



CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION (CHRR)



CHRR 2013 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Acknowledgement

Word from the Chairperson

Word from the Executive Director

| | | |
|------------|---|----|
| Chapter 1: | Background and Organisation of CHRR..... | 9 |
| Chapter 2: | Human Rights Trends, Challenges and Opportunities..... | 17 |
| Chapter 3: | CHRR Performance, Achievements and Challenges..... | 25 |
| | Civic Education Department..... | 25 |
| | Research and Human Rights Training Department..... | 35 |
| | Information, Documentation and Advocacy Department..... | 52 |
| | Paralegal Department..... | 63 |
| | Institutional Capacity Building and Net-working..... | 65 |
| Chapter 4: | Relations with the Donor Community and Other Funding Agencies..... | 67 |
| Chapter 5: | Audited Accounts and Financial Report..... | 69 |
| Chapter 6: | The Year 2013 – publication..... | 74 |

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Acronyms

| | |
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| AA: | Action Aid |
| ACB: | Anti-Corruption Bureau |
| AI: | Amnesty International |
| AU: | African Union |
| AWDF: | African Women Development Fund |
| CILIC: | Civil Liberties Committee |
| CBE: | Community Based Educators |
| CBO: | Community Based Organisation |
| CHRR: | Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation |
| CEDEP: | Centre for Development of People |
| CSOs: | Civil Society Organizations |
| CONGOMA: | Council for Non-governmental Organisations in Malawi. |
| DCA: | Danish Church AID |
| DPP: | Democratic Progressive Party |
| EU: | European Union |
| GBV: | Gender Based Violence |
| HIVOS: | Humanist Institute for Cooperation for Developing Countries |
| HRCC: | Human Rights Consultative Committee |
| LEA: | Legal Environmental Assessment |
| MDC: | Movement for Democratic Change |
| MBC: | Malawi Broadcasting Corporation |
| MEC: | Malawi Electoral Commission |
| MCP: | Malawi Congress Party |
| MPS: | Malawi Police Service |
| MHRC: | Malawi Human Rights Commission |
| MESN: | Malawi Electoral Support Network |
| MEJN: | Malawi Economic Justice Network |
| NCA: | Norwegian Church AID |
| NGO: | Non Governmental Organisation |
| NIZA: | Netherlands Institute for Southern Africa |
| OSISA: | Open Society of Southern Africa |
| PAC: | Public Affairs Committee |
| UDF: | United Democratic Front |
| T/A: | Traditional Authority |
| TI: | Transparency International |
| SAW: | Society for the Advancement of Women |
| YONECO: | Youth Network Education and Counseling Organisation |
| SADC: | Southern Africa Development Community |
| SALAN: | Southern Africa Legal Assistance Net-work |
| SALC: | Southern Africa Litigation Centre |
| SLF: | Stephen Lewis Foundation |
| NAMISA: | National Media Institute of Southern Africa |
| PRI: | Penal Reform International |
| UNFPA: | United Nations Population Fund |
| ZANU PF: | Zimbabwe African National Union- Patriotic Front |
| ZBS: | Zodiak Broadcasting Station |

Message from the Board Chairperson



How time flies! 2013 is truly behind us with almost everything on rule of law, governance and human rights, the good, the bad, the worst and the regrettable. We are saying bye to a year that will divide opinion for generations to come.

For its admirable records, 2013 saw civil space opening up, evident by peaceful protests organised by Consumer Association of Malawi (CAMA). For once, Malawi witnessed a state that was open to rebuke by its angry citizens on economic governance. This should not be taken for granted.

Government has also to get credit for taking up the gauntlet to present its first ever report in a long while on human rights at the 53rd session of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights which was held in Banjul, Gambia in April 2014. It’s CHRR’s expectation that the good gesture by government is here to stay.

In the year gone by, Malawi’s foreign policy was in for a stern test with our Tanzanian counterparts claiming part of Lake Malawi. It was tense, at times; delicate at most. However, through continued contact and dialogue, the two countries were spared from ugly scenes that normally accompany such diplomatic spats. Well done, government!

Regardless, 2013 was also the year the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Trans-gender (LGBT) continued to live with eyes looking over their shoulders, thanks to archaic, punitive and discriminatory laws government keeps clinging to. Government’s reluctance to repeal the laws despite their evident contravention of the international legal instruments the Malawi is signatory to beats all the reasoning.

The battle for Access to Information bill hit blank wall in 2013 as government found solace in the hide-and-seek game. It’s not on. Access to Information is a sine qua non for an empowered citizenry and government could have acknowledged this fact by enacting it into law. Failure to declare assets by the President did not make for a good reading, either.

But nothing of the aforementioned ills compares better to the scandal of the unimaginable proportion, the looting of public money at Capital Hill with almost K20 billion looted. Whatever the angle one would look at it, the scandal happened in 2013, and on President Joyce Banda’s watch. For sure, the consequences of the scandal have left a bitter after-taste of the government’s fiscal prudence.

As we approach May, 2014, CHRR does not just hope but expect free, fair and credible tripartite elections resulting from among others, an issue-based campaign. May the best candidate win.

Lastly, I must admit my failure to find an appropriate expression to thank all our development partners for sticking with CHRR on our way to contributing to a vibrant culture of human rights, rule of law and good governance in Malawi. Let the noble cause continue being evident in the people themselves

From me, it’s all the best in year 2014!

Charity Salima (Mrs)

Board Chairperson

Message from the Executive Director



Greetings from CHRR Executive Director to you all. CHRR, once again, presents an account of itself in the year 2013. It is worth noting that CHRR witnessed an increased civil and political space in 2013, thanks to a relatively human rights sensitive Joyce Banda administration. Encouraged by this widening civil and political space that characterised the year, CHRR managed to champion a myriad of human rights-based programs. However, most of the 2013 programs were tilted towards preparing the masses for the 2014 tripartite elections. This, we did through mobilising communities to demand an issue-based campaign as well as advocate for the 50:50 representation of men and women in political positions.

2013 also saw CHRR engage robust advocacy work against the excesses of the government. One such advocacy engagement was the need for the national assembly to consider meeting 15 per cent budgetary allocations target to the ministry of health as one way of attenuating the ills bedevilling the health sector.

CHRR also took the front-line role in calling for government’s swift action on the cash-gate scandal through, among others, bringing to book all the suspects, including the so called ‘big fish’. This was really a defining moment for Joyce Banda’s administration in as far as taking an independent and comprehensive approach in dealing with the mess was concerned.

Malawi’s foreign policy turned delicate in the reporting year, thanks to Lake Malawi dispute that nearly blighted the two neighbouring countries of Malawi and Tanzania. As a Centre, we relentlessly offered alternatives to government on how to deal with the issue. In essence, we called for continued contact and dialogue on the matter while the two countries ensure peace, security and stability for their citizens in their respective countries to diffuse the simmering tension.

Looking ahead, CHRR is set to continue implementing programs aimed at enabling the country’s citizenry to know and claim their rights. Most of these programs, however, will be deliberately formulated to benefit the vulnerable groups i.e. women, children, the disabled, the chronically ill, sexual minorities, the ultra-poor, just to mention but a few.

Last, but not least, let me extend my deepest gratitude to CHRR staff and volunteers for pushing the noble cause to new frontiers and I hope this boiling spirit of hard-work and dedication will remain unabated in the year 2014. Credit should also go to the board of CHRR for the unwavering support they have all long rendered to the secretariat in 2013, and believe such good gestures will continue in 2014.

Lastly, as the board chairperson has highlighted above, I am forever indebted to our development partners for standing with us in advancing the noble cause. Your financial and technical support will always be the boon companions to CHRR programs. 2014 is here and for CHRR, the noble cause still lives on.

May God Bless Malawi!!

Timothy Mtambo
Executive Director

CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND AND ORGANISATION OF CHRR

Introduction

The Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) remains one of the leading human rights non-governmental institutions in Malawi. It was founded in February 1995 as a non-profit organisation registered under the Trustees Incorporation Act of 1962. Since its inception CHRR has championed its work at national level, 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 (since 2006), and at UN level through different UN mechanisms such as the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). CHRR's mandate is to advocate, protect and promote human rights, good governance and rule of law in Malawi, SADC and Africa as a whole.

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 networking 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 Networking.

Core Values

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

Objectives

CHRR strives to achieve the following objectives:-

1. To empower rural and urban communities on issues of democracy, good governance, and citizens' rights, roles and responsibilities.
2. To mobilize marginalised communities and increase their voice on public policy.
3. To enhance communities' capacity to realise as well as define issues relating to community safety.
4. To conduct research on specific human rights as well as publicise policy issues and disseminate findings thereon.
5. To monitor, investigate and document issues of human rights infringement, with particular regard to violations of the same.
6. To advocate for the protection and promotion of sexual minority rights.

7. To provide training to professional and special groups in communities relating to democracy, good governance and human rights.
8. To lobby and advocate for necessary policies and legal reforms.
9. To net-work with other organisations espousing similar values and objectives at national, regional, and international levels.
10. 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 and provision of strategic directions. 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 of the organisation. The Executive Director heads the Secretariat and is accountable to the Board for over-sight 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 district-based volunteer coordinators and community-based volunteer district civic educators, recruited and located within their respective communities in each of CHRR’s districts of operation.

Currently, CHRR operates in eight districts of Chitipa and Karonga in the North, Dedza, Lilongwe Rural, Mchinji and Salima in the Centre, Mangochi and Zomba in the South. However, in its new strategic plan CHRR has plans to extend to a total of 15 districts in the near future.

The Board of Trustees

The current Board of Trustees began a three-year term in 2013. Its membership is composed of the following individuals:



Mrs. Charity



Mrs. Auda Msiska



Mr. Ollen Mwalubunju



Mrs. E. Mgodí



Mr. Steve Msowoya



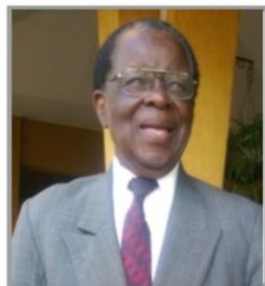
Mr. John Soo Phiri



Rev. Master Jumbe



Mr. Benson Somba



Dr. G. T. N. Kamwambwe



Mr. J.J. S. Kalimbuka

2013 Staff List



Timothy Mtambo
Executive Director 2013



Patson Gondwe



**Hieronimo Nkhwimba
Munthali**



Thandizo Mphwiyo



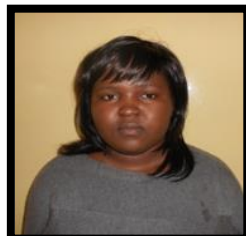
Michael Kaiyatsa



Makhumbo R.



**Fletcher Simwaka
Kabaukonde**



Christina Nthenda



Memory Lundu



Washington



Jessie Khonje



Edward Mapapa



Patrick Mwanyongo



Paul Makawa

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Mr. Timothy Mtambo | Executive Director |
| Mr. Patson Gondwe | Programmes Manager |
| Mr. Hieronimo Mkhwimba | Finance and Administration Coordinator |
| Mrs. Thandie Mphwiyo | Civic Education Coordinator |
| Mr. Makhumbo R. Munthali | Advocacy and Resource Mobilisation Coordinator |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mr. Michael Kaiyatsa | Research and Training Coordinator |
| Mr. Fletcher Simwaka | Information and Documentation Officer |
| Ms. Christina Nthenda | Civic Education Officer |
| Ms. Memory Lundu | Paralegal assistant |
| Mr. Washington Kabaukonde | Accounts Clerk |
| Ms. Jessy Khonje | Administrative Assistant |
| Mr. Edward Mapapa | Driver |
| Mr. Patrick Mwanyongo | Driver |
| Mr. Paul Makawa | Driver |
| Mr. Amos | Office Assistant |

District Co-Ordinators

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Mr. Willie Chavi | Salima District |
| Mr. Rodrick. Ndalama | Dedza District |
| Mr. Smith Movete | Chitipa District |
| Ms. Jessy Mchekeni | Mchinji District |
| Mr. Kidwell Chipwatali | Mangochi District |
| Mr. Jepherson Chakwawa | Lilongwe Rural |
| Ms. Mary Balala | Zomba District |
| Mr. Gracian Mbewe | Karonga District |

CHAPTER TWO

HUMAN RIGHTS TRENDS AND CHALLENGES AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Twists and turns on the human rights front continued to dominate Malawi’s governance style in the year 2013. While commending the Joyce Banda administration for championing human rights causes on some aspects, CHRR equally picks bones with the leadership for sleeping on duty in as far as honouring some human rights obligations is concerned. This chapter dwells, in much greater detail, on how Malawi, under Joyce Banda administration, fared on the human rights front in 2013.

CAMA’s demonstrations and Malawi’s ‘historical’ attendance and submission of human rights report at 53rd session of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights, a positive development from government

Perhaps, this was the first test on the current administration’s resolve on human rights. Irritated by hyperinflation which saw consumer purchasing power noze-dive to record levels, Consumers Association of Malawi (CAMA), under the leadership of activist John Kapito decided to organise protests to publicly show displeasure against government on the economic policies pursued to salvage the bed-ridden economy. True to the spirit of constitutionalism, human rights and democracy, CAMA peacefully held at least two demonstrations in the major cities of Malawi. The Malawi Police Service professionally managed to handle the situation as no undue obstructions were made.

Also, worth taking note of is the Joyce Banda’s regime attendance at the 53rd session of the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights which was held in Banjul, Gambia in April 2013. This was another remarkable step towards its respect and commitment to human rights as enshrined in both local and international statutes. This was the first time, over years, Malawi Government attended such an important forum. This was after CHRR, enjoying its observer status at African Commission, had made a series of calls to Malawi government, using both local and international forums, to start attending the forums and submit its reports. Joyce Banda regime’s subsequent submission of its human rights report to the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights was another commendable development.

