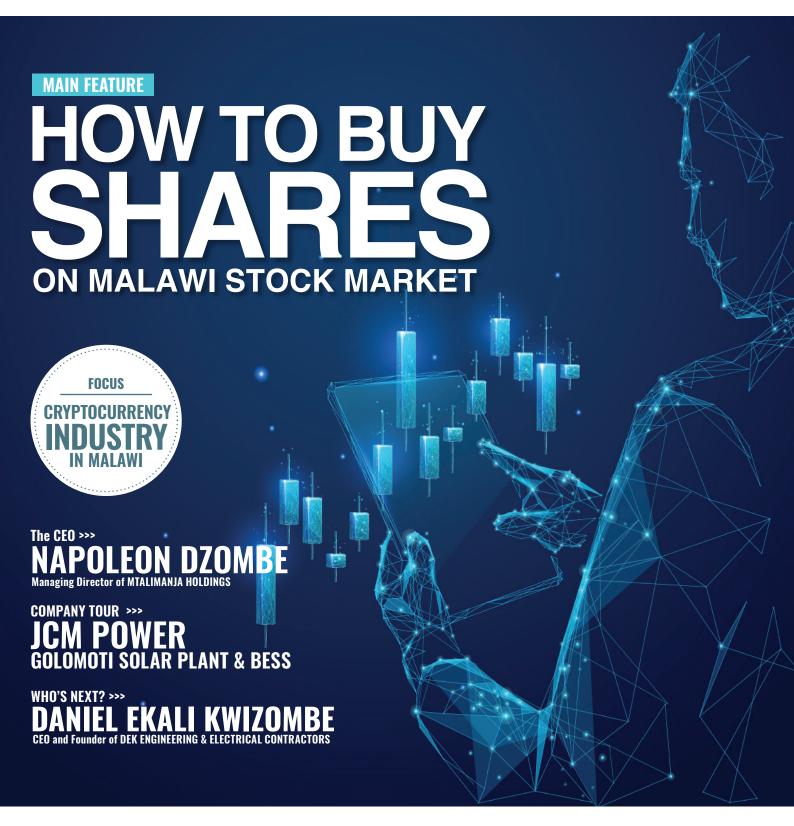
BUSINESSPIUS

ONLINE VERSION

MALAWI

THE MAGAZINE FOR BUSINESS LEADERS AND THOSE WHO AIM FOR IT



BUSINESS - MAI AWI

THE MAGAZINE FOR BUSINESS LEADERS AND THOSE WHO AIM FOR IT





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Business PLUS Malawi



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Things Only Found in Phalombe District

Suits of The Month

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Investments are very essential to everyone; hence, people are always saying You have to invest your money'. People are concerned about what they can and should invest in and how much they should invest. There are various attractive places to invest, including real estate, fixed deposits, bonds, and numerous other options.

In 2012 or so, my friend and I were highly interested in investing in the stock market. We didn't even know the Malawi Stock Exchange (MSE) existed back then; we only knew that individuals bought shares of firms, which made them part owners of that company. We began looking into how we might go about purchasing stock in a firm we liked. Unfortunately, owing to a lack of information and the ability to properly comprehend the procedures, the dream perished, and we also lacked the necessary funds. I wish the old me had read this third issue of Business PLUS, which focuses on how to acquire shares on the Malawi stock exchange.

In this issue, we also spoke with serial entrepreneur Napoleon Dzombe of Mtalimanja Holdings as well as Daniel Kwizombe, a progressive bulb manufacturer. Apart from the aforesaid, we bring you more informative content.

Ladies and gentlemen, enjoy!



Thandizo Mbeza

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HOW TO BUY SHARES ON MALAWI STOCK MARKET

A lot of business-minded people will advise you to invest your money. You can invest your money in different ways, be it farming or starting your own company. There is also the option of investing in already established companies by buying shares. But buying shares seems like rocket science especially if you don't even know what the Malawi Stock Exchange is. In this article, we give you a step-by-step process of how you can buy shares and important insights about the Malawi stock market.



Malawi Stock Exchange

The Malawi Stock Exchange (MSE) was established in 1994 to provide a link between financial raisers and financial suppliers as well as provide a marketplace for traders of listed securities amongst many other functions. The MSE is where all the shares of publicly listed companies are traded. MSE has a website that has market related information such as daily market reports, announcements from companies, current share prices of listed companies, and numerous other important things. The Malawi stock market has a limited number of securities with only 16 publicly listed companies. The market also has few traders compared to the population of Malawi. Although it is a relatively small market, MSE has a worldclass trading engine that was introduced in 2018 hence trading is not done manually.

Mainboard Listing Requirements

- The company must be duly incorporated.
- The company must be a public company in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013.
- The company's securities must be fully paid up and freely transferable.
- The company must have a minimum subscribed capital of at least MK400 million.
- The company must have not less than 20,000,000 equity shares in issue.
- The company must have a satisfactory profit history for the preceding two years.
- The company's securities must be fully underwritten (optional).
- The number of public shareholders of listed securities shall at least be 300 for equity shares; 25 for preference shares and 10 for debentures.
- At least 25% of the issued capital for which a listing is being sought must be offered to the public.
- The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company must comply with the requirements of the Malawi Stock Exchange Listings Requirements and the Compa-nies Act.

How to buy shares



First you have to choose a stockbroker with whom you will open a share trading account. There are currently three stockbrokers in Malawi.



The stockbroker will give you an account opening form that you will have to fill out. Note that opening a share trading account is free of charge. The following documents are also required:

- Copy of ID (E.g. National ID, Passport)
- Payslip or bank statement
- Copy of business registration certificate (if applicable)

You will also be asked to provide a will. If you don't have a will, you will be required to fill out the beneficiary form.





Now you can deposit money into the share trading account. After you deposit money into the account, you can instruct the broker to buy or sell shares on your behalf on the Malawi Stock Exchange. The minimum amount of shares you can buy is 1.

