



REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

KAMUZU COLLEGE OF NURSING, LILONGWE, MALAWI

20TH JULY 2018

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Malawi Scotland Partnership (MaSP) held its 6th Annual General Meeting (AGM) under the theme '*Working Partnerships*' on Friday the 20th of July 2018 at the Kamuzu College of Nursing (KCN) New Lecture Hall in Lilongwe. A total number of **85** participants attended the event. The AGM was held as a legal requirement stipulated in the organization's Articles of Association section 10 regarding general meetings. The main purpose of the AGM was to elect new board members, approve the financial report, receive updates from the secretariat, and discuss the introduction of membership fees and the change of auditors. The Principal Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr. Isaac Munlo, presided over the event as Guest of Honor. We were also honored to have Mr. David Hope Jones who is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP). This report is a detailed account of the events of the day.

2. OPENING MESSAGE FROM MaSP CEO MRS. VERA KAMTUKULE

The guest of Honor arrived on time at 8:00am and went ahead to patronize the tables displayed by Linga wine, Nkhoma Hospital, Chance for Change and some women entrepreneurs in Lilongwe. He was accompanied by the Board chairman Mr Namakhoma, SMP's CEO Mr David Hope Jones and MaSP CEO Mrs. Vera Kamtukule. The meeting was called to order at 8:35am, by Mrs. Vera Kamtukule who started by welcoming everyone to the 2018 Annual General Meeting for the Malawi Scotland Partnership. She asked a volunteer to open the meeting with a word of prayer. After the prayer, she gave a brief on what MaSP is and what it does. She then commended the Guest of Honor, Dr. Munlo for being on time for the event and then invited the chairperson for MaSP Board of Directors Mr. Andrew Namakhoma, to give the welcoming address.

3. WELCOMING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRMAN, MR. NAMAKHOMA

The Chairman begun his address by welcoming everyone to the meeting and encouraged the audience to be energetic throughout the meeting despite the cold weather. He also welcomed and thanked the Guest of Honor for taking time out of his busy schedule to be present at the event.

On a sad note, he mentioned the passing of Mrs. Phyllis Thompson who was a committed member of both MaSP and the Scotland Malawi Partnership (SMP). He went on to explain that Phyllis and her husband Dr. Jack Thompson who passed away last year were very good friends and ambassadors of Malawi in Scotland and dedicated their time, efforts and resources to the education sector of the country having worked as a lecturer and teacher at the University of Malawi Chancellor College and Livingstonia Secondary school respectively. Mr. Namakhoma announced that the ashes of Jack Thompson were upon his request buried at Njuyu in Mzimba on 16th January 2018 at a ceremony presided over by the Livingstonia synod of the CCAP. Sadly, Phyllis who was also unwell at the time of Jack's demise passed away a few months ago and to honor her spirit he asked the participants to observe a minute of silence for her departed soul. Mr Namakhoma further conveyed a condolence message to the Thomson family especially Mark Thompson through the CEO of the SMP present at the event.

The Chairman's address covered the following issues:

3.1 Six years of MaSP

He started by acknowledging how special it is to be back at KCN in the same room as it was at this very place where he was elected onto the board 6 years back when the MaSP was being revamped in 2012. He explained the personal connection he has with KCN saying, *"this is where I started my journey as part of the MaSP family and today marks my end of sitting on the board; it is good that I started here and I am ending here as well."*

He thanked the Malawi and Scottish governments for their continued support from the start in 2004 to the revamping of the same in 2012. He explained how he was one of the first people to be consulted to be part of the partnership in 2011 and the partnership was re-launched in 2012 with the commitment of the Scottish government and the Malawi government pledging its top staff to be part of the process. From 2012 the partnership has had five government officers commonly known as Strand Leads within the partnership, who provide policy direction on the five strategic pillars of the Malawi Scotland Partnership. He thanked the Guest of Honor, whose ministry in particular, as MaSP's mother ministry has been very supportive. He also thanked Mr.

Adwell Zembere strand lead form the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for being instrumental in helping and advising on how to effectively work with the government.

The partnership has been successful because of the work and support of the two governments, organizations and individuals who have helped re-focus and re-align the objectives on how to strengthen then links between the two countries and develop the People to People model. He mentioned that the People to People model, which focuses on bringing people from the two countries together, is a successful model and can easily be replicated in other countries with a similar focus.

3.2 Lessons from MaSP

- i. **The People to People model of development is possible** – it is possible to bring people of two nations with diverse backgrounds together. When you walk in the streets of Edinburgh or Glasgow, you will meet an overwhelming number of people with connections with Malawi. He added that he believes that as a country we can capitalize on that and continue our long standing relationship with Scotland.
- ii. **The power of unity** – being a membership organization, diversity can be difficult to manage, but it has been our strength. The unity that exists between Malawi and Scotland has helped us understand and define our direction. He specifically mentioned the unity of the board in bringing members together, but also members who are present at all major events.
- iii. **What doesn't kill you strengthens you.** He pointed at the challenges the organization has faced and how those challenges have made the organization stronger. He added that as an organization, MaSP now knows how to handle tough situations, how to celebrate achievements because of it has gone through in the past.

