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Acknowledgement

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A special recognition also goes to Fletcher Simwaka, Information and Documentation Officer, for compiling, editing and proof-reading this document.

Special gratitude should also go to the Executive Director, Timothy Mtambo, for providing guidance throughout the compilation of this report.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AA: Action Aid
ACB: Anti-Corruption Bureau
ACHPR: African Charter on Civil and Political Rights
ADC: Area Development Committee
AFIC: African Freedom Information Centre
AI: Amnesty International
AIDS: Acquired immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARASA: Aids and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa
AU: African Union
CART: Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment
CBE: Community Based Educators
CBF: Community based Facilitator
CCJP: Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace
CBO: Community Based Organization
CDSS: Community Day Secondary School
CEDEP: Centre for Development of People
CEC: Civic Education Coordinator
CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CEDEP: Centre for Development of People
CERD: Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination
CHRR: Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation
CILIC: Civil Liberties Committee
CISP: Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP)
CMC: Cluster Munitions Coalition
CONGOMA: Council for Non-governmental Organisations in Malawi
CRC: Community Rights Committee
CRC: Convention of the Rights of the Child
CSO’s: Civil Society Organizations
CSE: Comprehensive Sexual Education
2014 Annual Report

“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>District Commissioner</td>
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<tr>
<td>DCP</td>
<td>Democracy Consolidation Programme</td>
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<td>DPP</td>
<td>Democratic Progressive Party</td>
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<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>FPTP</td>
<td>First Past the Post</td>
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<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender Based Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immune-deficiency Virus</td>
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<td>HIVOS</td>
<td>Humanist Institute for Cooperation for Developing Countries.</td>
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<td>HRCC</td>
<td>Human Rights Consultative Committee</td>
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<td>HRDF</td>
<td>Human Rights Defenders Forum</td>
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<td>IANRA</td>
<td>International Alliance for Natural Resources in Africa</td>
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<td>IANSA</td>
<td>International Network Against Small Arms</td>
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<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education and Communication</td>
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<td>ICC</td>
<td>International Criminal Court</td>
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<td>ICT</td>
<td>Information and Communications Technology</td>
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<td>ICESCR</td>
<td>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</td>
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<td>ISS</td>
<td>Institute for Security Studies for Southern Africa</td>
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<tr>
<td>KAGEWE</td>
<td>Karonga Gender Equality and Women Empowerment</td>
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<td>LDF</td>
<td>Local Development Fund</td>
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<td>LGBTI</td>
<td>Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex</td>
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<td>LSBE</td>
<td>Life Skills Basic Education</td>
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<td>MBC</td>
<td>Malawi Broadcasting Corporation</td>
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<td>MCP</td>
<td>Malawi Congress Party</td>
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<td>MEC</td>
<td>Malawi Electoral Commission</td>
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<td>Malawi Electoral Support Network</td>
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<td>Malawi Economic Justice Network</td>
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<td>MHEN</td>
<td>Malawi Health Equity Network</td>
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<td>MHRC</td>
<td>Malawi Human Rights Commission</td>
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<td>MISA</td>
<td>Media Institute of Southern Africa</td>
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<td>MLS</td>
<td>Malawi Law Society</td>
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<td>MP</td>
<td>Member of Parliament</td>
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<td>Malawi Police Service</td>
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<td>NAC</td>
<td>National Aids Commission</td>
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<td>NCA</td>
<td>Norwegian Church AID</td>
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<td>National Democratic Institute</td>
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<td>NGO-GCN</td>
<td>Non-Governmental Organisation Gender Coordination Network</td>
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<td>NRJI</td>
<td>Natural Resources Justice Network</td>
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<td>OSJI</td>
<td>Open Society Justice Initiative</td>
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<td>OSISA</td>
<td>Open Society of Southern Africa</td>
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<td>PAC</td>
<td>Public Affairs Committee</td>
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<td>PEA</td>
<td>Primary Education Advisor</td>
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“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

PP: Peoples Party
PVT: Parallel Vote Tabulation
PWYPAC: Publish What You Pay Africa Coalition
RNE: Royal Norwegian Embassy
RTC: Research and Training Coordinator
SADC: Southern Africa Development Community
SRHR: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
SLF: Steven Lewis Foundation
SMC: School Management Committee
STAR: Society Tackling Aids Through Rights
T/A: Traditional Authority
TDC: Teacher Development Centre
TJF: Traditional Justice Forum
TTC: Teachers Training College
TWG: Technical Working Group
UACM: United Against Child Marriage
UDF: United Democratic Front
UN: United Nations
UNFPA: United Nations Populations Fund
VDC: Village Development Committee
VSL: Village Savings and Loans
YONECO: Youth Network Education and Counseling Organization
ZBS: Zodiac Broadcasting Station
ZCC: Zimbabwe Crisis Coalition
Message from the Board Chairperson

Greetings from the Chairperson. The Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) in 2014 continued with its mission to contribute towards the protection, promotion and consolidation of good governance by empowering rural and urban communities in Malawi to be aware of and exercise their rights through research, advocacy and net-working in order to realize human development.

Being a tripartite elections year, 2014 offered CHRR an exciting challenge to contribute towards entrenchment of a democratic society through engaging the citizens to play their rightful roles during the elections. It is worth noting that CHRR emerged one of the leading stakeholders in the elections. Much gratitude should, therefore, go to our donors and partners for the support rendered to CHRR to enable it play its role in the elections.

Despite the elections being marred by a number of challenges, CHRR is however pleased with the peaceful transition process as power changed hands from the People Party (PP) to Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). It is CHRR’s expectations that elected duty bearers will be able to live up to their manifestos for the betterment of human rights and democracy in Malawi. This is possible.

Looking ahead, CHRR will keep campaigning for Malawi with a vibrant culture of human right through various initiatives that the institution will come up with. Otherwise, Malawi is almost 50 years behind a truly democratic state, hence CHRR’s role.

Lastly, I thank various donor institutions and partners for the continued financial and technical support rendered to the institution. We, at CHRR, do not take such support for granted and promise to reciprocate such magnanimity through projects whose results impact positively on the well-being of the citizens.

Charity Salima

Board chairperson
Message for the Executive Director

Let me start by welcoming you, our dear reader, to CHRR’s 2014 Annual Report. The report is a consolidation of various interventions that CHRR carried out in 2014 in line with the institution’s mandate and vision. As you will find out, CHRR was once again, a busy institution in 2014. As pointed out by the chairperson above, 2014 was a democratically important year not only for CHRR but all Malawians. Working in a country where political violence, name-calling define the electoral build-up, CHRR had to come up with projects that championed an issue-based campaign as one way of adding value to the elections and multiparty democracy.

Not only that, CHRR was also part of the network that carried out the Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) in verifying the authenticity of electoral votes. The demanding elections calendar notwithstanding, CHRR was able to carry other equally important projects in 2014. CHRR has able to implement projects aimed at promoting the rights of children, women, youth, and the disabled.

In line with the institution’s mandate, CHRR went international in its advocacy initiative. In July, 2014, CHRR led other civil society organisations in submitting the Malawi Human Rights shadow report to the UN Committee on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. CHRR has also been championing the domestication of the Rome Statues in the country as one way of averting serious human rights violations and abuses by the incumbent President and other top government officials.

In conclusion, I join the Board chairperson in thanking all our partners and donors who made our work in 2014 easier. I should also take this opportunity to thank all staff members at the Secretariat for their whole-hearted dedication towards execution of various activities under the institution’s projects.

Enjoy your reading!

Timothy Mtambo
Executive Director
CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND AND ORGANISATION OF CHRR:

Introduction
CHRR was founded in February 1995 as a non-profit making organisation registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act of 1962. CHRR’s vision is of a Malawi with a vibrant culture which embraces the values of democracy, human rights and rule of law. Since its inception CHRR has championed its work at national level, Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) level through the SADC Human Rights Defenders Network at which it sits in the board, continental level through the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights using its observer status, and at United Nations (UN) level through different UN mechanisms such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).

Vision
A vibrant Malawi culture which embraces the values of democracy and human rights

Mission
To contribute towards the protection, promotion and consolidation of good governance by empowering rural and urban communities in Malawi to be aware of and exercise their rights through research, advocacy and net-working in order to realize human development

CHRR seeks to contribute towards the realization of this vision through programmes carried out under five core activities, namely: Public Awareness and Community Empowerment, Civic and Human Rights Education, Training and Research; Advocacy, Capacity Building, and Net-working.

Core Values
- Respect for Human Rights
- Equity
- Impartiality
- Accountability
- Non-discrimination

Objectives
CHRR strives to achieve the following objectives:-
• To empower rural and urban communities on issues of democracy, good governance, and citizens’ rights, roles and responsibilities.
• To mobilize marginalised communities and increase their voice on public policy.
• To enhance communities’ capacity to realise as well as define issues relating to community safety.
• To conduct research on specific human rights as well as publicise policy issues and disseminate findings thereon.
“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

- To monitor, investigate and document issues of human rights infringement, with particular regard to violations of the same.
- To advocate for the protection and promotion of sexual minority rights.
- To provide training to professional and special groups in communities relating to democracy, good governance and human rights.
- To lobby and advocate for necessary policies and legal reforms.
- To net-work with other organisations espousing similar values and objectives at national, regional, and international levels.
- To enhance CHRR’s organisational capacity for effective and efficient programme delivery.

**Structure of the Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation**

The organisational structure of CHRR comprises a 10-member Board of Trustees that is responsible for policy formulation. Its members are individuals with varied academic and professional backgrounds. Members serve three-year terms. A few members from the out-going board are retained to ensure continuity. Below the Board is the Secretariat, which is responsible for day-to-day activities. The Executive Director heads the Secretariat and is accountable to the Board for oversight responsibilities of the organisation’s operations and management matters. The Executive Director is an *ex officio* member and Secretary for the Board. Below the Secretariat are community-based volunteer district civic educators, recruited and located within their respective communities in each of CHRR’s districts of operation.

CHRR operates in eight districts, thus: Chitipa and Karonga in the North, Dedza, Lilongwe Rural, Mchinji and Salima in the Centre, Mangochi and Zomba in the South.
CHRR Organisational Structure

Executive Director

Programmes Manager

Civic Education Coordinator
- Civic Education Officer

Finance and Administration Coordinator
- Finance and Administration Officer

Research and Training Coordinator
- Information and Documentation
- Research and Training Officer

Advocacy and Resource Mobilisation Coordinator

Administrative Secretary

Accounts Assistant

Driver

Office Assistant
The Board of Trustees
The current Board of Trustees began a three-year term in 2014. Its membership is composed of the following:
"the noble cause is evident in the people themselves"

2014 Staff List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timothy Mtambo: Executive Director</th>
<th>Patson Gondwe: Programmes Manager</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hieronimo Mkhwimba</td>
<td>Thandizo Mphwiyo</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Finance and Administration Coordinator)</td>
<td>(Civic Education Coordinator)</td>
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<td>Makhumbo R. Musthali</td>
<td>Michael Kaiyatsa</td>
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<td>(Advocacy &amp; Resource Mobilization Coordinator)</td>
<td>(Research &amp; Training Coordinator)</td>
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<td>Chris Gwaza</td>
<td>Memory Lundu</td>
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<td>(Finance &amp; Administration Officer)</td>
<td>(Paralegal Officer)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fletcher Simwaka</td>
<td>Christina Nthenda</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Information &amp; Documentation Officer)</td>
<td>(Project Officer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington Kabaukonde</td>
<td>McPeterson issa</td>
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<td>(Accounts Assistant)</td>
<td>(Office Assistant)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stain Katuli</td>
<td>Naomi Phiri</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Project Officer)</td>
<td>(Administrative Assistant)</td>
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<td>Paul Makawa</td>
<td>Edward Mapapa</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Driver)</td>
<td>Patrick Mwanyongo</td>
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“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

2014 Staff List
Mr. Timothy Mtambo Executive Director
Mr. Patson Gondwe Programmes Manager
Mr. Hieronimo Mkhwimb Finance and Administration Coordinator
Mrs. Thandie Mphwiy Civic Education Coordinator
Mr. Michael Kaiyatsa Research and Training Coordinator
Mr. Makhumbo Munthali Advocacy and Resource Mobilisation Coordinator
Mr. Chris Gwaza Finance and Administration Officer
Mr. Fletcher Simwaka Information and Documentation Officer
Miss. Christina Nthenda Project Officer
Mr. Stain Katuli Project Officer
Ms. Memory Lundu Paralegal Officer
Miss. Naomi Phiri Administrative Assistant
Mr. Edward Mapapa Driver
Mr. Paul Makawa Office assistant
Mr. Patrick Mwanyongo Driver - Kalonga
Mr. McPeterson Issa Office Assistant – Salima Office

District Co-Ordinators
Mr. Mc Peterson Salima District
Mr. Rodrick Ndalama Dedza District
Mr. Smith Movete Chitipa District
Miss. Jessy Mchekeni Mchinji District
Mr. Kidwell Chipwatali Mangochi District
Mr. Jepherson Chakwawa Lilongwe Rural
Miss. Mary Balala Zomba District
Mr. Gracian Mbewe Karonga District
CHAPTER TWO

HUMAN RIGHTS TRENDS: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The twist and turns that continue to character enjoyment of various human rights in Malawi seem to be here to stay. They point to daunting tasks ahead of duty bearers to do the needful in a timely manner to avoid further violations of human rights. In this chapter CHRR shares some of the human rights trends, challenges and opportunities.

Malawi’s perennial failure to domesticate and implement international human rights instruments

With regard to the new human rights standards built on the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it must be clearly stated from the very outset that Malawi is party to many major human rights instruments at global, regional and sub-regional levels. These include: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child, (CRC) International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment, (CART), International Covenant on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR) and SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. It should also be mentioned that with regard to human rights, Malawi should be commended for its liberal Constitution.

Despite being party to several major human rights instruments, Malawi has done very little to ensure that such international human rights standards are ably internalized and implemented. In fact, none of these instruments have been specifically domesticated in Malawi. They cannot, therefore, be invoked by citizens in the domestic courts in Malawi. However, the extent that most of them are inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights whose most provisions have matured into customary international law norms, some of the provisions may be relied upon in domestic courts.

CHRR remains deeply concerned at the growing public mismanagement of funds over the years with the infamous National AIDS Commission (NAC)-scandal as a highlight of the 2014 governance debacle. The continued lackadaisical manner in which of Malawi’s political leaders have handled the
statutory bodies do not even bode well for efficiency and productivity of such state-funded institutions. Political interference into the operations of statutory bodies must stop as a matter of urgency.

To what extent is Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) Independent and authoritative?

By reflecting on the role of the Malawi Human Rights Commission (MHRC) over the recent years in exerting influence on governance, CHRR cannot agree more with the UN last year observation that national human rights institutions have become more independent and authoritative globally. The MHRC have in several instances worked hand in hand with the Civil Society in exerting influence on human rights and issues especially in the scenario where there have been gross human rights violations. So passionate has the MHRC been in its human rights obligations that it found itself in bad books for describing the 2014 tripartite elections results as lacking credibility. The Commission’s ambiguous stance on sexual minorities’ rights is, however, disappointing to say the least. Being a constitutional body mandated to champion and protects human rights for all, MHRC should have been the first to call upon government to repeal laws that impinge on the enjoyment of rights of these minorities.