Value of share	Commission fee		
K0 - K50,000	2%		
K50,000 - K100,000	5%		
Above K100,000	1%		

There is a commission charged on the shares you are trading.





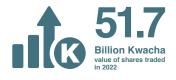
You can monitor your investment by following the operations of the company you have shares in as well as observing the economy and other things that can influence the stock market. Stockbrokers will also provide you with guidance on trading but this is solely on your goals. Stockbrokers also analyse the stock market and provide their clients with weekly, annual, and biannual reports.

COMPANY NAME	LISTING PRICE	2020 PRICE	2021 PRICE	2022 PRICE	CURRENT PRICE	DATE LISTED
Airtel Malawi	12.69	27.98	40.00	56.64	85.54	24 February 2020
Blantyre Hotels	0.84	12.94	11.01	10.97	10.96	25 March 1997
FDH Bank	10.00	14.45	15.81	17.37	64.99	03 August 2020
FMB Capital Holdings	45.01	22.04	80.00	110.86	163.11	18 September 2017
ICON Properties	8.75	12.27	12.89	11.95	11.26	21 January 2019
ILLOVO Sugar Malawi	2.25	80.48	300	540.00	1,121.27	10 November 1997
MPICO	2.25	21.00	20.70	20.64	20.58	12 November 2007
National Bank of Malawi	4.00	650.00	810.12	1542.05	2,000.26	21 August 2000
National Investments Trust	2.65	94.95	94.98	124.99	300.00	21 March 2005
NBS Bank	2.60	20.00	22.90	34.00	94.28	25 June 2007
NICO Holdings	2.00	52.00	55.00	60.00	164.99	11 November 1996
Old Mutual Limited	1,580.22	2,199.98	2,099.99	985.00	1,127.51	26 June 2018
Press Corporation	14.89	1,336.34	1,900.00	2,181.37	2,181.28	09 September 2009
Standard Bank	3.25	910.00	1,400.00	2,000.16	2,250.11	29 June 1998
Sunbird	2.60	105.00	90.01	92.06	138.00	21 August 2002
Telekom Networks Malawi	2.00	19.23	22.92	14.00	27.14	03 November 2008

As of close-of-market on 12 May 2023. All prices in Malawi Kwacha. Price for the years 2020 to 2022 is as of close of market on 31 December in each respective year.

From the table, every listed company's share price increased tremendously from the day of listing to date. The top gainers for the year 2022 were National Bank of Malawi, Illovo Sugar Malawi, NBS Bank, Standard Bank, and Airtel Malawi in that particular order. Out of the 16 publicly listed companies, 11 were gainers. Currently, traders are interested in investing in banks and telecommunication companies as they are making gains as evidenced by the 2022 annual report. When a company is making gains, it also means the shareholders are making gains. For instance, during FDH Bank's initial public offering, its share price was K10 but now as of 18 May 2023, its share price is K64.95. This means that if you bought shares then and decide to sell now you will make a profit of K54.95. However, you have to keep in mind the value of the Kwacha changes and has fluctuated over the years. For instance, in 2005 when National Investments Trusts was being listed, 1 US dollar was equal to K108.90 while now it is equal to K1024.





Before you make a decision to buy shares of a certain company, you have to understand what the company you are investing in does, you also have to understand earnings per share and numerous other technicalities that your stockbroker will assist you with. Most importantly, you have to be clear about your investment goals; are you investing for short-term yield or long-term yield? For instance, if you are investing for the short term, you can consider companies that have high dividend yield, and if it's for the long term you can consider buying shares in companies that have the potential to grow but have low share prices. You need to also understand how the economy works and how it affects the operations of companies so that you make informed decisions when trading. Interestingly, you can also open an account for your children so that when they are of age they will have accumulated a significant amount of shares and the share price would also be higher depending on company performance.

Benefits of buying shares

When you buy shares you become a part owner of that company and you receive dividend s at the end of each financial year. You will also be involved in making decisions for the company.

When a company is doing well the share price increases, meaning that you can later sell your shares at a profit.

You can use your shares as collateral to obtain a loan from financial institutions

The Future of the Malawi stock market

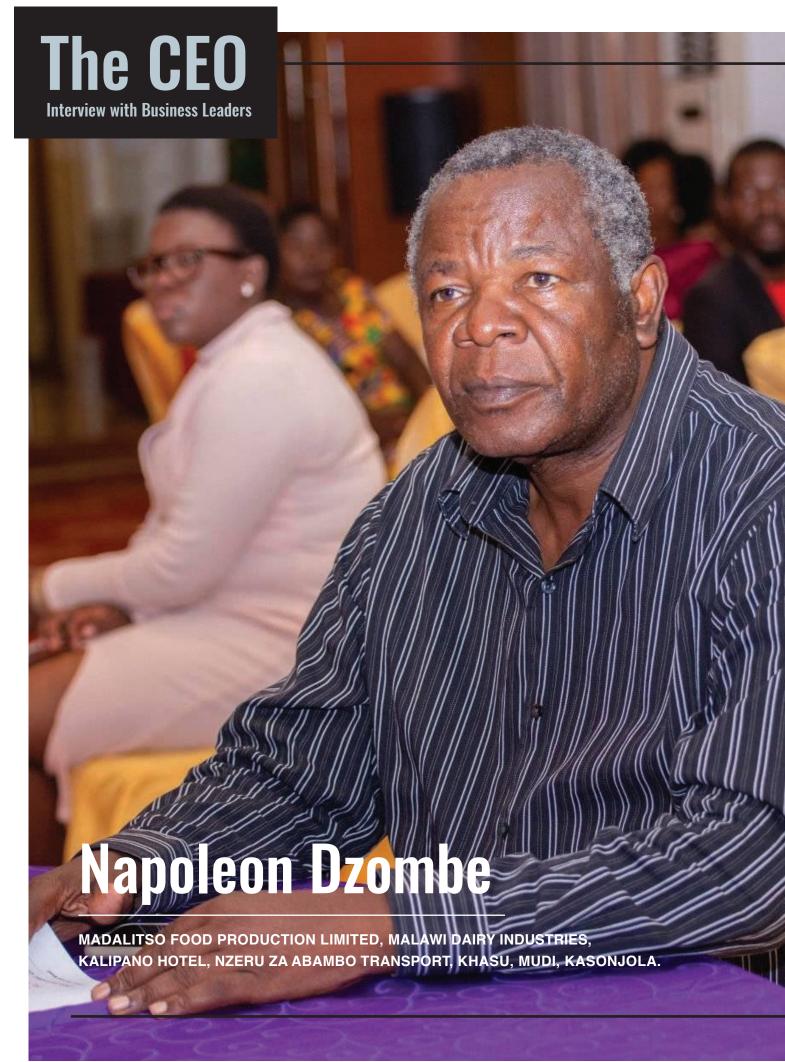
As earlier stated, the Malawi Stock market is relatively small. However, MSE and stockbrok-ers are devising ways to enhance the stock market. MSE continues to devise innovative ways to bring more companies onto the stock market as well as sensitising the public on equity trad-ing so as to have more traders. MSE has a chatbot where information about investing can easi-ly be found. You only have to save the number 0887249784 and send a 'hi' and follow the instructions that will be sent. MSE is still enhancing this platform to ensure people have the information that they need right at their fingertips. One of the stockbrokers, Continental Capital Limited plans to fully go digital. The Blantyre-based company wants to introduce a digital platform. where clients can make transactions online in the comfort of their homes. Continental Capital also wants to reach out to a lot of people so that the masses know the importance of investing in the stock market.