3.3 Registered Successes of the Organization

- i. **Introduction of the Internship and Fellowship programmes.** MaSP has a good percentage of people in its Internship Programme. The programme provides fresh graduates or those still going to college with skills that will increase their

employability in the job market. The Internship Programme has so far been successful with others completing their service period and others joining. The fellows are attached to different organizations and are tasked with coming up with a concept note for the host organization at the end of their service period which is six months. It is envisaged that the concepts can be developed into fully fledged proposals for the host organizations if they so wish. Chance for Change is one of the organizations who are hosting a fellow from the programme.

- ii. The progress and achievements made as an organization under the leadership of the CEO, Mrs. Vera Kamtukule who came in last year who has quickly captured the vision of MaSP and has shown great commitment to this organization.

3.4 Advice to the Incoming Board

The chairman felt duty bound to provide some insights to the incoming Board of Directors as follows:

- i. Work as a team, there is power in unity. Disagreements will be there but never break the unity and team spirit.
- ii. Prioritize and listen to the members as well as the two governments.
- iii. Embrace the spirit of volunteerism. Membership on the MaSP board is entirely on voluntary basis. It is only through the spirit of volunteerism that you will have the desired impact and success as a board.
- iv. Value and build the People to People model of development. It is up to the board to re-develop the model to reach more people.
- v. Continuity is critical. Please change what you can change and continue with that which you can continue with for the betterment of the organization

In closing, the Chairman asked the Guest of Honor and CEO of SMP to take messages of gratitude to their respective governments for their support and commitment to the partnership. He also thanked members of the Board for their support during his tenure as Board Chairman and for always listening to the board even when decisions weren't palatable to them.

4. UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT – MRS. VERA KAMTUKULE, MaSP CEO

Mrs. Kamtukule began her address by giving a brief description of the MaSP and mentioned that the organizations is a member led organization which exists to coordinate and support mutually beneficial civic links which Malawi has with Scotland. She continued to explain that this unique relationship is achieved by championing the People to People principle which is based on trust and mutual respect.

On membership, the CEO announced that so far, the partnership has 401 members which represent a 14% increase from last year's 365. She explained that this increase is good so that the Secretariat can properly manage the expectation of members especially those who are keen to have links with Scotland. She mentioned that the secretariat has 5 permanent staff that are supported by 4 interns nationally.

The Secretariat is working on 5 strategic outcomes:

- 1. Increased awareness and understanding of Malawi's links with Scotland and the role of MaSP.** Under this outcome, the MaSP has done the following:
 - a. Re-developed the website which will be launched today by the Guest of Honor.
 - b. Shared member stories through our social media platforms and news bulletin.
 - c. Celebrated the shared history and culture with Scotland that dates back to Dr. David Livingstone. Next year marks 160 years of partnership between Scotland and Malawi.
 - d. Engaged more schools and Faith Based Organizations across the country.
 - e. Launched the internship programme to inspire more young people to be engaged with Scotland

- 2 Increased coordination of Malawi's links with Scotland both within MaSP membership and across wider stakeholders.** Under this outcome, the MaSP has done the following:
 - i. Shared what we do; our successes and challenges so the government and other organizations know and learn from us. As Colin Cameron said, "what we do is working and therefore because it is working, we do not need to be selfish about

it. We need to share it.” We do this by publishing a bi-weekly news bulletin that reaches 600 recipients across Malawi and Scotland and has a 95% reach.

- ii. Conducted a District mapping exercises to reach out to organizations that are not aware of the partnership or Malawi Scotland Partnership Secretariat in the southern region of Malawi. The exercised mapped out over 60 organizations which were never involved in the partnership but have links with Scotland.
- iii. Increased number of Regional Interactive meetings to at least 4 per year per region from once or twice per year. Elections were also conducted in these regions independent of the Secretariat to encourage ownership of regional engagement at local level.

3 Increased impact of member’s work as a result of MaSP practical support, training and championing of partnership principles. Under this outcome, the MaSP has done the following:

- i. Mainstreamed the partnership principles in everything that we do as these are the principles that bind us together.
- ii. Opened the Lilongwe Communication Resource Centre (CRC). The CRCs provide support to resource poor organizations. We provide internet services, teleconferencing, library and even meeting rooms upon notice. We managed to re-open the Blantyre office and CRC in April this year in another location after robbers broke into our old location two times and stole our computers. The second set of stolen computers was successfully recovered by the Malawi Police and we are thankful for their hard work and dedication during that time.
- iii. Provided UK Visa support to members who want to visit Scotland by providing practical support on obtaining information as well as liaising with SMP to help our partners to obtain visas without challenges

4 Implementation of Scottish government’s new International Development Strategy that is supported in Malawi. Under this outcome, the MaSP has done the following:

- i. Supported the Scottish government with information dissemination on their Call for Proposals. We also provided support to members to apply for the grants and provided them with critical information regarding the same.
- ii. Held the Annual Symposium in February 2018; the Guest of Honor was the Minister of Foreign Affairs and was also attended by the Scottish government.
- iii. Conducted two strand meetings in November and May. These are meetings that bring together civil society organizations and the government. There are 5 strand leads that are doing a fantastic job in ensuring CSO engagement is supported as far as Scottish development funding is concerned.
- iv. Assisted the government of Malawi with ensuring the recently signed Cooperation Agreement between the President and the First Minister of Scotland was drafted, liaising with our strand leads and key stakeholders to make sure Malawi provided its input.
- v. Managed to re-develop and re-vamp working partnerships with 6 key strategic ministries including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

5 Enhance sustainability and increase the impact we have as an organization. Under this outcome, the MaSP has done the following:

- i. Managed to refocus our agenda in Malawi by revising the log frame and we are in the process of developing a Five Year Strategic Plan.
- ii. Moved the secretariat from the two rooms at KCM to a more spacious space in Area 14 which also houses a conference room and the Lilongwe CRC. We also purchased a new office vehicle.
- iii. Grew the membership by 14% and 98% of these new members already have links with Scotland.
- iv. Established links with critical members of the civil society so as to remain relevant and be up to date on issues that concern us. In that regard we have partnerships with: the Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN), the Malawi

Economic Justice Network – (MEJN) as we as the Civil Society Coalition on Education (CSEC).

4.1 Finance

Total funding received from the Scottish government for the 2017/2018 financial year was **MK112, 320, 832**. We had a total of **MK 69,216** as bank interests and **MK7.1million** as proceeds from old vehicle sale and balance from new vehicle purchase.

4.2 Expenditure

- Personnel Costs – MK47 million
- Operations – MK28 million
- Monitoring and Evaluation –MK4 million
- Program Delivery –MK19 million

We had a total expenditure of **MK98 million** and have a balance of **MK14 million** which will be carried over to the 2018/2019 financial year.

4.3 Our Plans

1. We expect everything to fall into place because the principle under which we operate is right. To echo Colin Cameron, “in everything you do, if the principle is right, everything will fall into place.”
2. We will continue to champion a partnership that brings people together based on mutual understanding and respect.
3. We shall continue to share information and celebrate the bi-lateral relationships that exist between Malawi and Scotland and we are confident these partnerships will deliver and have meaningful impact on the lives of both Malawian and Scottish people.
4. We will also link parliamentarians whose constituencies have links with Scotland with Scottish counterparts and make this our entry point into parliament.
5. We will continuously train all our members and staff in the Safeguarding Policy which the Scottish government is very keen on to ensure there is no harm done to the people we are working with.

6. We plan to diversify our income so we meet the expectations of our members. A detailed resource mobilization plan is being put together at the moment. The CEO went on to announce that at an appropriate time during the core business section of the AGM, the secretariat will seek the mandate of the general council to introduce membership fees as follows:
 - Individuals – K5, 000 per person, per annum
 - Schools and Churches – K5, 000 per school or church, per annum
 - Local Organizations – K12, 000 per organization, per annum
 - International Organizations – K15, 000 per organization, per annum.
7. We are implementing two key projects:-
 - i. **Awareness Campaign on Gender Based Violence.** The Scottish Police are working with the Malawi Police and we are supporting them with monitoring and evaluation of the same especially to ascertain value for money
 - ii. **Climate Change Youth Leaders Project** – we will be working with the 2050 Climate Change Group in Scotland to implement the project whose aim is to raise youth champions on climate change issues in Malawi.
8. We will conduct district mapping exercises in the Central and Northern Region.

5. ADDRESS BY CEO OF SCOTLAND MALAWI PARTNERSHIP, MR. DAVID HOPE-JONES

After finishing her address, the MaSP CEO invited Scotland Malawi Partnership CEO Mr. David Hope Jones, who travelled from Scotland for the AGM. She also thanked Mr. Hope Jones for giving her the confidence that she could do what needed to be done as CEO for MaSP and helping her settle in, perform better and deliver in her role.

Mr. Hope-Jones opened his speech by stating how special a visit this was for him; firstly because this year marks 10 years since he began working with the partnership and because he brought his family for the first time to Malawi for a holiday.

He started by stating how proud he is of MaSP and what they have accomplished under Malawi leadership in coordinating Malawi's friendship with Scotland. He also paid tribute to the MaSP CEO and Board Chairman for pushing MaSP further up the ladder in the last year. He pointed to

the new office, the new work the organization is doing and growth in the membership. He also delivered a strong message of support and congratulations from himself as well as the Scottish government and SMP members.