Growing homophobia against the LGBTI community

Despite the rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) individuals being placed on the international agenda, Malawi’s legal framework remains hostile to the LGBTI community, a scenario that is exposing the group to various forms of discrimination. While initially showing some commitments towards abolishing existing laws that criminalize homosexuality, former President Joyce Banda chose to remain mum on such matters especially as we drew closer to the elections. Contrary to human rights norms, some of Malawi’s big political parties United Democratic Front (UDF), Malawi Congress Party (MCP), and Peoples Party (PP) during the campaign period even went further to suggest that they would subject the human rights issue of minority LGBTI to a proposed referendum, where the majority of Malawians should choose whether to maintain the status quo or not. Appealing to the democratic principle of “majority rule” to justify a referendum concerning a universally recognised human rights issue of the minority LGBTI displays not only sheer ignorance of the very core and spirit of democracy, but also hides the issue behind smoke and mirrors.

Nevertheless, CHRR finds solace in the commitments made by the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) through its former spokesperson Nicolaus Dausi during the election debates organized by Zodiak Broadcasting Station (ZBS) at Crossroads Hotel in Lilongwe that DPP would follow the constitution of Malawi on the matter. Now that the DPP is in power, we expect that it will take the lead in repealing the existing penal code, including those provisions which criminalise same sex marriages. In fact, this penal code provision is in conflict with section 20 of the constitution of Malawi, which is the Supreme law of the land. Besides, the recent commitments of the new President Arthur Peter Mutharika towards protection and promotion of human rights is a positive move and also an opportunity for his government to walk its talk by, amongst other things, taking a leading role in repealing the existing penal code which infringes on the human rights of the LGBTI community. We will not relent in reminding the current government to honour its commitments towards promotion and protection of human rights for all.
Failure to enact Access to Information Bill, another thorn in the flesh
Government’s failure to pass the Access to Information Bill as promised by the current regime is a step in the wrong direction. Access to Information is a constitutional provision; hence no need to entertain further delays on the most important piece of legislation in a democratic country like Malawi. The DPP government must live to its promise and enact the bill now.

Poorly managed 2014 tripartite elections
2014 will go down in the history of the country as the year Malawi failed to live up to democratic and human rights expectations in conducting the tripartite elections. Dogged by a number of challenges such as late delivery of voting materials in the polling centres culminating into violent protests; irregularities in the total number of voters to those registered per centres, the elections, by far, failed to match its credibility creed. There is need, therefore, for the country to start mapping the way forward on how it can avoid a repeat of what happened in 2014. Political will is certainly key to this.

Draft Protocol on Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court on Justice and Human Rights (African Court), a retrogressive step on human rights
Attempts to adopt the draft protocol that proposes an expansion of the African Court to include criminal jurisdiction over genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity are sick, to say the least. As CHRR gathers, the protocol is now expected to provide immunity for sitting heads of state and other high-level government officials before the African Court. This is tantamount to giving a human rights abuse and violation license to sitting African head of state without facing impunity. This is also in contravention of various international human rights instruments to which African countries are signatory.

Malawi Government’s participation in SADC Tribunal suspension, a human rights scandal
That Malawi Government knowingly participated in suspending the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Tribunal without proper consultations did not bode well with the respect of human rights standards expected of any democratic government.

For a fact, government’s action was not in sync with right to justice for the country’s citizens as espoused by the Republican Constitution. Twenty years after adopting the new constitution with the progressive Bill of Rights, it needs no further reminding that government’s authority to government derives from the people and that authority is only conditional upon sustained trust of Malawians through sticking to an accountable, open and democratic society. It goes without saying that the SADC Tribunal was a necessary alternative judicial remedy for the citizens aggrieved by Supreme Court of Appeal verdict.

Thus, going behind Malawians’ back to take part in the suspension of the SADC tribunal was, in CHRR’s view, a grave contravention of the Constitution and the will of Malawians.

Opportunities
Despite numerous human rights challenges thwarting the progress of the country in 2014, some opportunities were also unearthed.
Appointment of a lean cabinet
It’s encouraging that President Peter Mutharika has kept his word on the lean number of Cabinet Ministers. The number of cabinet ministers is in tune with the scale of the country’s economy. The huge team of cabinet ministers the country has had before was just a drain on the country’s meager resources. Even worse, most of them would spend most of their time accompanying the President to every function, just to waste tax-payers’ money. Thus, thumbs up to President Peter Mutharika for sticking to the lean cabinet.

Presence of the Law on Access Declaration
It goes without saying that declaration of assets by the President, Vice President, Cabinet Ministers and all other key public officials is a constitutional provision. It is, thus, refreshing that most of the key public figures have declared their assets. This will be of great significance especially in monitoring the wealth acquired by these officers who exercise authority on behalf of Malawians. Declaration of assets is a progressive governance exercise that entrenches a culture of fiscal accountability and transparency as well as builds confidence among the citizenry.

Government’s maiden appearance before the UN Human Rights Committee
Malawi government’s appearance before the UN Human Rights Committee to submit a report on what the country is doing on implementation of human rights recommendations by the Committee is a step in the right direction. This shows government commitment towards respecting, promoting and protecting human rights for its citizens. It is CHRR’s hope that this will be the rule rather than an exception.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 PERFORMANCE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES
CHRR has six departments namely; the Civic Education Department, Research and Human Rights Training Department, Human Rights Advocacy Department, Information and Advocacy Department, Paralegal Department and Finance and Administration Department. These departments are headed by coordinators under the supervision of the Programme Manager who report to the Executive Director. In the year under review CHRR carried out several projects which were coordinated by these departments.

3.1.0 CIVIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
The Department of Civic Education managed to successfully coordinate a number of projects in the reporting year. The projects aimed at capacity building as well as action taking among the projects beneficiaries in some of CHRR impact districts. A total of four projects were implemented under the department. These projects are: Gender based Violence and Access to Justice supported by Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), Issue based Civic and Voter Education supported by National Democratic Institute (NDI) Unite Against Child Marriages (UACM) project and Promoting Rights of Women Living with HIV and Aids through Social and Economic Empowerment.

3.1.1 Prevention of Gender Based Violence and Provision of Access to Justice supported by NCA
Implemented in Chitipa, Dedza and Mangochi in T/As Mwenimisuku, Kachere and Namkumba respectively, this project has been designed from a rights based approach. However, the primary
“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

focus is to ensure that survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) are able to access adequate remedies in the traditional justice forums which are accessible to the people in the rural areas. Primarily, the project targets girls, women, children and the elderly. To attain the overall objective of the project, a number of activities were successfully implemented in 2014. The activities include: Dialogue meetings with Traditional Justice Forums, Man to man forum, Youth forums, Woman to Woman forum, Community awareness campaigns, Monitoring and evaluation, Production and distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, Case monitoring and documentation.

Outcomes achieved from the project activities

- There is enhanced knowledge of human rights and GBV related laws among the Traditional Justice Forums and this resulted into well-informed judgements that the tribunals produce.

To realise this outcome, CHRR managed to conduct dialogue meetings with Traditional Justice Forums (TJF) in all the three districts, reaching out to combined total of 129 TJF members. Under the same, CHRR also successfully managed to campaign for the inclusion of women in TJF. Thus, 51 of the TJF members reached out with dialogue meeting were women. Deliberate inclusion of women is meant to enable women spell out the various forms of GBV and map the solutions together with the male counterparts.

Towards ending GBV: TFJ in progress in Chitipa

- Strengthened Traditional Justice Forums resulting into credibility from community members, including the victims

  The TJF continue to be patronised by the communities. The communities have developed trust in these Forums. The communities are able to see their cases presided over without biasness. The deliberations during the TJF meetings are indicative of how many the members’ knowledge in Human Rights, GBV and gender related laws have improved for the better.

- There is enhanced knowledge base of human rights and gender based violence and other gender related laws among women, men, boys and girls

  Other than strengthening the knowledge capacity of TJF, the project led to increased knowledge levels in human rights and gender-based violence among, girls, boys, women and men. The outcome is a result from 143 women reached with women-to-women forums, 140 men reached
with men-to-men forums, 168 youth reached with youth-to-you forums and 1,134 community members reached with community awareness campaigns.

A community awareness meeting in Chitipa against GBV

3.1.2 Issue based Civic and Voter Education supported by NDI

To contribute towards the democratic and credible 2014 tripartite elections, CHRR with financial support from National Democratic Institute (NDI) embarked on an issue based civic and voter education in Dedza, Mangochi and Chitipa. Specifically, the project was carried out in Karonga Central constituency; Karonga South; Dedza South Constituency; Dedza South West Constituency; and Mangochi Central Constituency and Mangochi Monkey Bay Constituency. The project sought to achieve a reduction of electoral violence, threats, unpalatable verbose during campaign; voting and after announcement of the results of the elections.

Outcome of the project

- A reduction in incidents of violence, threats and personality attack in the run up to the elections

The project led to a reduction of electoral violence, especially in the hot-spot of Karonga Central constituency. The outcome of mainly emanated from well-implemented activities which included: awareness raising campaigns, community debates monitoring of the field activities.
Enhanced voter knowledge, leading to reduction in voter apathy

Through the same awareness raising activities, electorate was made aware on their role electoral process and the importance of them to take part through voting. Resultantly, more voters took part in the voting process in all the targeted constituencies.

Reduced culture of hand-outs in the run-up to the electoral day

While there were few instances where the hand-outs culture was still spearheaded by some politicians in order to woo voters, the general picture was that there was a drastic reduction of hand-outs in the 2014 tripartite elections as compared to the previous elections. According to participants, this was mostly because of the issue-based civic and voter education which was being championed by CHRR community based educators in their respective constituencies. Besides, due to the fact that such messaging did not only target the voters but also aspiring Members of Parliament (MP) and Councillors who were left with no choice but to ensure that their campaign package included a clear assessment of the voter’s needs and how they would address such.

3.1.3 Unite Against Child Marriages (UACM) project supported by Sexual Reproductive Health Rights Alliance in the Unite For Body Rights Program

In order to campaign for the promotion of an inclusive society, CHRR implemented a project: Unite against Child Marriage (UACM) supported by Sexual Reproductive Health Rights Alliance in the Unite For Body Rights Program in Traditional Authorities (T/A’s) Nankumba and Mponda in Mangochi district.

The project was developed against a background in which Malawi remains a conservative society where the rights of sexual minorities are often rejected on the basis of religion and culture. The project aimed at increasing the level of acceptance of sexual minority groups in the community and that they
are able to access proper health care. To attain this, the project rolled out a number of activities in 2014, namely:

Two networking meetings with COPUA and NGO-GCN;
Capacity building trainings with two Community Based Organisations (CBOs) Tiphunzitsane Youth organisation and Mvumba CBO;
Six awareness activities done by the trained CBOs which targeted 4,020 community members;
Participation in the review of Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) materials through the standardisation process at Alliance level;
Orientation of Health workers coming from 11 health centres in the impact areas; Conduct a situational analysis on the delivery of Life Skills Basic Education (LSBE) in primary schools as well as Teacher Training Colleges (TTC);
Conducted advocacy meetings with 8 School Management Committees (SMC) on the inclusion of refresher courses for LSBE teachers;
Conducted follow up meetings with the SMCs as well as Primary Education Advisor’s (PEA’s) at Teacher Development Centre (TDC) level on the refresher courses for teachers on the LSBE subject;
Conduct a meeting with the Mangochi District Education Manager and his Team including a follow up visit to lobby for the inclusion of refresher courses for LSBE teachers in the district.

**Outcomes realised from the project activities**

- There have been increased levels of networking with partners and working together in various sectors on different advocacy topics.
  This has been achieved through working closely with various partners such as COPUA and NGO-GCN, Health and Education sectors at the district.
- Increased levels of capacity amongst the boys and girls on issues of their Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) as they are now able to make well and informed decisions about their sexual lives. They are also able to talk to their peers during social gatherings in their communities.

- Increased numbers of young people and women are using SRH services as a result of the awareness raising activities and the quarterly meetings with the youths and mother groups as well as the safe environment that are being provided by the trained health worker who are now aware not to promote double stigma at the work place.
- Increased levels of acceptance of sexual minority groups by leaders of the community, who are now aware of the responsibility they have to protect, promote and respect the rights of every person; this is being achieved through the advocacy meetings CHRR has been conducting with the groups.
Case studies on the success of the project:

**Esnert escapes pre-arranged marriage to pursue her dream**

Esnert Jonathan has lived the better part of her life in hell. Orphaned at six, Esnert, (now 15) has suffered ill-treatment from extended family members on too many occasions in her home village of Kazembe, T/A Nankumba. But there was one ordeal Esnert will never forget. While in standard 7 at Nankhwa Primary school in 2013, her uncle forced her to marry Chancy, a man in his mid-thirties. Esnert raged with anger.

*There was no way she could marry a man who had already divorced three wives due to his violent behaviour. All she needed was to pursue education.*

She ran away from home to stay with her grandmother. As she was still attending school, she confided some of her problem to one of her teachers who then took the matter to the Head Teacher of the school who put it up with the PTA. It is through the skills and knowledge which CHRR provided under the project on importance of girl child education in the area that the PTA decided that they would talk to Esnert’s uncle.

*After discussions, Esnert’s uncle was convinced on the importance of letting his niece continue with education. Esnert is now back in school. Her teachers say Esnert is always in the top 10 of her class.*

**3.1.4 Promoting the rights of women living with HIV and AIDS through Economic and Social empowerment supported by Stephen Lewis Foundation.**

In the year 2014, CHRR continued the various efforts to promote the right of women living with HIV and AIDs through various impact mitigating strategies.

Implemented in four T/As in the two districts of Lilongwe: T/A Chitseka and T/A Kalolo and Salima: T/A Khombedza and T/A Kalonga, the project has progressively led to economic empowerment among targeted women through Agriculture interventions and other income generating activities, notably maize mills, goat farming and loan schemes.

Interventions under this project were aimed at challenging these social ills of stigma and discrimination from a human rights perspective while at the same time building the capacity of women to generate income to support their livelihood.

Primarily, the project managed to plant two additional maize-mills, one in T/A Kalolo and the other in T/A Kalonga.
3.2 RESEARCH AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

3.2.1 Enhancement of citizen’s capacity to demand the right to development, fair trade, labour and consumer protection project supported by Democracy Consolidation Program (DCP)

In 2014, CHRR with financial support from Democracy Consolidation Programme (DCP) continued with implementation of the project: Enhancement of Citizen’s Participation in Local Governance and Demand for Good Governance and the Right to Development focusing on Fair Trade, Labour and Consumer Protection which is being implemented in Salima District. The project primarily targets women, children, youth and people with disabilities. The project is implemented against the background of limited human rights enjoyment especially right to development by the aforesaid groups. The need to address accessibility and acceptability of social services, basic services, good governance, fair labour practices, markets and consumer rights through performance of correlative duties by the rights holders and duty bearers within the realm of right to development stood out to be a key factor behind the intervention.

Implemented under the project overall goal: “Group villages progressively enjoying the right to development through demanding good governance and performance of correlative duties,” the project carried out a number of activities towards the attainment of the aforementioned goal: Activities implemented in 2014 include: Community Rights Committees (CRC) refresher trainings; community awareness, community dialogue meetings and offering paralegal sessions to victims of human rights violations.

Outcomes realized from activities implemented in 2014

- **Empowered communities are able to hold duty bearers accountable on the right to development.**
  The project has created a critical mass among community members who are now taking a leading role in the decentralization process in Salima District. This is evident in the demanding culture among the rights holders from the respective duty bearers at the district level. This was achieved due to the refresher training 2139 members of the CRC across the district as well as various community dialogue sessions that reached out to 1605 community members in the district.

Dialogue sessions such as these help communities hold duty bearers accountable

- **Improved monitoring of project being implemented in the area**
Rights holders were able to put in place monitoring mechanisms of the project implemented in their area. Rights holders did this to ensure realization and enjoyment of quality and acceptable service in line with what they demanded. Frequent monitoring has also enabled flushing out of fraud and ghost beneficiaries in safety net programs such as social cash transfer, Farm Input Subsidy Programme (FISP), *Mthandizi*, and Local Development Fund (LDF) funded programmes.