Tafadzwa Mwawa, Equity Dealer, Continental Capital Limited



Kelline Kondowe, Chief Operating Officer, Malawi Stock Exchange





66 YOU NEED TO THINK IF THIS 99 **BUSINESS FELL WHAT WILL I DO**

Please tell us about vourself.

My name is Napoleon Dzombe, I was born in Dowa T/A Kayembe in Mtalimanja Village in 1958. I did my school at Dedza Secondary School where I started my business.

What was your first business?

I started doing business when I was very young when I was in school because the challenges I faced in paying fees. I started thinking of ways of finding fees to continue my education. Initially, I sold sieves and I was able to pay for my form two fees around 1978. I made money that was more than the salary of a teacher then. Then I started wondering if it was necessary to continue school when I can make such money in a short period. My first business was selling salt which I was exchanging with groundnuts. I sold the groundnuts, then bought fertilizer and maize seed. In the first year of harvest, I harvested more than 66 oxcarts of maize. Then I decided to start farming barley tobacco, I harvested 29 bales in the first year. I sold all the bales for K1,700 which was a lot of money then. Then I used the money to register a farm which I called 'Nzeru za Bambo'

farm. After registering the farm, I harvested 163 bales and then further established other farms in Nkhotakota and other areas. We continued and reached a point where we were harvesting 41 thousand bales. I started wondering what made Europe be successful than Africa, Then I travelled to Europe where I spent 45 days. I learned that people there add value to products.

Kalipano Hotel recently commenced operations, tell us more about this resort.

The hotel is in Dowa and is on the bank of Kang'oma River. In 2005, we started constructing a dam, we have been slowly expanding the dam up to now where the dam is like a small lake. Our plan was f or people to be visiting the dam to drive boats and do fishing. I started wondering where these people would sleep or eat when they come to do these activities. That's when I thought of the idea of building a hotel. That's why I built the hotel.

What are some of the unique facilities at this resort?

There is a floating restaurant where you can enjoy a meal while moving on water. We also

have two double-decker boats as well as speed boats. We will soon have fountains and river tubes where people can have fun.

What motivates you to do business in different sectors?

What makes me have a lot of ideas concerning businesses is that things change each and every day. For instance, people to the tobacco clung business, and when the market of tobacco fell they also fell. When you cling to a business and it phases out, you also phase out. That's why most businesses stay only for 5 or 10 years. So, diversifying your business

ventures is the same way you change gears when driving a car, you don't just use one gear when driving a car, you change depending on the road. If your business idea is not in line with the current business environment the business fails, so you need to adjust your business in such cases. If you want to stay in business, you need to think about how you will maintain your business in the next 5, 10, or 20 years. You need to think if this business fell what will I do, therefore you need to think about fixed assets. So, if other businesses fell. fixed assets will help. This is what motivates me not to have one business idea.

What is your proudest achievement?

I am very proud to see children who would have dropped out of school being able to go to school, a lot of people who have business ideas being helped to start small businesses and when I see people being happy, it also makes me happy.

What are some of the challenges you have faced as a business person?

biggest challenge government policies, some of the policies are very prohibitive. For example, if someone wants to export goods it means that person will bring foreign currency into the country and









Picture Credit: FAO

that person is essential in boosting a country's economy, but to export goods you will need a lot of licenses while when you are importing they will only ask for an invoice. Then I wonder why they made expenditure easier while income-generating activities are harder to pursue. I don't know why it is like this. This makes it difficult for honest people to export goods.

What are you planning for the next 5 years?

I am thinking of how to help the youths that have nothing to do so that they can start businesses. All in all, I have minimised the problems I have, so, now I want to create space for the next generation

to be empowered so that they can also be where I am. We have also established several factories that we have not opened, when we commence operations we will be processing groundnuts, soya, maize, rice, and fruits so that we should create a market for people to sell their produce. We will also be producing animal feed to enhance animal farming in the country. My slogan is Grow big or go home.

CEO'S PRINCIPLE'S

>>> Honesty

What you say and what you do should be the same.

»» Pay back money in time

Differentiate between your money and other people's money to have a good reputation

>>> Be courageous

Believe that everything is possible

>>> Good personality

When you have a good personality, people respect you

All these build trust and when you are trusted, your business will be successful.





