



Ministry of Industry and Trade



Malawi Investment and Trade Centre

## PRESS RELEASE

### **ONE STOP SERVICE CENTRE FOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

Recognizing the importance of trade and investment to economic growth and national development, and in pursuit of the goals of the MGDS II and desire to realize the aspirations of the National Export Strategy, and in response to the vision of the leadership of this country, namely to transform Malawi from an importing and consuming country to that which predominantly produces and exports, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, in conjunction with the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC) is pleased to announce the commencement of operations of the **One Stop Service Centre (OSSC)** for Trade and Investment from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2014 as directed by His Excellency the President Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika.

The One Stop Service Centre will provide streamlined services to foreign and local investors aimed at facilitating the integration of Malawi in the global value chains. OSSC will be domiciled at the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre at Aquarius House opposite Reserve Bank of Malawi in City Centre, Lilongwe.

His Excellency the President has since put in place a Ministerial Committee that is overseeing the operationalization of the OSSC as directed. The ministerial committee is chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Honourable Dr. George T. Chaponda M.P., and will be supported by a technical committee whose members are Secretary for Industry and Trade; Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; Secretary for Lands, Housing and Urban planning; Secretary for Home Affairs and Internal security;

Secretary to the Treasury; Secretary for Labour and Manpower Development; Office of the President and Cabinet; Commissioner General of the Malawi Revenue Authority; Chief Immigration officer and Chief Executive of the Malawi Investment and Trade Centre.

Using approved streamlined processes and procedures, the OSSC will offer services for investment approvals, permits and registration certificates such as Investment Certification, Business Residence Permits, Temporary Employment Permits, Investment Land Allotment and Fiscal Incentives. This will help to improve the ease of doing business by greatly increasing the efficiency with which the public sector delivers services to the private sector and make Malawi a better investment destination. All this is being done to place the private sector in its rightful place, that of being the engine of growth and development for our country.

The OSSC is an exciting addition to investment facilitation which will tremendously reduce the time of processing business related permits under one roof down to an average of 5 days. Government has already appointed Senior Officers from the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA); the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Planning (MoLHUP); the Immigration Department; the Registrar of Companies and Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC) who have started working at the OSSC at Aquarius House in Lilongwe from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014.

Furthermore, in pursuit to this business reform, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Malawi has also directed that MITC is the point of entry for all investment enquiries and as such all line Ministries, Government Departments and Public Institutions shall from henceforth refer all investment inquiries to MITC.

The Government of Malawi will officially launch the OSSC in November 2014.

*Hon. Joseph Mwanamvekha MP*  
**Minister of Industry and Trade**

*Clement Kumbemba*  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**5<sup>th</sup> September, 2014**