**Case study: Vigilant communities in T/A Maganga defend accountability and accountability to the letter in Mthandizi program.** Unscrupulous officials manning the *Mthandizi* Program in T/A Maganga met their match early January this year, thanks to open-eyed communities on matters of human rights and good governance. As a tradition, government, through the office of the directorate of public works at Salima District Council, came up with the *Mthandizi* program targeting the ultra-poor to ease the high levels of poverty in the area. But not all is rosy with the program as most officials at the council take the program as their own income generating activity.

For instance, 60 beneficiaries were ear-marked for the program in the villages of Thawale, Daniel, Nkhata, Bichai and Nkhoma. The Community Based Facilitator (CBF), Emily Kaunda and Daniel CRC also took note of the number of beneficiaries. Surprisingly, during the earth road upgrading exercise late December, 15 names were missing. To mean, 15 of the beneficiaries were ghost workers created by the duty bearers for their own benefit. But the CBF and CRC had none of it. They pressed the Foreman for the missing names; they were told the other names had been allocated to work at the market. The CBF and CRC went to check at the market where they found none. After running out of ideas, the Foreman simply apologized. The CBF ignored the apology and reported the matter to the Director of Public Works who ruled that only those working would get their money. During the funds disbursement, only the beneficiaries who worked got their dues, witnessed by Emily Kaunda and Daniel CRC members.

- **Empowered communities that are able to root out unfair practices in labour, trade and consumer rights.**
  Thanks to training in labour, fair trade and consumer rights, communities were able to take action against any unfair practices on the same. In 2014, CHRR withdrew 70 children from child labour and managed to send them back to school. Moreover, the community managed to resolve 20 labour disputes involving adults. Community members though CRCs managed to confiscate 46 illegal scales in the district and chased away 70 vendors whom the communities felt were not being fair in their trade practices. The empowered communities also managed to carry out routine inspection at a number of trading centres to ensure that consumer rights were protected. To this effect, communities have been able to set ablaze products which were past their expiry dates.

- **Establishment of deliberate measures to advance the enjoyment of right to development for the children, the disabled, women, youth, and the elderly.**
  To ensure that vulnerable groups such as the disabled, children, women, youth and elderly do not lag behind in the enjoyment of the right to development, the project successfully put in mechanisms to promote and protect the rights of these vulnerable groups. This was done among others, linking these groups to relevant duty bearers. Moreover, the project also managed to intervene on the human rights violations involving the vulnerable groups.
Case study: CHRR comes to the rescue of three disabled children at Salima School of the Blind

Pupils at Salima School of the Blind can now access education in peace, thanks to the intervention of the CHRR district paralegal officer. Previously, the school that has a total of 42 pupils---26 girls and 16 boys----would experience a number of challenges that would negatively affect the pupil’s access to education. The pupils always complained of poor diet and there was a culture of male teachers proposing to female pupils. What irked pupils at the school are that a lot of food stuff were donated at the school by well-wishers but only ended in the house of teachers. When the student took up the matters with the teachers, the teachers through the head, decided to expel from the school three pupils they deemed critical. The pupils were two boys and a girl. Stranded, the pupils came to CHRR office for redress. When the District Paralegal Officer got the story, he firstly liaised with the students’ parents in Dedza to get their children. Later, the paralegal officer went to the school for a fact-finding mission. Separate interviews with the teachers and pupils there showed that teachers were really in the habit of misappropriating materials at the school. The paralegal then wrote the District Education Manager on the matter. Upon further investigations, the DEM decided to reinstate the pupils at the school. However, fearing a bruised relationship with teachers he posted the pupils to another school in Mangochi.

3.2.2 Promotion of LGBTI issues in the context of Human Rights and HIV and Aids funded by Royal Norwegian Embassy (RNE)

The project is being implemented jointly by CHRR and CEDEP.

The goal of the project was “the human rights, security and tolerance of LGBT persons in Malawi secured.”

In 2014, the project made the following outcomes:

- **Traditional leaders**

  In 2014, a total of 67 (48 were male and 19 female). Most traditional leaders who were targeted have publicly spoken on the need for widespread acceptance and tolerance of LGBTI individuals.

  In Karonga district, T/A Mwerang’ombe reportedly held a meeting with his chiefs and ADCs where he sensitized them on the issue of LGBTI and called for tolerance of sexual diversity.

- **Religious leaders**

  In 2014, 36 participants (31 male; 5 female) were sensitized on LGBTI and human rights issues under the RNE project. Even though their religious doctrines have not changed, there is a general feeling amongst those that were targeted that LGBTI persons should be treated with respect and compassion and that any form of discrimination and violence should be avoided. For instance, one religious leader was quoted in The Nation as saying gay people should not be discriminated against because they are also human.
being. Although his statement stirred up a controversy within the Muslim community, causing the Muslim Association of Malawi to issue a strong statement calling for death penalty for homosexuality, the fact that a religious leader, a Sheikh for that matter, had supported gay rights was progress in itself.

Some religious leaders continue to work with CHRR and CEDEP for LGBTI rights through networks such as the Technical Working Group on LGBTI rights.

- **Newspaper Column**
  The project continued to run the newspaper advertorial column. In 2014, a total of 48 articles were published in the Sexual Minority Forum Column in *The Weekend Nation*.

- **Radio Column**
  The project also continued to air 5-minute radio column programmes on ZBS and Joy Radios. The aim of the radio column was to reach out to the majority of rural based Malawians who have no access to newspapers. In total, 48 radio column articles were aired (24 on ZBS and 24 on Joy FM).

- **Column feedback**
  The columns, both newspaper and radio generated a lot of interest from readers, some of whom responded to the issues discussed through the feedback email provided at the end of each article. The feedback is mixed, comprising positive and negative comments.

- **Advocacy through Radio and TV**
  The project also aired radio and TV programmes on various LGBTI issues. In total 8 number of radio programmes were aired during this reporting period. These programmes contributed to increased awareness and understanding of LGBTI issues among the general population.

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**Pic: A radio panel discussion in progress in Mzuzu**

- **Development and distribution of IEC materials**
  T-shirts—5, 000 T-shirts were produced with the message “Same people, different rights”. Zitenje—2, 500 metres of body wrappers were re-produced with the same message.
Moot court trials

CHRR, in conjunction with CEDEP, held a Moot Court competition at Chancellor College, Faculty of Law, between February and March 2014.

A total of 45 students participated in the trial, while 3 teams of 2 people each won the competition as first, second and third winners.

Panelist’s included high profile judges (such as Justice Mwaungulu and Judge Zione Ntaba) and lawyers.

3.2.3 Documentation of human rights abuses on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity – BENETECH

The following accomplishments were made under the BENETECH Project:

- In 2014, CHRR documented 26 cases of human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. These ranged from physical assaults, loss of livelihood, to forced eviction.
- A report on human rights violations on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity was launched and disseminated in Lilongwe in October 2014.
3.2.4 HIVOS LGBT project: Promotion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Issues in the Context of Human Rights and HIV and AIDS

In addition to the projects highlighted above implemented in 2014, CHRR managed to secure funding from HIVOS to advance the rights on the LGBTI community within the HIV/AIDS and Human Rights context. Under this project, the following activities and outcomes were realised.

- **Traditional leaders**

  In 2014, a total of 30 (22 male and 8 female) traditional leaders from the central region were sensitized on LGBTI issues. Most traditional leaders who were targeted have publicly spoken on the need for widespread acceptance and tolerance of LGBTI individuals. Some have cooperated with CHRR and CEDEP in conducting some trainings and awareness at the community level.

- **Religious leaders**

  In 2014, 30 religious leaders (17 male; 13 female) from the central region were sensitized on LGBTI and human rights issues under the RNE project.

- **Awareness campaigns**

  The HIVOS project managed to conduct awareness campaigns in Dedza, Mangochi and Salima districts. In total, 48 awareness sessions were conducted.

- **Radio programmes/media briefings**

  The project aired radio programmes and held media briefings during the period under review. This resulted

- **Media Taskforce meetings**

  CHRR held 2 media taskforce meetings in 2014 under HIVOS. Each of the meetings was attended by 10 members of the grouping. This has resulted in an increase in media coverage of LGBTI issues in newspapers and on various radio stations. The project also witnessed an increase in human interest features written by members of the taskforce.

Pic: media taskforce in progress in Lilongwe
3.2.5 United States (US) EMBASSY PROJECT: Enhancement of LGBTI technical working group (TWG) capacity to implement advocacy and communication strategy on LGBT issues

The Project sensitized the public on the rights of and issues facing the LGBTI community in Malawi through 6 radio panel discussion programmes conducted by members of the civil society LGBTI TWG aired on ZBS and Joy FM radio as well as through 15 media articles produced by members of the LGBTI media taskforce published in *The Nation, The Daily Times, Weekend Nation, Malawi News and Nyasa Times*, including a “special report” produced by Steve Zimba, a long-time member of the taskforce, aired on ZBS on Friday April 11th, 2014.

The project built the capacity of the media taskforce to develop and implement its strategic plan, a copy of which is available in the resource centre. This was accomplished through training, mentoring and coaching by a consultant identified by the project in March 2013. During subsequent meetings, the taskforce members shared story ideas which they pursued after the meetings and published in their respective media houses.

The civil society LGBTI TWG secretariat has developed its own capacity to provide oversight, coordination and support for the TWG and will definitely do better if given another opportunity to implement related projects in future.

The project organised an exhibition and symposium on 10th December 2013 to coincide with the commemoration of the International Human Rights Day. The event was held at Bingu International Conference Centre alongside the national event organised by the Malawi Human Rights Commission. The main aim of holding this event alongside the national event was to integrate LGBTI rights issues within Malawi’s larger human rights framework. CHRR elected a stand where various LGBTI materials (such as banners, posters, leaflets and T-shirts) were on display for public view. Recorded radio panel discussion programmes were also played in the background through a PA system hired by the project to enable people hear the message of tolerance for LGBTI individuals.

3.2.6 Joint CHRR and CEDEP EU project

In October 2014 CHRR and CEDEP embarked on a 2-year project on LGBTI human rights issues with funding from the European Union (EU). So far the following accomplishments have been made:

- **Training of law enforcers**

  In December 2014, CHRR and CEDEP conducted a sensitization workshop for senior police officers at Hippo View in Liwonde. The workshop drew Regional Commissioners and Police Officers.

- **Media taskforce meeting**

  The project supported a media taskforce meeting in Blantyre where a number of recommendations were agreed upon:

  There should be diversity in approaching different expertise on LGBTI issues. Let’s involve other professionals on LGBTI not only EDs from CHRR and CEDEP Effective communication / Provision of audience. There should be trust between the journalist and the organization (CHRR and CEDEP) on feedback stories. There should be a mutual relationship between the journalist and the organisations. There should be Refresher trainings for Editors and Journalists on presentation of LGBTI stories. Development booklets for expertise on LGBTI issue in order
for journalist to use as references. There should tour and involve media representative into interface meetings with the LGBTI members. Develop vernacular booklets in order to accommodate the need to approach and address the issue to every person with a different language.

**General achievements under LGBTI projects**

- **Government restatement of sodomy laws suspension**
  Sustained advocacy resulted in government reiterating the Joyce Banda administration’s stand on the moratorium of sodomy laws.
  
  In July 2014, the Solicitor General of Malawi said at the United Nations Human Rights Committee (HRC) in Geneva that Malawi is not arresting people for same-sex sexual acts until the sodomy laws are reviewed.  

- **Inclusion of MSM in national policies**
  Sustained advocacy resulted in the inclusion in the National HIV Policy and National Strategic Plan on HIV and AIDS of Men who have Sex with Men (MSM) as one of the most at risk populations that need to be targeted with interventions.

- **High Court sodomy law review**
  Sustained advocacy resulted in the High Court of Malawi moving to review the constitutionality of the sodomy laws based on the sentences imposed by lower courts on three people convicted under section 153(a) of the Penal Code. The landmark move could lead to the repeal of Malawi’s sodomy laws if the Court rules that the laws are unconstitutional.

- **Enhanced media reporting**
  A series of workshops on media LGBTI reporting has resulted in improvement in quality and quantity of media reportage of LGBTI issues.
  
  The project has witnessed an increase in human interest features focusing on the lives and experiences of LGBTI individuals.
  
  For the first time in Malawi, there is a newspaper column in Malawi’s leading weekend paper, the *Weekend Nation*, run by CHRR and CEDEP addressing LGBTI issues.

- **Increased public awareness about LGBTI**
  Due to increased awareness, LGBTI was among the most discussed issues during this year’s tripartite election campaign. A comment on this issue by an aspiring MP in Mangochi was particularly interesting. The MP reportedly said: “There are some homosexuals amongst us and we cannot just pretend as if they do not exist. There is need to have a healthy debate on the matter.” [*Daily Times April 22, 2014*]

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3.3 HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

In order to align with the interventions with the institution’s mission statement, CHRR in 2014 introduced the new department, the Resource Mobilisation and Human Rights Advocacy department. The department was created to support the institution resource mobilisation efforts as well as take a leading in championing the human rights advocacy at the national level. In 2014, the department also managed to coordinate some projects. The projects coordinated include: Improving social service delivery through strengthening decentralisation and community engagement supported by HIVOs, Karonga Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (KAGEWE) project—EU and UNFPA, under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare, Strengthening learn without fear project supported by Plan Malawi and Advocacy for the domestication of Rome Statues as well as other national advocacy initiatives.

3.3.1 Improving social service delivery through strengthening decentralisation and community engagement supported by HIVOs

Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation in partnership with Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli and Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre has since May 2014 to-date been implementing a one year project-but with high possibility of extension – titled Improving social service delivery through strengthening decentralization and community engagement in the districts of Salima, Ntchisi and Blantyre courtesy of financial support from Hivos. The project is being implemented in the following Traditional Authorities (TAs): Kuulunda and Makanjira (Salima district); Kapeni and Nsomba (Blantyre) and TA Chikho and Kasakula (Ntchisi). Apart from the targeted TAs, the project also has advocacy and capacity building activities targeting the entire district as well as the nation at large with the objective addressing the existing barriers to full realization of right to development through improved social service delivery.

The project, which is being implemented between the period of 2014 and 2015, arose to address the following gaps: inadequate capacity and knowledge on the roles of local governance structures vis-à-vis those of members of parliament; lack/limited engagement of the community with government structures; low women socio-economic standing and participation in local government structures; and inadequate awareness and monitoring of the effectiveness of service charters. As such, the project intends to improve social service delivery and accountability from duty bearers in targeted districts of Salima, Ntchisi, and Blantyre through active citizenship participation in the decentralization set-up/process.

The project intends to achieve this overall objective by strengthening the capacity of members of local government structures and CSOs on their roles and responsibilities in the decentralization set-up in the targeted districts; building the capacity of communities on the roles of local government structures and facilitate their effective engagement as rights holders with duty bearers in order to improve social service delivery in the targeted districts; improving vulnerable women’s socio-economic status and participation in the decentralization process.

The consortium of CHRR, CISP and MHRRC implemented the following activities in 2014 with CHRR, MHRRC and CISP leading implementation in Salima, Ntchisi and Blantyre respectively:

- Project Baseline survey study
- District Executive Committee (DEC) and ADC representative project orientation meeting. The activity was implemented in Salima, Ntchisi and Blantyre.
Training of district-based taskforce on service charters. The activity was implemented in Ntchisi, Salima, and Blantyre

Capacity building workshop for district coordinators, community coordinators, and community based educators and district training team. The activity was implemented in Ntchisi and Salima. Blantyre was scheduled to implement this activity in 2015 year and would hence be reported during such period.