55 THE PLANT SELLS THE ELECTRICITY TO ESCOM **99**



About Golomoti ICM Power

JCM Power is a renewable energy Independent Power Producer operating clean energy projects in South & Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan The company has plants in Malawi, Africa. Nigeria, Pakistan, and Tanzania with over 200MW of high-quality wind and solar assets. In Malawi, JCM has the Salima Solar plant as well as the Golomoti Solar plant, and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)

Golomoti Solar and BESS is located in Malawi's central region, approximately 100km southeast of Lilongwe. The plant was developed by JCM Solar Corporation and is co-owned by JCM Power and InfraCo Africa. Civil works on the solar plant began in early 2021 and were completed in December of the same year. The plant sells the electricity to the Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi (ESCOM)

TOUR GUIDE



Joshua Banda Site Supervistor

"We want to extend this plant from 20MW to 30MW, so in the next two years we should have that 10MW"

Golomoti JCM Power

[Established]

[Total Number of Staff] 28 (19 workers from the community & 9 corporate staff)

[Phone] +26599 366 3295 / +26588 112 6340

[Email] jbanda@jcmpower.ca [Website] https://www.jcmpower.ca



Bifacial Crystalline Solar PV Modules

The Bifacial Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels absorb sunlight directly using the solar cells on the front of the panel. The back of the panel absorbs the portion of sunlight that bounces around.











Tracking Control Panel

The Tracking Control Panel is an essential device that works hand-in-hand with the tracking system antenna. This gives commands to the tracking system antenna located with each panel to tilt the panel, for instance, every 15 minutes.



Tracking System

The Solar PV panels have single-axis trackers, a tracking system that automatically rotates the panel to ensure maximum sunlight. This receives commands from the tracking control panel which starts the motor and the panel rotates.





String Inverters

There are 100 inverters in the PV field, each inverter has a capacity of 250 kilowatts with 24 strings. Each string takes 28 panels. Therefore, one inverter takes 672 panels. The Inverter converts the direct current (DC) from the panels to alternating current (AC). The DC capacity is 1,500 volts which is inverted to 800 volts AC.











Power Transformer Kiosk

The 800 volts AC is taken to the step-up transformer. The transformer steps the voltage from 800 volts to 22KV. The 22KV goes to the substation.



BESS

The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is a system of lithium-ion batteries that is the first to be installed in sub-Saharan Africa. The BESS stores surplus energy during times of high production. The BESS dispatched 3MW-3h during the evening to ESCOM. The BESS is also used for solar smoothing and under-frequency support.

The BESS Consists of a 5MW - Power Conversion System (PCS) skid containing 1 x 6.3 MVA Transformer (0.69 / 22 kV) 4 x 1.25 MW Inverters and 10 MWh Battery System containing 3 x Battery Container units each with approximately 3.4 MWh of storage. The inverters convert DC to AC which then goes to a transformer that steps up the 800 volts to 22kv.









Common Bus Bar

The cable from the BESS transformer and the transformers in the PV field goes to the common bus bar. This is the point where current from the PV field and BESS transformer is collected and distributed. There is one cable here that goes to another step-up transformer.







Step-up Transformer

This transformer steps up 22kv to 132kv. Here the electricity is ready to be dispatched to the national grid via the ESCOM substation and transmission lines. At night, when the power plant needs electricity to run, this transformer becomes a step-down transformer for the plant to tap electricity from the ESCOM. During the day, the plant uses its own generated electricity



ESCOM Substation

The electricity is transmitted to the national grid via the ESCOM substation, ready to be used by the public.



Current transformers

The current transformer measures and monitors electric energy consumption. The use of current transformers in metering is extensive as it allows for the safe measurement of high currents in lines. Protecting instruments and the power grid.





Meteorogical Station

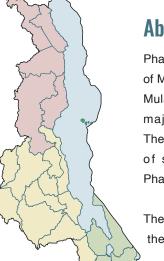


Things Only Found in HALOMBE DISTRICT

Land Area (Km²) / Rank Population (2018) / Rank

1.394km² / 25th in 28 districts 429,450 / 17th in 28 districts Population Density / Rank 308/km² persons/km² / 8th in 28 districts

Phalombe



About Phalombe

Phalombe is a district in the southern part of Malawi. The district was initially part of Mulanje and was split in June 1998. The major tribe in Phalombe is Lhomwe. There are Lhomwe people in other parts of south Malawi but most live in Phalombe.

The Lhomwe people are also famous for their traditional dances particularly the Tchopa dance. The weather in Phalombe is mostly dry and wet; with the wet season being mostly muggy and cloudy while PHALOMBE the dry season is mostly clear. is HERE!!





Picture Credit: Museums of Ma

What can we find? -



Pigeon Peas and Dried Cassava

There is a meal that combines Pigeon Peas and dried cassava. The Pigeon Peas and dried cassava is cooked together by the Lhomwe people and is a popular delicacy. Not only is it popular in Phalombe, but also in Mulanje, Thyolo, and Chiradzulu. The meal became popular because pigeon peas grow abundantly in the district.

Early Lhomwe people also opted to grow Cassava as it was the only crop that was not eaten and ransacked by elephants unlike maize. They later decided to dry the cassava for preservation. They decided to cook the dried cassava with pigeon peas to cut cooking time. They later realised that the meal could last them a long time when they ate it and also that the pigeon peas soup penetrated the insides of the dried cassava resulting in a delicious meal.

uits of The Mon



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[Shoes] Oxford
[Tie] N/A

MK280,000 MK35,000 MK130,000



Charles Martin Mhone Managing Partner of Maxson Arnold & Associates [Suit] Fabio Cassel [Shirt] Giorgio Armani [Shoes] Zara [Tie] The Perfectionist MK250,000 MK120,000



Emmanuel Banda @simba_shot_it CEO of Spotlight Photigraphy

[Suit] Tailormade [Shirt] MENGE [Shoes] John Foster [Tie] Aib

MK50,000 MK40,000 MK100,000 MK10,000





Tikhala Mbedza

[Position] Country Manager (Malawi) of Yellow Card

Email: hello@yellowcard.io website: www.yellowcard.io

INTERVIEW WITH TIKHALA MBEDZA

WE BELIEVE THAT CRYPTOCURRENCIES HAVE THE POTENTIAL 99 TO TRANSFORM THE FINANCIAL LANDSCAPE IN AFRICA

Can you give us a brief background of Yellow Card Services?