As he continued his speech, he pointed to the subtle shift he has noticed over the past year, he added by saying, *“I’ve seen more and more of the SMP looking for leadership from the MaSP, I have seen the SMP running to catch up with the speed of MaSP, I have seen the SMP getting ideas on how we can use modern technology for communication like WhatsApp to advance our work”*. He also pointed at how Vera calls to give him ideas on how to do different things and spoke of how this reflects that it is a *“partnership of friends and a partnership of equals.”*

He also talked about what the SMP has been up to the last year:-

- i. At our last AGM we had Colin Cameron who are the last surviving members of the first post independent Malawi cabinet and who witnessed the raising of the Malawian flag for the first time tell us about their successful visit to Malawi and were grateful for the support they received from MaSP. Our next AGM is on the 6th of October 2018.
- ii. This year is the Year of Young People in Scotland and so our AGM will specifically give a voice to young people. We had our Youth Congress and took over the biggest stadium Hamden Park and filled it with hundreds of young people with active links with Malawi to celebrate those links. The theme of this year’s Youth Congress was Media. How do young people consume their media? Also, how do they use social media to tell their story of partnership with Malawi? There are people like Madonna or Angelina Jolie telling their story through social media when they visit Malawi or when they are celebrating the spirit of active and dignified partnerships. So throughout the day, young people were engaging with the media in Scotland and they also had tablets to record videos and tell their stories in support, and to really think how they talk about Malawi.
- iii. We have an exhibition of 17 banners, each one with a sustainable development goals touring around Scotland for the last 2 years and each one has an individual

- case study of partnership between Scotland and Malawi in that thematic area. I spent a week in the Scottish parliament with that exhibition and got 110 of the 129 of Scotland's MSPs having visited our exhibition received an individual briefing about Malawi links that they have with their constituency and a photo and recorded a one-to-one video of why they chose that Sustainable development goal and why they wanted to work towards that one goal in regards to the bilateral relationship with Malawi. He added by saying that they had their First Minister who chose '*Reduced Inequalities*'. All the videos are available on the SMP websites.
- iv. We established a Malawi All Party Parliamentary Group in the UK Parliament, Westminster last November because we've had the Malawi Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament for the past ten years and it has been the most successful and vibrant Cross-Party Group. Our first meeting was quickly filled up by Scottish MPs, many of whom are personally passionate about connections with Malawi.
 - v. The SMP Buy Malawian Campaign runs every year, and this year's was bigger and more successful. They supported 14 Malawian products, including Mzuzu Coffee by building Scottish markets for them in supermarkets across the country. They started a campaign on reflecting community spirit and the People to People partnership at a primary school outside of Glasgow. They had MPs, MSPs, and the Cabinet Secretary of Finance in Malawi, local young people as well as the Chief Executive of Mzuzu Coffee at the event talking about Mzuzu Coffee. The campaign celebrated Malawian culture and had Malawian bands performing at Lake of Stars Glasgow to raise awareness of trade investments and tourism in Malawi.
 - vi. To close our Buy Malawian Campaign, we had Ross Jennings, who is setting out to be the first man to play the bag pipe in every single country in the world, play to celebrate Dr. David Livingstone's 205th birthday anniversary outside St. Michaels and All Angels Church in Blantyre. Vera organized the event and had it live streamed on

Facebook so we at the SMP and many schools in Scotland could watch it live. It was a great event that captured the spirit of partnership and friendship.

- vii. In April this year, we were delighted to welcome His Excellency the President of Malawi to Scotland. He was principally across for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and we made sure there was a strong Scotland and Malawi representation. In keeping with the Year of Young People them, we made a strong commitment to make our representation through a young ambassador who is studying in the University of Edinburgh, a young Malawian young lady by the name Josephine Mpango. We supported Josephine to be the Scotland/Malawi Youth Ambassador to the CHOGAM this year. We set up a range of meetings and a social media platform to tell her story and ask questions around the relevance of Commonwealth 2018 from the perspective of a young Malawian.
- viii. We also hosted in the House of Lords, special meeting with the Malawi Old Party Parliamentary Group and the President addressed the UK Parliament. One of the things the President said in his address was that *"Scotland, you are our voice in the UK. When Malawi has a problem, Scotland shouts it out."* That really struck me as a tone of real friendship between the two countries. We then welcomed the President to Scotland and we made a hardback book of 60 Case Studies of Scotland - Malawi friendship that we gave him at the event. Keeping with the Year of Young People, it was largely young people he met at the Scottish civic society.
- ix. For numbers, we re-commissioned a research by the University of Edinburgh to look through the SMP and MaSP how many in total are involved. As you can see, the numbers have significantly increased since 2014.

In total:

- 109,000 Scottish people actively involved with a link in Malawi each year.

- 208,000 Malawian people actively involved with a link in Scotland each year.

The crucial thing that I see when I look at these numbers is that there are beneficiaries on both sides as Vera said, it's a partnership and not a charity.