Half-paged press statement – on human rights day 10\textsuperscript{th} December 2014.

Host newspaper column on service charters, decentralization and governance issues – The column rolled out and was published on a fortnight basis (Friday) in Malawi’s leading newspaper \textit{The Nation} and the title of the column is \textit{democratic governance corner}

Training workshop for ADCs and Traditional leaders on their roles, development. The activity was only conducted in Ntchisi due to the fact that in Salima and Blantyre the district councils had not reconstituted the ADCs.

Training workshop for VDC by CBEs and CCs. It will be reported comprehensively alongside other districts of Salima and Blantyre.

The following activities will not be reported on in this annual report but in “the end of project narrative report due in June 2015”:

Project baseline survey study findings full report

Training workshop for ADCs and Traditional leaders on their roles, development – it will be reported comprehensively alongside other districts of Salima and Blantyre.

Training workshop for VDC by CBEs and CCs. It will be reported comprehensively alongside other districts of Salima and Blantyre

The full details of the 2014 implementation are in the attached annex report “Hivos Consortium 2014 annual report”

\textbf{3.3.2 Karonga Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (KAGEWE) project—EU and UNFPA, under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare}

Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) is among the 10 organizations that are assisting the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare in the implementation of the Gender Equality and Women Empowerment program in Malawi. With technical and financial support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and European Union (EU), CHRR, in partnership with Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP), has since March 2013 been implementing this 3-year project in T/As Mwilang’ombe and Wasambo in Karonga. The aim of the project is to socially and economically empower vulnerable girls and marginalized women as a means of contributing towards the eradication of gender based violence.

In the year 2014, the following activities have been implemented under the project: district level planning and review meeting with district technical subcommittee and targeted sector heads, training of STAR Circle facilitators and mother groups in documentation of success stories and best practices in
addressing GBV and elimination of harmful cultural practices; Conducting a gender needs assessment in the impact areas; conducting a joint monitoring visit with district government officials in TA Mwilang’ombe; production of a policy brief based on the findings of a gender needs assessment; training of men to men groups to lobby for elimination and modification of harmful socio-cultural practices; baseline survey in decision making for selected married adolescent women between the ages of 15 and 19; production of a 10 minute documentary on best practices and innovative approaches across all result areas; participating in UNFPA Mid-Review Meeting; and community awareness meetings for members of traditional justice forums on gender based violence related laws and case referral systems; training for community action groups; ADC and VDC working sessions to review and mainstream gender in their plans; orientation for agriculture extension workers, health surveillance assistants and community development assistants; training for men’s, women’s, boys’ and girls’ groups; community awareness campaigns; site visits for data collection; interface meetings with communities and duty bearers; meetings to develop policy for equal participation; interface meetings with MPs and councilors; networking with religious and traditional leaders; training for community based legal literacy facilitators; formation and training of married adolescent women girls; mobilization meetings to establish community based legal literacy clubs; legal literacy sessions at community level; annual resource mobilization meetings; district review meeting with stakeholders; and community parliament sessions to develop by-laws.

Outcomes achieved from the implementation of project activities

Outcomes

From the implementation of the activities above, the following outcomes have been realized:

- Sound positive transformation on the economic lives of most women through the village savings and loans (VSL) initiative. This has seen the beneficiaries planting beautiful houses, affording school fees for their children, buying livestock, ox-carts, and running promising small scale businesses.

- Informed relevant district authorities and duty bearers thanks to the produced Policy Briefs from the gender needs assessment conducted in the two impact areas.

- Increased levels of awareness on gender based violence, gender related laws, case referral systems because of the selfless work of established community based project groups like...
Men to Men Motivator Groups, Community Action Groups, Legal Literacy Clubs, Mother Groups, STAR Circles, etc.

- Formulation of relatable by-laws in both impact areas in the fight against gender based violence and harmful socio-cultural practices. The only remaining part is that of legal endorsement of the by-laws by the relevant court officials.

- Establishment of a special committee to coordinate the sundry resources being given by community members to support needy children in realizing their educational goals in the impact areas. This is a direct result of the Annual Resource Mobilization activity conducted on December 31, 2014.

- Increased enrolment rate of learners in most primary schools in the impact areas due to the introduction of school feeding programs championed by KAGEWE mother groups. For instance, at Lushombe primary school in TA Wasambo, enrolment of learners rose up from 442 to 683 after only two weeks of the introduced feeding program.

- Economic empowerment of adolescent women in both TAs through their recently established groups of 15. With the start-up capitals of K187, 500.00 each group was given, the story of their empowered economic lives is surely sweet to the ear.

- Retention of many girls back to school after pregnancy or early marriages. Some of them are at Nyungwe CDSS, Thunduti CDCC, St. Annes CDSS and Fulirwa CDSS.

- Graduation of 6 VSL groups into income generating activities (IGA) groups with start-up capitals of K100, 000.00 per group only fosters the already started economic empowerment of women in the impact areas.

- Over 500 women are directly benefitting from and supported with economic empowering activities through Village Savings Loan initiative in T/A Mwilang’ombe and T/A Wasambo. A total of 40 girls and 4 women are benefitting from and supported with social and legal empowerment through Girls Only clubs initiative. 40 women are benefitting through social and legal empowerment through STAR Cycle initiative. At the same time, a total of 88 women are supported and benefitting from social, legal and economic empowerment through Mother Group initiative.

3.3.3 Strengthening learn without fear project supported by Plan Malawi

CHRR in partnership with Plan Malawi implemented ‘Learn Without Fear’ project in Karonga and Chitipa districts. The project targeted learners, teachers, community members and duty bearers. The project was developed on the background that violence against children is prevalent in Malawi. Overall, it aimed to realize that Children are able to embrace their right to protection through a protective environment within schools, homes and surrounding communities created for the realization of positive education outcomes.

Outcomes realized from the intervention

From the implementation of the activities above, the following outcomes have been realized:

- Intensive and strategic awareness raising campaigns and trainings of community structures on participatory advocacy against the evils of child marriages have worked their own wonders in some of our impact areas, like Kilupula in Karonga and Nthalire in Chitipa: communities have formulated by-laws against perpetrators of child marriages.
“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

- Drastic reduction of cases of violence against girls and vulnerable children around the directly reached primary schools as well as other indirectly reached. This has been the result of community resilience against in-school and out of school violence that often forces girls and other vulnerable children out of school and into early marriages.

- Increased number of girls and other vulnerable children around the directly reached primary schools as well as other indirectly reached ones who complete primary school education. Again, this has been the result of community resilience against in-school and out of school violence that often forces girls and other vulnerable children out of school and into early marriages.

- Increased girls’ and other vulnerable children’s self-efficacy, assertiveness and ability to make independent decisions, choices and to motivate others. This has been the result of the various in-school and extra-curricular capacity building activities aimed at developing critical thinking abilities and leadership skills such as voice, decisiveness, confidence, organisation and vision.

- Learners (both girls and boys) are able to recognise and report child rights violations, as well as their right to and responsibility towards education. Resultantly, more girls are now able to refuse and report arranged marriages.

- Increased community recognition, response and monitoring of violence against girls and other vulnerable children in homes and communities. Communities in the impact areas, led by the traditional leaders, continue embarking on Back To School Campaigns through which married girls are withdrawn from their marriages and re-integrated into schools. The communities, through Mother Groups (mothers that mentor girls), are also providing material and psychosocial support to the victims of child marriages in order to retain them in school. It is worth mentioning that fighting the culture of arranged marriages and bringing girls back to school is not an easy feet as this practice is well engraved in the minds and cultures of most impact communities. There still prevails a degree of cultural resistance towards the anti-child arranged marriages campaign.

- Following the various capacity building initiatives on child rights, the school management structures, such as the District Education Networks, Parents Teachers Associations, and Mother Groups, are now championing the campaign for girl child enrollment and retention into schools and against child marriages in communities.

- Enhanced healthy collaborative relationship with other strategic structures working in the child protection sector e.g. Victim Support Unit, Social Welfare and the Judiciary.
3.3.5 Advocacy for the domestication of Rome Statutes supported by Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI)

In the reporting year, CHRR with financial support from OSJI implement its planned advocacy activities towards Malawi’s domestication of the Rome Statute. The main activity implemented was a national stakeholder’s consultative conference to seek views on how Malawi can come up with a domestic legal framework to support the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) which Malawi signed and ratified on 3 March 1999 and 19 September 2002. Three major activities were implemented in the year and these include: Planning meeting for the national consultative conference on the domestication of Rome Statutes, Publicity and Media briefing and conducting a national consultative conference on the domestication of Rome Statute. The activities had participants from government, Malawi Law Society (MLS) and CSOs.

Outcomes realised from implemented activities
- Participants came to a consensus on the need to domesticate the Rome Statutes; thus a communiqué was developed and issued.
- A roadmap on the domestication of the Rome statutes was developed by government.
- Government showed strong commitment on the need to champion the process of domestication of the same.
3.3.6 Other national advocacy campaigns

The year 2014 saw CHRR embark on a vigorous national advocacy campaign aimed at entrenching the democratisation process in the country. Major issues of national importance which CHRR attached its advocacy campaign include, campaigning for free, fair and electoral tripartite elections, adoption of the 50+1 electoral system for electing the President, assessment of President Mutharika’s 100 days in office, and calling for expeditious enactment of Access to Information Bill.

❖ Campaigning for free, fair and credible elections

In the year 2014, CHRR emerged as one of the leading institutions in calling for free, fair and credible elections. To achieve this, CHRR closely monitored the electoral events and immediately issued statements to condemn malpractices that would potentially undermine the credibility of the elections. As a highlight, CHRR issued a statement to condemn the electoral violence that occurred at Goliati in Thyolo in the build up to the electoral day. Moreover, CHRR was the first institution to describe 2014 tripartite elections as lacking credibility based on a number of irregularities that were encountered and admitted to by the Malawi Elections Commission Chairperson (MEC).

❖ Adoption of the 50+1 electoral system for electing the President

Having observed that four of the five general elections Malawi has conducted has managed to produce a president with less than 50 percent of electoral votes, CHRR spearheaded the campaign to abandon the simple first-past-the-post in favour of the 50+1 per cent electoral system to ensure the incumbent have full mandate in line with the democratic expectations.

❖ Assessment of President Professor Peter Mutharika’s 100 days in office

As one way of holding the President to account, CHRR produced a highly publicised assessment of President Professor Peter Mutharika’s 100 days in office. Paying particular attention to matters of human rights, economic and political governance, and the assessment
basically dwelt on what the President promised the citizens during the campaign trail and how he is fairing on those promises. CHRR regards the assessment as a strong accountability tool which enables the incumbent to stay on course.

- **Calling for expeditious enactment of Access to Information Bill**
  Cognizant of the vital role information plays in the democratisation process, CHRR consistently campaigned for the enactment of Access to Information in furtherance of civil, political, social and economic rights of the citizens. (see cuttings of scanned copies of newspaper stories on CHRR advocacy initiatives)

- **Participation in the African Commission on Human and People Rights sessions**
  The Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation once again participated at the African commission sessions in Banjul, Gambia. CHRR Executive Director, Mr. Timothy Mtambo, presented a petition on the situation of human rights in Malawi.

  Among other things the petition highlighted the Centre applauded government for appearing before the Commission to present its report on state of human rights in Malawi.

- **Participation at the UN Human Rights Committee**
  In July, 2014, CHRR together with other civil society organisations appeared before the UN Human Rights Committee at the 111th Session in Geneva to submit a Malawi Human Rights situation NGO Report on the status of implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In the report, CHRR and other institutions made some of the following recommendations to the Committee:

  - That Malawi government should undertake to promptly review laws touching on consensual same sex activities and decriminalize them according to international human rights standards.
  - That Malawi government should adopt the Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Bill
  - Should provide funds for re-sentencing of prisoners on mandatory death penalty rather than depending on donor funds.
  - Enact the access to Information Bill
  - Expeditious prosecution of those involved in the July 20, 2011 nationwide demonstrations victims
As an outcome, UN Human Rights Committee wrote the Malawi government to impress it on the need to act upon the recommendations highlighted by the CSOs.

3.4 INFORMATION AND DOCUMENTATION DEPARTMENT
At the hub of CHRR operations is the Information and Documentation Department. In 2014, the department continued to perform its operations through timely relay of relevant information to the general public through its media outs such as Facebook and Website. The networks enabled CHRR to interact with general public on topical issues while getting feedback on how it can improve its information delivery. However, CHRR also maintained its strong relationship with the country’s notable media institutions as well as international ones.

CHRR continued to use the media in various lobbying and advocacy campaigns on pertinent national issues. CHRR used press conferences, placement of press statements/releases to compliment on awareness building and advocacy. Most of these were published by the country’s main daily news publications, namely; the Daily Times, Malawi News, Sunday Times, The Nation, Weekend Nation, Nation on Sunday and Fuko. Online publications such as the Nyasatimes, Malavi Post and Malawi Voice also published some of our statements.

Some of the country’s major radio stations used included ZBS, Matindi FM, MIJ FM, Capital FM, Channel Africa, Malawi Broadcasting Cooperation (MBC), Joy Radio, Radio Islam, Star Radio, Channel of All Nation and many others.

Besides, as in previous years, CHRR received frequent requests for interview on topical national issues. See some scanned highlight of CHRR press cuttings at the end of this publication.
3.4.1 Strengthening Human Rights Monitoring, Documentation and Reporting supported by Freedom House

CHRR has been implementing the project: “Strengthening Human Rights Monitoring, Reporting and Documentation in Malawi” with financial support from Freedom House in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In 2014, CHRR accomplished a number of activities under First and Second Milestone namely report, website maintenance of human rights monitoring platform called Martus, conducting human rights monitors’ capacity building, refresher training exercise, carrying out human rights monitors’ networking meetings in all the three regions and conducting monitoring and paralegal sessions in all the three regions of the country.

The overall objective of the project is to ensure systematic documentation of human rights violations in Malawi in irretrievable format using ICT based mechanisms for the purpose of providing documented evidence for mediation, litigation and evidenced-based human rights advocacy.

Outcomes realised from the project

Thanks to successful implementation of the project, a number of outcomes were realised. These include:

- The project has seen knowledge levels among the monitors increase. Knowledge level enhancement is more evident in the monitor’s understanding of what constitute critical human rights violations as well as the necessary steps to be taken to deal with the problem. An example is in Salima District where the monitor took to task the Police for their procrastination in arresting murder suspect. Acting on the monitor’s reminder, the Police moved in swiftly to arrest the suspect.

- Furthermore, there is now increased visibility of project at the district level. This is largely due to good and strong networking relationships the monitors have cultivated at the districts level. Monitors and other players are able to process the case as a network rather than individuals. This networking has often times led to timely access of justice by the victims. A case in point is the gender-based violence case involving the Police officer in Karonga. All human rights institutions in the district have since teamed to produce a voice of condemnation to the district police for failing to discipline the errant official. The group is now in the process of drafting a petition to be presented to Karonga District commissioner.

- Most importantly, the project has enabled CHRR and other civil society organisations to enhance their evidenced-based advocacy both at the national as well as international scale. Most of the documented cases have gone a long way in feeding into the 2014 CHRR Human Rights Report presented at the UN Committee of Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland.
3.5 PARALEGAL DEPARTMENT

In the year 2014, CHRR through its paralegal department received a number of complaints from different categories. Cases received include labour, physical and verbal abuse, sexual assaults, compensation, chieftaincy wrangle, right to education and religion, property grabbing, witchcraft, police torture, gender and domestic based violence, cheating husbands/wives and land, just to mention a few. Complaints were lodged either in person, through letters and phone calls. CHRR registered a total number of 80 cases.

