



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, 10th September 2019

APPROVAL OF MALAWI'S MUTUAL EVALUATION REPORT

BY ESAAMLG COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2019

On behalf of the Minister of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, **Honourable Joseph Mwanamvekha (M.P.)**, the Financial Intelligence Authority wishes to inform all Malawians, supporting nations and cooperating partners of the Republic of Malawi that on Friday 6th September 2019 the Council of Ministers of the Eastern and Southern Africa Anti-Money Laundering Group (ESAAMLG) approved the country's Mutual Evaluation Report on implementation of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendations aimed at combating financial crimes.

The Mutual Evaluation of Malawi was conducted from August 2018 to September 2019 with the final draft report adopted by the ESAAMLG Council of Ministers in Eswatini. The Ministers from 18 member countries of the ESAAMLG approved the Mutual Evaluation Report during their 19th Meeting held at Royal Swazi Spa and Convention Centre in Ezulwini, Eswatini.

The achievements of Malawi contained in this Report are a clear manifestation of the Malawi Government's commitment to combating money laundering and its associated predicate offences such as corruption, fraud, illegal wildlife trade, human trafficking and smuggling among others.

Among others, Malawi has scored outstandingly in the following areas:

- (a) Criminalizing money laundering and associated predicate offences such as corruption, fraud, tax evasion, illegal externalization of foreign exchange, illegal wildlife trade, smuggling, and human trafficking, among others; financing of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and offences
- (b) Sharing of financial intelligence to initiate investigations or support ongoing investigation and prosecution of various financial crimes among law enforcement institutions namely; Financial Intelligence Authority, Malawi Police Service, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Malawi Revenue Authority, Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Department of National Parks and Wildlife and Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services;
- (c) Investigation of money laundering, corruption, fraud, illegal wildlife trade, illegal externalization of foreign exchange, smuggling and other crimes;
- (d) International and domestic coordination in the investigation and prosecution of money laundering and related predicate offence and confiscation of criminal proceeds which has resulted in the investigation

and prosecution and competition of thirty case with a component of Money Laundering, this is not counting ongoing cases.

- (e) Supervision of financial institutions to prevent money launderers from abusing the financial system; and application of preventative measures such as Know Your Customer procedures and reporting of suspicious transactions to prevent abuse of the financial sector by criminals.
- (f) Understanding of risks associated with money laundering, terrorist financing and financing of proliferations of weapons of mass destruction.

The Report was received on behalf of the Government by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, **Honourable Bright Msaka SC. (M.P.)**.

When receiving the Report in Eswatini, Honourable Msaka assured the ESAAMLG Council of Ministers of Malawi Government's commitment to addressing deficiencies outlined in the Mutual Evaluation Report. On this note, the Honourable Minister indicated that the Malawi Government had already commenced enhancing its legal framework, with Regulations supplementing the Financial Crimes Act set to be promulgated by monetary fines and other punishment by end September 2019.

The Minister commended the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) for financially and technically supporting Malawi during the Mutual Evaluation process.

The Mutual Evaluation was conducted by experts from the ESAAMLG region who were guided by experts from the ESAAMLG Secretariat.

In celebrating this achievement, the Financial Intelligence Authority would like to appreciate the contribution and participation from the following:

- i. The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development;
- ii. The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
- iii. Directorate of Public Prosecutions;
- iv. Ministry of Homeland Security;
- v. Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development;
- vi. Ministry of Defence;
- vii. Anti-Corruption Bureau;
- viii. Malawi Police Service;
- ix. Malawi Revenue Authority;
- x. National Intelligence Service;
- xi. Reserve Bank of Malawi;
- xii. Malawi Gaming Board;
- xiii. Department of Immigration and Citizenship Services;
- xiv. Department of the Registrar General;
- xv. Department of National Parks and Wildlife;
- xvi. Department of Mines;
- xvii. NGO Board;
- xviii. Council for Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi;

- xix. Bankers Association of Malawi and all banks;
- xx. Life Insurance Association of Malawi and all life insurance companies;
- xxi. All other non-bank financial institutions and their associations;
- xxii. Gaming operators;
- xxiii. Legal firms;
- xxiv. Accountancy and auditing firms;
- xxv. Real estate agents; and
- xxvi. Dealers in precious stones and metals and their associations.

The Mutual Evaluation Report will be published on the ESAAMLG website in the next few months after refinement of the document by the ESAAMLG Secretariat.

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Signed:

Atuweni Juwayeyi-Agbermodji (Mrs.)

DIRECTOR GENERAL