



**Final DRAFT**

**Malawi Poverty  
Reduction Strategy  
Paper**

**April 2002**



## **Foreword**

This Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy (MPRSP) represents a major advance in the fight against poverty in Malawi for a variety of reasons. Firstly, it brings into clear focus the poverty situation in the country and the need to ensure all of our efforts are aimed at improving the situation. Secondly, it presents a detailed, prioritised and costed action plan that can be translated into Government's Budget and can be monitored by all stakeholders. Thirdly, it represents a national consensus about priorities for poverty reduction and provides a coordinating framework to guide the activities of all stakeholders.

At the core of the MPRSP is the philosophy of empowerment. Government recognises that the poor should not be seen as helpless victims in need of hand-outs and passive recipients of trickle-down growth. Instead the poor are seen as masters of their own destinies. The role of Government and its partners is therefore to create the conditions for the poor to reduce their own poverty.

The document is the result of an extensive participatory process that involved stakeholders from all parts of Malawian society. Many thousands of voices have been heard and translated into a coherent and implementable strategy. To ensure that this translation was accurate, the finalisation of the document has involved a number of iterations between the Drafting Team and stakeholders. That this has been possible is due to the willingness of participants to volunteer their time and ideas, and the dedication of the Technical Committee and Drafting Team. Financial support from our donor partners was also crucial in ensuring the success of the process.

However, it should be clear to all of us that the real challenges lie ahead. Unless the strategy contained in the document is implemented, poverty will not be reduced and our efforts will have been wasted. Government is committed to ensuring the implementation of the MPRSP, using the Budget as the key tool. However, the efforts of Government will not be enough to ensure implementation – all stakeholders must accept their responsibilities in reducing poverty.

**Hon. Friday Jumbe**  
**Minister of Finance and Economic Planning**