Below is the synopsis of how cases were handled

LABOUR

In the labour category CHRR recorded 43 cases. The majority of the labour cases concerned unlawful dismissal, misunderstanding on final dues and withholding of remuneration both at formal and informal level.

According to this report most of the complaints were from the informal sectors which register 23 cases and the remaining cases from formal sector, CHRR discovered that cases from domestic workers who usually have their services terminated without notice or valid reasons are becoming more because domestic workers do not sign contracts with their employers hence the employers takes advantage of the same in their operations regarding payments and other ill treatment.

A part from that, complaints were also on unilateral termination of contracts by employers without payments of severance pay, compensation and repatriation cost and even salaries. Other cases were emanating from being physically abused and insulted and also being injured at work place in the course of duty hence claiming for compensation from the employers.

Cases were referred to relevant institution for further redress.
Below is the table of cases received and who dealt with them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CASE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CASE</th>
<th>STATUS OF CASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holiday and overtime payment claims</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3 cases were referred to labour office and the other 2 cases were handled by CHRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withholding salary</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>3 cases were done by CHRR 2 were referred to labour office and 3 were referred to industrial relations court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal and physical abuse and compensation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 was referred to MHRC and 2 were referred to workers union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dismissed without proper reasons and misunderstanding of terminal and final benefits (calculations)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>8 were referred to labour office 7 were referred back to their bosses for further discussions,5 were handled by CHRR,7 were referred to workers union</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMPENSATION**
CHRR received two complaints in this category, these complaints emanated from the victims of accidents in the cause of their duty, who complained of them being permanently injured due to the accident hence required to be compensated due the injuries caused to them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CASE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CASE</th>
<th>STATUS OF CASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accident in the cause of duty</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 was handled by CHRR and one was referred to court for the money to be given to the client who has waited for so long for his money</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LAND**
CHRR received six cases in this category; generally complaints came from local people that they have been displaced from their origin places for no apparent reasons. They further complained that through the chief land has been grabbed for the purpose of their own benefits their land.

Others were complained that their land was partly taken by other because the land has been idle for quit a long time hence chiefs were taking advantage of that to sell or to rent the land to others. Issues of land boundaries were also included CHRR noted that most of these cases were initiated by T/As or someone closes to the Authority.
Basically most of the complainants were the elderly, widows and orphans complaining of their land being grabbed by chiefs and relative to the deceased parents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES OF CASES</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CASES</th>
<th>STATUS OF CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land boundary and encroachment dispute caused by chiefs</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>CHRR referred cases back to Different DC’s office and 1 cases was handled by chiefs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land grabbing by deceased relatives complained either by widows, orphans and the elderly</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1 cases was handled by police and DC, 1 case was referred to traditional courts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GENDER AND DOMESTIC BASED VIOLENCE**
CHRR received 15 cases in this category, 90% of these cases were complained mostly by women and these women are mostly not working hence men taking advantage of them. Other women complained that their husbands has been battering them and ill-treating them just because they are engaged in extramarital relationships with other women. However other men also registered their cases with CHRR against their wives being cheating on them with other men basically because the man is not well to do. In the same category issues of child maintenance were also raised.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPES OF CASES</th>
<th>NUMBER OF CASES</th>
<th>STATUS OF CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorce without proper procedures and reasons</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4 referred to Court, 2 done by chiefs and marriage councilors’ and 1 handled by CHRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra marital affairs both by men and women</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4 done by CHRR, 2 referred to Victim support unit 1 was referred to court</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child and family maintenance</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>The case was referred to court</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WITCHCRAFT**
CHRR received 2 cases clients in all the cases claimed that they were being accused of practicing witchcraft 1 case was referred to Circular for Humanism and 1 was handled by CHRR.

**PHYSICAL AND VERBAL ABUSE**
CHRR received a case where a client complained that he was dismissed at his work then was called after 2 weeks by his former employers who questioned him about his involvement with the stolen money. The son claimed that they were sharing with the complainant but he refused. He was bitten servilely, he reported the case to Police but he never got help then later went to MHRC where he was told to go in 3 days but instead he came to CHRR for help. CHRR referred the client back to MHRC.

**CHIEFTENCY WRANGLE**
CHRR recorded 3 cases in this category; these were cases where people in the community are fighting for the position of chief, mis-understanding of who is supposed to inherit the power after one dies. Cases were referred to Lilongwe District Commission’s office, T/A Mazengera and Ntcheu DC’s Office respectively.
WRONG DETENTION AND POLICE TORTURE
CHRR recorded 2 cases in this category, Clients were complaining on the condition of the Police cell and Prisons and how the police mistreated suspects and prisoners. 1 case was referred to CELA, 1 was referred to Court.

GENITAL MUTILATION VICTIMS
CHRR received a case from Rumphi were a network sent a complaint that two embeciles; a man aged 62 and a girl aged 13, were genital mutilated by unknown people, they further alleged that these suspects took advantage of the disability of these victims that they could not manage to shout for help. Unfortunately CHRR failed to follow up the case with the network because they never left a contact detail.

PROPERTY GRABBING
CHRR recorded 3 cases in this category, most of the complaints emanated from widows complaining to have been property grabbed by their deceased husband’s relatives or orphans complaining of their property being grabbed by their deceased parent’s relatives. 1 case was referred to the department of Lands and the other 2 were referred to Administrator General.

RIGHT TO EDUCATION, RELIGION AND CHILD RIGHTS
CHRR recorded 2 complaints in this category; these complaints were usually made by young people on how their right to education was being affected. About 18 girls were refused to continue with their primary education because they failed to cut their hair according to their religious belief; the case was referred to Ministry of Education.

A 13 year old girl was impregnated by a 55 year old man who is HIV positive. The case was reported to CHRR Karonga office and the Karonga District Coordinator, Grecian Mbewe is continuing following up the case.

OBSERVATIONS
CHRR observed a continued reduction of GBV cases. On the other hand cases of labour are still on the rise.

SUCCESSES
- CHRR managed to help different clients to get their compensations and also following up with other offices on the cases referred for further redress.
- CHRR managed to provide legal advice to different clients on different cases, and clients showed expressed satisfaction and appreciation. As a result these clients became a link between CHRR and other victims.

3.6.0 General Successes and Challenges of the programmes

Successes
Despite many constraints encountered, the department was able to register a number of successes, among them the following:
- Coordination between secretariat and district based volunteers was generally improved.
- Continued appreciation of building awareness and CHRR work in the impact districts.
Continued monitoring visit was most beneficial as the issues that emanated from the monitoring helped to review the outreach activities.

The availability and acceptance of CHRR work by Traditional leaders improved the impact of the projects.

Increased women participation in CHRR work through CBEs, communities was a big success towards promotion of women in national affairs.

Enhanced interface with government and other stakeholders

Challenges

The year also experienced challenges, and these include:

- Late disbursement of funds made it difficult to complete some of the projects in time.
- Staff turnover affected so much the operation of the organization as some key staff left to join international organizations.
- Unrealistic expectation from some of our volunteers in terms of incentives.
- Reduced donor funding to the institution.
- Tense political environment sometimes made our work difficult.
- Duplication of efforts by the non-state actors was a big concern to CHRR.
CHAPTER FOUR: Networking, Relations with the Donor Community and Other Funding Agencies

Networking with other civil society organisations
In the spirit of solidarity and support, wider efforts in achieving its mission objectives, CHRR continued in 2014 to work with other partners. These networks included-at the domestic level, the Human Rights Consultative Committee (HRCC), the Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN), Civil Society Mining Network, as the Natural Resource Justice Network (NRJN), the Council for Non-governmental Organisations in Malawi (CONGOMA) Malawi Economic Justice Network (MEJN), NGO Gender Support Network (NGO GCN), Malawi Health Equity Network (MHEN), Malawi Social Forum (MSF) and the Human Rights Defenders Forum (HRDF).
CHRR also continued collaborating with various other civil society institutions and organisations, and with faith-based organizations, such) inter-faith Public Affairs Committee (PAC), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), and Church and Society of Nkhoma and Livingstonia Synods.
CHRR also worked closely with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Malawi chapter, in the promotion of media capacity in effective human rights reporting. In addition, CHRR worked with Malawi Law Society in various advocacy initiatives, especially on the domestication of the Rome Statutes.
CHRR is also a member of Non-Governmental Organisation Gender Coordination Network NGO-GCN a grouping of NGOs concerned with gender mainstreaming and has been part and parcel in the 50-50 women representation campaign in decision making positions.
In addition to net-working with other organisations locally, CHRR also maintained close and active relations with regional and international human rights NGOs and other institutions. Amongst the international organisations with which CHRR continued to cooperate in 2014:

- International Network Against Small Arms – (IANS)
- Amnesty International - (AI)
- Institute for Security Studies of South Africa (ISS)
- Zimbabwe Crisis Coalition –(ZCC)
- Cluster Munitions Coalition –(CMC)
- Aids and Alliance for Southern Africa – (ARASA)
- International Alliance for Natural Resource in Africa (IANRA)
- African Coalition On Human and People Rights
- Publish What You Pay Africa Coalition (PWYPAC)
- Human Rights Watch
- African Freedom of Information Centre (AFIC)

Collaboration with Government
Apart from cooperating with other NGOs, CHRR also worked closely with a number of government departments. Among others, CHRR worked with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security and through the Malawi Police Service on matters pertaining to curbing the proliferation of small arms to enhance community safety.
In addition, CHRR also collaborated with other government ministries and departments. These included, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation on treaty obligations, Ministry of Health on matters related to Public health and HIV and AIDS, Ministry of Women and Child Development in matters of women empowerment, Ministry of Defence on Small arms and Landmines, others include Malawi Law Commission, Office of Ombudsman, Malawi Human Rights Commission and Anti-Corruption Bureau.

Relations with donor community and other funding agencies
The organisation has been fortunate to have co-operating partners and donors who have kept faith in the organisation since its foundation. During the year just past, these demonstrated once again their confidence and trust in CHRR by renewing their financial and other support. The Centre greatly appreciates, and is grateful for their confidence as well as their generous support.

In the year under review the Centre received support from various development partners which in return helped the organisation to implement a number of projects.

CHRR is therefore indebted to the following donor partners for the financial support:
1. BENETECH
2. Democracy Consolidation Programme (DCP)
3. EU
4. Freedom House
5. Humanist Institute for Cooperation for Developing Countries - (HIVOS)
6. IPAS
7. National Democratic Institute (NDI)
8. Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI)
9. Open Society Institute of South Africa - (OSISA)
10. Open Society Foundation
11. Steven Lewis Foundation of Canada
12. Plan Malawi
13. The Royal Norwegian Embassy
14. The Royal Norwegian Government, through the Norwegian Church Aid - (NCA)
15. UNFPA
16. UNICEF
17. Unite for Body Rights Alliance
18. US Embassy

Monitoring and Evaluation
CHRR has been monitoring its programmes through involvement of both the secretariat and the board. Monitoring is one of CHRR key aspects of programme delivery as it enhances effective and efficient implementation of activities. CHRR developed a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework, which is designed to measure progress towards the achievement of projects being implemented. The comprehensive M&E Framework aims to monitor the resources invested, the activities implemented, what is delivered as well as evaluate outcomes achieved and long-term impact made. As part of staff self-assessment a staff appraisal tool is also designed to look at performance of members of staff.
CHAPTER FIVE: Audited Accounts and Financial Report

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION (CHRR)

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

The Trustees Incorporation Act requires the Trustee to prepare Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of affairs of the organization as at end of the financial year and of its results for that year.

The act also requires the trustees to ensure that the organization keeps proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time of the financial position of the organization and enable them ensure that the financial statements comply with the Trustees Incorporation Act.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees accepts the following responsibilities

- Maintenance of proper accounting records
- Selection of suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Making judgment and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- Compliance with applicable accounting standards when preparing financial statements,
  Subject;
- Any material departures being disclosed and explained in financial statements.
- Preparing financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is appropriate to presume that the organization will continue in its operating activities

The trustees also accept responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the organization and to maintain adequate systems of internal controls to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are of the opinion that the financial statements give true and fair view of the state of the financial affairs of the organization and of its results.

TRUSTEE

DATE

TRUSTEES

DATE

Muwemelupembe, Mhango & Company
Certified Public Accountants
“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”
Audit opinion

In our opinion:

(a) The financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the projects as at 31 December 2014 and of the resources and expenditure for the year ended on that date.

(b) All funds have been used in accordance with the conditions of the Project Agreement and only for purposes for which the financing was provided.

(c) Goods and services financed under the projects have been procured in accordance with the terms of the Project Agreement, have been maintained in appropriately secure storage facilities and have been accounted for using properly inventory records which are reconciled periodically to the physical inventories.

(d) All necessary supporting documents, records and accounts have been kept in respect of all project ventures with clear linkages between the books of accounts and reports presented to the Donor.

(e) The disbursements are supported by adequate documentation and receipts and payments are fairly and accurately recorded.

(f) An appropriate management structure, internal control and record keeping system have been maintained and can be relied upon.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Mwenetupembe, Mhango & Co.

Date: 11 March 2015

Lilongwe, Malawi.
2014 Annual Report

“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14,560,242</td>
<td>14,930,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account receivables</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,027,500</td>
<td>615,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>79,855,308</td>
<td>24,165,221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>95,443,050</td>
<td>39,711,151</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| RESERVES AND LIABILITIES      |      |         |         |
| **Reserves**                  |      | 36,845,720 | 35,881,446 |
| Capital reserves              | 7    | (25,389,068) | (22,824,233) |
| Accumulated (deficit)         |      | 11,456,652  | 13,057,213  |
| **Current liabilities**       |      | 83,986,398  | 26,653,938  |
| Account payables              | 6    | 83,986,398  | 26,653,938  |
| **TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES** |      | 95,443,050 | 39,711,151 |

These financial statements were approved for issue by board of trustees on 10.03.15 and signed on its behalf by:

[Signature]
CHAIRMAN

[Signature]
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The auditors' report is on page 3
“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MK</td>
<td>MK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donor funds</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>266,635,937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>154,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income</td>
<td></td>
<td>266,790,609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration costs</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>18,433,655</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staff costs</td>
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<td>39,262,740</td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>1,334,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td></td>
<td>59,031,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Awareness</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>128,759,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research and Analysis</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2,849,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Results Management Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Capacity Building</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights Monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training in Human Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sub-total</td>
<td></td>
<td>158,082,090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenditure</td>
<td></td>
<td>217,113,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</td>
<td></td>
<td>49,677,163</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis of (Deficit)/surplus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Deficit)/Surplus brought forward</td>
<td></td>
<td>(22,824,233)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income written off</td>
<td></td>
<td>(51,277,726)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Year adjustment</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to capital reserves</td>
<td></td>
<td>(964,274)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Deficit) carried forward</td>
<td></td>
<td>(25,389,068)</td>
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## CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION (CHRR)

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NOTE</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>MK</td>
<td>MK</td>
<td>MK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flow from operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</td>
<td>49,677,163</td>
<td>(19,949,071)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Adjustment for:</strong></td>
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<td>Depreciation</td>
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<td>1,238,538</td>
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<td>(48,309,591)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(265,601)</td>
<td>(48,056,181)</td>
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<td><strong>Working capital movement</strong></td>
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<td>(Increase) in receivable</td>
<td>(412,502)</td>
<td>(367,502)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase in payables</td>
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<td>620,864</td>
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<td>Cash generated from operations</td>
<td>56,919,958</td>
<td>253,362</td>
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<td><strong>Net cash flow from operating activities</strong></td>
<td>56,654,357</td>
<td>(48,056,181)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flow from investing activities</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of non-current assets</td>
<td>(964,274)</td>
<td>(832,25)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash flow from Investing activities</strong></td>
<td>55,690,083</td>
<td>(48,888,444)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents during the year</strong></td>
<td>55,690,083</td>
<td>(48,888,444)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>beginning of the year</td>
<td>24,165,225</td>
<td>73,053,673</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at:</strong></td>
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<td>24,165,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>end of the year</td>
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*Miensi Lupembe, Mhango & Company*
Certified Public Accountants
CHAPTER SIX: The Year 2014 – Pictorial Highlights, media highlights and publication highlights