- 260,000 Scots benefit each year
- 2.9 million Malawians benefit each year

In his closing remarks the SMP CEO talked how we articulate the bi-lateral relationship Malawi and Scotland have. He made reference to what his Chairman and Vera say in that it is a different way of working and that it has no blueprint. He added that, *“we are not swimming with the tide, we are swimming against the tide, and as long as we are doing that, we cannot stop swimming, we have to keep explaining to people why the relationship between Malawi and Scotland is so special and why it should be celebrated.”* He continued to say the upcoming event in October this year is a great platform to get across the message of People to People partnerships. He explained how excited he is about the prospects of having a second major Formal Inter-Governmental conference and signing a new cooperation agreement between the two governments in Malawi.

Mr. Hope-Jones ended his speech by asking the audience to summarize in three words what they think defines the bilateral relationship between Malawi and Scotland. He asked the audience to either submit their responses digitally through the internet on www.mentee.com or by filling a form and will form a word cloud that will help us frame the bilateral relationship your way. The main word that came out of this exercise was unsurprisingly **'FRIENDSHIP'**.

6. KEY NOTE ADDRESS DR. RIDLEY – VICE CHAIR PERSON

Dr. Ridley, who has served on the MaSP Board of Directors for 6 years and 3 of those years as the Vice chairperson, started his address by talking about the nature the long standing relationship and partnership between Scotland and Malawi as well as what led to the desire of the development of the Scotland Malawi Partnership and the Malawi Scotland Partnership. He explained that the history of the partnership dates back to Dr. David Livingstone 160 years ago

and the consequences to this region of Africa. Scotland has been the voice of Malawi in the UK and has also been a voice of support for a more humanitarian based approach which was manifested in the campaign to end slavery in the 19th century. This approach gave rise to the People-Centered partnerships and relationships in which people from Scotland have had an influence on life in Malawi and similarly people in Malawi have had influences on life in Scotland. He went on to talk about how Dr. Jack Thompson was one of the pioneers of the Scotland Malawi Partnership which then led to the Malawi Scotland Partnership. *“His story (Thomson’s) like many others is of personal involvement as an educator, a historian and a church person. He also had a Malawian name Jabulani Jere and his ashes were buried in Mzimba early this year.”* He then mentioned that these are the lifelong connections that lead to the strength of the partnership.

He then thanked people who contributed to the rebirth of the MaSP over the 6 years. He thanked Geoffrey Chipungu who helped to kick start as Chairman of the MaSP board and led the organization to its first grant. He also thanked Matthews Mtumbuka, Andrew Namakhoma and noted the arrival of Vera as contributing to the firm foundation of the organization.

So, where do we go next as a Partnership?

- Links to civil society, actions of civil society, and the two governments in their overarching cooperation agreement are supporting civil society through grants and support from Scotland and Malawian government support for those activities.
- MaSP and SMP are privileged civil society organizations in that they are in a position to interface with the government. As such it is the responsibility of the partnerships to be the voice of the civil society organizations to the two governments to help them realize their goals and objectives.
- We need to be aware of what we are as a partnership, the uniqueness of the partnership and the desire to be innovative as we move forward.
- We need to have specific objectives that we are working towards. This partnership is a partnership of friends and equals but the desire is for sustainable development. The conference that happened was titled “Malawi beyond Aid” so underneath it all is the

desire to have impact on development and impact in the lives of people in Malawi as well as Scotland.

- All governments have signed up for principles of partnership called the Paris Declaration. The declaration has two elements: (1) ownership (2) alignment. These are based on two concepts:
 - An obligation of the donors or the aid givers to work through national organizations and to enable an ownership of development processes to occur in development countries.
 - A commitment by the developing countries in the agreement to get their houses in order, corruption would be minimized and aid would be used in a proper way. The Scotland Malawi partnership and the overarching agreement between them provide an opportunity to meet these goals. There is commitment from the Scottish government to support Malawi and manage things properly and Malawi are working to follow the ideals of appropriate use of funds to deliver meaningful outputs and objectives.

Dr Ridley went on to highlight three partnership principles on the SMP website that underpin our partnership:

- As you are moving in partnership you need to planning and implementing together
- Transparency and Accountability particularly where money is concerned
- Equity – reducing inequalities.

Challenges the partnership has faced so far:

- Strand Leads in ministries are often lacking full information about the projects happening within their sectors.

- Within grants, Malawian grant recipients often have good relationships with their Scottish partners but there are cases that the Malawian partner doesn't feel like a fully equal partner in the process and have limited decision making power. Maybe the mid-term reporting is done by the Scottish partner without full engagement of the Malawian partners.
- These issues of travel maybe there are more Scotts visiting Malawi and maybe the capacity building potential of visits in the other direction are not fully met.

He then stated that these are common granting challenges and that as we gain more experience with managing grants, there will be improvements that will fully equalize the relationship within the granting context of the partnership.

