FIA NEWSLETTER

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FIA DIRECTOR GENERAL- DR. JEAN PRIMINTA (RIGHT) RECEIVING THE CERTIFICATE FROM MRA COMMISSIONER GENERAL, MR. DANIEL DAKA (LEFT)

MALAWI ENHANCES COUNTER-TERRORISM LEGAL FRAMEWORK

MALAWI SHARPENS SKILLS IN FATF STANDARDS

FIA SIGNS MOU WITH ESWATINI FIC

FIA RECEIVES CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

The Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) received a certificate of recognition as a cooperating partner to the Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) in promotion of the national tax agenda.

The certificate was presented to FIA by the MRA as the tax revenue agency celebrated its silver jubilee on August 1, 2025.

FIA Director General, Dr. Jean Phillipo Priminta received the certificate on behalf of the organisation.

MESSAGE FROM FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY (FIA) DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear readers,
Welcome to this edition of our newsletter! At the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA), we remain steadfast in our commitment to protect Malawi's financial system from money laundering, terrorist financing, and other crimes that endanger our nation's security and economic well-being.

Guided by our 2024–2030 Strategic Plan, our mission is clear: to ensure effective engagement with all stakeholders in the prevention, investigation, and combating of financial and consequential crimes — all with the aim of safeguarding the integrity of our financial system.

As we continue to strengthen our frameworks and partnerships, both locally and internationally, we recognize that the fight against financial crimes is a shared responsibility. Together with government institutions, private sector players, and the general public, we can build a resilient financial system that promotes transparency, integrity, and trust.

In this issue, you will find updates on our recent initiatives, capacity-building efforts, and ongoing collaborations.



I encourage you to engage with the content, share your insights, and join us in advancing a safer and more accountable financial environment for Malawi.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Warm regards,
Jean Phillipo Priminta PhD
Director General, FIA

MALAWI ENHANCES COUNTER-TERRORISM LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Malawi has taken a big step towards enhancing the legal regime on countering terrorist financing. This has been achieved through the enactment of the Financial Crimes (Amendment) Bill number 7 of 2025. The Bill was among other bills assented to by the State President in July 2025.

The bill seeks to help in the operationalization of the Confiscation Fund as well as enhance the obligations of banks and other financial institutions requiring them to provide information to law enforcement and other competent authorities without delay on matters concerning wire transfers.



In addition to that, the assented Bill provides context with regard to the meaning of funds as it relates to terrorist financing.

The Financial Crimes Act (FCA) was enacted in 2017. Its objective is to establish an independent and autonomous Financial Intelligence Authority; to better prevent, investigate and combat financial and related or consequential crimes; to enable the tracing, identification, tracking, freezing, seizure or confiscation of proceeds of crimes; and to provide for connected and incidental matters. It was first was first amended in 2023 and recently in 2025. Copies of the FCA can be accessed through www.fia.gov.mw.

Say NO to money laundering.

MALAWI SHARPENS SKILLS IN FATF STANDARDS



A group photograph of the training's participants and facilitators

Experts from the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) Secretariat trained some officers of government institutions in Malawi on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards through an in-country training program from 14 to 18 July 2025 at Sunbird Mount Soche Hotel in Blantyre.

FIA's Director General, Dr. Jean Phillipo Priminta, graced the opening ceremony of the training.

Marking the official opening of the training, Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) Executive Director responsible for Regulation, Patrick Mhango, said the training would, among others, play a critical role in strengthening the Central Bank's mandate and safeguarding of
integrity of the country's financial system.

The training drew over 30 partipants from the RBM, FIA, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Malawi Police Service (MPS), Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA), Ministry of Justice, and Malawi Gaming and Lotteries Authority (MAGLA).

The training was funded by the Reserve Bank of Malawi. This is the first time for the country to have an in-country training program on the FATF Standards.

FATF is an intergovernmental organisation which operates as the global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog. It sets international standards aimed at preventing illegal activities and the harm they cause to the society. There are 40 FATF Standards and these are revised regularly, with the major revision done in 2012.



Matsebula(Left), Priminta (Right)

FIA SIGNS MOU WITH ESWATINI FIC

The FIA signed a memorandum of understanding with the Eswatini Financial Intelligence Centre on 16 May 2025.

The MoU was signed by FIA Director General, Dr. Jean Phillipo Priminta and Eswatini FIC Director General, Ms. Babhekile Matsebula, on behalf of the two organisations.

Through the MoU, the two organisations will share information spontaneously or upon request. Since it started its operations in 2007, the FIA has signed MoUs with close to 30 FIUs across the world.



Report any suspicious transaction or activity to the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) by sending an email to reports@fia.gov.mw

FIA PRESENTS NRA FINDINGS



Group photograph of FIA officials and other stakeholders

The FIA presented findings of the National Risk Assessment (NRA) for validation to various stakeholders from both the public and private sector. The event took place at Lifestyle Boutique Hotel in Lilongwe city on 6 June 2025.

The country conducted the NRA on Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF) and Proliferation Financing (PF) from March 2023 to June 2024 through a Technical Working Group comprising officers from various institutions from the public and private sector.