Yellow Card (YC) is a cryptocurrency exchange that was founded in 2016 with the mission of making cryptocurrencies more accessible to people in Africa. Our platform provides a fast, easy, and secure way for individuals to buy and sell cryptocurrencies using their local currency. The platform is centralised, which means users can only buy and sell cryptocurrencies to Yellow Card.

What is cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrency is digital money you can use to buy things online. It's different from regular money because it's not controlled by a bank or government. Instead, it's stored on a computer in a way that makes it safe and secure. Blockchain is the technology that makes cryptocurrency possible. Think of it like a big, public notebook where everyone can write down their transactions. Once something is written in the notebook, no one can change or erase it. This makes sure that everyone's transaction is safe and secure.

How can one buy and sell cryptocurrency on your platform?

To buy and sell cryptocurrency on our platform, users need to create an account and verify their identity. Once their account is set up, they can use their local currency (Malawi Kwacha) to buy cryptocurrencies such as Bitcoin or Ethereum and sell them for their local currency when they want to cash out. At the moment, in Malawi, we support bank and mobile money transfers.

How do people spend cryptocurrency? Can it be used in the physical world?

Cryptocurrency can be spent in the physical world, but it depends on where you are. Some merchants accept cryptocurrencies as payment, and there are also crypto debit cards that allow users to spend cryptocurrency like traditional currency. the However adoption cryptocurrencies as a form of payment is still limited in many parts of the world. Some common use cases across the continent include: paying for school fees, arbitrage trading for profit, paying and receiving salaries and remittances.

Where can people use cryptocurrency in Malawi?

Currently, the use of cryptocurrency in Malawi is still limited. However, Yellow Card is working to expand its services in the country and increase awareness about the benefits of using cryptocurrencies.

Is cryptocurrency better than a normal currency?

Whether cryptocurrency is better than traditional currency depends on the individual's needs and circumstances. Cryptocurrency offers greater security, but it can also be volatile and difficult to use in some cases. Cryptocurrencies are also not widely accepted as a form of payment, which can limit their usefulness in the physical world. However, cryptocurrencies can provide greater financial inclusion and access to financial services for people who may not have access to traditional banking services. Additionally, stablecoins, a type of cryptocurrency that is pegged to the value of a traditional currency, can offer a more stable alternative to

traditional currency in countries with volatile economies. Stablecoins can provide a reliable store of value and a means of exchange that is not subject to the same inflationary pressures as the local currency. This can be particularly important in countries where the national currency has been known to experience high levels of inflation and exchange rate volatility. Therefore, stablecoins can potentially offer a more stable and secure alternative to traditional currency in certain circumstances.

Are there any risks in buying cryptocurrency?

Yes, like any digital financial service, there are risks involved in buying cryptocurrency. The value cryptocurrencies can be volatile, and there is always the risk of fraud and hacking. It is important for individuals to do their research and take necessary precautions when buying and selling cryptocurrency. This includes using a reputable exchange like Yellow Card, securing their private keys, and using two-factor authentication.

What are the charges for using your platform?

We strive to keep our fees competitive and transparent. Users can see the fees associated with each transaction before they confirm it. Zero Deposit fee, 500 MWK withdrawal fee, and Variable exchange rate.

How secure is trading on your platform, bearing in mind that there are scammers and hackers?

The Yellow Card platform is very safe. We take security very seriously and have implemented measures to protect our users' accounts and data. We use industry-standard security protocols and have a team dedicated to monitoring and preventing fraud and hacking attempts. In September 2022, Yellow Card became the first cryptocurrency company on the continent to be granted a Virtual Asset Service Provider license to operate in Botswana, receiving a license issued by the Non-Bank Financial Institutions Regulatory Authority (NBFIRA). Yellow Card complies with global and

applicable domestic anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism financing, sanctions, and other 'know your customer' requirements, including the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Travel Rule.

What are some of the challenges you are facing in Malawi?

Some of the challenges we are facing in Malawi include limited awareness and understanding of cryptocurrencies among the general public, as well as regulatory challenges. We are working to increase awareness about the benefits of using cryptocurrencies and address regulatory concerns through dialogue with policymakers and regulators.

How many people are currently using Yellow Card

We have seen strong growth in user adoption in Malawi since we launched our services in the country. We have about 30,000 users registered in Malawi.

What is the future of cryptocurrency trading in Malawi?

We believe that the future of cryptocurrency in Malawi is bright. As more people become aware of the benefits of using cryptocurrencies, we expect to see increased adoption and usage in the country.

What are your future plans as a company?

Our future plans as a company include increasing the range of cryptocurrencies that we support - earlier this year we added five additional coins to the platform and will continue to do so. We are also exploring ways to integrate with other financial services and provide greater access to financial services for underserved communities in Malawi & Africa as a whole.

Any last words?

We believe that cryptocurrencies have the potential to transform the financial landscape in Africa and provide greater financial inclusion for all. We encourage individuals to do their research and to take necessary precautions when buying and selling cryptocurrencies, and we are here to support them every step of the way.



Please introduce yourself

My name is Daniel Ekali Kwizombe, I am married with two kids. I am the founder of Dek Engineering and electrical contractors.

Can you tell us about Dek Engineering?

Dek Engineering was registered in 2010. We started as a briefcase company but as time went by we have grown to where we are now. When we started this project of producing electrical products in 2019, I wanted to start with an airplane. At that time Malawi was passing through challenges in the energy sector, I thought of doing research on how best I can help Malawi as a nation. If I could have done an airplane it could just help

maybe a small group of Malawians. We are a fully registered company with all relevant authorities such as MRA, PPDA, MERA, Registrar General, and numerous other authorities.

What does Dek Engineering do?

