

**11. OVERALL 2002 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Parliament recommends that the budget be referred to committee and that the House allow 21 days for the budget debate.
2. Include funds in Parliament's budget for convening Parliament and its committees. Parliament should ensure that such funds are considered protected expenditures in accordance with Article 183(3) of the Constitution.
3. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning should carefully consider the Committee's recommendations, begin consultations with the Committee, and present the new finance and audit bills to Parliament at the next sitting of the House.
4. Even though Priority Poverty Expenditures are not specifically identified in the final version of Malawi's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, the tagging implemented in 2001/02 should be continued. Further, the Committee remains convinced that the recommendation to code for Priority Poverty Expenditures is necessary if poverty interventions are to be monitored
5. The Committee recommends that the budget, and particularly the Priority Poverty Expenditures in the budget, should be in a format that is readily understandable, provides total spending from all sources, costs for headquarters/administration, costs for personal emoluments, estimates approved by Parliament, and quantified, verified results expected.
6. Provide quarterly reports with expenditures from all sources, explanations of all spending variances, current estimates of quantifiable results, and explanations of variances from the anticipated results.
7. Guarantee that total funds actually spent on programmes designated as Priority Poverty Expenditures will not be less than the amount budgeted for them from all sources, and seek prior approval from Parliament for any change in funds.
8. Government should commit to use HIPC funds exclusively for designated Priority Poverty Expenditures.
9. PRSP monitoring and evaluation committees should include a wide range of people including the poor themselves, service delivery representatives, and MPs.
10. Substantially increase the budget for Government extension services, simplify and unify budgeting practices for extensions services and assure all budget funds for extension services are expended for this purpose.
11. Substantially increase the budget for support for programmes that provide credit and related services to poor farmers, and designate the same as a Priority Poverty Expenditure.
12. Substantially increase the budget for the Targeted Inputs Programme (TIP), including funds to insure proper distribution and assisted delivery of extension services, and improve transparency and accountability of TIP.
13. Increase the budget for training primary school teachers, and designate the same as a Priority Poverty Expenditure.

14. Maintain budget increases for personal emoluments (salaries and benefits) for teachers, and designate the same as a Priority Poverty Expenditure.
15. Maintain the increased budget for teaching and learning materials in primary schools, and designate the same as a Priority Poverty Expenditure.
16. Increase the budget for training front-line health care professionals, and designate the same as a Priority Poverty Expenditure.
17. Increase the budget for personal emoluments (salaries and benefits) for front-line health care professionals, including nurses, and designate the same as a Priority Poverty Expenditure.
18. Increase the budget for drugs and medical supplies to match the \$1.33 per capita goal, include adequate funds for proper distribution and increased security for drug stores and designate the same as a Priority Poverty Expenditure.
19. 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.
20. The Committee recommends that all HIPC resources be allocated only with the full participation of the Parliament.
21. Parliament's Budget should be drafted and implemented with the full participation of representatives from the Budget and Finance Committee. A Member of the Committee should also be appointed to Parliament's Prioritisation Committee.
22. Funds for Parliamentary committees should be maintained separately from other programmes and expenditures, and a sub-vote created.
23. Information concerning any extra-budgetary expenditure should be communicated to the Speaker and the Budget and Finance Committee before any arrearages are incurred.
24. Parliament should seek donor support for computers and for training staff.
25. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning should inform Parliament of the allocations for and the contingent liabilities of each subvented agency.
26. Both PERMU and DSC should continue to function as separate agencies because their roles and functions are different.
27. ADMARC should continue to play a role in safeguarding food security, and should not be privatised.
28. Government should maintain a majority ownership in Shire Buslines to insure that rural routes are served.
29. The appointments of parastatal board chairs and chief executives should be subject to review by Parliament's Public Appointments Committee.