CHRR Media Advocacy efforts

Below were some of the highlights of national advocacy which Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation carried out in the year 2014 as covered by electronic, print and online media. Take note that this compilation is not comprehensive reflection of CHRR’s national advocacy as it’s just a sample of the overall picture of CHRR 2014 national advocacy.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name of the media</th>
<th>Date of publication</th>
<th>News story/Article</th>
<th>Web address</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Nyasatimes (Online)</td>
<td>21 December 2014</td>
<td>CSOs slam ‘NAC gate’ defenders, as CONGOMA disowns Matewere stance</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/21/csos-slamnacgate-defenders-ascongoma-disownsmatewere-stance/">http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/21/csos-slamnacgate-defenders-ascongoma-disownsmatewere-stance/</a></td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Nyasatimes (Online)</td>
<td>20 December 2014</td>
<td>CHRR has no pathological hatred with Malawi ruling DPP – Timothy Mtambo</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nyasatimes.com/2015/02/20/interviewchrr-has-no-pathologicalhatred-with-malawi-rulingdpp-timothy-mtambo/">http://www.nyasatimes.com/2015/02/20/interviewchrr-has-no-pathologicalhatred-with-malawi-rulingdpp-timothy-mtambo/</a></td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Maravipost (Online)</td>
<td>22 December 2014</td>
<td>Malawi’s CSOs response to “proponents” of NACGATE</td>
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### 2014 Annual Report

**“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Source</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>The Nation Online</td>
<td>7 October 2014</td>
<td>CSOs demand investigations into Mbendera claims</td>
<td><a href="http://mwnation.com/csos-demand-investigations-mbenderas-claims/">http://mwnation.com/csos-demand-investigations-mbenderas-claims/</a></td>
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<td>29.</td>
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<td>CSOs demand international covenants domestication</td>
<td><a href="http://mwnation.com/csos-demand-international-covenants-domestication/">http://mwnation.com/csos-demand-international-covenants-domestication/</a></td>
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<td>33.</td>
<td>The Nation Online</td>
<td>8 July 2014</td>
<td>Malawi CSOs raise rights concerns at UN</td>
<td><a href="http://mwnation.com/malawi-csos-raise-rights-concerns-un/">http://mwnation.com/malawi-csos-raise-rights-concerns-un/</a></td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>The Nation Online</td>
<td>14 June 2014</td>
<td>Can free fair and credible voting be achieved?</td>
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<td>The Nation Online</td>
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<td>Activists outline Peter’s obstacles</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>BNL Times</td>
<td>1 December 2014</td>
<td>First Lady defends Beam</td>
<td><a href="http://timesmediamw.com/">http://timesmediamw.com/</a></td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>BNL Times</td>
<td>4 December 2014</td>
<td>Civil society organisations threaten national demo over NAC funds</td>
<td><a href="http://timesmediamw.com/civil-society-organisationsthreaten-national-demo-over-nac-funds/">http://timesmediamw.com/civil-society-organisationsthreaten-national-demo-over-nac-funds/</a></td>
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<td>45</td>
<td>Nyasa Times</td>
<td>1 December 2014</td>
<td>Malawiriights groups hit at passive Mutharika on Judicial Strike</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/01/malawirights-groups-hit-at-passive-mutharika-on-judicial-strike/">http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/01/malawirights-groups-hit-at-passive-mutharika-on-judicial-strike/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Press cuttings
“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”
The noble cause is evident in the people themselves

CHRR Publication
Publication cover scanned

Implementing Partners: Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) – lead partner
Comitato Internazionale Per lo Svilluppo dei Popoli (CISP)
Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC)

Reporting period: May 2014 – December 2014

Prepared by: Makhumbo R. Munthali, Project Coordinator
Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation, Box 2340 Lilongwe.

chrr@chrrmw.org or makhumunthali@gmail.com

Submitted to: Hivos

Contact Person: Timothy Mtambo, Executive Director
Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation
mtambot@chrrmw.org or chrr@chrrmw.org or Tel: +265 176112
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INTRODUCTION

Part A: Background

Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation in partnership with Comitato Internazionale per lo Svillupo dei Popoli and Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre has since May 2014 to-date been implementing a one year project—but with high possibility of extension—titled Improving social service delivery through strengthening decentralization and community engagement in the districts of Salima, Ntchisi and Blantyre courtesy of financial support from Hivos. The project is being implemented in the following Traditional Authorities (TAs): Kuulunda and Makanjira (Salima district); Kapeni and Nsomba (Blantyre) and TA Chikho and Kasakula (Ntchisi). Apart from the targeted TAs, the project also has advocacy and capacity building activities targeting the entire district as well as the nation at large with the objective addressing the existing barriers to full realization of right to development through improved social service delivery.

The project, which is being implemented between the period of 2014 and 2015, arose to address the following gaps: inadequate capacity and knowledge on the roles of local governance structures vis-à-vis those of members of parliament; lack/limited engagement of the community with government structures; low women socio-economic standing and participation in local government structures; and inadequate awareness and monitoring of the effectiveness of service charters. As such, the project intends to improve social service delivery and accountability from duty bearers in targeted districts of Salima, Ntchisi, and Blantyre through active citizenship participation in the decentralization set-up/process.

The project intends to achieve this overall objective by strengthening the capacity of members of local government structures and CSOs on their roles and responsibilities in the decentralization set-up in the targeted districts; building the capacity of communities on the roles of local government structures and facilitate their effective engagement as rights holders with duty bearers in order to improve social service delivery in the targeted districts; improving vulnerable women’s socio-economic status and participation in the decentralization process.

Part B: Executive Summary

In their initial proposal submission to Hivos, the consortium of Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), International with Comitato Internazionale per lo Svillupo dei Popoli (CISP), and Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC) intended to carry out a number of activities within a space of 3 years in order to fully realize its intended results but due to financial constraints the consortium was only allowed to prioritize the activities which could be implemented within a one year contract duration with Hivos. To that end, the consortium selected those activities which could sequentially be implemented first with the view that the rest of remaining activities, which would be a continuation of the first implemented in the first year, would be implemented in the subsequent new agreements which would be sought with Hivos upon a successful implementation of the current agreement. Based on the success stories emanating from the implementation of the current agreement and the need to implement all remaining activities in the initial proposal in order to realize high level results, the consortium of CHRR, CISP and MHRRC remain optimistic that Hivos would grant them a
2014 Annual Report

“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

go-ahead—under the new agreement upon completion of the current one— to implement the remainder of the activities.

The following activities were prioritised for implementation between May 2014 and May 2015 under the current agreement: Conduct a project orientation meeting for the District Executive Committee (DEC) members; Formulation of district taskforces on service charters and Capacity building workshops for the taskforce on services charters, human rights and local governance operations; Training of ADCs and Traditional authorities on their roles in decentralization set up and the concept of development; Conduct modules based training sessions for VDCs on their roles, the concept of development, how to prioritise development initiatives for their areas, and how to monitor development initiatives in their areas; conduct capacity building workshops for district based Civil Society Organisations on decentralization, service charters, local government operations; and organize capacity building workshops for the project’s district coordinators, community coordinators, community based educators and district training team members on decentralization, service charters, importance of women involvement in decision making processes and community monitoring of local development projects.

The consortium also identified the following activities under result area two for implementation during this period: Community awareness raising forum on service charters, decentralization and roles of VDCs and ADCs; interface meetings amongst duty bearers; facilitation of interface meetings between duty bearers and communities on their respected roles in the delivery of social services as stipulated in the service charters and district development plans; Training of media on service charters, decentralization, human rights and local government system in order to bring national and wider stakeholder knowledge and interest on the project; hold annual national dialogue sessions with strategic government ministries, CSOs, MPs and development partners to share on the findings on service charters and social service delivery in general; develop and publication of IEC materials to raise awareness on various issues on the findings from service charters; conduct a needs assessment exercise to prioritise issues of women and girls in the decentralization process and community development plans; and conduct advocacy and lobbying at community and district level to mainstream women issues in community and district plans and to increase women representation in ADCs and VDCs. The following activities were also prioritised as part of project cycle management: Conduct a project baseline survey; develop a media strategy for the programme; conduct consortium quarterly review meetings; conduct periodic monitoring and evaluation of the project activities; and end of project evaluation.

Almost half of the prioritised activities were implemented between the period of May 2014 and December 2014, and as such this report provides a succinct account of the activities undertaken during this period. The report also provides the challenges experienced during this first half of implementation as well as successes and recommendations. Lessons learnt during the course of implementation are also highlighted in the report. Lastly, the report provides a detail account of the planned activities to be implemented in the coming year (between January 2015 and May 2015).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Part A: Summary of Activities implemented

In 2014, the consortium of CHRR, CISP and MHRRC implemented activities in Salima, Ntchisi and Blantyre respectively. The activities were:
Project Baseline survey study.
District Executive Committee (DEC) and ADC representative project orientation meeting. The activity was implemented in Salima, Ntchisi and Blantyre
Training of district-based taskforce on service charters. The activity was implemented in Ntchisi, Salima, and Blantyre.
Capacity building workshop for district coordinators, community coordinators, and community based educators and district training team. The activity was implemented in Ntchisi and Salima.
Blantyre was scheduled to implement this activity in 2015 and would hence be reported during such period.
Host newspaper column on service charters, decentralization and governance issues – The column rolled out and was published on a fortnight basis (Friday) in Malawi’s leading newspaper The Nation and the title of the column is democratic governance corner.
Training workshop for ADCs and Traditional leaders on their roles, development. The activity was only conducted in Ntchisi due to the fact that in Salima and Blantyre the district councils had not reconstituted the ADCs.
Training workshop for VDC by CBEs and CCs. It will be reported comprehensively alongside other districts of Salima and Blantyre.

The following activities will not be reported upon in this annual report but in the end of project narrative report due in June 2015:

Project baseline survey study findings full report.
Training workshop for ADCs and Traditional leaders on their roles, development – it will be reported comprehensively alongside other districts of Salima and Blantyre.
Training workshop for VDC by CBEs and CCs. It will be reported comprehensively alongside other districts of Salima and Blantyre.
Part B: Details of Implementation in 2014

1.0. Project Baseline Survey Study

The Consortium led by CISP engaged Innovation Poverty Action (IPA) to conduct a Baseline Survey for the project in all the three targeted districts. In Blantyre the exercise was carried out in three days from 19th to 21st November in which the first day was for orientation of enumerators and interpretation of questions. The other two days were for data collection. The study involved both focus group and key informant interviews. Data was collected by a team of five enumerators including the team leader himself (consultant from IPA). The team leader headed the focus group discussions and also took part in some Key Informant Interviews. Eight key informant Interviews were conducted; the main Interviewees in this respect were: the Principal Health Systems Administrator, the Director of Planning and Development, Water Management Assistant, the Desk Officer (Education). Two Head teachers from Chisawani Primary school (T/A Somba) and Ntenjera Primary School (T.A. Kapeni) and Two Clinical Officers from two health centers; Mpemba and Lunzu from T.A.s Somba and Kapeni respectively. Further two Focus Group Discussions were conducted in each of the two T/As, aimed at getting views of men and women including ADC members who benefit from public services from water, education and health sectors in their respective communities.

Data entry and analysis as well as preparation of the report on the findings of the baseline are being done by the consultant from IPA and shall be released in due course.

Data collection Tools

- A semi-structured questionnaire was used to collect both qualitative and quantitative data for both focus group and Key Informant interviews. A recorder was also used to capture responses during FGDs and some KII.

Observations, successes and challenges

- We managed to collect data from all the offices which were targeted.
- Since the Key informants were mainly heads of departments who are almost always busy the interviews could sometimes be interrupted by other officers who sought their attention.

The other details including the full details of the baseline findings of Salima and Ntchisi shall be provided in the full project baseline report in the next reporting.

2.0. District Executive Committee (DEC) and ADC representatives project orientation meetings

The consortium conducted district level project roll out and orientation meetings in Salima, Ntchisi and Blantyre. The objectives of these meetings were to introduce the projects at the district level; get buy-in and endorsement from the District Executive Committee who constitute the technical decision making body at the council; and to ask DEC and Area Development Committee (ADC) representatives to suggest and recommend two Traditional Authority (TAs) as the project’s impact areas.

2.1. Salima Orientation meeting

The Consortium led by CHRR held an orientation meeting of DEC and ADC representatives in Salima on 21st July 2014. The Consortium team comprised of The Programmes Manager, Patson Gondwe, the
Finance Coordinator, Hieroinimo Nkhwimba, the Resource Mobilisation Coordinator (Project Coordinator) Makhumbo Munthali, and Information Officer (Project Officer) Fletcher Simwaka. Chaired by the District Commissioner Rev. Moses Chimphopo, the DEC orientation was heavily patronised, exceeding the anticipated number of participation by almost 100 per cent. Roughly, a total of 76 DEC members turned up for the orientation and out of these, 50 were male and 26 were female. (Note: This data is inclusive of the two Area Development Committees (ADC) representatives from T/As Makanjira and Pemba)

At the start of the meeting, the CHRR Programmes Manager introduced CHRR team to DEC members. The manager outlined the objectives of the meeting, justifying the importance in current local governance spectrum. He said the presence of councillors in the council call for thorough orientation and understanding of their roles to avoid unnecessary duplication with other players, especially parliamentarians. He also emphasised the need to create a critical mass among the rights holders in communities to make governance and decentralisation gains trickle down to grassroots in communities.

After the Programmes Manager, the Project Coordinator made a power-point presentation of the project in which he focussed on the project’s goal, objectives, result areas and strategies. He pointed out that training of relevant players such the Village Development Committees (VDC) Area Development Committees (ADC) district-based task-force on service charters and district civil society organisations emerged as some of the key activities to be undertaken in the first year. As a strategy, he said the project would revamp and enhance the composition of the district service charter team to make an effective supervisory team of the project in the district. The project coordinator said the media will be key in the implementation of the project.

Outcome of the DEC orientation meeting:

- DEC members said the project was a necessary intervention in the current local government set-up especially now that councillors are in place and that most of the people are not sure of what to demand from the duty bearers. To this end, one DEC member even suggested that the project be rolled out to all the T/As in the district to generate high-level impact.

- Some DEC members feared that the project may end up creating unrealistic demands on the council which is heavily under-funded. As a mitigating mechanism, the project coordinator said the project would ensure that rights holders also demand from non-state actors available in district complement the council’s short-fall.
After thorough scrutiny, DEC members identified T/A Kuulunda and Makanjira. The two T/As were identified due to the low community participation levels on governance and development matters. There was overwhelming project endorsement by the DEC.

2.2. Blantyre Orientation Meeting

The Consortium led by CISP organized a project orientation session for Blantyre District Executive Committee. The meeting took place on 25th July, 2014 at Blantyre district council offices. The invited guests to this session were Heads of Departments from different Government Ministries, Senior Chief Kapeni, T/A Somba, ADC Representatives, Journalists and Consortium Staff (CHRR and CISP). The participants were each strategically invited because of the roles each of them were going to play in the project. The Project Coordinator CHRR Makhumbo R. Munthali, CISP Programmes Manager Moses Ngwalo, and CISP Project Officer Ulemu Gawamadzi represented the consortium at this crucial meetings and each made presentations. Both the District Commissioner and the Director of Planning and Development of Blantyre district council were amongst the participants.