Government’s Contact and Dialogue Approach on Lake Malawi dispute: a great milestone towards sustainable national and international unity and peace; a call not to compromise our foreign policy

Leaders are judged better when faced with a crisis, they say. Thus, the contact and dialogue approach that Joyce Banda’s administration has all along taken since the issue of Lake Malawi dispute with neighbouring Tanzania resurfaced a couple of months ago is a move in the right direction. By engaging the Tanzanian counterparts through the various international and local platforms as well as leaders of the opposition, civil society, media and clergy in the country, the Joyce Banda administration demonstrated complete maturity and commitment towards resolving the issue in the general interest of all Malawians irrespective of their political divide.

Such a stance does not in any way smack of cowardice or “weak leadership” on the part of government but rather boldness, rationality, soberness and respect of both the domestic and international protocols and statutes.

While siding with Joyce Banda’s administration’ stance to accord dialogue a priority on all matters pertaining to the Lake Malawi dispute with our dear neighbours Tanzania, it’s CHRR’s take that such an approach should not in any way handicap the government from imploring other democratic avenues like instant investigations into some critical issues directly or indirectly arising from the current stalemate as was the case with the alleged xenophobic attacks on deported Malawians.

In view of some alleged serious human rights violations that are said to have marred Tanzania’s sweeping exercise of illegal immigrants reportedly resulting to the death one Malawian national with others losing property, jobs, businesses, the general public expectation in the country was that government would go to the bottom of the alleged human rights issues through joint investigations with their Tanzanian counterparts as her human rights obligation. This was never so, and is yet to be done, living many Malawians in suspense on the matter. An extensive, sober investigation into this matter could have gone a long way in clearing or correcting some prevailing speculations on the matter – speculations which if not ably corrected had the potential of shaking the foundations of firm Malawi-Tanzania bilateral relations.

Ignoring such a step under the guise of avoiding aggravating the already tense situation between the two countries following the lake dispute wrangle may not only be viewed in the eyes of patriotic Malawians as a violation of their right to access relevant information on the matter but may also have a great bearing on how we define and manage our foreign policy in the face of human rights obligations as enshrined in both the constitution of Malawi as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948.

Government’s compensation to the families of July 20 victims a welcome development; a call to put in place a clear, accountable system to regulate and monitor such an initiative

Equally worth vouching for is the move by Government to compensate the families of July 20 heroes, who lost their precious lives while resisting tyranny in the hope for a better Malawi. It remains indisputable that since the “fateful” July 20, 2011, most of the families of the victims of July 20 have lived in abject poverty and suffering, and it is therefore against such a background or context that President Banda’s recent kind gesture shouldn’t be taken for granted. However, it would only be prudent if the President and her government put in place a clear and effective accountable system to monitor and regulate the compensatory initiatives, not only for record purposes but to ensure that only the deserving victims get compensated.

In the same spirit, it would have been ideal if government extended such a kind gesture to the families of other fallen heroes of this country who are in desperate, humiliating state.

Passing of Access to Information Bill as a key towards restoration of public and donor confidence

Section 37 of the Malawi Constitution provides for the access to information in the following statement: “Every person shall have the right of access to all information held by the state or any of its organs at any level of government in so far as such information is required for the exercise of his rights”. To date, however, there is no act of parliament implementing this constitutional provision despite unfulfilled promises from the government and parliament that they would debate a draft bill on access to information. In practice, there are barriers to accessing information held by the government in Malawi. These include the political and physical inaccessibility of government officials, the limited circulation of official documents, the editorial policies and political control of national broadcasting houses, among several other factors.

Tabling the Declaration of Assets Bill in Parliament is a welcome move, for sure. However, declaration of assets legislation lacks teeth in the absence of an access to information legislation bearing in mind that the two are directly linked and complementary. In fact, having in place both declaration of asset legislation and access to information legislations may not only help in curbing corruption and abuse of power, but also in attracting direct foreign investments and improved public and donor confidence in the government.

The country’s politicians must appreciate the fact that in order to participate meaningfully in policy making and all democratic engagements, citizens should have a legal right to access information. Public service is no place for the protection of privacy. This is to say once a person rises to a public position, his or her professional operations become an open-book to the public. As such, there is no honour in encrypting public information. The so-called “security” or privacy concerns are raised by opponents of access to information as they prevent the public from accessing public information. The guise of balancing up the right to privacy and right to access information has no room in a democratic dispensation which Malawi adopted almost 20 years ago, and such concerns 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.

It is, therefore, in this spirit that the Joyce Banda administration is called upon to table the access to information bill in the next parliament sitting so that MPs deliberate and pass it into law.

Government’s relations with the Private Media: Private Media a friend or adversary of the state?

It has always been observed with utter dismay that there exists a perennial disease--in all our governments--of perceiving the private media as opposition agents bent at thwarting government’s development agenda particularly since 1994. Journalists or media houses that have exposed and condemned the existing wrongs of politicians have either been threatened or subjected to “unjustifiable” arrests. Raphael Tenthani and Mavuto Banda landed themselves into trouble by DPP’s government for covering a story concerning mysterious events that had characterized the Sanjika palace. They were both arrested. Zodiak Broadcasting Station’s (ZBS) car also got bombed by suspected DPP thugs. Within the same era, DPP administration issued a directive prohibiting all government agencies from advertising with Nation Publications Limited which was deemed as critical of Mutharika’s leadership.

It is therefore against such a background that there was a renewed hope for better government and media relations when President Joyce Banda ascended to the throne following the sudden death of Mutharika.

A few weeks in office, Joyce Banda administration showed some political will towards an improved government-media relation by among other things making some verbal commitments towards the promotion and protection of press freedoms. On one occasion the President visited Nation Publications Limited where she vowed never to follow the undemocratic path of her predecessor of subjecting this leading print media house in Malawi to any form of ban let alone a directive prohibiting government agencies from advertising with it. Section 46, which impinged on media freedom, was repealed, and Malawi Communications and Regulatory Authority (MACRA) went on to issue both radio and television licenses to several applicants including institutions like Zodiak Broadcasting Station, Blantyre Newspapers Limited and CCAP Livingstonia Synod who were

deemed critical of Mutharika’s regime and hence their respective applications couldn’t get the nod from MACRA during the Mutharika regime.

However, a few months down the line the “ruling” Peoples Party’s attitude towards the private media began to change from better to worse especially with the coming in of Cash-gate scandal. President Banda’s press conferences graduated from being platforms for the President to engage with her esteemed scribes into Peoples Party’s functionalities where journalists could be subjected to all sorts of intimidation and name calling. Some media houses and journalists like Blantyre Newspapers Limited and Justice Mponda respectively have recently found themselves in the bad books of the administration through either lawsuits or arrests just because of publishing materials which were deemed critical of the previous regime.

Just a few weeks ago, “ruling” People’s Party incurred the odium of Media Institute of Southern Africa(Malawi Chapter) when one of its top brass was on record to have advised the President and her government to stop giving business to private media houses as they tend to be critical of Joyce Banda’s administration. Smelling the danger, the Peoples Party publicist moved swiftly to distance the party from such sentiments, citing they were Chikuni’s personal views, not of the party. The Peoples Party may have cleverly downplayed such remarks just to protect its already battered image but if the recent events characterizing government and private media relations are anything to go by then Chikuni’s views, just as it was with Frank Mwenefumbo during the DPP’s views, were the position of the party on the matter.

One needs to understand Chikuni’s words in light of President Joyce Banda’s words uttered in April this year to appreciate this. Addressing a delegation of Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) President Joyce Banda said she had stopped reading newspapers because of their growing criticism on her administration. Said Banda: “When I became the President, I thought the media were my partners. But I have serious problems especially with the Newspapers. At first I thought Bingu was wrong. But I have now realized that you have no compassion and you can kill a sitting President”. All this clearly points to a government that is ready to use all the machinery at its disposal just to suppress any dissenting views in the face of the existing political and economic Malaise.

Government holds the key to a transformed state-media as Malawi approaches 2014 Tripartite Elections

In the article “Leveling the electoral playing field”, Malawi’s renowned academician-cum human rights and governance defender, Edge Kanyongolo, expresses pessimism over the success of the forthcoming tripartite elections. According to him, just as it was with the 1994, 2004 and 2009 elections the 2014 elections will be problematic due to our perennial failure to learn from our previous shortfalls. “At the heart of the near-certainty of a problematic 2014 elections is our failure over the years, to resolve many of the structural and political factors that have contributed to making elections problematic in previous years”, contends Kanyongolo, an associate professor in constitutional law and one of the founders of Civil Liberties Committee.

But why has MBC been acting in the above manner despite the prevailing laws (section 87[2] [a] and [d]) which directly demand MBC to be free from bias in its reporting? Kanyongolo attempts to answer this question by observing that it has all along been MBC’s tradition to violate and not respect the law. He cites the example of the 1999 High Court judgment ordering MBC to provide fair election coverage which was treated with contempt by the corporation. Since then, Kanyongolo

narrates, MBC has been “treating itself as little more than a mouthpiece of the ‘ruling party’ of the day’. And so it has been ever since.

A clear lack of political will, especially on the part of those in the ruling, towards ensuring an impartial, “open-to- all” state-media is partly behind MBC’s continued “arrogance” of “treating itself as little more than a mouthpiece of the ‘ruling party’ of the day”. There have been cases where MBC has registered some improvements to the extent of accommodating some political figures. This has tended to be so at the word of the President as was the case with her few days in office. Of course, there have been other cases where MBC has temporarily opened up to all just to appease the growing public anger against its favoritism to government – particularly to appease those that have threatened to take to the streets against its biasness.

Government’s unfulfilled promise and her recent mute stance on Lesbians, Gays, Bisexual and Transgender Rights as Retrogressive

It has been observed with sadness that homophobic attitudes especially among members of the traditional and religious community against lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals are still prevalent. This scenario predisposes the LGBT community to various forms of stigma and discrimination. Despite the rights of LGBT individuals being placed on the international agenda as clearly spelt out in UN High Commissioner’s report on human rights successes during the *20 Years of Working for Your Rights*, the Malawi’s legal framework remains hostile to the LGBT community.

President Joyce Banda and her administration have not helped matters, either. Contrary to her earlier pledge to call for a sober public debate on the matter a few days into office, the Malawi leader has either taken a mute stance on the matter or “permitted” some of her party gurus to make some undemocratic pronouncements on the matter. Contrary to the human rights conventional norm, one of Banda’s “ruling” Peoples Party (PP) top brass, alongside UDF’s Atupele Muluzi, DPP’s Peter Mutharika and MCP’s Lazarus Chakwera, were recently in the limelight, subjecting the issue of minority LGBT to a proposed referendum soon after 2014 tripartite elections. We at CHRR strongly believe that by appealing to the democratic principle of “majority rule” to justify a referendum over an issue of the minority LGBT is not only an act of sheer ignorance of the very core and spirit of democracy but also a mere scapegoat by our politicians to address the issue once and for all.

Joyce Banda’s continued failure to declare her assets as contributing to the dwindling levels of public and donor trust in the face of Cash-gate scandal; Joyce Banda’s perennial “appeal to gender” as the driving motivation of her critiques

The continued lack of political will displayed by President Joyce Banda during the most part of 2013 towards calls from various quarters to declare her assets as a human rights obligation has gradually managed to erode the hard-earned public and donor trust in her government, a scenario that has only succeeded in planting seeds of suspicion on her “perceived” role in the Cash-gate scandal. Since calls for President Joyce Banda to declare her assets resurfaced from the mid of this year by Malawi Law Society, Zodiak Broadcasting Station (ZBS), Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation(CHRR), Centre for Development of People (CEDEP), Public Affairs Committee (PAC) and many others, the Malawi leader rebuffed such calls on the premise that the current legal framework did not permit her to do so, and that she was being targeted for being a victim of gender and that her predecessors were never put to task on the same.

We observed with deep regret the tendency by President Joyce Banda of regularly appealing to her gender status as the motivational force behind her critics especially when she is subject to all forms of public critique. On her return from South Africa, President Banda told journalists that she was being targeted because of her gender. Just a few months ago when Media Institute of Southern Africa- Malawi Chapter, CHRR, CEDEP, PAC and several other non-governmental organisations pressed the President to sign the *Table Mountain Declaration* offered to her by MISA delegation the Malawi leader made similar sentiments in her rejection to sign it.

Government’s poor management of Cash-gate “crisis”; the case of “selective arrests” and PP’s “war” vented on the private media

From the very onset of the cash-gate saga, the current regime has not helped matters either in as far as addressing the crisis at hand is concerned. Instead of demonstrating complete political will towards ensuring that justice prevail on the matter by among other things acknowledging that there is a “crisis”, President Joyce Banda and her party zealots have gone flat out in their propaganda-tailored campaigns on the matter describing the so far registered “positive” steps like the arrests of some “small fish” as a breakthrough on the part of the government.

So deeply rooted has been this “executive arrogance” that even the civil society and media attempts to persuade it to acknowledge and declare that we are in a crisis have often proved futile. Even in a scenario where the arrests of some “small fish” have been widely viewed as reactive moves to the emerging public pressures following the shooting of the budget director, Paul Mphwiyo, the government has viewed such “successes” as being products of her proactive measures to address the existing loopholes characterising the IFMIS prior to Mphwiyo’s shooting and cash-gate scandal.

Apart from “constructively” granting immunity to some big fish implicated in the cash gate scandal, this casual approach in addressing the crisis at hand has also been clearly evident in how the President franked by her party’s sympathizers handled the press conference upon her return from United States of America. While the general public was anticipating concrete answers and steps taken by the government to address the emerging concerns relating to the shooting of budget director and looting of government coffers, President Banda and her party followers reduced the press conference to a verbal and psychological war vented against journalists present who were seen as not being grateful enough to the President and her government for the “remarkable” measures it had taken by amongst other things arresting some ‘small fish’ in order to bring sanity on the matter.