FIA Director General, Dr. Jean Phillipo Priminta appreciated the stakeholders for participating and giving their views and recommendations on the findings. She urged the stakeholders to continue implementing the action plan developed as part of the NRA Report for the country to achieve the goal of the NRA exercise.

Guest of Honor at the meeting, Principle Secretary for Economic Planning and Development, Patrick Zimpita, who represented the Secretary to Treasury, said the NRA is a strategic tool as the process has enabled the country to assess and understand the threats and vulnerabilities our country is facing in relation to Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Financing.

The event served as an awareness session as well as input seeking mechanism as the country continued to implement recommendations of the 2024 NRA Report.

The Basel Institute on Governance through International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) provided financial support for the NRA workshops since 2023.



FIA TRAINS DNFBPs

The Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) trained compliance officers from Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) on Anti-Money Laundering (AML and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) on 19 June 2025.

DNFBPs are businesses and professions that are subject to AML and CFT laws, but are not financial institutions and they include Real Estate Agents, Lawyers, Casinos, Accountants, and Dealers in Precious Metals and Stones.

Compliance officers act as liaison between reporting institutions and the FIA.

Under Section 2 of the Financial Crimes Act 2017, DNFBPs are regarded as reporting institutions when they engage in any of the following services or activities:
(a)a safe deposit or custody services provider;
(b) a gambling house;
(c) a casino or lottery;
(d) a trust or company service provider not otherwise covered
by this definition, which, as a business, provides any of the
following services to third parties—
(i) acting as an agent for the establishment of legal persons;
(ii) acting as, or arranging for another person to act as a
director or secretary of a company, a partner in a partnership
or a similar position in relation to other legal persons;
(iii) providing a registered office, business address or
accommodation, correspondence or administrative address
for a company, a partnership or any other legal person or
arrangement;
(iv) acting as, or arranging for another person to act as, a
trustee of an express trust; or
(v) acting as, or arranging for another person to act as, a
nominee shareholder for another person;
(e) legal practitioners, notaries, other independent legal
professionals and accountants when they prepare for or carry
out transactions for their client concerning the following
activities—
(i) buying and selling of real estate;
(ii) managing of client money, securities or other assets;
(iii) management of bank, savings or securities accounts on
behalf of clients;
(iv) organization of contributions for the creation, operation
or management of companies; or
(iv) creation, operation or management of legal persons or
arrangements, and buying and selling of business entities;
(f) estate agents dealing in real estate, when the person dealing
is involved in transactions for a client concerning the letting, buying and selling of real estate;
(g) dealers in precious metals, stones and bullion;
(h) any other business as the minister may, by notice published in the Gazette, prescribe

KNOW MORE ABOUT FINANCIAL CRIMES

1. MONEY LAUNDERING



Money laundering refers to an act or attempted act regarding the concealing or disguising of the origins of illegally obtained proceeds so that they appear to have originated from legitimate sources.

Under Section 42 of the Financial Crimes Act 2017, a person commits the offence of money laundering when they take part in any of the elements of the offence which include the intention to commit the crime with knowledge that the property involved represents proceeds of a crime.

42.—(1) a person who, knowingly or who has reasonable grounds to believe that any property, including his own property, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, represents proceeds of a predicate offence,—
(a) converts or transfers property with the aim of concealing or disguising the illicit origin of that property, or of aiding any person, including himself, involved in the commission of the offence to evade the legal consequences thereof;
(b) conceals or disguises the true nature, origin, location, disposition, movement or ownership of the property;
(c) acquires, possesses or uses that property; or
(d) participates in, associates with or conspires to commit, attempts to commit and aids, abets and facilitates the commission of any act or omission referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) or (c), commits an offence.

(2) For purposes of proving of an offence under subsection (1), it is not necessary that the predicate offence be committed.

(3) a person who commits an offence under this section shall, on conviction, be liable—
(a) in the case of a natural person, to imprisonment for life.
(b) in the case of a legal person, a fine of K500,000,000 and revocation of a business licence.

A New Era in Regulation: VAs and VASPs first risk assessment done



A validation meeting of the findings of the Risk Assessment of Virtual Assets (VAs) and Virtual Assets Service Providers (VASPs) took place at the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM)Club house in Lilongwe on 26 June 2025.

This is the first risk assessment of VAs and VASPs and it is in line with a Recommendation is of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that requires countries to assess, identity and understand Money Laundering (ML), Terrorist Financing (TF) and Proliferation Financing (PF) risks related to VAs and VASPs and take appropriate mitigating measures to address the risks.



Anita Mankhambo - FIA Director of Compliance and Prevention

In her opening remarks at the validation meeting, FIA Director of Compliance and Prevention, Anita Mankhambo, said the virtual assets sector is critical in fighting money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes since it involves transactions that could be done swiftly and across the borders.

The Executive Director responsible for Regulation at the Reserve Bank of Malawi, Patrick Mhango, said emergence of VAs and operation of VASPs has transformed the landscape of the global financial system but that development comes with risks concerning money laundering, terrorist financing which if left unchecked could undermine the integrity of the country's financial system.