A number of key issues emanated from the discussions after the presentations. For instance, as regards to the project time line the members highlighted that the one year project period was not enough time for implementation of all the project activities and further that it may not even be enough to ensure that the targeted groups have really understood the key concepts of decentralisation and more importantly are capable of putting to use the knowledge that the project would impart without getting even more confused about some project issues. The DEC therefore appealed for extension of the project to 5 years period to all the TAs in Blantyre and if funding allows to all the districts in Malawi. Commenting on the possible rolling out of the Village Savings and Loans initiative (VSLA) in the next agreement with Hivos, the members were of the view that the VSLA, from their experience, was one of the interventions that has helped the communities to improve economically and would indeed assist to enable women to gradually graduate from poverty through the loan component the concept comes with. It was however highlighted that continuity and sustainability of the intervention is sometimes hard because the Community Based Educators are sometimes half baked on the key concepts of the VSL initiative which renders them unable to pass on the right knowledge to new groups. The members hence asked the consortium to consider this factor when rolling out this initiative in the new agreement with
Hivos. They emphasized the need for the consortium to consider this activity in their next phase of implementation as it was crucial towards women economic empowerment.

According to the District Commissioner (DC), Mr. Chibwana, decentralisation efforts are supposed to be implemented as a package, but what has been experienced over the years is that the decentralisation efforts are done in bits and bits and not as a package. The DC gave an example the councilors who had once disappeared and just resurfaced in the May 2014 elections for no genuine reason. He said that this affects the stability and maturity of the decentralisation process in Malawi. He appealed for a change in this status quo so that Malawi can fully achieve decentralisation. The DC also added that while so much has been done to provide for the legal and political policy environment to roll out decentralization; little has been done to make the process a reality. He attributed this to lack of political will towards achievement of decentralisation. There are no development budgets which trickle down to the ground. The ministries do provide little or no funds to the local assemblies for implementation of activities, further the funds do not come on time; as of end July the council had not yet received the June and July funding. All these affect the council’s service delivery to the rights holders.

Further the DEC highlighted that the project has high chances of increasing communities’ expectation particularly about the services they should be looking forward to from the District assembly mainly because of the project’s service charter awareness component. An appeal was hence made to the consortium to make sure that during implementation, the consortium should try as much as possible to also tell the communities the limitations which the council faces in terms of finances, which makes it unable to provide the best service to the communities. Centralization of some key functions and activities was cited as another stumbling block to the achievement of full decentralisation. Apart from the Local Development Fund (LDF) most projects have not been decentralized. The information about the funds allocated to some development projects is kept as a secret to the local management authorities; open to the management only. The DC said that there needs to be some transparency and accountability in development projects if we are to ably achieve decentralisation in Malawi.

Senior chief Kapeni applauded the consortium for the project which according to him was one of the most important projects he had ever seen. “I have never seen a project document in my life that ably addresses the needs of the communities such as this one” were the words he uttered in this respect. He however asked that apart from the ADC and the VDCs the project should also target the Village heads because they too lack the same knowledge which the ADCs lack hence their comprehension of such topics as the decentralisation would be of very much important as they work hand in hand with the development agents (ADC and VDCs) in the villages. Further, according to the Senior Chief’s observation most project development projects are rolled out in the areas without the direct involvement of the Traditional Authorities themselves i.e. in the development of the proposals and even during implementation. He hence appealed to the DEC that the Chiefs should be consulted on development projects in their areas. The DEC finally appealed to the consortium to use the already existing decentralized structures because with the limited project period instituting new structures would affect the project’s sustainability.

Other advocacy issues that emanated from the DEC meeting included:

- The DEC highlighted that the councils are supposed to get about 5% of the parliament approved National Budget. However it has been experienced that the councils are allocated only about 1.5% which only suffices for salaries and vehicle maintenance, leaving them with very little or no resources for activities; which obviously affects the councils’ service delivery to the communities. The consortium was therefore asked to lobby for a change in this status Quo
perhaps by engaging relevant authorities in a dialogue and making the public aware of this predicament.

- The consortium was also asked to replicate the project activities to other T/As in the district and further to other districts in Malawi.
- The need to roll out service charters in Blantyre district council recognizing that there were only in Blantyre city. As such, it was implored that one of the responsibilities of the to be formed taskforce would be to advocate for the rolling out of service charters in Blantyre district council
- The need to engage with Central government on the concerns raised at the meeting.
- The DEC with full backing from the T/As commended the consortium for the project reiterating that it would indeed help to address the real needs of the poor and further that it would help to unfold many issues which have for so long remained unreported about the real status of the decentralisation process in Malawi. They finally pledged their full support to the project.

2.3. Ntchisi Orientation Meeting

The Consortium led by MHRRC conducted a DEC project orientation meeting in Ntchisi. The meeting took place at Ntchisi district council offices. The Consortium team constituted of Makhumbo Munthali, Project Coordinator, Desmond Kaunda, Executive Director, MHRRC, Limbani Phiri, MHRRC Project Officer, and Michael Nhema, MHRRC Finance Officer. Amongst the participants at this meeting were the District Commissioner (DC), the Director of Planning and Development (DPD), heads of departments including the relevant sectors of water, education, health, and some members of the Civil Society. The Project Coordinator Makhumbo Munthali and Project Officer for Ntchisi Limbani Phiri made comprehensive presentations on the background of the project and service charters as well as the objectives of the meeting. The District Commissioner also offered welcoming remarks where she applauded the project for rolling out in Ntchisi and called for an extension to another one-year if the project was to bear much fruit or impact and also to extend it in other TAs.

A number of issues came out during the discussions of this meeting. For instance, despite rolling out service charters in Ntchisi some 7 years ago little had been done to effect their implementation as well as enhance monitoring of the same. At the same time there was lack of awareness of the contents of the service charters amongst the communities – a factor which according to members was due to human resource and financial constraints at the district council. The members further indicated that even the community structures which were formulated 7 years ago to champion the awareness campaign of the service charters as well as provide the monitoring role at the district level were all no longer functional.

It was also added that due to high turn-over rate at the district council where out of 10 members of the district council who were trained on service charter only 3 were remaining a scenario that negatively affected the institutional memory of the initiative hence affecting continuity. However, members also indicated that one of the reasons behind the failure to implement the charters was that the standards were national based, not district based, as such they could not speak to the districts realities which are regulated by the limited funds pumped into the district council by the central government.

The DEC selected TA Chikho and Kasakula as the project impact areas. The members accepted the project and called for the need for implementers to put into consideration the recommendations made by DEC. The members also suggested the following Civil Society organisations to be part of the to-be formed taskforce on service charters: Red Cross, NICE, World Vision and others. The District Commissioner advised the Project team to continuously keep on updating the council on the progress in implementation.
3.0. Formulation and Training of District-based Taskforce on Service Charter

The Consortium conducted a formulation and training of district-based taskforce on service charter in Salima, Ntchisi and Blantyre. The taskforce, which would have representation from Civil Society and relevant government departments, would assume the role of monitoring the implementation of the service charter at the district level as well as assisting the project team in monitoring and implementation of activities at the district level, apart from those relating to service charter. As for Blantyre district council where TA Kapeni and TA Nsomba are located, there are no service charters yet formulated. The taskforce in Blantyre would hence assume the unique role of advocating for formulation of the service charter in Blantyre district council amongst other mentioned given roles.

3.1. Salima formulation and Training of district-based Taskforce

After the orientation of DEC, the consortium led by CHRR managed to formulate a 15 member district-based taskforce on service charters and organised a two-day capacity building exercise for them. The taskforce came from both government and civil society organisations. From the government side, representation came from key sectors such as Education, Health, Police, Judiciary, Agriculture, Planning and Development, Administration and Social Welfare; whereas civil society membership was drawn from organisations working in human rights, gender and governance sectors. Out of a 15 member-taskforce, four were women, representing about 27 per cent.

After the formulation of a team, the consortium conducted the two-day training for the taskforce. Facilitators at the exercise were drawn from both CHRR and MHRC. The latter was engaged owing to their extensive knowledge and experience in Service Charters. Topics during the training included an in-depth understanding on Democracy, Governance and Human Rights; Decentralisation and specifically, Service Charters.

District-based taskforce on service charters after the capacity building workshop

The following were some of the outcomes of the district-based taskforce on service charters:

- Enhanced understanding of governance and decentralisation by the participants.
- Participants managed to brief their respective offices on service charters and the need to adhere to them in delivery of services.

3.2. Blantyre formulation and Training of Taskforce

The Consortium led by CISP conducted formulation and training of taskforce on service charter in Blantyre between September and October. A 13 member taskforce comprising of heads of Departments of Water, Education Health, Youth, Agriculture, the Director of Administration, Social Welfare, Gender, Community Development and the Director of Planning and Development was set up as the taskforce on Service charters in Blantyre. The team’s Chairperson is the DPD himself (Mr., Precious Kantsitsi) deputized by the Desk Officer from Education, Mr. Mipando) was formulated. The selection process was done in consultation with Blantyre district council through the Director of Planning and Development as well as the project partners.

The following were the topics which were covered during the training: overview of the governance project, decentralisation (rationale, challenges and opportunities), introduction to service charters, formulation of service charters for district councils and departments, human rights based approach to development. A number of issues emanated from the discussions during the training. For instance, the
taskforce members agreed that the process of formulation of service charters for the different departments would provide a forum for clarification of the services which the stakeholders should expect from the sectors. The DADO (District Agriculture Development Officer) for Blantyre cited that the Agriculture Office is sometimes misconstrued to be the provider of input subsidies as their major role and not as an advisory body on all agricultural issues in the district. The district Labour officer reiterated that his office is also taken as a sector which is supposed to find jobs for the society and not an enforcer of the labour related laws, which is its core duty. The district youth office too reiterated the same that Youth department which is also misconstrued as an institution whose core existence is to provide Loans for the youth instead of a sector which is responsible for the all the issues that looks into affairs of the youth.

The District health Office reported that the health sector is faced with two main challenges; poor remuneration packages and health workers’ lack of customer care service ethic. The latter demotivates the health workers while the former leads to poor treatment of clients by the workers of which both problems affect service delivery of the health sector. The Principle Health Systems Administrator appealed to the project to assist in providing some training for the health workers mainly on customer care. She also said that for successful development of the service charters it is imperative that a small orientation on the topic takes place for the other key members of staff from the sector e.g. the DHO (District Health Officer), DEO (District Environmental Officer), and the Principal Nurse just to mention a few so that the document is done consultatively and is well adopted.

The DPD commended the project for including human rights topics (i.e. HRBA) in the orientation saying that the topics were very important. He said that despite the many efforts which different institutions undertake to bring more awareness on the subject, a huge number of people are still not aware of the importance of human rights and gender as they relate to economic development. He added that any country’s education curriculum has a huge bearing on its development, it could even be better to include mandatory the human rights topics in our country’s curriculum in secondary schools and even at tertiary levels.

The following were some of the action points from the meeting:

- During the same event CISP communicated its intentions to help the Health, education and water sectors to come up with their own charters.
- The taskforce members were also asked to pass on the information from the training to their colleagues and also select one staff member from their departments who would attend taskforce meetings in their absence.
- CISP shared with all the members all the material that was covered in the training.

3.3 Ntchisi Formulation and Training of Taskforce

Following the project’s endorsement, the consortium led by MHRRC successfully formulated a 15 member district-based taskforce on service charters predominantly constituted of government officials and relevant civil society organisations working in the relevant sectors of water, education and health and with the presence in the targeted TAs of Chikho and Kasakura. Some members were also drawn from organisations working in gender and governance. The team then underwent a 2-day training on service charter; human rights based approach to development, decentralisation and governance in general.
At the end of the meeting, the taskforce developed an action plan which would guide their monitoring of the activities as well as awareness raising of service charters within their sectors for improved social service delivery. The taskforce in conjunction with the project team also reviewed the 2014 project plan of implementation in Ntchisi in order to see if it was feasible and made necessary changes to the schedule depending on their availability. It was quite evident at the end of the training that members had acquired new knowledge on service charter, human rights, decentralisation and governance which would in short term and long term positively influence their monitoring role of the implementation of service charters as well as improve their social service delivery particularly for those in relevant government departments. The members however recommended for more trainings on the subject. Members also recommended for increased government resources to the district council if they were to meaningfully meet the required standards of service. They bemoaned the tendency by the central government to underfund the councils which made it difficult for them to sufficiently meet the growing demand by the citizens. Members also employed the Project team to increase awareness on the ground on what the district council could offer or not depending on their allocated resources in order to avoid creating false hopes or unrealistic expectations from the people.

4.0. CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DISTRICT COORDINATORS, COMMUNITY COORDINATORS, COMMUNITY BASED EDUCATORS AND DISTRICT TRAINING TEAM

As one way of taking the project to grass root community, the Consortium led by CHRR conducted a two-day capacity building exercise for district coordinators, community coordinators, community-based educators and district training team spanning from 29th to 30th September, 2014. The activity targeted a total of 30 participants, 15 each from T/A Makanjira and Kuulunda. 15 of the 30 participants were female, representing 50 percent. The exercise was organised to enhance understanding and skills of the community members in local governance, human rights, decentralisations, the roles of the parliamentarians, councillors, chiefs, ADC and VDC in the local governance set-up.

Facilitation during the training was through a combination of lecturing, use of flip-charts presentation, group work as well as plenary discussions.

Similar trainings were conducted in Ntchisi by the consortium led by MHRRC. In Ntchisi the activity targeted 30 participants with equal representation from both TA Chikho and TA Kasakula. The project team in partnership with some members of the established taskforce conducted the trainings in Ntchisi. Amongst the topics which the targeted participants were drilled in included human rights, governance, decentralisation, the roles of parliamentarians, councillors, chiefs, ADCs and VDCs in the local governance set-up and also the service charter and how as the communities they could make realistic demands based on the service charters.

The outcomes of the exercise included:

- Participants’ knowledge and skills on their roles in local governance got enhanced.
- Participants managed to draw action plans that would guide their further action in the governance set-up.

The consortium published a press statement in Malawi’s leading print newspaper The Nation of 10th December 2014 in commemoration of international human rights day under the theme Human Rights 365. The title of the statement, which was a wake-up call to the rights holders at all levels of development including in the local government system to hold their duty bearers accountable on various human rights and governance issues, was “International Human Rights Day: Human Rights 365: An Opportunity for Malawi to answer the human rights call of our times; ‘holding duty bearers answerable’.

Refer to Annex 2: for full details of the article:

6.0. Host newspaper column on service charters, decentralization and governance issues

The consortium rolled out a fortnight column (Friday) in Malawi’s leading print media The Nation titled Democratic Governance Corner. The objective of the column is to bring to the public attention some of the burning emerging issues on service charters, democratic governance and decentralization emanating from the project to address the same to relevant stakeholders especially policy makers. The column also provides the platform for discussion of some emerging human rights, governance issues at a national level which affect both social service delivery and decentralization process. The column remains one of the key advocacy tools towards improved social service delivery both at a local and national level. The column will continue to be covered in 2015, and beyond – that is if the request to have a new agreement after the expiry of the current one shall be granted by Hivos.

Refer to Annex 1: for full details of the article

LESSONS LEARNT

- There is need to regularly brief DEC on the progress on the project as one way of reminding duty bearers on their expected roles in the project.
- There is need for monthly review meetings for the task-force to take stock of the progress of the service charters, especially among the sector heads of the council
- For the smooth running of the project, there is need for periodic refresher trainings for the district team, community coordinators and community based educators to deepen their understanding in local governance.

CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following were the challenges encountered within the course of implementation:

- Time management proved difficult due to other engagements by most DEC members.
- Turn-out of DEC members exceeded the expected number, thereby impacting negatively on logistics.
- Limited number of task-force members due to limited resources.
Limited number of days for training did not help matters as most participants wished the training was extended by two more days to fully understanding the decentralisation process.