As may have been rightly observed in our joint analytical statement of Banda’s speech and the mood that accompanied the function, President Joyce Banda missed the rare opportunity to reclaim public trust by among other things unveiling her action plan to deal with the problem at hand, instead of being defensive.

CHAPTER THREE

PERFORMANCE, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

CHRR has five departments namely the Research and Training, Civic Education, Finance and Administration, Information and Documentation and Advocacy and Resource Mobilisation Department. It is worthwhile to point out that the Advocacy and Resource Mobilisation department was introduced just recently in view of the growing need to work towards securing sustainable resources for the institution to help it in its day to day business. These departments are headed by coordinators under the supervision of the Programmes Manager who reports 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 coordinates outreach activities in relation to lined projects. In the year 2013, CHRR continued with the community awareness building programmes in all of its eight operational districts. This was done through implementation of several projects.

The following are the projects that CHRR implemented under the Civic Education department:

- Promoting the rights of women living with HIV and AIDS through empowerment programmes: Stephen Lewis foundation
- Gender Based Violence and Access to Justice Project: Norwegian Church Aid
- Learn Without Fear: Plan Malawi International
- Enhancing Citizens’ Participation in Local Governance and Demand for the Right to Development (with focus on Fair Trade, Labour and Consumer Protection: Democracy Consolidation Program
- Engaging the electorate in an issue-based campaign electoral process : NDI
- My Choice my future; Unite for Body Rights (UFBR): Rutgers WPF

3.1.1. PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS THROUGH EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES: Stephen Lewis Foundation



In the year 2013, CHRR pushed to new frontiers in its effort to promote the rights of women living with HIV and AIDS through various impact-mitigating strategies. Funded by Stephen Lewis, the project originated to respond to stigma and discrimination women living with HIV suffer from.

The project, which is being implemented in Lilongwe (T/A Chiseka and T/A Kalolo) and Salima (T/A Khombedza and T/A Kalonga), has progressively led to economic empowerment among targeted women through agricultural interventions and other income-generating initiatives such as goat farming, Village Saving and Loan schemes.

Interventions under this project were aimed at challenging the 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 and develop the much needed efficacy to withstand the effects of stigma and discrimination.

The outcome stated above was a result of the following successfully implemented activities:

3.1.1.1 Capacity building: A total of 52 women were trained in right to women economic empowerment, HIV/AIDS advocacy, gender and HIV, and agri-business concepts. There was greater involvement of the local government structures in the capacity building endeavours. For instance, agri-business concepts training sessions were facilitated by the district agricultural officers. It was impressive to observe that trainees were able to identify instances of violations of right to economic empowerment mainly anchoring on gender-based violence.

3.1.1.2 Second phase nutritional support to project beneficiaries: A total number of 24 goats were bought and distributed to 4 women groups. Each group was granted a total of six goats. The project continued on with the pass-on initiative that will result into initial beneficiaries passing-on the second generation off-springs to the next lot of beneficiaries. This will ensure that all the targeted women should benefit from the goat farming. Essentially, the goat pass-on initiative will ensure that the women living with HIV and AIDS should have access to essential proteins and income to support their families.

3.1.1.3 Loan scheme: In addition to the MK200, 000.00 that was given to the four groups of women in 2012 as a starter-pack for small businesses, in the year 2013 as a means to scale-up on the small businesses, the groups have been provided with additional amounts of money amounting to MK 80,000.00 each group. In total, the money that has been provided to the women is MK 320,000.00. With the loan schemes, the women have been able to start some small businesses such as, the selling of banana flitters, tomato and just raw bananas which have gone along in improving their wellbeing.

3.1.1.4 Winter cropping: After the agribusiness training, this has helped the women to harvest enough maize and vegetables for nutritional support and income-generating activities. This year, agricultural seeds (Maize, Soya, Groundnuts, Beans, Okra, Luna, and Tomato) and chemicals (e.g. fertiliser) were distributed to women. By and large, winter cropping has made the women empowered financially.

3.1.1.5 Two Maize Mill Machinery: These have been planted at two of the targeted areas of Khombedza in Salima and Kalolo in Lilongwe. The machinery is to be used as a source of financial means amongst the group members but also as a development pursuit for their communities.



3.1.1.6 One networking meeting: This was held for the women groups to share best practices, challenges and lessons. The outcome of this was enhanced knowledge and understanding among women towards HIV and AIDS impact-mitigating mechanisms.

3.1.1.7 Advocacy meetings: These meetings were conducted between chiefs and public sector workers with the women of the four targeted groups to provide a platform for the women’s problem solving. Meetings were held with agricultural and health officials. These meetings enabled the women gain skills in agri-business and ably demand their right to health through engaging health officials on health-related challenges.

3.1.1.8. Challenges: Some women groups lost members to death; women continue to travel long distances to access their ART and this is affecting accessibility; and Women’s lack of ownership spirit towards running the maize mills has also been a challenge.

3.1.2. GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE PROJECT- Norwegian Church Aid

Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) in Partnership with Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) has been implementing a project “Gender based Violence and Access to Justice” since 2011. The project was conceived against the background and evidence of inadequate and insufficient spaces for accessing justice and care and support for survivors of gender based violence particularly for women and children. The main objective of this project is **to promote human rights of survivors of gender based violence especially women, girls, children and the elderly**. This project is being implemented in Chitipa district (T/A Mwenimisuku), Dedza district (T/A Kachere) and Mangochi (T/A Namkumba).

- The following were the activities which CHRR under the project implemented in the targeted areas: Planning and orientation meeting for CBEs;
- Capacity building for Traditional Justice Forums on GBV related laws;
- Dialogue meetings with traditional Justice Forums;
- Man to Man forums;

- Youth forums;
- Woman to Woman Forums; Community Awareness Campaigns;
- Media advocacy newspaper inserts;
- Monitoring and evaluation;
- Case monitoring and documentation; Purchase of equipment

Outcomes:

- There is enhanced knowledge of human rights and GBV related laws among the Traditional Justice Forums and this has resulted into the improved type of judgements that the tribunals produce.
- Development of the 3 months action plans by different forums. These action plans also act as monitoring tools on the part of the project.
- Enhanced knowledge on the 30 CBE’s on human rights issues. This will foretell good understanding of issues and better performance of their work.
- Improved capacity on coming up with very creative strategies to address some of the critical issues that affect the lives of girls. For instance *theatre* for development as a means to make the citizens come up with implementable solutions.

3.1.3. STRENGTHENING LEARN WITHOUT FEAR--Plan Malawi

CHRR has been implementing the project Strengthening Learn Without Fear in partnership with Plan Malawi with the main objective of creating a conducive environment for pupils’ learning progress. For the year 2013 under review, CHRR has implemented the following activities: Orientation of District Education Networks in Karonga and Chitipa; Recruitment and assessment of CHRR’s Volunteers (CBEs); Planning and Orientation meeting with CBEs; Production of IEC material such as Posters, Brochures, Stickers and T-shirts; Orientation of Child Rights Clubs; Following up of Cases and referrals; Purchase of Sports Bonanza equipments (footballs and Netballs).



These activities were designed to achieve the following objective that has been directing the project’s implementation: to strengthen and scale out prevention, reporting and response mechanisms at school level. This has been achieved in the project by scaling out the initiatives to all new schools in our impact areas such as Chitipa (17 new schools) and Karonga (18 new schools).

Further to this we have now scaled up our activities to Community Day Secondary Schools in the areas such as 2 in Chitipa and 3 in Karonga.

This is adding on to the 30 schools that were targeted in the last year of 2012 bringing the number of schools to 65 in total. This objective is also being achieved through the training of the Child Rights Clubs in the new schools that we have targeted this year. The production of the IEC materials is also reinforcing our object of scaling out preventative and reporting mechanisms through the messages that they are carrying.

For the period under review, in order to increase the recognition, response and monitoring of violence against children in homes and at community level, CHRR has engaged and trained more volunteers at community level as Community Based Educators. They are responsible for sensitising communities and offering advice in cases of abuse. They are involved in the process of case monitoring and referral. For the period under review, CHRR through its volunteers has managed to follow up and refer a number of cases of child abuse to the proper authorities.

Outcomes

1. Decreased cases of violence against girls and vulnerable children and increased number of girls and other vulnerable children around the directly reached primary schools as well as other indirectly reached primary schools completing primary school education. This has been a 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.
2. Increased girls' and other vulnerable children's self-efficacy, assertiveness and ability to make independent decisions, choices and to motivate others. This has been a 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*.
3. Learners including both girls and boys are able to recognise and report child rights violations; their right to and responsibility towards education. For instance, more girls are now able to refuse and report arranged marriages.
4. 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, have embarked 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 feat 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.
5. Following the intensive awareness raising campaigns on the evils of child marriages, communities have formulated community by-laws (negative sanctions against all perpetrators of child marriages).

6. 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.
7. There is enhanced healthy collaborative relationship with other strategic structures working in the child protection sector e.g Victim Support Unit, Social Welfare and the Judiciary.

3.1.4. ENHANCEMENT OF CITIZENS’ CAPACITY TO DEMAND THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, FAIR TRADE, LABOUR AND CONSUMER PROTECTION PROJECT --Democracy Consolidation Program (DCP)



Through the project, most communities in Salima district have been able to stand up for their rights though demanding fulfilment of their right to development, fair trade, and labour and consumer protection. There is now a remarkable improvement in the awareness of their rights by the communities, a critical component in creating a critical mass espoused by the project goal: “Group villages progressively enjoying the right to development through demanding good governance and performance of correlative duties”. The aforementioned outcomes have benefitted

largely from the activities implemented under the project.

3.1.4.1. Capacity Building: 180 community rights committees (CRCs) were trained in Right to Development, Fair Trade, Labour and Consumer Protection. 2000 communities benefitted from the capacity building exercises. The outcome of the capacity building exercise was enhanced skills and knowledge among the CRCs in engaging the relevant duty bearers on Right to Development, Fair Trade, Labour and Consumer Protection. With capacity building exercise communities have been in the forefront promoting fairness, transparency and accountability on the aforementioned areas. In most Group Village Heads, cases of use of illegal scales, labour exploitation and resource diversion have been minimized.

3.1.4.2 Review Meetings: Two review Community Based Facilitators (CBF) meetings were conducted, one in April and another in November. During the review meetings, a total number of 40 CBFs (22 males and 18 females) had the opportunity to interact with some duty bearers at the Council. The meeting acted as a platform for the duty bearers to explain policy issues to the CBFs and how the volunteers can better engage them. The meetings also enabled the CBFs share knowledge, experience, and best practices with CBFs from other districts.

3.1.4.3 Distribution of materials: 40 bicycles were bought and distributed to the CBEs.

Over 2000 pieces of cloths were distributed to CRCs, CBFs, and T/As, GVHs and District Level partners.

3.1.4.4 Monitoring exercise: 4 quarterly monitoring visits have been carried out by secretariat. It was observed that CRC trainings were properly coordinated and CRCs were empowered with human rights knowledge and documentation skills.

3.1.4.5. Paralegal services: Reported human rights abuse cases have been well analysed, documented and processed by the paralegal at district level.

3.1.5. ENGAGEMENT OF THE ELECTORATE IN AN ISSUE-BASED CAMPAIGN IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS –National Democratic Institute

With financial support from National Democratic Institute (NDI), CHRR has been able to mobilise the electorate from Karonga, Dedza and Mangochi in an issue based campaign ahead of 2014 tripartite elections. Amongst the several activities conducted under this project were district level orientation meetings that saw representation from all key stakeholders including party representatives to orient them on the project and also request for required support that would be expected of the stakeholders. Such orientation meetings did not only provide the platform for CHRR project team to unpack the activities intended to implement but also provided the platform for debate, questions and answers concerning the electoral process. For instance, during the Karonga district level orientation meeting the various stakeholders present in particular Paramount Senior Chief Kyungu representative appealed to CHRR to intervene in Karonga Central West Constituency in order to calm down the situation where factions of two aspirants Dr. Conelius Mwalwanda and Frank Mwenifumbo were at loggerheads.

CHRR in conjunction with various stakeholders at the district level like National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) tried through various awareness campaigns to address the situation at hand. At least by the end of December there was some calmness in the constituency. Apart from these district level orientation meetings, CHRR also trained its Community Based Educators on electoral process and issue-based campaign. With the supervision of the CHRR district coordinator and some monitoring from CHRR secretariat, these CBEs successfully carried out several issue-based campaigns in the targeted areas. In all the districts, CHRR has managed to interact with relevant stakeholders in the electorate process including the traditional leaders in the need to champion an issue-based campaign. The project has largely contributed to reduction of cases of violence ahead of the elections while instilling a culture of tolerance among contestants. Through the various debates where shadow councillors and members of parliament separately engaged each other, this project managed to provide the rights holder the opportunity to analyse the diverse policy options advanced by the aspirants before they can make informed decisions.

However, the main challenge experienced in the project was the late disbursement of funds as well as the inadequate funds to effectively carry out all the planned activities. Such a scenario would in some cases leave the institution in an awkward situation where it had to use its resources just to meet the growing demand of election messages. Nevertheless, with the limited resources CHRR managed to efficiently utilise the funds by ensuring maximum coverage of the targeted areas.

4.1.0 RESEARCH AND TRAINING DEPARTMENT

This department forms the hub for developing evidence that is used in developing various projects for CHRR. Under this department a number of projects were also implemented as highlighted below:



4.1.1. Karonga Gender Equality and Women Empowerment Project (KAGEWE)

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 of 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/A Mwilang’ombe and T/A Wasambo. The aim of the project, which is

also popularly known as Karonga Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (KAGEWE), is to socially and economically empower vulnerable girls and marginalized women as a means of contributing towards the eradication of Gender based violence.