We are into electrical services and products. We repair electrical machinery, gadgets and what have you. Everything which uses electricity, we can work on it. And now we are into the production of electrical gadgets and appliances. We have started with Eka-Lite LED bulbs. We have already started producing LED tubes, the prototype is already done. We also have done the designing of sockets, switches, top plugs, and many other things, we are just waiting to produce

prototypes. So, we are bringing solutions to Malawi and very soon we will bring import substitution.

What motivated you to establish Dek Engineering?

There are a number of things, firstly, I was once employed by some Indians. I was contributing a lot but the treatment they were giving me was not good, so I was very furious and angry. I told myself that my fellow Malawians should not pass through what I went through. That's how the vision of starting my own company started because I saw that I had what it takes. Another thing is that I saw a gap between people in high positions and lower positions. So I wanted to bring a Malawian



66 DO NOT WAIT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE YOU SOMETHING TO DO SUCH AS EMPLOYMENT

company to cover those gaps, people should enjoy when they are working under someone, and the environment should be friendly. I also saw the problems which Malawians were facing, I wanted to bring solutions to those problems. I looked around and saw the need to start with the energy sector by producing high-quality products in the form of Eka-Lite Bulbs.

You manufacture LED bulbs: can you tell us about Eka-Lite bulbs?

The name Eka-Lite Bulbs comes from my name Ekali. In Eka-Lite LED bulbs, we use the principle called Electroluminescence principle. This is a principle someone invented long ago. We import some other materials we use to produce the bulbs because in Malawi we don't produce capacitors, inductors, and diodes. We import these and several others and we put them on the circuit that we design. But there are some components that we are producing right here in Malawi.

What makes your LED bulbs unique compared to other bulbs?

Eka-lite is a Malawian brand, our bulbs are energy efficient, they are long-lasting; they have a life span of 25,000 hours which is close to 3 years when you use them in a building without faults. The bulbs offer high-quality light with excellent colour. If you take our bulb and take any bulb on the market with the same lumens, Eka-lite will produce superior illumination. The bulbs can also be recycled.



How has the response towards the LED bulbs been so far?

The response is very good. If all goes well, you will see ESCOM giving the public Eka-lite Bulbs.

You were at the Malawi International Trade Fair in May, how significant was it to your company?

It opened some doors for us, for instance, very soon Eka-Lite bulbs will be found in our neighbouring countries. We were also able to have business networking with other countries and there was exposure as well because some people didn't know about Eka-lite. People were very excited to see bulbs produced in Malawi.

What are some of the challenges you have faced?

The first thing is finances. Getting a loan is a big challenge and we are just trying to pump in the little money we have from our pockets. Another challenge is getting full support from government. As of now, I was expecting the government to come in and say: 'You are doing a great job and let's cut the importation of bulbs so that we don't lose a lot of forex.' We are not saying the government is not really helping us but somehow they are not giving us full support.

What is your proudest moment?

To start producing LED bulbs is the proudest moment. In Malawi, I am the pioneer of this, no one has ever done this before.

What are your future plans?

I want to have a very big industrial hub whereby we will be producing every electrical product right here in Malawi such as TVs, cell phones, cookers, fridges, radios etcetera. We want to bring solutions to the electric problems Malawians are facing. Some Malawians are losing a lot of money because of trying to get something at a cheaper price but they don't know the quality of it. We want to start producing things of high quality. We have already started visualising the industrial hub which we want to build. We also want to be the biggest company that employs the most people in Malawi.



What advice do you have for young entrepreneurs?

Firstly, do not wait for the government to give you something to do such as employment. We need to come up with a service or product we can offer to the nation which can attract people to come to us, even the government should be able to see an opportunity in us. Secondly, you should not rush to get rich. Have patience, and establish yourself. If I had no patience, I wouldn't have been where I am today because it's very difficult to run a company.







The Malawi Gaming and Lotteries Authority is a body that regulates Gaming and Lotteries. The body was formed in 2022 from a merger between Malawi Gaming Board (MGB) and National Lotteries Board (NRB). MGB and NRB were established in 1996 and 2003 respectively. The body has the following duties:

- Solution is supported by the state of the
- Supervise the operation of licensees to ensure compliance.
- Solution is a second of the second of the
- Prevent, investigate, and ensure the prosecution of any offenders.
- Supervise, attend, and validate the draws of all lotteries & other games.
- Solution is a superior of the superior of t
- Develop rules for the operations of gaming & lotteries in Malawi.



LICENSED OPERATORS

Every company that needs to operate in the gambling industry needs to have a license. There are two ways how a company can get a license as an operator. An interested company can apply for a license when the board issues a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP specifies the type and number of licenses to be issued and any conditions that may apply as well as the area to which the license will relate amongst several other things. A license can also be applied for by just walking into the offices of MAGLA and following the procedures that are given. The license that a company can apply for includes Casino, Gaming machine site, Gaming machine operator, Wide Area Progressive, manufacturer, Bingo operator, Junket agent, Supplier, lottery licenses, and any other license as determined by MAGLA. The following are the licensed operators in Malawi;

Gaming Machine operator licenses

American Palace Latd, Mini Monte Gaming Ltd, and Highlands Leisure.

Casino License

American Pirates Casino (Area 4 Lilongwe), Colony Club Casino (Amaryllis Hotel, Blantyre), Casino Marina (City centre, Lilongwe) Casino Marina (Chichiri, Blantyre), DBR International (Various locations), Vision Gaming (Various locations)

WAP Gaming License

DBR WAP International Limited, Good Investments.

Manufacturer license

DBR International Ltd.

Sports betting license

Premier Bet, Betika, World Star Betting, Hollywood Bets.