Suggestions (at governmental level):-

- Ensuring a greater Malawian involvement in the selection of projects and making sure it happens independently of the Scottish and Malawi government but they contribute to the principles of what needs to be funded. This could be done through a small steering committee that selects and reviews projects. This could improve the value and implementation of the projects as well as the communication of the grants and how they are doing to the Malawian side both at governmental and MaSP level.
- Decentralization in Malawi is making it increasingly important that information about projects reaches the district level. Having a greater Malawian engagement in the selection and review of the projects might facilitate information ad feedback not only to the central governments but also to the districts.
- Have in place procedures to ensure full transparency on how funds are utilized within projects and how reports are made.
- Finally, as Malawian partners are gaining more experience in managing funds in Malawi, the government could devote some funds to the partnership so that funds are not only coming from the Scottish partner.

After the suggestions, the Vice Chairman reported that the latest round of large funding will be received at the end of July or early August and that the next round will be in the next four and a

half years. He went on to say the small grants process will continue which will help in finding a way forward for the large grant in minimizing risks from the view point of the Scottish government. He stated that the Scottish government is very cautious about how they give out their taxpayer's money for proposals because they want to ensure that the money is used effectively, but that the small grants provide a way of testing out some new models. He went on to say MaSP can play a role in helping to ensure issues of funding are managed properly and assist the government and districts on how to manage projects here in Malawi.

In closing, Dr. Ridley talked about what a pleasure it has been to be involved in the MaSP board for the last 6 years, the positive developments in both partnerships and the opportunity for the Scottish and Malawi government to "lead the way of showing how these development partnerships can grow."

7. MEMBER AWARDS

MaSP recognized members who have been consistent in their involvement with MaSP activities in all the three regions throughout this year as follows:

- Fountain of Hope Organization – Shora Kauluka
- LISAP – Livingstonia Synod Aids Programme
- CHESNY Trust
- Njale Catholic School – Peter Ben Mchenga
- FOCOYOPE
- CERA – Charles Kasambara

After the member awards the participants were treated to some entertainment performed by Chance for Change Dance Troupe.

8. ADDRESS BY GUEST OF HONOUR, DR ISAAC MUNLO

The Principle Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Isaac Munlo, who was the Guest of Honor at the AGM, began his address by acknowledging what a privilege it was for him to meet his old connections at the event. Before officially opening the 2018 AGM, he spoke briefly about the

holistic nature of the partnership between Malawi and Scotland as well as its inclusion of different stakeholders, and not working in isolation, as a lesson and approach that can be borrowed and applied to other development strategies in the country. He also expressed his appreciation for the partnership being based on friendship, culture and mutual understanding, and not just economic terms.

As he officially opened the MaSP 2018 AGM, he asked the audience to help him in welcoming SMP CEO Mr David Hope-Jones and said that his presence at the meeting is a clear testimony to the love the people of Scotland have for Malawi but also their commitment to the success of the partnership. He also expressed gratitude for the warm welcome they received in Scotland during the Presidential visit. He added that their delegation *“felt very much at home among friends”*.

8.1 The MaSP AGM

Speaking on the AGM, he said the event is further evidence of the strong bond that exists between Malawi and Scotland and shows Scotland’s continued commitment to issues of development in Malawi. He also congratulated the Board Chairman and MaSP CEO for successfully hosting the AGM and providing an important tool for policy direction and monitoring mechanism on implementation of programmes under the MaSP.

8.2 The Global Partnership Agreement

The New Cooperation Agreement which aims to align the partnership programmes with the Sustainable Development Goals is a great tool in Malawi’s development agenda. He stated that the challenge lies in aligning this with the local context so it remains relevant and asked the audience to address issues of accountability and ownership. Dr. Munlo then expressed his belief to use the meeting as a platform to brainstorm on the best way to implement programmes in the areas provided under the new cooperation agreement and not just share partnership achievement. *“This calls for frank and reflective deliberations. As you are aware, the cooperation agreement mandates us to focus on health, so as to deliver good quality health service agenda, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, affordable clean energy, decent work and economic growth, climate action, peace justice and good institutions,”*

he stated. As this uplifts the standards of living for our people, he appealed to the audience to play a role in making this a success by committing to work in unison as well as in a transparent and accountable manner to ensure lasting impact on the beneficiaries. He expressed the need to focus on high impact programmes such as the health sector Cervical Cancer Screening Project set up at Nkhoma Hospital. The project has helped in screening over 18,000 women and delivery of maternal health services thereby saving lives of mothers and their children.

He also mentioned quality education as being equally important as it is “*a catalyst to sustainable development.*” Also capacity building and skills transfer were mentioned to be critical to sustainability of interventions. He mentioned climate change as an area of focus as it threatens to reverse the gains registered in various sectors of the economy.