Among the outcomes registered during the project implementation are the following:

- Establishment and training of the district technical subcommittee on lobbying and advocacy.
- Establishment and training of 6 Mother groups to support girls’ retention in schools.
- Training of 6 Village Savings Loan groups facilities.
- Formation and training of 4 Girls Only clubs with each group with 10 members to raise awareness. and share information on girl-related issues.
- Establishment of 6 Community Action Groups with each group constituting 10 members to document gender-based violence cases.
- A total number of 477 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. Finally, it can be said in clear terms that a total of 609 women and 40 girls are directly benefitting from and supported by empowerment initiatives under the project.

4.1.2 PROMOTION OF LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND INTERSEX ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIV/AIDS IN MALAWI –funded by the Royal Norwegian Embassy

This project, which bears the title “Promotion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) issues in the context of human rights and HIV/AIDS in Malawi”, is aimed at ensuring that human rights, security and tolerance of LGBTI people in Malawi are secured by increasing awareness of general population on legal, policy, cultural and religious issues affecting LGBTI people, building capacity of state and non-state actors on how they can best advocate for LGBTI human rights issues; as well as providing referral systems to the LGBTI community for legal services.



It is worth noting that the project is building on other projects that are currently being implemented by CHRR and CEDEP. This project, viewed against that background, has really been successful in consolidating the gains from and to enhance the impact of the other projects. For instance, in one live radio public debate which was held in Lilongwe in November, 2012, one of the panelists was a traditional leader who had previously been trained in LGBT rights by CHRR and CEDEP. Judged in its own right, the project has also caused a significant change in levels of public awareness and the capacity of state and non-state actors to advocate for rights of sexual minorities in Malawi. During the debate in Lilongwe, Minister of Justice Ralph Kasambara announced that the government had imposed a moratorium on all homosexuality laws pending review by Parliament. The announcement hit headlines across the world including on famed international news outlets such as CNN, BBC, VOA, among many others. The announcement also gave momentum to the ongoing public debate on the rights of sexual minorities in Malawi.



Nevertheless, there is still a long way to go to root out stigma and discrimination against the LGBTI community. The LGBTI are still widely seen as the “scum of the earth”. Besides, although the government has suspended all laws against homosexuality, that suspension alone does not guarantee adequate protection of the rights of sexual minorities under existing laws. There is still need for intensifying campaign to have all the homosexuality laws repealed in Parliament.

Outcomes

Objective 1: To increase the general awareness of the population on legal, policy, cultural and religious issues affecting LGBTI people

Within the reporting period, there has been an increase in the general awareness of the population on legal, policy, cultural and religious issues regarding the LGBTI in Malawi.

- Some traditional leaders, while expressing reservations on the acceptability of homosexual conduct itself, have spoken out on the need to review the discriminatory laws in Malawi, after being trained on LGBTI rights and the implications of denying the LGBTI their rights on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Senior Chief Lukwa, one of the traditional leaders, readily accepted a request to sit on a panel during the debate in Lilongwe, where he made a passionate appeal for dialogue on the rights of sexual minorities in Malawi in view of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.
- Thousands of Malawians that have access to newspapers have also been sensitized about the rights of sexual minorities in the context of HIV/AIDS through a column in the Weekend Nation newspaper, which is authored jointly by CHRR and CEDEP Executive Directors, Mr. Undule Mwakasungura and Mr. Gift Trapence respectively.

- There has been an intense debate raging on in the public arena on the rights of sexual minorities during the reporting period (in minibuses, Facebook, newspapers, online news sites, etc). This is largely attributable to the increasing public awareness of LGBTI issues. This project has also contributed significantly towards the increase in the general awareness of LGBTI issues through radio public debates which were broadcast live on Zodiak Broadcasting Station, itself a public broadcaster which enjoys a broad listenership across the country.

Objective 2: To build the capacity of state and non-state actors on how they can best advocate for LGBT human rights issues

Support of state and non-state actors towards LGBTI issues has increased within the reporting period. There have been several articles published by journalists encouraging debate on rights of sexual minorities.

- CHRR and CEDEP conducted LGBTI training for 20 civil society organizations in the Northern Region. The training was aimed at increasing civil society awareness of the legal, policy, cultural and religious issues regarding the LGBTI in Malawi. The CSOs that were trained have indicated that they would be willing to work with CHRR and CEDEP in advocating for rights of sexual minorities in the context of human rights and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.
- CHRR and CEDEP also organized a workshop for three key theatre groups in Blantyre. There were a total of 16 participants from different theatre groups in Malawi. The objective of the workshop was to orient theatre groups on LGBTI rights issues in Malawi and build their capacity to play a role in disseminating information regarding LGBTI rights issues vis-à-vis HIV/AIDS in Malawi.

Reflection on Strategies and Assumptions

The strategies used so far have largely been effective. Although the attitudes of the public towards the LGBTI community generally remain hostile, there has been an opening up of the political space for a discussion on sexual minority rights. This has helped a lot of people to come out and speak their views openly, in favor of or against LGBTI rights, thus encouraging debate on what still remains the most controversial subject in Malawi.

Following the death of President Mutharika, the political environment for implementation of LGBTI projects has improved. In her maiden State of the Nation address, President Joyce Banda announced that her government will ask Parliament to review and possibly repeal all homosexuality laws. Although of late there has been a lot of flip-flopping on the subject by the Banda administration, the government recently commissioned a Legal Environment Assessment (LEA) for HIV/AIDS under the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) and the LEA report recommended review and repeal of all discriminatory laws that prevent universal access to and the provision of appropriate prevention, treatment, care and support services. The report actually recommended decriminalization of same-sex relationships.

Some officials from government have also been keen to work with CHRR. One of them from the OPC, Mr. Humphrey Mdyetseni, sat on the panel during one of the live radio public debates.

All the foregoing developments point towards the validity of the assumptions underlying the strategic objectives of this project.

Outputs

By the end of December, 2013, we were expected to carry out the following activities:-

Activity (i): Conduct a baseline study on attitudes of religious and traditional leaders on sexual minority rights

The baseline study was not conducted due to time. There was no sufficient time for CHRR and CEDEP to engage consultants to carry out the baseline study. The activity will be implemented this year. Besides, the findings of another baseline study that had been conducted before this project informed the implementation of the entire project. But a fresh baseline study will be conducted to monitor changes in the attitudes of traditional and religious leaders towards the LGBTI community.

Activity (ii): Use of radio programs to hold panel discussions

Output

CHRR and CEDEP organized two radio panel discussions which were broadcast live on Zodiak Broadcasting Station (ZBS).

The first debate was held at Crossroads Hotel on Friday, 1st November, 2012 and it was attended by about 20 people including representatives from the UNAIDS and UNDP. Sitting on the panel were human rights lawyer and member of the national LGBT Technical Working Group (TWG) Mr. Chrispine Sibande; a University of Malawi academic, researcher and member of LGBT TWG, Dr. Jessie Kabwila; Senior Chief Lukwa from Kasungu and Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Honourable Ralph Kasambara.

The second debate took place at Malawi Sun Hotel on Friday, 16th November, 2012. The debate attracted over 35 participants. Sitting on the panel were human rights lawyer and member of the national LGBT Technical Working Group (TWG), Mr. Chrispine Sibande; a University of Malawi academic, researcher and member of LGBT TWG, Dr. Jessie Kabwila; Mr. Humphrey Mdyetseni from the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) and Reverend Master Jumble from Blantyre Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP).

Results:

- Following the debates, there have been people coming to our offices to seek information and ask questions regarding the rights of sexual minorities. The debates were broadcast on ZBS which probably enjoys the highest audience coverage in Malawi. The response was overwhelming with over 185 text messages coming in during the debate. Due to limited airtime, however, only a few text messages were read.
- The debates have sensitized a lot of Malawians who were largely misinformed about LGBT rights issues. This increased knowledge and awareness has also helped stimulate a heated and informed public discourse on the plight of sexual minorities.
- It was during one of the debates that Honourable Ralph Kasambara, the Minister of Justice, promulgated a moratorium on all the country's homosexuality laws. This further implies that all the gay cases that were in court had been stayed pending review of the anti-gay legislation.

Deviation:

It was initially planned that there will be radio programmes once a week for a period of three months (12 weeks) per annum on one private radio stations in year 1 of the project. It was envisaged that some of the programs would be pre-recorded and others would be live phone-in programs. But given the time constraint, CHRR and CEDEP took recourse to two live radio public debates but the impact was all the more overwhelming and more significant than if CHRR and CEDEP had scheduled the programs as per indicated in the approved proposal.

Activity (iii): Conduct media forum meetings

Output:

CHRR and CEDEP organized one quarterly meeting for the media in the past year. The meeting was held at Korea Garden in Lilongwe on 24th November, 2012 and it was attended by 15 media representatives.

Results:

- The media taskforce on LGBT was restructured. Some office-bearers for the media taskforce had left mainstream media and taken up positions in different organizations, hence many positions in the taskforce had fallen vacant. During this media forum meeting, it was resolved that new office bearers be elected, hence a new media taskforce
- Members of the new taskforce were trained on how to develop a strategic plan. Mr. Chrispine Sibande, a human rights lawyer and member of the LGBT TWG facilitated the training.
- At the end of the training, a team was elected to draft the strategic plan for the media taskforce. The team has already come up with a draft strategic plan.

Deviation:

The training for strategic planning was not originally planned. But during the previous quarterly media forum meeting, it had been agreed that the forum should have its own strategic plan to provide a frame of reference as they implement activities. The media forum however did not have the capacity to formulate the strategic plan, so CHRR and CEDEP deemed it important to identify someone to build the capacity of the taskforce to formulate its own strategic plan.

Activity (iv): Conduct orientation workshop for theatre groups

Output:

CHRR and CEDEP conducted an orientation workshop for three national theatre groups at Mkango Lodge in Blantyre on 17th and 18th November, 2012. The purpose of the workshop was to impart information on LGBT rights issues to the theatre groups to build their capacity so that they can also disseminate information on sexual minority rights through drama performances. The workshop attracted 16 participants, with each group contributing about 5 participants.

Results:

- At the end of the training, participants showed a good understanding of the issues regarding sexual minority rights.
- A gay person who works as a volunteer for CEDEP came forward to present his testimony. He recounted his experiences as a gay person, the psychological crisis he went through as he struggled to make sense of his sexual identity throughout childhood and the stigma and discrimination he has endured on account of his sexual orientation henceforth. This personal account put a human face to the whole discussion on the rights of sexual minorities in Malawi.

- Participants proposed that there should be a message development workshop for theatre groups to acquire practical skills on how to package messages on human rights versus HIV/AIDS with specific reference to sexual minorities in their drama performances.
- One of the theatre groups that benefited from this training, Kwathu Drama Group, produced a play titled “Bambo a Junior” which was premiered at Kalikuti Hotel in Lilongwe.
- Kwathu Drama Group was also hired to carry out community awareness campaigns across the country using drama performances.

Deviation: The workshop was originally aimed at training 15 participants from three drama groups. CHRR and CEDEP identified the country’s best theatre groups and trained six members from each group. Besides, it was planned that there would be only 2 trainers, but it was deemed necessary that we identify specialized and experienced trainers. We therefore had four rather than the planned 2 trainers.

Activity (v): Develop press releases to advocate for LGBTI

Two press releases were developed and published in two newspapers prior to the debate in Blantyre. The result was that the Blantyre debate was much better patronized than the one in Lilongwe. While the Lilongwe debate only managed to attract a small group of people, the Blantyre debate attracted over 30 people. Besides, the Blantyre debate was much more widely listened to on radio than the Lilongwe one. In a significant way, therefore, the press releases served their intended purpose of promoting advocacy on LGBTI.

Activity (vi): To train 20 CSOs in LGBTI rights issues

Output: Representatives from 20 civil society organizations were trained at Ilala Cresta Lodge in Mzuzu on 5th and 6th November 2012. The meeting was covered by the media, and the media personnel that attended the meeting admitted to having benefited largely from the training workshop.

Activity (vii): To conduct awareness campaigns through drama performances

Output: Kwathu Drama Group, a Blantyre-based drama outfit, produced a play titled “Bambo a Junior” which was premiered at Kalikuti Hotel in Lilongwe on 24th November, 2012. The play explores the life of a gay man who was married to a woman just to hide his sexual identity, and was later discovered to be a homosexual. The play summarizes the plight of the LGBTI individuals against the background of prevalent stigma and discrimination in Malawi.

Main changes in the organization

In general, there has not been a significant change in the implementing organisations except for the addition of one Project Officer. CHRR and CEDEP hired an additional project officer in the LGBT Department to facilitate implementation of the HIVOS, LGBT project. It was envisaged that such a structural change would ensure quality implementation of the project.

Challenges

Following the death of President Bingu wa Mutharika in April, 2012 and the subsequent ascendancy to the presidency by the then Vice President, Joyce Banda, there has been a notable improvement in the political environment in as far as implementation of LGBT projects. Nevertheless, challenges remain.

- In spite of its professed commitment to review the legal and policy framework for the LGBTI in Malawi, President Joyce Banda and her government have been flip-flopping on

their stance towards the rights of sexual minorities. In her maiden State of the Nation address in Parliament, President Banda undertook to review anti-gay laws but some months later, when interviewed by a foreign news agency, she averred that the issue is being debated by the public and, according to the interview, it was clear that the majority of Malawians were still against decriminalizing homosexuality.

- The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which was in government until the demise of President Mutharika, continues to politicize issues of LGBT rights. The party has adopted an anti-gay platform to take advantage of the prevailing homophobia in the country. This may also account for the diminished political will on the side of government on promoting rights of sexual minorities in Malawi, as government politicians are also becoming increasingly wary of imperilling their political careers.
- Homophobia still remains prevalent. Although cases of physical violence against the LGBT have not been reported in recent months, it is abundantly clear that the majority of Malawians are still not comfortable with the issue of LGBT rights. There is need to intensify awareness campaigns to combat homophobia.