POPULARITY OF ONLINE BETTING

Gambling has gone through vast changes due to advancements in technology such as the internet and electronic devices. This has seen vibrancy in online betting. As of 2000, online betting became a multi-billion-dollar industry worldwide and is currently valued to be between 70-85 billion US dollars. In Malawi, online sports betting is becoming extremely popular. Nowadays, a person can bet on a sports game on his/her mobile phone, and with mobile commerce services as well as mobile banking, individuals can transfer money to the betting account right on their phone. This makes betting easier than other means that require one to go to a betting shop. According to the MAGLA, online betting is becoming popular because it is an easier way of betting. Online betting is convenient to the user as it is accessible anytime and anywhere as long as the user has an internet connection. Although online betting is becoming popular, betting shops are also spreading like wildfire. There are betting shops in almost every part of Malawi, most of which belong to Premier Bet. Premier Bet is also popular when it comes to online betting in Malawi. Through its online betting portal, the company has sports betting, lotto, Quiz for cash, and virtual games. Apart from sports betting, virtual games are also popular with the most popular amongst Malawians being 'Aviator' . The virtual game attracts thousands of Malawians each day. Even after midnight, you can still find some people playing the game. The fact that one can play such a game whilst in bed or anywhere else, makes it a popular option amongst Malawians than going to a betting shop or a casino.





CHALLENGES IN THE GAMBLING INDUSTRY

The Malawi gambling industry faces different challenges. The biggest challenge is the misconception about gambling. A lot of people think gambling is a means of getting income or getting rich quickly. This misconception has led to a lot of people being addicted to gambling. In its 2022-2027 strategic plan, MAGLA started that they faced the challenge of identifying problem gamblers as players hid their addictions. This shows how much people are gambling to get money rather than just for leisure. In its Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges (SWOC) analysis of previous years in the same strategic plan, MAGLA highlighted the failure to attract big players in the industry due to the size of the economy as a challenge. In their further analysis, MAGLA highlighted threats such as lost revenue due to illegal gambling and lack of technology to monitor online gambling/betting, slow internet & high cost of data for online gambling, lack of local suppliers of gambling technologies, limited local capacity to test and certify gaming machines as well as software. MAGLA as a regulator through its strategic plan is working to deal with all the challenges the industry is facing. A notable challenge that it is already spearheading is problem gambling. MAGLA has a hotline where one can call to report if he/she is addicted to gambling and wants to be assisted.

THE FUTURE OF THE GAMBLING **INDUSTRY**

The gambling industry in Malawi is still in its infancy compared to other countries. However, the industry has been growing exponentially. Licensed betting companies are also devising different ways to reach a lot of potential players in Malawi. With the onset of online betting, the number of operators is increasing. Internet speed improvement will also necessitate an increase in the use of online gambling sites. Recently, TNM launched 5G network in the country, a move that also encourages people to play virtual games that require a fast internet connection. Internet providers are now providing affordable internet bundles unlike in the past when the bundles were a bit expensive which even caused an online uproar a few years ago. All these factors will enhance more players to start using websites for gambling. The industry is also projected to see new operators on the market due to the growing interest in gambling. As evidenced by Premier Bet's rapid growth in the years it has been operating in the country, more betting companies are slowly flocking to Malawi. Malawi is slowly creating an enabling environment for betting companies which will cause more companies will be interested to have a presence in Malawi.

The merger between Malawi Gaming Board and National Lotteries Authority has necessitated a well-coordinated regulation of the industry. With the merger, the functions of MGB and NLB are under one body. MAGLA explained that they want the gambling industry to be well-regulated and crime-free. MAGLA plan to leverage technology to develop tech-driven compliance initiatives to ensure the sector complies with rules and laws. This will enhance the protection of both the operators and players and ensure a









fair, efficient, and transparent environment. The body wants to further strengthen programs to counter problem gambling, underage gambling, and money laundering as well as to create an enabling environment for local participation. With all the plans laid out, the future of the gambling industry in Malawi looks exciting for avid gamblers.

CONCLUSION

The Malawi gambling industry has a lot of potential to grow into a big industry. Although it faces a number of challenges, it will still culminate like those of other countries. The biggest challenge is the misconception and misuse of gambling sites. There is a need for mindset change for people to understand that gambling is a leisure activity and not a quick way to get money. The current state of the industry can be described as the infancy stage. There is also a lot that needs to be done on the part of the regulator to ensure the industry runs for the benefit of both the players and operators.

BUSINESS PLUS⁺

Innovations is a section that highlights a new idea by Malawians and how it's likely to improve lives of the community.

likely to improve lives of the community.



OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

Extreme Engineering is a company that was founded in 2019 and is located in the old capital city of Malawi, Zomba. The company was founded by Pakel Patrick Chikoja focusing on the manufacturing of off-road vehicles, trailers, and tricycles. Chikoja became interest in off-road vehicles He became interested in the vehicles whilst he was working in Botswana where there was desert racing. At the race, there were vehicles that were modified with suspensions to withstand the desert terrain. He started learning a few things from mechanics who were modifying the vehicles. When he came back to Malawi, he decided to open Extreme Engineering which was then mainly focusing on spray painting and panel beating.

Extreme Engineering is now growing into a fully-fledged vehicle manufacturing company. The company now uses the money realised from spray painting and panel beating to fund its manufacturing division. The manufacturing of

off-road vehicles started with the modification of Chikoja's personal vehicle and people were interested to have their cars modified as well. Later, Chikoja manufactured a personal go-kart, and within a week someone enticed him to sell it. The demand slowly grew until Extreme Engineering started manufacturing the go-karts. Currently, Extreme Engineering manufactures go-karts, quad bikes, tricycles, and trailers. The off-road vehicles have a top speed of 140km/h. The price of each off-road vehicle starts from K1.2 million going up depending on specifications. The vehicle comes with all the necessary things such as indicators, seat belts, lights, horn etcetera hence they can be registered to move on the roads of Malawi. So far Extreme engineering has sold 15 off-road vehicles. The vehicles are sold at their workstation in Zomba next to city boundary. There are plans to open a shop in Lilongwe for people to easily purchase the vehicles.