8.3 Concerns

- i. He seconded Dr. Ridley in his concern of lack of coordination within civil society, and the need to address issues of lack of consultations in programme implementation. He agreed that there is need for such organizations to have space to implement effectively within their own development philosophy, but he also encouraged them to remember to pull in the same direction and learn from each other, as well as MaSP.
- ii. The need for comprehensive monitoring and evaluation so that the support Malawi receives from Scotland is fully and properly reflected by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and development. This will also assist in tracking how far we have moved through the cooperation and also share lessons. He explained that this is important because of the need to capture all investments in various sectors to have a true reflection of the resources being expended in the development of our country.
- iii. Need for holistic measurement of progress. The new agreement makes provision for monitoring and evaluation which will improve the government and partnership engagement to ensure the investment made is fully beneficial to the improvement of the socio-economic wellbeing of the Malawian people.

8.4 Suggestions

- i. He urged all Participants to be active during the meeting to ensure successful implementation of the programmes under MaSP. He urged the audience to be authentic in the way they deal with challenges facing the country, especially with aspects such as culture and capacity. The challenge is in finding a way to adapt those goals to the local context.
- ii. Aim at ensuring optimum contribution to the attainment of the national and international development goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals. The MaSP offers an opportunity to think outside the box and not just stick to routine.
- iii. Ensure that Malawi government contributes either in skill or resource to complement Scotland's efforts to address issues of donor fatigue. There must be procedures to complement the efforts of the Scottish people but also procedures of sustainability.
- iv. Avoid duplication of interventions to make sure resources are being used effectively. *"Break new ground or address other categories of beneficiaries"*.
- v. To enhance trust with our partners we need to be accountable, establish good communication, proper reporting and building of confidence.
- vi. Promotion of ownership of programmes, both from the beneficiaries and the implementers. As implementers, make sure you have a voice in the partnership, show interest and appreciation in the partnership, and provide feedback to partners in Scotland.

The Guest of Honor ended his speech by appreciating the change of guard taking place at the meeting and thanked the outgoing Chairman and his committee. He reiterated the words of the Chairman and encouraged the new board to ensure continuity, to learn from the past and keep what has worked and improve on what has not. He concluded by saying that the value of every organization comes from sticking to its principles and operating within them and encouraged the new board to build on the good work of the outgoing board.

9. LAUNCH OF MASP WEBSITE

After the Guest of Honor's speech the MaSP CEO requested him to launch the website by pressing the 'enter' button on the computer and have the new homepage of the website displayed for all to see. It is envisaged that henceforth members will be interacting with the secretariat through this platform and that new members will have a chance to apply for membership on the same.

10. GROUP PHOTO AND TEA BREAK

After the launch of the website, all participants led by the Guest of Honor went outside for a group photo. After which people interacted and networked over some refreshments. The Chance for Change Dance Troupe did another dance as participants settled from the health break.

11. AGM CORE BUSINESS

8.1 Presentation from Auditors

The partners from Deloitte and Touché as the appointed auditors presented a status of the audit they performed on MaSP for the 2017/2018 financial Year. This audit according to the auditors was a clean audit. The report comprised of the statement of financial position, statement of profit and loss, statement of changes of funds, statement of cultural for the year ended and the notes of the financial statements and the summary of significant accounting. Mr Bright Mlotha also stated that the organization has improved significantly compared to what they reported the previous year. However there were a few questions from the members as outlined below:

- Why was the report from the auditors so clean and qualified, should we say that there were no challenges met?
- Why did MaSP fail to finish the budget, is it lack of capacity?
- What needs to be done better, what lesson has the organization learnt or what are the challenges the organization has faced.

It is important to note that the points raised above were discussed at the AGM, the **CEO** managed to answer the questions raised even the Finance and Administration officer answered part of the queries, in the spirit of accountability and transparency, the **CEO** asked the Finance and Administrations Officer to distribute the full financial report for MaSP to the members who were interested to know more about the finances for MaSP.

After the auditors had finished with their presentation for the MaSP finances, the Board Chairman thanked the auditor and released him stated that he had three motions that he wanted to present to the members namely:

1. The introduction of membership fees
2. The appointment of auditors; and
3. The appointment of new directors.

8.2 Introduction of Membership Fees

The board chairman proceeded to say that looking at the CEO's report, she mentioned that there is need to raise more funds for the organization to enable it support its membership better. One way of raising these funds is through the introduction of membership fees categorized as below:

- Individuals – K5, 000 per person, per annum
- Schools and Churches – K5, 000 per school or church, per annum
- Local Organizations – K12, 000 per organization, per annum
- International Organizations – K15, 000 per organization, per annum.

The members felt that the proposed fees for schools, churches and individuals were in order but that those for the local and international organizations were too low and therefore proposed changes as below:

- Local organizations MK15,000 from MK12,000
- International organizations MK50,000 from MK15,000

The chairman then moved the motion to introduce the membership fees with the above mentioned changes. The motion was proposed by Mr Grey Sitima from LISAP and was seconded by Chawanangwa Ngámbi from KCN. The motion was carried.

8.3 Appointment of New Auditors

Delloite and Touché has served the Malawi Scotland Partnership for two consecutive years and they have done a great job in auditing MaSP's finances to the expectation of the members and the Board. However, Delloite have since revised their fees upwards due to changes in their scope of work among other things but unfortunately, MaSP cannot afford the revised fees.