Lessons for next year

Some lessons have been gleaned from the implementation of the project in the last year.

- There is need to intensify publicity prior to radio public debates. The poor attendance for the first live radio debate was largely due to inadequate publicity which, in turn, was due to budget constraints.
- The success of the debates and the overwhelming public response they have elicited have challenged us to explore novel ways in which we can still keep the public engaged in this discourse on LGBT rights and consolidate the gains accruing from such advocacy campaigns thus far. CHRR and CEDEP plan to have a live phone-in radio program in addition to radio public debates.
- There is need for a message development workshop for theatre groups which we trained. Having trained theatre groups with a view to building their capacity to advocate the rights of sexual minorities, there still remains need to build their capacity to package messages in a way that will enable them to carefully navigate the cultural and religious complexities inherent in the discourse on sexual minority rights in Malawi.
- Some politicians, in particular Members of Parliament, still display scanty understanding of the issues surrounding sexual minorities in Malawi. Their comments on gay rights issues show that there is still a long way to go to enhance their understanding of such issues. The working dinner between CHRR and CEDEP staff and Members of Parliament, which has been lined up as one of the activities for the forthcoming year, is expected to help in filling in some gaps in knowledge among the MPs in respect of sexual minority rights.

Adjustment in objectives, strategies, intended results or indicators

During the implementation of the project, there were no significant changes to the objectives. There were however some changes to strategies that were deployed to achieve the objectives.

As opposed to having a radio program once a week for the entire reporting period, CHRR and CEDEP decided to hold periodic live public radio debates. Zodiak Broadcasting Station (ZBS), which aired the debates, already has a debate program which is remarkably popular across the country. The intended result of this new strategy was to capture a huge audience for our radio programs. It was envisaged that by buying airtime on this popular program, messages on LGBTI

rights would reach more people than the targeted audience of six million people for our radio awareness programs. This adjustment in strategy has been immensely effective.

4.1.2 MALAWI HIV AND AIDS, TB AND HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME – AIDS AND RIGHTS ALLIANCE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (ARASA).

In the just ending year 2013, CHRR and CEDEP jointly implemented a country programme funded by AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa (ARASA). As a result of this programme, there has been enhanced knowledge and awareness among Malawians on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Human Rights issues. However, outstanding of all these has been the fight for the repeal of Malawi’s punitive laws which impinge on the rights of sexual minorities.



4.1.1 Capacity building exercises for relevant stakeholders

In 2013 the ARASA country programme managed to enhance capacity as well as knowledge amongst key stakeholders on sexual minority issues in relation to HIV and AIDS, TB and Human Rights. To achieve this various activities were conducted at the national level as follows:

i. Hosting three press conferences on the stigma index report released by Malawi Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (MANET+).

The country programme team in collaboration with with MANET+ held 3 regional press conferences. The press conferences were attended by 10 prominent electronic and print media houses and key CSOs in the HIV and AIDS sector.

ii. Developing guidelines for stigma and discrimination programmes using existing documents (consultant) to be launched and circulated to stakeholders in the HIV and AIDS sector for their use in stigma

The programme team collaborated with National AIDS Commission (NAC), Department of Nutrition, HIV and AIDS (DNHA) and MANET+ to initiate a process of developing stigma & discrimination guidelines. A national training on stigma and discrimination was conducted and 24 CSOs participated in the meeting and signed the Memorandum of Demand to end stigma

and discrimination as well as the petition on the draft HIV and AIDS Prevention and Management Bill which were produced at that meeting.

iii. Conducting three day national training on addressing stigma and discrimination (based on the stigma index report and the guidelines) for 35 CSOs’ members

A one day national stigma and discrimination and punitive laws indaba for representatives of key CSOs and strategic Ministries was conducted. 10 government officials and 22 CSO representatives were in attendance. In addition, 18 senior police officers from across the country were trained on stigma and discrimination.

4.1.3 Promotion of national debate on sexual minorities in light of HIV/AIDS, TB and Human Rights

The program has championed national debates among the otherwise previously conservative Malawian population on issues affecting the sexual minorities alias LGBTI community. Key stakeholders during the debates conducted in three regions of the country included politicians, religious leaders, traditional leaders and legal experts. Through the Community Health Advocates (CHAs) opinion leaders debates were conducted in all the 20 districts of the country program. The debates managed to break the silence on sexual minorities’ issues and most participants softened their myth, beliefs and hatred towards the LGBTI communities. The fact that people can now talk about LGBTI issues, unlike in the past when doing so was a taboo, is a step towards the protection of the rights of LGBTI in view of HIV AIDS.

4.1.3 Monitoring drug situation in the country’s public hospitals for evidenced-based advocacy

As a follow-up on the capacity building exercise, grass root civil societies in all the 20 districts were more defensive of their rights to health through, among others, periodic assessment of the drug situation in the country’s hospitals to inform the national advocacy campaign. The highlight of it all was the presentation of the petition to Parliament in July to lobby Parliament to consider increasing more budgetary support to Health Ministry as one of the long term solutions to the challenges facing the health sector. This led to a serious debate in Parliament towards attainment of the said target. Government side promised to look into the matter during the next budget session.

4.2 PROMOTION OF LGBT ISSUES IN THE CONTEXT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIV AND AIDS—funded by HIVOS

This project, which bears the title “Promotion of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) issues in the context of human rights and HIV/AIDS in Malawi”, is aimed at ensuring that human rights, security and tolerance of LGBTs people in Malawi are secured.

It is worth noting that the project is building on other projects that are currently being implemented by CHRR and CEDEP. This project, viewed against that background, has really been successful in consolidating the gains from and to enhance the impact of the other projects.

In a nutshell, the following are some of the outcomes registered in 2013 under the project plus the activities carried out to achieve the outcomes.

▪ **Increased public awareness through theatre.**

Kwathu Drama Group, a local drama outfit whose members were part of the group of artists who were trained in LGBT human rights by the project, released a play titled “*Bambo a junior*”, which

features a gay character. The play, which has been shown in eight (8) districts and towns around the country, reaching an estimated 10, 000 people, is advocating for an end to discrimination of any kind, including discrimination based on sexual orientation. During mid-2013, it was reported in the local media that some of the artists were advocating for the inclusion of gay rights in Malawi’s first Cultural and Heritage Policy, which is being developed. The story was reported in the *Weekend Nation* by Yvonne Sundu, an LGBT trained journalist, under the title “Gay Rights Campaign: Artists want homosexual issues in cultural policy”

▪ **Increased media coverage of LGBT issues.**

The Media Taskforce on Sexual Minority Issues, which was financially and technically supported by the HIVOS-funded project has been instrumental in ensuring fair coverage of LGBT issues in the media. The taskforce includes reporters and editors, who are influential in determining media content in their respective media houses. Members of the taskforce have made efforts to put a human face to the issue. This has been done through human interest features and radio programmes.

▪ **Religious leaders sensitized on LGBT issues**

Some religious leaders who were trained on LGBT rights by the project have supported calls for an end to discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. For instance, following a training workshop organized by the project for religious leaders, a Muslim cleric by the name of Sheikh Tambula made a comment in the media calling for tolerance of LGBT people in Malawi (see article “*Sheikh backs gay rights*” by Ephraim Munthali, *The Nation*).

▪ **Traditional leaders sensitized on LGBT issues**

Another institution that was targeted by the project is the traditional leadership. Some traditional leaders have spoken out on the need to review the discriminatory laws in Malawi, after being trained on LGBT rights and the implications of denying the LGBT their rights on the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Traditional Authority Kachere of Dedza, one of the traditional leaders was oriented on LGBT rights during the reporting period. The traditional leader was interviewed by a Malawi News Agency reporter. In the interview he made a passionate appeal for dialogue on the rights of sexual minorities in Malawi in view of the HIV/AIDS epidemic (*Nation on Sunday 27th October 2013*).

▪ **Capacity support provided to health care workers**

Some health workers who were oriented on LGBT rights in the context of HIV and AIDS in Mangochi in March 2013 were reported in the local media as stating that they would not discriminate against LGBT individuals if they came to their hospital seeking treatment. The report was written in *The Nation* newspaper by Bright Mhango (see article titled “Mangochi health workers, gays speak same language” published in the *Nation*, March 31st, 2013).

4.3 UNITED FOR BODY RIGHTS PROJECT

Under this project, whose goal is improving the Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of the LGBTI community in Malawi, the following activities and outcomes were registered:

4.3.1 Participation in the alliance level advocacy workshop

CHRR participated in the drafting of an advocacy plan to be utilised in carrying out the project’s advocacy campaigns. This has resulted into vibrant advocacy from the community for recognition of people’s body rights.

4.3.2 Conducting baseline media survey

CHRR successfully collaborated with a consultant to carry-out a baseline survey to set targets and outcome indicators for the project. The results are yet to be released by the consultant.

4.3.3 Participation in the alliance level outcome measurement workshop

Following an outcome measurement workshop, CHRR successfully developed data collection tools that were used during the data collection exercise. The tools were successfully tested in the field.

4.3.4 Participation in the alliance level data collection field work

CHRR successfully conducted an orientation workshop on LGBTIQ issues in Malawi with programme members of the Alliance as part of their activities. The orientation targeted 10 members of the Alliance programme team and the NPC and Rudgers WPF.

4.4.0 ADVOCACY CAMPAIGN PREVENTION OF UNSAFE ABORTION IN MALAWI-IPAS

With financial support from IPAS, CHRR in conjunction with other organisations in Coalition for Prevention of Unsafe Abortion (COPUA) team spearheaded debate and dialogue against unsafe abortion. Under this program, two community mobilisation campaigns, one in Ntcheu and another in Rumphu, were conducted. The major outcome of the campaigns was the change of perception among various leaders on the impact of unsafe abortion on safe motherhood.

4.5.0 Increasing Capacity of Civil Society Technical Working Group and Media Taskforce on Sexual Minority Rights –funded by the United States Embassy

In 2013, CHRR and its partner CEDEP completed the implementation of the project titled Increasing Capacity of Civil Society Technical Working Group and Media Taskforce on Sexual Minority Rights, funded by the United States Embassy.

The overall goal of the project was to capacitate and support the civil society Technical Working Group (TWG) and its affiliated CSOs, including the media taskforce on sexual minority rights, to conduct effective LGBT advocacy in Malawi.

During the period under review, the project accomplished the following activities:

- **Quarterly meeting for media taskforce** -2 meetings were held for the media taskforce established to champion media reporting on LGBTI rights issues.
- **Finalisation of media taskforce strategic plan** –the plan, which details activities to be carried out by the taskforce, was finalized and adopted by members in April 2013
- **Advocacy through radio** –a radio program was recorded in Mangochi and aired in April 30th 2013.

4.5.0 SUCCESSES AND CHALLENGES OF THE PROGRAMMES DEPARTMENT

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 the following challenges:

- Late disbursement of funds made it difficult to complete some of the projects in time.
- Staff turnover affected so much the operation of the organisation as some key staff left to join international organisations for new challenges.
- Unrealistic expectation from some of our volunteers in terms of incentives.
- Global financial crisis affected the programmes with reduced funding.
- Tense political environment sometimes made our work difficult.
- Duplication of efforts by the non-state actors was a big concern to CHRR.
- Transport at the main office and of our volunteers also affected our work.

5.1.0 COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND LITIGATION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON MINING (KAYEREKERA AND ELAND MINE)

The Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) with financial and technical support from the Open Society Justice Initiative implemented a project on access to information in the extractives industries.

The project had two components namely: community advocacy and mobilization and litigation.

This project is built around the findings of the baseline research study on access to information in the extractive industries, the case of Kayerekera Uranium Mine and Eland Coal Mine in Karonga that CHRR undertook in 2008/9.

The study established that communities in and around these mines have limited access to information on the mining activities including information on labor issues, contents of the development agreements, information on corporate social responsibilities, environment and environmental impact assessment amongst others.

The major outcome of the interventions which CHRR and communities at Kayerekera and Eland implemented resulted into government making the development agreement with Kayerekera public.

5.1.1. INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION AND ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

Information and documentation department is hub in coordination and flow of information within and outside the organisation. It is also responsible for all publications and documentation. In the year under review the information department registered some remarkable progress, achievements, innovations and some challenges.

5.1.1. 1. Media Relationship: Advocacy

Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation, under its governance programme, engaged in a series of advocacy activities at a national level in the areas of good governance, human rights and rule of law. Apart from its Website, Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation used various media platforms like electronic, print and social media in its advocacy path at national level. As such, the relationship between CHRR and the media continued to grow from strength to strength in the year 2013. 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 publication, namely the **Daily Times**, the **Nation**, as well as week-end editions of the two publications, **Malawi News** and **Weekend Nation** respectively. Online publications such as the Nyasatimes, Maravi Post and Malawi Voice also published some of CHRR statements. Some of the country’s major radio stations used included Zodiak Broadcasting Station, Malawi Institute of Journalism (MIJ FM), Matindi, Capital FM, Channel Africa, Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and TV, Joy Radio, Radio Islam, Star Radio, Channel for All Nations and many others. Besides, as in previous years, CHRR received frequent requests for interview on topical national issues.

However, it must be stressed from the very onset that much of CHRR’s advocacy done at national level was jointly done with Centre for Development of People (CEDEP) as partners. It should further be observed that CHRR’s registered remarkable publicity in its advocacy work mostly on the print and social media as compared with the electronic media. Realising the relatively, vital role and the wide space the electronic media has especially targeting the rural masses, CHRR endeavours to enhance its work using this platform towards an informed electorate. Using the media strategy approved by the board, CHRR envisages expanding its advocacy work in 2014 using all the relevant democratic spaces at its disposal.