The following the recommendations:

- There is need for more refresher trainings for members of the taskforce
- There is need for the extension of the project beyond 2015 if it will have to fully realise its intended impact in the targeted districts.
- The need to roll out the projects in other targeted Traditional Authorities, as well as other districts based on the lessons learnt from the project
- There is need to strengthen lobbying with relevant stakeholders at the central level if the perennial problem of underfunding of the district councils is to become history. Engaging with Parliament through Parliamentary committees is also another way to this.
- There is need to increase interface meetings amongst duty bearers at all levels.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR 2015

At a review and planning meeting held on 27th January 2015 at CHRR offices which were attended by both programs and finance staff of CHRR, CISP and MHRRC the following activities were agreed to be implemented by end May 2015:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month (2015)</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Coordinating organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| February     | District Project Review Meeting  
              - Ntchisi – 1st week  
              - Salima – 3rd week  
              - Blantyre-4th week | CHRR, CISP and MHRRC |
|              | Training workshop for ADCs and Traditional leaders on their roles, development e.t.c | CHRR and CISP |
|              | Training workshops for VDCs by CBEs and CCs | CHRR and CISP |
|              | Capacity building workshop for district coordinators, community coordinators, community based educators and district training team | CISP |
|              | Media Strategy | CHRR |
|              | Dissemination of Baseline findings – 29th February 2015 at | CISP |
## 2014 Annual Report

### “the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Organizers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CISP Conference room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Training workshop for councilors on decentralization, service charters,</td>
<td>CHRR, CISP, MHRRC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>district development plans</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct community awareness raising forums on service charters,</td>
<td>CHRR, CISP, MHRRC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>decentralization and roles of ADCs and VDCs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Conduct training workshops for district-based CSOs on decentralization,</td>
<td>CHRR, CISP and MHRRC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>service charters, local government operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Press statement (1 remaining)</td>
<td>CHRR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct biannual one day advocacy and lobbying meetings at district and</td>
<td>CHRR, CISP and MHRRC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community level to mainstream women issues in community and district plans</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>and to increase women representations</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct one quarterly interface meeting among duty bearers on district</td>
<td>CHRR, CISP and MHRRC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>development issues</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Conduct Project Monitoring</td>
<td>CHRR</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4th week- Ntchisi, Salima and Blantyre</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Conduct 1-Day training for Media editors and journalists on service</td>
<td>CHRR</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>charters and decentralization process</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District Project Review meeting</td>
<td>CHRR, CISP and MHRRC(</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd week – Ntchisi</td>
<td>NOTE: It was agreed that</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3rd week – Salima</td>
<td>the Project Coordinator must</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4th week -Blantyre</td>
<td>be in attendance in all the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 meetings)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct face to face meetings between duty bearers and rights</td>
<td>CHRR,CISP and MHRRC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 2014 Annual Report

“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conduct national dialogue session with strategic government ministries, CSOs and MPs</td>
<td>CHRR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fortnight newspaper column (remaining funds)</td>
<td>CHRR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production of IEC materials</td>
<td>CHRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Produce and publish bi-annual newspaper pull-outs</td>
<td>CHRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training workshops for Members of Parliament on Decentralisation, Service Charters, District development plans</td>
<td>CHRR, CISP and MHRRC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct Quarterly project monitoring visits</td>
<td>CHRR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st week – Ntchisi, Salima and Blantyre</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct two press briefing sessions on progress in implementation of service charters and other emerging issues from the project</td>
<td>CHRR (NOTE: executive directors from the 3 institutions, project coordinator and 3 project officers will form the panel)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd week – Lilongwe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conduct end of Project evaluation</td>
<td>A consultant to be hired to carry out the exercise.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CONCLUSION

2014 was a successful year for the consortium as it managed to lay a formidable foundation on whose lessons the project would effectively build on to realise the intended results in the next year and beyond. As evidenced from above, the project spent 2014 investing in capacity building exercise in form of trainings. This was vital in the sense that the trainings prepared the stakeholders in the project with requisite knowledge and skills to take informed action in the improvement of the social service delivery grounded on rights-based approach. With the warm reception through the endorsement of the project at the district level and also the highly involvement of the district government stakeholders in the project, the project has managed to raise high expectations of improved social service delivery amongst the communities as well as the district officials. Looking into the future, the project envisages to increase dialogue and meaningful engagement between communities and duty bearers on
development issues using such platforms as the interface meetings. With the increased awareness of service charters and monitoring role by both communities and district stakeholders, both the rights holders and duty bearers shall be able to meaningfully engage based on the agreed set standards of social service delivery as stipulated in the service charters of their respective districts.

ANNEX 1: DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE CORNER COLUMN IN PAPERS
Below are some of the articles which appeared in the column Democratic Governance Corner in The Nation (Friday, fortnightly):

*Introducing Service Charters in Malawi*

With Francesco and Desmond

**Democratic Governance Corner**

The Decentralization Policy and the Local Government Act seek to promote accountability, good governance, people’s empowerment and popular participation at the local level in order to help government reduce poverty and also mobilize the citizens for socio-economic development at the local level. The decentralization policy, in particular, has five purposes, four of which have to do with the devolution of functions and resources from central to local government areas. It is however, the fifth purpose which is of particular importance in this discussion. The fifth purpose is aimed at promoting popular participation in the governance and development processes of the local government areas. This entails the involvement of the ordinary citizen in the identification, planning and execution of development policies and interventions.

It is in the context and in fulfillment of the goals of both the Decentralization Policy and Local Government Act that the need and relevance of Public Service Charters in all sectors in Malawi arise. Globally recognized as effective avenues of promoting transparency, accountability, and responsiveness on the part of the organisation or duty bearers through improved service delivery, service charters are written commitments by an agency, organization [or government at all levels] to deliver outputs or services according to specified standards of quality. Service charters begin by focusing on meeting the customer, recipient or citizens requirements. Charters initiative is in fact a response to the quest of solving the problems which customers, citizens’ encounter, day in and day out, while dealing with the organizations, agencies or governments providing public services.

*Meeting customer or citizens requirements; conformance to standards [the providers have to conform or adhere to the specified standards of quality]; stakeholders involvement [all stakeholders including the citizens or communities must be involved in the process of identifying their needs which would in*
turn inform the development/content of service charters; and continuous improvements are key in the formulation and implementation of service charters.

In conformity to the resolutions of Third Biennial Pan African Conference of Ministers of Civil Service in Windhoek Namibia on 5th February 2001 to deliberate, draft and adopt the African Service Charter which led to the adoption of the African Service Charter as a standard for all African countries to use when developing their respective charters, the Malawi government subsequently adopted its charter which was signed by the-then President Dr Bingu Wa Mutharika. The Malawi Public Service Charter, which amongst 3 of its goals is to make public institutions become more transparent by outlining to the public the standards they can expect – and how shall perform against those standards, is a framework designed to introduce service charters in all public institutions and regulate such public institutions in taking such legislative, regulatory, technical and practical measures as may be required to create effective conditions for the proper functioning of the public service.

**Government must walk its talk on Service Charters (1)**

**Democratic Governance Corner**

The Malawi Public Service Charter, which apart from being based on the African Public Service Charter is also consistent with the provision of the constitution of Malawi, the Malawi Public Service Act and other key government policies and regulations, has standards which are modeled on those of the African Public Service Charters. These standards inform every public institution let alone department in the formulation and implementation of its service charters. However despite the government of Malawi rolling out the public service charters in some selected district councils little has been done by either central government let alone the district councils to monitor the effectiveness of the charters particularly as to whether they are being implemented and that there is citizen’s feedback.

There is also apparently little or lack of awareness of the contents of the formulated Service Charters particularly in those districts where the formulation was done by government alone. Informed by Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC) experience [ Note: In June 2008 MHRRC with technical and financial support from the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), GTZ(now GIZ), EU and Irish Aid which was eventually acknowledged by government and taken on board by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) as a learning project whose lessons would feed into the roll out of the Malawi Public Service Charter Programme ] in the successful
formulation of service charters in Ntchisi, Salima and Blantyre city, it takes at least one and half year to formulate effective service charters for the district councils.

Ironically government’s formulation of similar charters in Mangochi, Dowa, Nsanje, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Rumphi and Chitipa took less than a year. This raises doubts as to whether the consultative process was thoroughly and effectively done with all key stakeholders including the rights holders. At the same time even in those districts where MHRCC assisted in the formulation of the service charters and were hence effectively formulated the question of implementation of service charters remain a problem as most the districts are yet to start implementing them.

To be continued in 2 weeks

**Government must walk its talk on Service Charters (2)**

Even more worrisome is the continued little or lack of citizens’ awareness of the contents of the service charters as well as lack of citizens feedback as to whether the required standards as stipulated in the respective service charters. This is certainly retrogressive in as far as the purpose of decentralization policy, which stands on the principles of accountability, popular participation, transparency and others, is concerned. As such, the citizens are not only denied their right to information but also the right to demand the required social services from duty bearers. This also makes the citizens to make unrealistic demands – demands which are far beyond the expected requirements as stipulated in the charters hence can’t be met by government – due to their lack of knowledge of the minimum standards of the services delivered by the government.

It is therefore informed by such a background that we, Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR), Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (CISP) and Malawi Human Rights Resource Centre (MHRRC) call upon Malawi government to walk its talk on service charters by ensuring that there is a clear monitoring mechanism, at both central and local government level, of the implementation of the service charters in the districts where they have been rolled out. The government of Malawi, through district councils, should also devise effective mechanisms aimed at popularizing the service charters both at community and district level to enhance awareness of the content of the charters. There is also need for government to effectively utilize the existing local structures like Area Development Committees, Village Development Committees etc in order to get the citizens feedback on the implementation of the service charters.
It is good news to hear that the local councils are currently reconstituting Area Development Committees and Village Development Committees who play a vital role in the decentralization process by even supporting the councilors. At the same time, government should ensure that service charters are rolled out in all remaining districts. With the recent background of mismanagement or looting of public resources, it remains indisputable Malawians need service charter to hold their duty bearers accountable now than ever before. It’s high time the Malawi government walked its talk on service charters, and save the public purse.

Below is the full article which was published as an advert:

International Human Rights Day: Human Rights 365

An opportunity for Malawi to answer the human rights call of our times; ‘holding duty bearers answerable’

Today marks exactly 64 years since the United General Assembly proclaimed 10th December as Human Rights Day. This global proclamation was not from without. It was a resounding call to bring to attention of people of the world the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as the common standards of achievements for all the people and nations.

Since then, the world has never sat on its laurels in the promotion and safeguarding of human rights for all. More efforts have been made to perfect the world towards the human rights declaration and not vice versa. Thus, more calls have since rumbled. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Convention on the Rights of People with Disability (CPD) Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) became notable human rights instruments in furtherance of the 1948 Declaration.

Most remarkably, Malawi is signatory to all the aforementioned. Not only that, the country went on to include a Bill of Rights in the Constitution, primarily as a way of domesticating these international human rights instruments and standards. But as we join the rest of the world in commemorating International Human Rights Day, is the 1948 declaration dream alive in Malawi?
Twenty years into multiparty democracy, Malawi’s human rights record still remains a subject of contentious debate, drawing mixed reactions in the process, if not end. Putting in place legislative measures such as the Gender Equality, Child Care, Justice and Protection and Disability Acts to advance the rights of women, children and the disabled, respectively, are indicative enough of the country making headways in domesticating international human rights instruments. What is more, Malawi’s accountability to UN mechanisms through its maiden production of human rights report and appearing before the UN Committee on Human Rights ought to be seen as a stride in the struggle for human rights in Malawi. This is the way to go.

Sadly, as a country and an African continent, some steps have been made in anti-human rights direction. At the African Union level, for instance, we have witnessed a yet another depressing development through the Amendments to the Protocol on the Statute of the African Court on Justice and Human Rights (African Court) In essence, the amendment seeks to expand the African Court to include criminal jurisdiction over genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, effectively providing immunity for sitting heads of state and other high-level government officials before the African Court. Calls from the African continent as well as globally seem to have fallen on deaf ears. This riles big time. On a SADC level, another retrogressive step on human rights was taken. Malawi and other SADC states had to go behind their people’s back to suspend the SADC Tribunal that offered alternative judicial remedy for the citizens aggrieved by Supreme Court of Appeal verdict in their respective countries.

Domestically, Malawi has her own share of human rights challenges. Of late, it has been observed that Malawi is just good at ratifying international human rights instruments and formulating legislative measures on human rights, but too reluctant to see them take effect on the ground. Right to life is fundamental of all, well attested by the Malawian constitution and ICCPR but is the country doing enough to protect the sanctity of life?

Up to now, Malawi is yet to see human rights sense in abolishing the death penalty. Worse still, efforts to pursue justice for those whose right to life has been arbitrary deprived seem to go into billows of political smokes. The Kalonga Stambuli, Robert Chasowa, and July 20/11 victims are a case in point of governments sitting on serious cases of human rights violations. Authorities, especially those in government still prefer to put on political specs to consider which human rights violations to prioritise or sweep under the carpet.

Still, Malawi’s reluctance to domesticate the Rome Statute in order to capacitate our domestic legal framework to prosecute ‘serious crimes’ cannot be taken kindly. There is need for a strong legal framework in place against any occurrence of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity now other than wait till the catastrophe strikes. We must act now and government should take lead.

In addition, as this year’s theme: “Human Rights, Responsibilities and Accountability: Holding Duty Bearers Answerable,” suggests, Malawian citizens have even a greater role to play to ensure that every day is human rights day. Rights holders must be vigilant and keep government on its toes to ensure it does not trample upon the individual rights and freedoms provided for in the constitution and international human rights instruments. This should happen at all levels: central and local levels of
government. Rights holders need to adopt the spirit of ownership of any development projects, and hence demand accountability from duty bearers on how they utilise resources on such projects.

The right to economic development must be embraced by all, any attempt to infringe it as is the case in the infamous cashgate, “NAC-gate”, and other clandestine “gates” must be strongly condemned and appropriate action taken to address such in the best interest of all Malawians and human rights for all. Impunity must be fought from all fronts, and our leaders must not “hide” in the face of crisis as has been the case in recent times but instead rise up and demonstrate leadership through providing feasible answers and solutions to all prevailing problems affecting the country which impinge on the citizens’ enjoyment of human rights 365.

Government’s commitment to tabling and passing of access to information bill in the next August house must be honoured. Government should realise the fact that in order to participate meaningfully in policy making and all democratic engagements including holding duty bearers answerable on various issues, citizens need to have a legal right to access public information. As such there is no honour in encrypting public information. “Security” or privacy concerns under the guise of striking a balance between the right to privacy and the right to access information have no room in a democratic dispensation, and such concerns often merely represent one of the key defences used by past and present politicians to protect themselves from public glare and scrutiny while pilfering public resources as the case in the infamous cashgate, “NAC-gate” and all other clandestine “gates”.

Today, many Malawian citizens ruled by fear and docility are asking: “What will happen to us if we venture into human rights activism, are we not risking our lives?” For sure, time has come for us to rephrase that question and ask: “What will happen to us if we don’t venture into human rights activism, are we not endorsing duty bearers to trample upon our rights?” No one shaves the hair in the owner’s absence, they say. Inaction is an action still, but a bad one. It’s high time we all got involved in a human rights 365 crusade by holding our duty bearers answerable.

Signed by

Timothy Mtambo                  Francesco Mazzarelli                  Desmond Kaunda

CHRR, Executive Director     CISP executive director     MHRRC executive director

Date 10th December, 2014  

Lilongwe Malawi
“the noble cause is evident in the people themselves”