

## **9.2 Safe Drinking Water**

9.2.1 District consultations on the PRSP also underlined the pressing need for safe drinking water, a fundamental necessity. An ambitious programme for constructing boreholes and other water supply systems must be undertaken, particularly in rural areas. This must be accompanied by community training in maintenance of local water supply facilities.

9.2.2 Increased public spending on safe drinking water supply systems must be accompanied by expanding programmes for environmental protection of water catchment areas, re-forestation, and restoration of soils and streams. Population must also be controlled to avoid increasing pressure on natural resources. Some years ago, boreholes drilled to a depth of 10 meters were expected to yield water for many years. Now a depth of 25 to 40 meters is typically needed. If environmental protection and population control are not pursued vigorously, the cost effectiveness of funds spent for water supply systems will continue to decrease.

9.2.3 The Decision Point Document suggests indicative use of US\$4.2 million in HIPC resources for borehole construction and maintenance in 2001/2002.

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| <p><u>Recommendation 20</u>: Substantially increase the budget for constructing safe drinking water systems, include funds for community training in maintenance, and designate the same as a Priority Poverty Expenditure.</p> |
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## **10. Security**

10.0.1 The security situation in rural and urban areas has deteriorated, causing Malawians to fear for themselves and their property. District consultations on the PRSP made it apparent that security is just as much of a problem in rural areas and among the poor, as in urban areas and among the better off. In fact, theft is more devastating for the poor than for the rich. Many poor rural households no longer keep livestock, even chickens, for fear of theft. The same disincentive applies to accumulating other physical assets, e.g., seeds, tools, etc. Growing perceptions of insecurity also affect foreign investment and tourism.

### **10.1 Police Service and Community Policing**

10.1.1 Relationships between communities and police are strained by distrust and cynicism about the Police Service and the criminal justice system. People

don't just want culprits caught and punished. They also want their stolen goods returned, or other restitution made. People resort to mob justice because they lose confidence in the processes employed by the police and the courts.

10.1.2 Increased recruitment and better training for the Police Service is needed, and police must be equipped for effective service. The cost of adequate policing can be reduced, and relationships between police and citizens can be improved, by a greater emphasis on supplementing regular police services with community policing.

10.1.3 This should be accompanied by a concentrated effort to improve efficiency and consideration for complainants and informers. The Committee agrees with the recommendations of a Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeal made during PRSP consultations to improve the delivery of justice, and to integrate traditional courts with statutory courts. Funding must be increased for justice delivery overall.

Recommendation 21: Substantially increase the budgets for training and employment for the Police Service (to increase the number of trained officers), and for instituting community policing, particularly in rural areas. Include in the budgets adequate funds for equipment and other materials, and designate the same as Priority Poverty Expenditures.

## **11. Macroeconomic Review**

11.0.1 Growth in the economy is absolutely necessary in order to reduce poverty, yet the macroeconomic situation in the country has generally deteriorated during the past twelve months. The cost of living as reflected in the inflation rate has gone up, interest rates have been consistently high, and the Malawi Kwacha has lost value against major trading currencies by a large margin. Weakening of the Kwacha has contributed to higher local prices through costly imports. The Kwacha depreciation is itself a direct reflection of the country's weak export base, which is overdependent on tobacco.

11.0.2 Government has taken major steps under the Ten Point Plan to improve management of public funds. However, the benefits of the fiscal reforms have only become manifest in the last few months meaning that the general population has yet to feel a positive impact on their lives. This has led to widespread calls for Government to further tighten expenditure controls.