Below is a compilation of CHRR advocacy coverage in some of Malawi’s prominent Media houses. There is special focus on the Social Media and here and there on Electronic Media. It must be clearly stated that this may not necessarily be a comprehensive record especially in the area of electronic media where at the time of the compilation had not done a comprehensive research due to time factor.

Below are some of the highlights in the Social media:

Social Media

Nyasa Times Online Media House

| No. | Name of the media | Date of publication | News story/Article | Web address |
|-----|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|---|
| 1. | Nyasatimes (Online) | 21 December 2014 | CSOs slam ‘NAC gate’ defenders, as CONGOMA disowns Matewere stance | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/21/csos-slamnacgate-defenders-ascongoma-disownsmatewere-stance/ |
| 2. | Nyasatimes (Online) | 20 December 2014 | CHRR has no pathological hatred with Malawi ruling DPP – Timothy Mtambo | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2015/02/20/interviewchrr-has-no-pathologicalhatred-with-malawi-rulingdpp-timothy-mtambo/ |
| 3. | Afriem (online) | 29 November 2014 | PAC demands ACB probe into NAC gate | http://www.afriem.org/2014/11/pac-demands-acb-probe-nac-gate/ |
| 4. | Maravipost (Online) | 22 December 2014 | Malawi’s CSOs response to “proponents” of NACGATE | |
| 5. | Zodiak Malawi(Online/dio) | 3 December 2014 | CSOs planning “NAC gate” demonstrations | http://zodiakmalawi.com/top-stories/csos-planning-nac-gate-demonstrations |
| 6. | The Nation Online | 24 th December 2014 | Interview: We do not need executive arrogance- Timothy Mtambo | http://mwntation.com/interview-not-need-executive-arrogance-timothy-mtambo/ |
| 7. | Malawi 24 (Online) | 28 December 2014 | Activists divided over BEAM-NAC scandal | http://allafrica.com/stories/201412291759.html |
| 8. | The Nation Online | 24 December 2014 | NAC rejects BEAM refund, asks well-wishers to go through treasury | http://mwntation.com/nacrejects-beam-refund-askswell-wishers-go-treasury/ |
| 9. | The Nation Online | 4 December 2014 | CSOs ask First Lady to refund NAC money | http://mwntation.com/csosask-first-lady-refund-nacmoney/ |
| 10. | The Nation Online | 22 November 2014 | BEAM Trust, Mulhako bombard NAC with funds requests | http://mwntation.com/beam-trust-mulhako-bombardnac-funding-requests/ |
| 11. | The Nation Online | 17 December 2014 | APM May lose ‘legitimacy to govern’- CHRR, CEDEP | http://mwntation.com/apm-may-lose-legitimacy-govern-chrr-cedep/ |
| 12. | The Nation Online | 16 November 2014 | CHRR, CEDEP warn government | http://mwntation.com/chrr-cedep-warn-government/ |
| 13. | The Nation Online | 6 September 2014 | CHRR demands more action on cashgate | http://mwntation.com/chrr-demands-action-cashgate/ |
| 14. | The Nation Online | 20 August 2014 | CHRR backs 50+1 electoral system at regional meeting | http://mwntation.com/chrr-backs-501-electoral-system-regional-meet/ |
| 15. | The Nation Online | 7 August 2014 | CHRR, CEDEP for UN intervention in Gaza | http://mwntation.com/chrr-cedep-un-intervention-gaza/ |
| 16. | The Nation Online | 27 May 2014 | CHRR, CEDEP urge MEC to stand firm | http://mwntation.com/chrr-cedep-urge-mec-stand-firm/ |
| 17. | The Nation Online | 6 May 2014 | CHRR pens AU sitting Presidents on immunity | http://mwntation.com/chrr-pens-au-sitting-presidents-immunity/ |
| 18. | The Nation Online | 25 April 2014 | CHRR, CEDEP criticize Presidential debate absentees | http://mwntation.com/cedep-chrr-criticise-presidential-debate-absentees/ |
| 19. | The Nation Online | 23 April 2014 | Mwakasungula retires from CHRR | http://mwntation.com/mwakasungula-retires-chrr/ |
| 20. | The Nation Online | 19 March 2014 | CHRR slams politicians on gay rights | http://mwntation.com/chrr-slams-politicians-gay-rights/ |
| 21. | The Nation Online | 6 December 2014 | APM salary goes 80% | http://mwntation.com/apms-salary-goes-80/ |
| 22. | The Nation Online | 30 November 2014 | Government violating human rights -MLS | http://mwntation.com/govt-violating-human-rights-mls-2/ |

| | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|---|---|
| 24. | The Nation Online | 11 October 2014 | Suspect innocent until proven guilty | http://mwntation.com/suspect-innocent-proven-guilty/ |
| 25. | The Nation Online | 7 October 2014 | CSOs demand investigations into Mbendera claims | http://mwntation.com/csos-demand-investigations-mbendera-claims/ |
| 26. | The Nation Online | 10 September 2014 | Assets office not funded in the budget | http://mwntation.com/assets-office-funded-budget/ |
| 27. | The Nation Online | 7 September 2014 | UN gives government ultimatum on rights implementation | http://mwntation.com/un-gives-govt-ultimatum-rights-implementation/ |
| 28. | The Nation Online | 5 September 2014 | CSOs fault health allocation zero aid budget | http://mwntation.com/csos-fault-health-allocation-zero-aid-budget/ |
| 29. | The Nation Online | | CSOs demand international covenants domestication | http://mwntation.com/csos-demand-international-covenants-domestication/ |
| 30. | The Nation Online | 9 August 2014 | CSOs demand government act on UN recommendations | http://mwntation.com/csos-demands-govt-act-un-recommendations/ |
| 31. | The Nation Online | 27 July 2014 | Victims want APM to end July 20 lies | http://mwntation.com/victim-families-want-apm-end-july-20-lies/ |
| 32. | The Nation Online | 30 December 2014 | 2014 Review: the year cash gate went on trial | http://mwntation.com/2014-review-year-cashgate-went-trial/ |
| 33. | The Nation Online | 8 July 2014 | Malawi CSOs raise rights concerns at UN | http://mwntation.com/malawi-csos-raise-rights-concerns-un/ |
| 34. | The Nation Online | 14 June 2014 | Can free fair and credible voting be achieved? | http://mwntation.com/can-free-fair-credible-voting-achieved/ |
| 35. | The Nation Online | 6 June 2014 | Activists outline Peter's obstacles | http://mwntation.com/activists-outline-peters-obstacles/ |
| 36. | Nyasa Times | 22 April 2014 | Undule hands over CHRR mantle to Mtambo, Malawi rights group changes leadership | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/04/22/undule-hands-over-chrr-mantle-to-mtambo-malawi-rights-group-changes-leadership/ |
| 37. | Nyasa Times | 25 December 2014 | Cancel demos, BEAM Well-wishers appeal: Malawi CSOs say nope | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/25/canceldemo-beam-well-wishersappeal-malawi-csos-says-nope/ |
| 38. | Nyasa Times | 21 December 2014 | Mutharika's attack on critics, "sign of guilty" says CSOs | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/21/mutharikas-attack-on-critics-sign-of-guilty-csos/ |
| 39. | Nyasa Times | 29 December 2014 | Malawi CSOs stick to Jan 13 demos: Mayaya, Mkwezalamba are govt agents | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/29/malawicsos-stick-to-jan-13-demomayaya-mkwezalamba-aregovt-agents/ |
| 40. | Nyasa Times | 26 November 2014 | CHRR brands Mutharika a "hypocrite of the highest order" | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/11/26/chrr-brandsmutharika-a-hypocrite-of-the-highest-order/ |
| 41. | BNL Times | 1 December 2014 | First Lady defends Beam on | http://timesmediamw.com/ |
| 42. | BNL Times | 4 December 2014 | Civil society organisations threaten national demo over NAC funds | http://timesmediamw.com/civil-society-organisations-threaten-national-demo-over-nac-funds/ |
| 43. | Nyasa Times | 31 December 2014 | Nyasa Times Person of the Year goes to Malawi media and Tentani | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/31/nyasa-times-person-of-the-year-goes-to-malawi-media-and-tentani/ |
| 44. | Nyasa Times | 12 December 2014 | ACB shut down illegal says dean of law at University of Malawi | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/17/acb-shut-down-illegal-says-dean-of-law-at-university-of-malawi/ |
| 45. | | 1 December 2014 | Malawi rights groups hit at passive Mutharika on Judicial Strike | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/12/01/malawi-rights-groups-hit-at-passive-mutharika-on-judicial-strike/ |

| No. | DATE | ARTICLE | WEB ADDRESS |
|-----|--------------------|---|---|
| 1. | 31 December 2013 | Joyce Banda's 20 months in office, missed opportunity-CHRR | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/12/31/joyce-bandas-20-months-in-office-missed-opportunity-chrr/ |
| 2. | 5 January 2014 | JB's rights, governance record excites watchdog CHRR | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2014/01/05/jbs-rights-governance-record-excites-watchdog-chrr/ |
| 3. | 11 December 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP applaud Malawi's Private Media for Championing rights | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/12/11/chrr-cedep-applaud-malawi-private-media-for-championing-rights/ |
| 4. | 6 December 2013 | Malawi taught me forgiveness, says Malawi Leader: CHRR and CEDEP mourn rights icon | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/12/06/mandela-taught-me-forgiveness-says-malawi-leader-chrr-and-cedep-mourn-rights-icon/ |
| 5. | 11 November, 2013 | Malawi government should declare 'crisis' over donor cut – CHRR, CEDEP | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/11/11/malawi-govt-should-declare-crisis-over-donor-cut-chrr-cedep/ |
| 6. | 6 October, 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP say Malawi financial system need redemption: Demand resignation of Finance Minister | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/10/06/chrr-cedep-say-malawi-financial-system-need-redemption-demand-resignation-of-lipenga/ |
| 7. | 11 September, 2013 | Karonga chiefs speak tough on political violence, seeks CHRR intervention | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/09/18/karonga-chiefs-speaks-tough-on-political-violence-seeks-chrr-intervention/ |
| 8. | 13 August 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP hail MCP on democracy, Congratulates Chakwera | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/08/13/chrr-cedep-hail-mcp-on-democracy-congratulates-chakwera/ |
| 9. | 4 June 2013 | Malawi Growing Homophobia worries rights groups CHRR, CEDEP | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/06/04/malawi-growing-homophobia-worries-rights-group-chrr-cedep/ |
| 10. | 24 May 2013 | Malawi Child with male and female organs suffer discrimination CHRR calls for government intervention | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/05/24/malawi-child-with-male-and-female-organs-suffer-discrimination-chrr-calls-for-govts-swift-action/ |
| 11. | 14 May 2013 | Malawi Commemorates Kamuzu Day: CHRR, CEDEP Calls for heroes policy | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/05/14/malawi-commemorates-kamuzu-day-chrr-cedep-calls-for-heroes-policy/ |
| 12. | 10 December 2013 | Activists say Malawi Cash-gate is human rights violation | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/12/10/activists-say-malawi-cash-gate-is-human-rights-violation/ |
| 13. | 11 November 2013 | Aid Suspension: A clarion call for soul searching and action on Malawi | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/11/11/aid-suspension-a-clarion-call-for-soul-searching-and-action-on-malawi-govt/ |
| 14. | 9 August 2013 | Malawi's rights group censure Mutharika on warmongering over Lake dispute | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/08/09/malawi-rights-group-censure-mutharika-on-warmongering-over-lake-dispute-with-tanzania-2/ |
| 15. | 8 August 2013 | Register Anti-God group, urge Malawi's rights groups | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/08/08/register-anti-god-group-urge-malawis-rights-groups/ |
| 16. | 20 July 2013 | JB says July 20 killings during DPP won't happen under her leadership | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/07/20/jb-says-july-20-killings-during-dpp-wont-happen-under-her-leadership/ |
| 17. | 8 June 2013 | Malawi's groups petition MPs to endorse media accord: Table Mountain Declaration | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/06/08/malawi-groups-petition-parliament-on-media-accord-table-mountain-declaration/ |
| 18. | 7 June 2013 | Malawi CSOs petition parliament to increase health budget allocation | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/06/07/malawi-csos-petition-parliament-to-increase-health-budget-allocation/ |
| 19. | 3 May 2013 | Atupele eyeing Malawi Presidency, formally sues foul-mouthed minister Uladi Mussa | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/05/03/atupele-eyeing-malawi-presidency-formally-sues-foul-mouthed-minister-uladi/ |
| 20. | 22 July 2013 | Clergy urges Malawi political leaders to be sober in dealing with issues | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/07/22/clergy-urges-malawi-political-leaders-to-be-sober-in-dealing-with-issues/ |
| 21. | 5 February 2013 | Victimised Karonga Village accuse Malawi government of denying them justice. | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/02/05/victimized-karonga-villagers-accuse-malawi-govt-of-denying-them-justice/ |
| 22. | 12 January, 2013 | Civilians chase Malawi Police officers, take charge of road block | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/01/12/civilians-chase-malawi-police-officers-take-charge-of-road-block/ |
| 23. | 8 January, 2013 | Malawi Opposition DPP, UDF behind Kapito's demos: Plot deadly scenes | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/01/08/malawi-opposition-dpp-udf-behind-kapitos-demos-plot-deadly-scenes/ |
| 24. | 4 November 2013 | Malawi's rights group appeal for urgent redress of challenges facing health sector | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/11/04/malawi-rights-groups-appeal-for-urgent-redress-of-challenges-facing-health-system/ |
| 25. | 23 October 2013 | Malawi's Rights Groups Push MPs to Pass Access to Information Bill | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/10/23/malawi-rights-groups-push-mps-to-pass-access-to-information-bill/ |
| 26. | 15 October 2013 | Chakwera, Mutharika, Atupele trashed over gay referendum in Malawi | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/10/15/chakwera-mutharika-atupele-trashed-over-gay-referendum-in-malawi/ |
| 27. | 27 September 2013 | Lilongwe urged to probe Xenophobic attacks on Malawians in Tanzania | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/09/27/lilongwe-urged-to-probe-xenophobic-attacks-on-malawians-in-tanzania/ |
| 28. | 16 September 2013 | Malawi leader JB pressed to make public her assets | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/09/16/malawi-leader-jb-pressed-to-make-public-her-assets/ |
| 29. | 17 August 2013 | Malawi CSOs against forced HIV testing for sex workers, pregnant women | http://www.nyasatimes.com/2013/08/17/malawi-csos-against-forced-hiv-testing-for-sex-workers-pregnant-women/ |