The Risk Assessment Report will soon be a public document through publication on the websites of the FIA, RBM and other authorities.

FIA, OTHERS HOLD WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT OF FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS CURRICULUM



Officials from the Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA), Malawi Police Service (MPS), Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA), Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), along with a delegation from the SecFin Africa project and other development partners, held a strategic workshop focusing on developing Malawi's Financial Investigations Curriculum at Sunbird Capital in Lilongwe on 8 July, 2025.

The curriculum, initially formulated in 2023 under the European Union's ESCAY project, aims to standardize and strengthen the country's approach to financial investigations.

Speaking during the event, Chikondi Lipato-Sikwese, FIA's Financial Investigations Manager, emphasized that criminals are increasingly exploiting cross-border, layered transactions and digital platforms to stay ahead of institutional responses. She stressed that this rising sophistication demands that investigators and law enforcement officers possess skills that surpass those used by the perpetrators.

Tuemay Desta, a representative of SecFin Africa (Civilpol), noted that illicit financial flows undermine governance, peace, and security in Africa. He underscored the importance of investigating the proceeds of crime as a critical step in combating money laundering, terrorism financing, and other financial crimes.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner and Head of Prosecution at the Malawi Police Service ,Levison Mangani, pointed out that each law enforcement agency had previously used its own methods for delivering financial investigations training. With the new curriculum in place, Malawi will now have a unified and standardized training program for law enforcement officers involved in financial investigations.

The SecFin Africa project supports Sub-Saharan African countries in preventing and combating illicit financial flows (IFFs) linked to transnational organized crime. It strengthens anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML/CTF) efforts in line with international standards. Supporting the development and implementation of this curriculum is one of SecFin's key capacity-building initiatives aimed at curbing illicit financial flows across the region.

FIA AND NGORA WORKING RELATIONSHIP STRONG - FIA DG



The Director General of Financial Intelligence Authority, Dr. Jean Phillipo Priminta, hailed the strong relationship that exists between the organisation and the Non-Governmental Organisations Regulatory Authority (NGORA) which she says is a crucial catalyst for promoting prevention of terrorist financing through the NGO sector in the country.

She made the remarks in Mzuzu on 29 Auguest 2025 when the FIA joined various stakeholders in Malawi in celebrating the NGO day.

“The FIA works in collaboration with NGO Regulatory Authority (Ngora) and together we have conducted the Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) risk assessment to identify NPOs at risk of being abused for Terrorist Financing (TF).

This is in line with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation number 8 that stipulates that NPOs are not reporting entities under the Financial Crimes Act (FCA) but are required internationally not to be abused for TF,” said Dr. Priminta.

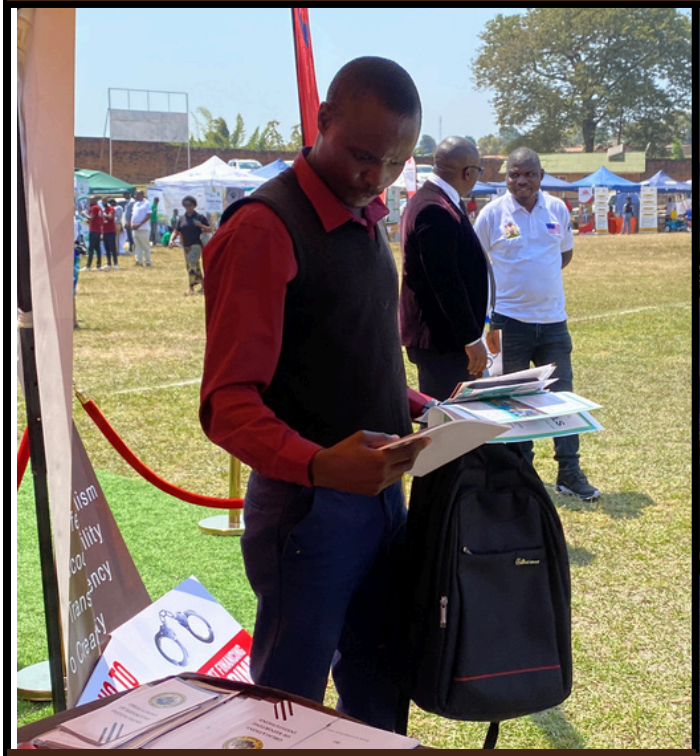
NGO DAY IN PICTURES



1. FIA staff carry awareness messages



2. FIA pavilion at the event



3.A participant visits the FIA pavilion to appreciate the works that the organisation does



4. Other pavilions that were set at the event

INSIGHTS

Compliance is not optional under Malawi's Financial Crimes legislation, all reporting entities are required to establish internal controls and perform due diligence

FIA collaborates with law enforcement agencies, regulators and the private sector to enhance the national response to Money laundering, Terrorist Financing and Proliferation Financing

FIA is engaging several stakeholders including university students in raising awareness raising to build a more informed generation

The Financial Intelligence Authority (FIA) remains committed to protecting Malawi's Financial system from risks of money laundering, terrorist financing.
Join us in promoting transparency, accountability and integrity in all financial transactions

FINANCIAL INTELLIGENCE AUTHORITY

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