unresolved historical questions such as the system of governance best suited for Malawi, emerging issues such as reducing presidential powers, the need to Section 64 and others.
- ❖ Work towards an inclusive Government in terms of different political actors and also in terms of policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation.
- ❖ Reclaim and conserve positive cultural resources for development so that development is sustainable.
- ❖ Subsidize critical agro-based industries and where necessary protect them from harmful external competition

- ❖ Strategically invest in agriculture and revive the cooperative movement in all parts of the country as it was in the 70's and 80's. This will improve agricultural marketing, set a foundation for industrialization.
- ❖ Massively invest in economic infrastructure such as energy, roads, rail and water transport to reduce the costs of production and make the Malawian economy more competitive
- ❖ Take more decisive action on economic corruption in order to create an environment for fair competition and good quality outputs
- ❖ Safeguard national interests including; national and regional peace and security, economic interest, protection of positive cultural values and heritages, protection of the country's natural resources from unfair exploitation by foreign companies, human capital development and finally securing the human dignity of all citizens.

This Citizen Manifesto, and any dispute arising from the relationship between parties in this manifesto, shall be governed by the laws of Malawi.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned, being duly recognized as an aspirant for Member of Parliament, and Councilor thereto, has signed the present Citizen Manifesto at the place and on the day below written.

This Citizen Manifesto shall be effective on the 21st day of May 2014

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
Aspirant Position : \_\_\_\_\_  
Place : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_  
Party/Independent : \_\_\_\_\_  
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Party/Independent : \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Church and Society CCAP Nkhoma Synod  
P.O.Box 132, Lilongwe, Malawi**

Name : \_\_\_\_\_  
Place : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Date : \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and address of Senior Chief/Traditional Authority(T/A)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Place : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date : \_\_\_\_\_

**Acknowledgements**

We would like to acknowledge the inputs of citizens for their unflinching efforts in effectively articulating their demands and concerns documented into this Citizen Manifesto. This also extends to Church and Society CCAP Nkhoma Synod staff who made the effort to compile this Citizen Manifesto. Special thanks should also go to National Democratic Institute (NDI) and DFID for valuable technical and financial support rendered to the Issue Based Voter Education Campaign Project.