| No. | Date | Article | Web Address |
|-----|-------------------|--|---|
| 1. | 10 December 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP International Human Rights Day Statement | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/12/09/chrr-cedep-international-human-rights-day-statement/ |
| 2. | 11 November 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP Reaction To Donor Budgetary Withdrawal | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/11/11/chrr-cedep-reaction-to-donor-budgetary-withdrawal/ |
| 3. | 4 November 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP Call for Government's Swift Action On Persistent Crisis in the Public Hospital | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/11/04/chrr-cedep-call-for-governments-swift-action-on-persistent-crisis-in-the-public-hospitals/ |
| 4. | 3 November 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP Reaction To Opposition's Calls for Access to Information Legislation | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/11/03/chrr-cedep-reaction-to-oppositions-calls-for-the-need-for-access-to-information-legislation-to-be-in-place/ |
| 5. | 16 October 2013 | CHRR suspects political elements in CEDEP's office breaking | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/10/16/chrr-suspects-political-elements-in-cedeps-office-breaking/ |
| 6. | 7 June 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP Petition MPs On Budget Allocation To Health, HIV and AIDs, Management | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/06/07/chrr-cedep-petition-mps-on-budget-allocation-to-health-hiv-aids-management-full-text-10395/ |
| 7. | 30 May 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP engage Religious Leaders On Minority Rights | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/05/30/chrr-cedep-engage-religious-leaders-on-minority-rights-36219/ |
| 8. | 12 April 2013 | HIV Status Not Cause For Discrimination - CHRR | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/04/12/hiv-status-not-cause-for-discrimination-chrr-65975/ |
| 9. | 1 January 2014 | Reflecting on Joyce Banda's 20 months In Office: A missed Opportunity To Reclaim Public Trust. | http://www.malawivoice.com/2014/01/01/reflecting-on-joyce-bandas-20-months-in-office-a-missed-opportunity-to-reclaim-public-trust/ |
| 10. | 8 December 2013 | Nelson Mandela, A Self-less Human Rights Defender Worth Emulating | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/12/08/nelson-mandela-a-self-less-human-rights-defender-worth-emulating/ |
| 11. | 23 October 2013 | A re-affirmed Call for Parliament To enact The Access To Information Bill- Press Statement CEDEP and CHRR | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/10/23/a-re-affirmed-call-for-parliament-to-enact-the-access-to-information-bill-press-statement-cedep-chhr/ |
| 12. | 5 October 2013 | A Re-affirmed Call for Government's Swift Action On Alarming levels of Corruption In Public Service | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/10/05/re-affirmed-call-for-governments-swift-action-on-alarming-levels-of-corruption-in-public-service/ |
| 13. | 11 September 2013 | Malawi At the Cross-Roads – Part 5 | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/09/11/malawi-at-the-cross-roads-part-5/ |
| 14. | 8 June 2013 | CSOs Petition To MPs Pushing for Joyce Banda's Signature On Table Mountain Declaration | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/06/08/csos-petition-to-mps-pushing-for-joyce-banda-signature-on-table-mountain-declarationfull-text-84898/ |
| 15. | 5 June 2013 | Civil Society Groups Calls for President Banda's Position on Minority Rights | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/06/05/civil-society-groups-call-for-president-bandas-position-on-minority-rights-46053/ |
| 16. | 30 March 2013 | Malawi "Wobbles Under Joyce Banda" | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/03/30/malawi-wobbles-under-joyce-banda-44413/ |
| 17. | 7 January 2013 | Activist Bitter with JB's Latest Stand on Gay Rights: Bible talks about life in Heaven, we talk about life on earth- Undule Mwakasungula | http://www.malawivoice.com/2013/01/07/activist-bitter-with-jbs-latest-stand-on-gay-rights-bible-talks-about-life-in-heaven-we-are-talking-about-life-on-earth-undule-mwakasungula-66425/ |

Maravipost Online Media House

| No. | Date | Article | WEB ADDRESS |
|-----|-----------------|---|---|
| 1. | 8 December 2013 | CHRR: Nelson Mandela, a self-less Human Rights Defender Worth Emulating | http://www.maravipost.com/scope/announcements/5048-chrr-nelson-mandela,-a-self-less-human-rights-defender-worth-emulating.html |
| 2. | 9 August 2013 | Malawi’s rights groups condemns Peter Mutharika’s ‘tough talk’ on Malawi /Tanzania Lake dispute | http://www.maravipost.com/national/politics/4293-malawi-rights-group-condemns-peter-mutharika%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%98tough-talk%E2%80%99-on-malawi-tanzania-lake-dispute.html |
| 3. | 11 April 2013 | Malawi’s Electoral Body announces its choice of 2014 Civic, Voter Education | |

Nation Publications Limited (Nation Online)

By virtue of having both Online and Print outlet, Nation Publication Limited (NPL) cross post online articles that appears in its printed newspaper. However, sometimes articles that have been published in newspapers does not cross posted on the online outlet. As such, most of CHRR’s advocacy work were only featured in NPL Online and few cross posted in the sister papers (Nation On Sunday, The Nation and Weekend Nation).

Nevertheless, there is a need for an extensive research for other articles which appeared in NPL newspapers but were not cross posted in the Online outlet. It is clear that a number of them were not featured on the Online including the Minority Forum which is covered on a weekly basis in Weekend Nation.

The following were the articles relating to CHRR’s advocacy work which were featured in Nation Publications Limited (NPL):

| No. | Date | Article | Web Address |
|-----|-------------------|---|---|
| 1. | 31 December 2013 | CHRR faults JB on Gender Remark | http://mwnation.com/chrr-faults-jb-gender-remark/ |
| 2. | 10 November 2013 | Aid Suspension Inevitable – CHRR, CEDEP | http://mwnation.com/aid-suspension-inevitable-chrr-cedep/ |
| 3. | 10 October 2013 | JB missed Opportunity to Reclaim public trust | http://mwnation.com/jb-missed-opportunity-reclaim-public-trust-chrr-cedep/ |
| 4. | 25 September 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP want UN, AU to re-work Anti-Terrorism war | http://mwnation.com/chrr-cedep-want-un-au-rework-anti-terrorism-war/ |
| 5. | 4 June 2013 | CHRR, CEDEP fault government on sexual minorities | http://mwnation.com/chrr-cedep-fault-govt-on-sexual-minorities/ |
| 6. | 12 April 2013 | Chasowa murder reported to ACHPR | http://mwnation.com/chrr-reports-chasowa-murder-to-achpr/ |

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| 7. | 3 April 2013 | Women Participation vital in development - CHRR | http://mwnation.com/women-participation-vital-in-development-chrr/ |
| 8. | 26 February 2013 | CHRR gives community workers 40 Bicycles | http://mwnation.com/chrr-gives-community-workers-40-bicycles/ |
| 9. | 22 February 2013 | CHRR gives 40 bicycles to Salima Community groups | http://mwnation.com/chrr-gives-40-bicycles-to-salima-community-groups/ |
| 10. | 7 February 2013 | CHRR launches project to strengthen education in Malawi | http://mwnation.com/chrr-launches-project-to-strengthen-education-in-malawi/ |
| 11. | 15 December 2013 | Neither boy nor girl | http://mwnation.com/neither-boy-girl/ |
| 12. | 30 December 2013 | Drugs situation better but problems remain | http://mwnation.com/drugs-situation-better-problems-remain/ |
| 13. | 6 November 2013 | Activists blame government on healthcare | http://mwnation.com/activists-blame-govt-health-care/ |
| 14. | 24 October 2013 | African Commission Defers Malawi Report to April | http://mwnation.com/african-commission-defers-malawi-report-april/ |
| 15. | 20 October 2013 | Sheikh backs gay rights | http://mwnation.com/sheikh-backs-gay-rights/ |
| 16. | 3 October 2013 | Kapito says President should resign | http://mwnation.com/kapito-says-president-resign/ |
| 17. | 3 October 2013 | Malawi CSOs give JB 30 days to act on governance lapse, call for tax halt | http://mwnation.com/malawi-csos-give-jb-30-days-act-governance-lapses-call-tax-halt/ |
| 18. | 27 September 2013 | Government urged to probe Xenophobic attacks on Malawians in Tanzania | http://mwnation.com/govt-urged-probe-xenophobic-attacks-malawians-tz/ |
| 19. | 16 September 2013 | More pressure on JB's assets issue | http://mwnation.com/pressure-jbs-assets-issue/ |
| 20. | 1 September 2013 | Coal miner, villagers sign MOU for resettlement | http://mwnation.com/coal-miner-villagers-sign-mou-resettlement/ |
| 21. | 20 July 2013 | JB promises no repeat of July 20 killings | http://mwnation.com/jb-promises-no-repeat-of-july-20-killings/ |
| 22. | 9 July 2013 | Stakeholders say more effort needed in HIV, TB fight | http://mwnation.com/stakeholders-say-more-effort-needed-in-hiv-tb-fight/ |
| 23. | 16 June, 2013 | 'Satan source of same sex marriages' | http://mwnation.com/satan-source-of-same-sex-marriages/ |
| 24. | 16 June, 2013 | Lipenga disowns travel budget | http://mwnation.com/lipenga-disowns-travel-budget/ |
| 25. | 11 June, 2013 | Government told to trim Travel budget FISP | http://mwnation.com/govt-told-to-trim-travel-budget-fisp/ |
| 26. | 10 June 2013 | CSOs petition parliament over health budget, media freedom | http://mwnation.com/csos-petition-parliament-over-health- |

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|-----|-------------------|--|---|
| | | | budget-media-freedom/ |
| 27. | 19 May 2013 | Religious leaders trained on minority rights | http://mwnation.com/religious-leaders-trained-on-minority-rights/ |
| 28. | 14 January, 2013 | Villagers, Malawi Police Crash | http://mwnation.com/villagers-malawi-police-clash/ |
| 29. | 22 September 2013 | There is a ‘Bingu’ in Joyce Banda | http://mwnation.com/bingu-joyce-banda/ |

Blantyre Newspapers Limited (BNL) (bnltimes online)

Most of CHRR advocacy work which was published in Blantyre Newspapers Limited (BNL) brands (Daily Times, Malawi News and Sunday Times) did not appear on their bnltimes online. This includes a news story extracted from CHRR’s assessment Joyce Banda 20 in office as well an exclusive interview CHRR Acting Executive Director Timothy Mtambo gave Malawi News Hardtalk on matters relating to the cashgate just to mention a few.

The following are CHRR’s advocacy work captured in the below news stories:

| No. | Date | Article | Web Address |
|-----|-------------------|--|---|
| 1 | 18 November 2013 | CHRR in K50 million Health Project in Mangochi | http://timesmediamw.com/chrr-in-k50m-health-project-in-mangochi/ |
| 2 | 12 November 2013 | Malawi NGOs want government to declare crisis over donor aid | http://timesmediamw.com/malawi-ngos-want-govt-to-declare-crisis-over-donor-aid/ |
| 3 | 3 October 2013 | Solve Problems in 30 days says Malawi CSOs | http://timesmediamw.com/solve-problems-in-30-days-says-malawis-csos/ |
| 4 | 19 September 2013 | Malawi Chiefs fault parties conduct on rallies | http://timesmediamw.com/malawi-chiefs-fault-parties-conduct-on-rallies/ |
| 5 | 27 August 2013 | Activists pen US foundation over Bishop TENGATENGA’s jobless | http://timesmediamw.com/activists-pen-us-foundation-over-bishop-tengatengas-job-loss/ |
| 6 | 10 January 2014 | Malawi CSOs ask Joyce Banda to focus on critical issues | http://timesmediamw.com/malawis-csos-ask-joyce-banda-to-focus-on-critical-issues/ |

Zodiak Online

Just as it was with BNL, Several CHRR related news stories which appeared on Zodiak Broadcasting Station in Blantyre were not featured on its Zodiak Online.

The following were featured:

| No. | Date | Article | Web Address |
|------------|-------------------|---|---|
| 1. | 16 September 2013 | Pressure mounts for JB to make her asset public | http://zodiakmalawi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7043:pressure-mounts-for-jb-to-make-her-assets-public&catid=1:latest-news&Itemid=109 |
| 2. | 14 May 2013 | Remembering Kamuzu a Hero or Villain? | http://zodiakmalawi.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6732:remembering-kamuzu-a-hero-or-villain&catid=55:features&Itemid=113 |

MBC only covered part of CHRR-CEDEP joint statement on its news bulletin as well as its online publication. Access to Information Bill Vital Malawi Broadcasting Corporation 1 November 2013

5.1.1.2 CHRR website, face book and twitter pages

In the year under review our website was redesigned and the address has been changed to www.chrrmw.org. The website is now up and running and is being updated regularly. Since it is an interactive website, a total of 6,000 comments were posted. Besides, CHRR also continued to use its Facebook and Twitter pages which help us to interact with other stakeholders and the community at large. So far CHRR has 588 likes which is an increase from last year's 213.