In this regard therefore, the Board resolved to change the auditors and mandated the secretariat to scout for other auditors. Among the ones that were consulted, management recommended AMG Global to the Board and requested the Board to move a motion at the AGM to confirm the firm as the next auditors for the organization. The fees proposed by the three top firms were as follows:

- AMG Global who quoted MK2, 483,400
- Audit Consult who quoted MK2,300, 874
- Graham Carr who quoted MK3,348, 210

The chairman then moved the motion to change the auditors. Mr Lucky Mbewe proposed that AM Global be picked and Mr Russel Msiska seconded the motion. And the motion was carried.

8.4 Board Elections

The board chairperson made a brief presentation about the order of events during election of new board members. There were six positions up for grabs at this AGM, about ten members expressed their interest and applied, so there were about eighteen applications, apparently, some members sent representatives but they were denied to be part of the contestants as members enter onto the board as individuals. And that those who came showed committed.

After back and forth deliberations, it was decided that only six people who were present at the AGM will contest for the 5 position; the board had earlier resolved that since there was no

applicant for the legal position, it will be left to the board at their next meeting to co-opt a legal practitioner onto the board.

The following were the people who went up for the elections:

1. Davis Chunga
2. Lucky Mbewe
3. Peter Ben Mchenga
4. Godknows Maseko
5. Ahab Kafansiyanji
6. Sid Jali

Each eligible voter had one vote each. There were 54 eligible voters. After counting the votes, the following were the results:

1. Davis Chunga – 8 votes
2. Lucky Mbewe-17 votes
3. Peter Ben Nchenga-9 votes
4. Godknows Maseko-11 votes
5. Ahab Kafansiyanji-8 votes
6. Sid Jali-1 vote

Based on these results, it meant that the new board members are Mr. Davis Chunga, Mr. Lucky Mbewe, Mr. Peter Ben Mchenga, Mr. Godknows Maseko and Mr. Ahab Kafansiyanji. The board chairperson congratulated them and announced that there shall be a half hour briefing at the end of the program.

12. AGM EVALUATION

Evaluation forms were distributed for members to fill out, which were returned to MaSP representatives afterwards. Overall members felt that this was a well-organized meeting and that they were happy with the content the fact that for the first time the AGM was conducted

from 8am to 1pm, the venue was good and so was the quality of presentations. However, people we not pleased to note that lunch was not provided.

Below is the summary of the AGM analysis:

- 1. Small Organizations – 30%
 Medium Organizations – 50%
 Large Organizations – 20%

- 2. Rural based Organizations – 65%
 Urban based Organizations – 35%

3. Those with links with Scotland

- Yes – 62.5%
- No – 37.5%

4. Reasons for attending the AGM

To get updates, to make partnerships and find opportunities for collaboration and funding, to contribute to MaSP, learn from others, increased interaction with other organizations within the network. Strengthen the partnership and get the AGM experience, create local and Scottish links, familiarize themselves with MaSP work

5. To what extent do you feel your expectations were met?

- Entirely – 55%
- Mostly – 35%
- Partially – 15%
- Not at all – 0

6. Did you make any useful new contacts at the meeting?

- No – 35%

Yes – 65%

7. Do you feel the AGM has strengthened your membership with MaSP ?

Yes, a lot – 92.5%

Yes, a little bit – 7.5%

8. Were the five core objectives achieved?

Mostly achieved – 65%

Entirely achieved – 30%

Partially achieved – 5%

9. Attendance

First time – 50%

Not the first time – 50%

10. How do you think we can improve future events?

Time management, provision of transport and lunch especially for those from outside Lilongwe; invitation should specify individuals who have voting rights and should specify number of representatives; constitution should be shared in advance; invite suggestions for the planning of the event; introduce a MaSP wrap; other discussions should be made at secretariat level and only big decisions to be made at the AGM

11. Trainings needed in your organization

M&E, capacity building ; governance and leadership training; grant and proposal writing and development especially in line with Scottish requirements; financial accounting and strategic planning ; patient rights and human rights in general; ICT skills and documentation for publication; budget analysis and budget tracking; resource mobilization

12. How MaSP can be of assistance to your organization

Foster links with Scottish partners, visits to projects, capacity building; exchange programmes with MaSP staff; internships; fundraising, Monitoring and evaluation; resource mobilization; links and support for junior staff; sharing of profiles to MaSP network; assisting in school development projects; provision of project funding

13. CLOSING REMARKS

In his closing remarks, the outgoing Board Chairman Mr Andrew Namakhoma expressed his gratitude to all members present and for their patience, participation and ideas expressed in the meeting. He added that he was optimistic that the future of MaSP looks very bright and urged all members to continue with active participation in the activities of the partnership. After these remarks he asked to a volunteer to close with a word of prayer and then all members proceeded to have some refreshments.