5.2.0 Freedom House Human Rights Documentation Project

The Centre for human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) with financial support from the Freedom House continued with the implementation of a project titled “Enhancing Human Rights Monitoring, Reporting and Documentation”.

Since its inception the project has seen an improvement in the monitoring and documentation of human rights cases through the modern technology such as the Ushahidi and Huridocs OpenEsys platforms.

The cases registered through the aforesaid platforms proved handy in forming the evidence-based advocacy strategy in 2013.

The Ushahidi Platform which is hosted free of charge was the first to be set up and so far over 89 cases mostly those to do with domestic violence have been posted. This can be accessed on this address: <https://chrrmw.crowdmap.com>

5.3.0 DOCUMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY –THE BENETECH PROJECT

In 2012, CHRR received funding from Benetech Human Rights Program to increase its capacity on systematic and secure human rights violation documentation, monitoring, and reporting to enable CHRR to build a strong evidence base of human rights violations on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation within its community and to utilize this evidence for effective advocacy and social change efforts. In 2013, the following were some of the milestones achieved:

- ***Martus configuration and Customisation***

Martus – Greek for ‘witness’ – is an open source information management tool developed by Benetech to assist human rights organizations in collecting, safeguarding, and organizing sensitive information. In 2013, the tool was configured and made operational in all desktop computers used by documentation officers.

- ***Orientation for program staff on Martus***

An in-house orientation workshop was also organized for all program staff within the organisation aimed at orienting the staff on the use of the Martus tool in documenting LGBTI and other human rights violations.

- ***Case documentation and advanced data management***

Using the martus tool, CHRR documented 26 cases of ***LGBTI human rights violation***. The cases concerned physical assaults, threats of violence and forced eviction.

6.1.0 ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

The year 2013 witnessed CHRR engage in advocacy and network activities at national, regional, continental and global level. Below are some of the avenues CHRR used its advocacy initiative and networking:

6.1.1 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, CHRR applauded government for appearing before the Commission to present its report on the state of human rights in Malawi.

6.2.0 SADC Human Rights Defenders Forum

CHRR also attended the SADC Human Rights Defenders Forum meeting where CHRR sits on the board. The meeting sought to appreciate the steps taken in consolidating security for human rights defenders in the SADIC region. The Executive Director, Timothy Mtambo, represented the Centre at the meeting.

6.3.1 Participation at the Open Government Partnership meeting

In the year 2013, CHRR also attended the Open Government Partnership in the UK. The meeting sought to bring together members from various **countries** to discuss championing open, accountable and transparent governments in their respective countries. CHRR Information and Documentation Officer represented the institution. The meeting led CHRR to mobilising fellow civil society organisations in engaging the Malawi government to implement an open government system. Government indicated to adopt most of the systems and CHRR is closely monitoring the progress now.

7.1.0 PARALEGAL DEPARTMENT

In the year 2013, Center for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) through its paralegal department received a number of complaints from different categories, both at organisational and District level. At district level some cases were registered regarding freedom house, Learn Without Fear and NCA projects. Cases received include labour, rape, defilement, early pregnancy, property grabbing, corporal punishment both in school and at home, witchcraft, gender and domestic based violence, cheating husbands/ wives and land, just to mention a few. At organisation level complaints were lodged in person, through letters and phone calls. While at district level complaints were registered through CHRR District Coordinators (DCs) and Community Based Educators (CBEs).

Below is the synopsis of how cases were handled.

CHRR received 31 labour cases from both the formal and informal sector (house workers and company workers), from January to September 2013, 13 cases were received from the formal sector and 10 cases from the informal sector. 13 cases were referred to Labour Office for further redress, 10 cases were handled completely by CHRR and 4 cases were referred back to their employees for further discussions. 4 cases were referred to Industrial Relations Court.

CHRR received 7 cases on property grabbing, 5 cases were referred to other institutions, and 2 cases were handled by CHRR.

CHRR received 12 land cases on land dispute: 8 cases were referred to the District offices, and 2 cases were referred to the T/A and the other 2 were referred to courts.

CHRR received 17 cases on domestic violence. The majority of the cases were on multiple partners, where by women were complaining against their husbands having extra marital affairs and also issues of divorce and child maintenance. 7 cases were referred to courts for further redress and 1 case was referred to marriage counsellors (ankhoswe) and 9 were handled by CHRR.

CHRR received 22 cases on child abuse. 6 cases were referred to social welfare offices and 7 cases were referred to courts and 9 cases got handled by CHRR.

CHRR received 10 cases on compensation. Clients complained on being wounded in the course of duty, and others were involved in car accidents. 6 cases were referred to insurance offices for further redress. 4 cases were handled by CHRR.

CHRR received a case on corruption and it was referred to Anti-Corruption Bureau for further redress.

CHRR received 2 cases on chieftaincy where clients were complaining on their misunderstandings and disagreements regarding the position of chief. The-cases were referred to the District Commissioners offices for further redress.

CHAPTER THREE

8.1 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

In the just ending year, Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation as part of institutional capacity development sponsored some members of staff to undergo some trainings related to their work. For instance, Patson Gondwe underwent a training course on Social Accountability Monitoring at Rhodes University in South Africa while Christina Nthenda was part of ARASA exchange programme in Namibia. Makhumbo R. Munthali also completed a course in Gender Based Violence and human rights with Global Human Rights Leadership Training Institute (GHRLTI).

3.2 NETWORKING WITH OTHER CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

In the spirit of solidarity and support, CHRR’s wider efforts in achieving its mission objectives continued in 2012 by cordially working with other partners. These networks included those-at the domestic level, the Human Rights Consultative Committee (HRCC), the Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN), Civil Society Mining Network, 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 (HRDs). CHRR also continued collaborating with various civil society institutions and organisations, and faith-based organisations, such as 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 National Media Institute of Southern Africa (NAMISA), Malawi chapter, in the promotion of media capacity in effective human rights reporting. CHRR also happens to be a member of Non Governmental Organisation-- Gender Coordination Network NGO-GCN, a grouping of NGOs concerned with gender mainstreaming and has been vibrant in the 50-50 women representation campaign in decision making positions. In addition to net-working with other organisations locally, CHRR also maintained close, meaningful 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 are:

- International Network Against Small Arms – (IANSA)
- Amnesty International - (AI)
- Institute for Security Studies of South Africa (ISS)
- Zimbabwe Crisis Coalition –(ZCC)
- Cluster Munitions Coalition –(CMC)
- Aids and Rights 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 (HRW)
- 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 this regard CHRR through the

Executive Director was appointed in the Special Law Commission to review the outdated Firearms Act.

CHRR also worked with Ministry of Finance in a bid to set up the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI). 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 on matters of women empowerment, Ministry of Defence on small arms and landmines. Other entities include Malawi Law Commission, Office of Ombudsman, Malawi Human Rights Commission and Anti Corruption Bureau.

Under ARASA country programme CHRR worked closely with Department of Nutrition and HIV AIDS on the development of HIV AIDS related stigma guidelines- an initiative developed under the programme. Under the same programme, CHRR trained commissioners of Malawi Police and Prisons.

In the same year, CHRR was an active member of the National Taskforce on Universal Periodic Review (UPR) which is coordinated by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Human Rights unit.

RELATIONS WITH DONOR COMMUNITY AND OTHER FUNDING AGENCIES

The organisation has been fortunate to have co-operating partners and donors who have kept faith with 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 their financial support:

Open Society Institute of South Africa - (OSISA)

The Royal Norwegian Government, through the Norwegian Church Aid - (NCA)

The Royal Norwegian Embassy

Humanist Institute for Cooperation for Developing Countries - (HIVOS)

Steven Lewis Foundation of Canada

Plan Malawi

Democracy Consolidation Program – (DCP)

Southern Africa Resources Watch

Open Society Foundation

Freedom House

IPAS

United Nations Population Fund and European Union

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 Four AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL REPORT Finance and administration take care

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|--|--|----------------------------|
| MWENELUPEMBE MHANGO & COMPANY Certified Public Accountants | Tel: +265 1 772 456 | Offices in: |
| | Fax: +265 1 771 831 | Blantyre, Lilongwe & Mzuzu |
| | St Martin's House PO Box 30808 Lilongwe 3 Malawi | |
| | wbm@mwanelupembe.mw | |

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION (CHRR) ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

Scope

We have audited the financial statements of Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation (CHRR) as set out on pages 3 to 13 which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2013, consolidated statement of comprehensive income, and consolidated statement of cash flows for the period then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error. In making those risks assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedure that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for purpose of the expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis of our opinion.



Partners: W B Mwenelupembe FCCA, CPAM; C L Mhango FCCA, CPAM

Audit opinion

In our opinion:

- The financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the projects as at 31 December 2013 and of the resources and expenditure for the year ended on that date.
- All funds have been used in accordance with the conditions of the Project Agreement and only for purposes for which the financing was provided.
- 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.
- 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
- The disbursements are supported by adequate documentation and receipts and payments are fairly and accurately recorded.
- An appropriate management structure, internal control and record keeping system have been maintained and can be relied upon.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Date: 17 March 2014
Lilongwe, Malawi.

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION (CHRR) 3

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013

| | NOTE | 2013 MK | 2012 MK |
|---------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| Non-current assets | | | |
| Property and equipment | 3 | 14,930,930 | 15,337,206 |
| Current assets | | | |
| Account receivables | 4 | 615,000 | 247,500 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 5 | 24,165,222 | 73,053,672 |
| | | 24,780,222 | 73,301,172 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 39,711,151 | 88,638,377 |
| RESERVES AND LIABILITIES | | | |
| Reserves | | | |
| Capital reserves | 7 | 35,881,446 | 35,049,188 |
| Accumulated (deficit)/surplus | | (22,824,233) | 27,556,119 |
| | | 13,057,213 | 62,605,307 |
| Current liabilities | | | |
| Account payables | 6 | 26,653,938 | 26,033,072 |
| | | 26,653,938 | 26,033,072 |
| TOTAL RESERVES AND LIABILITIES | | 39,711,151 | 88,638,378 |

These financial statements were approved for issue by board of trustees on 19-03-2014
and signed on its behalf by:


CHAIRMAN


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND REHABILITATION (CHRR) 5

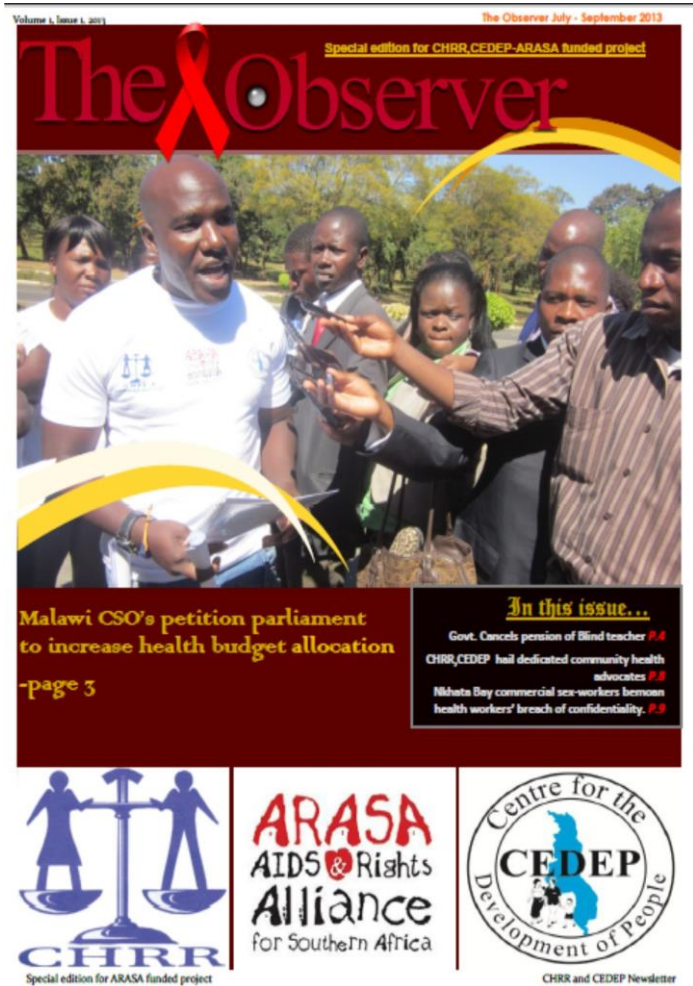
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2013

| | NOTE | 2013 MK | 2012 MK |
|---|------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Cash flow from operating activities | | | |
| (Deficit)/surplus for the year | | (19,949,073) | 29,689,248 |
| Adjustment for: | | | |
| Depreciation | 3 | 1,238,534 | 1,155,308 |
| Prior year adjustment | | (29,599,020) | 11,388,720 |
| | | (48,309,559) | 42,233,276 |
| Working capital movement | | | |
| (Increase)/decrease in receivable | | (367,500) | (60,834) |
| Increase/(decrease) in payables | | 620,867 | 24,639,316 |
| Cash generated from operations | | 253,367 | 24,578,482 |
| Net cash flow from operating activities | | (48,056,192) | 66,811,758 |
| Cash flow from investing activities | | | |
| Acquisition of non-current assets | | (832,258) | (5,694,360) |
| Net cash flow from Investing activities | | (48,888,450) | 61,117,398 |
| Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents during the year | | (48,888,450) | 61,117,398 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at: beginning of the year | | 73,053,672 | 11,936,274 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at: end of the year | | 24,165,222 | 73,053,672 |

CHAPTER FIVE

CHRR Publication

In the year 2013, one of the notable publications by CHRR was the ARASA newsletter magazine. The magazine addressed a number of issues ranging from human rights, HIV and AIDS.





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Malawi.

CHRR 2013 Annual Report



CHRR