GO KARTS

A go-kart is a small four-wheeled vehicle that comes in different kinds. Extreme Engineering manufactures go-karts that have independent suspension that can handle tough terrain including muddy, sandy, and rocky roads. The independent suspension helps to keep the vehicle flat when it's going uphill or any other terrain as it is the suspension that leans. This makes the overturning of the vehicle unlikely. Extreme Engineering only utilises a few things that are ready-made such as the engine and tyres; the hood, the chairs, and other parts are made here in Malawi. The vehicles are petrol powered while some are electric. They have engine capacities of 150cc, 200cc, 250cc, 300cc, and up to 700cc according to customer specifications. It takes 20 days to manufacture one vehicle. The manufacturer wants to go fully into producing electric go-karts as they are environmentally friendly and cheap for the end user compared to petrol-powered ones. The vehicles are used for leisure at beaches, mountain ranges, or any other off-road terrain. They are now also being utilised in the agriculture sector. The cars are used in farms where different farming equipment is attached such as a plough to work in the field. They are also used in transporting farm harvests when attached to a trailer. They are ideal for the farm due to their resilience in tough terrain. The electric go-karts can go up to 25 kilometres on a single charge depending on the battery capacity installed which is determined on customer preferences and budget.

QUAD BIKES

A quad bike is some sort of motorbike that has four large wheels, they are typically used to ride for fun or in races. Extreme Engineering manufactures different kinds of Quad bikes; there are some for adults that can be used in different ways and small ones for kids. The quad bikes also have engine capacities like that of go-karts. It also takes 20 days to make one Quad bike. Quad bikes can be used for fun at beaches or any other ideal place. The bikes are also used on a farm to do different tasks. Quad bikes are very popular in farms in developed countries and are seen as an essential tool on the farm. Their small yet powerful nature makes them a darling to many farmers. Extreme Engineering is also producing these kinds of bikes for farmers in Malawi.



ADVANTAGES

Tailor-made

The off-road vehicles by Extreme engineering are tailor-made to your liking. You can request specific features you want on your vehicle. It feels quite different to be driving an off-road vehicle that was made to your liking.

Environment-friendly

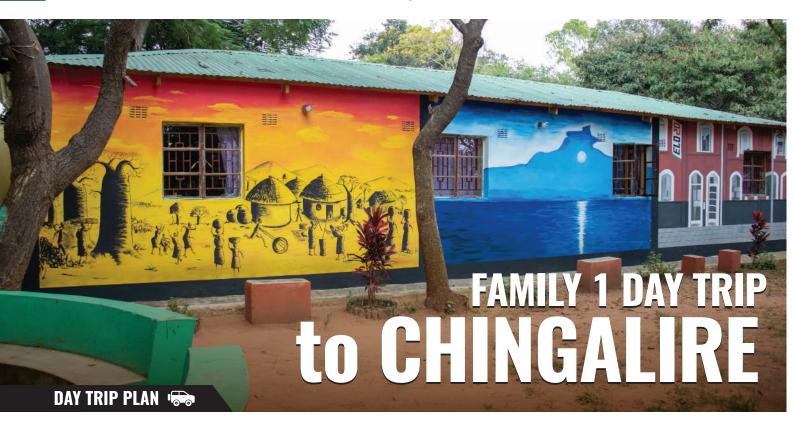
Although Extreme Engineering is manufacturing petrol-powered vehicles, they also manufacture electric off-road vehicles. The electric kinds are environmentally friendly as they do not pollute the environment. They also have lower running costs compared to their petrol-powered counterparts.

Import substitution

Off-road vehicles can achieve import substitution in the country. People will stop importing go-karts or quad bikes from foreign countries as they will be buying from Extreme Engineering. The good thing is that you will only need the local currency to purchase these vehicles rather than importing where you will need foreign currency.

BUSINESS PLUS⁺ TRIP

Take your family on a 1-day trip to the countryside Chingalire Rural Homestay in Chingalire village, Lilongwe. The Homestead which was established in 2012 nurtures Malawian rural culture and allows everyone to experience the rural lifestyle. The centre is where the locals live a normal and not necessarily a commercial enterprise. Chingalire has diverse activities for people to experience such as traditional storytelling by village elders, Chingalire Cultural Dance Troupe performances, traditional games, and several other activities. Chingalire also has different kinds of training and hosts cultural as well as entertainment events.



09:00 am

······ 🗇 09:40 am ····· 🕥 10:30 am ····

Begin your journey to Chingalire Rural Homestay (40 minutes' journey by vehicle)

To get to Chingalire, take the Mchinji road, After Kaunda roundabout, take the first right turn, also known as the old airport road. Drive for about 25KM and you will see a signpost written Chingalire on your left. The turn is after Milala trading centre before Nsaru trading

Opening hours: Everyday 8am-6pm (When you book in advance the time is extended) Festivals/shows - Stays open until the show ends .Nsaru Milala ---

Arrival at Chingalire Rural Homestay

(Entry fee: Free)

Play traditional games

Play a variety of different traditional games such as Bawo, Nsikwa, and Nguli. If you do not know how to play these games, you will also get a chance to learn each game and the stories behind the game.



Tour the Villages

Enjoy the village landscapes and immerse yourself in the village life as you enjoy the fresh air. Tour Chingalire as well as neighbouring villages. Kids can even go to herd goats and cows with local herdsmen, precautionary measures are strictly followed so that the kids are not harmed.













12:00 pm

© 02:00 pm

Lunch Time at Chingalire Rural Homestay

Chingalire has an array of local foods available. Apart from the local foods they also offer other delicacies such as chips but they strongly recommend nsima with local whole chicken and sun-dried vegetables. You can also learn how to prepare different local culinary. This is ideal for people that have never experienced cooking local foods. You can learn how to cook Nsima or local vegetables such as dried pumpkin leaves.



Quench your thirst and treat your taste buds with beverages at Current Affairs, a spot within Chingalire that serves different beverages including the local Kachasu.

Other Activities

Cultural Dance Troop Performance

Enjoy an unforgettable performance of the Chingalire cultural troop that offers different dances from north to south Malawi. You will be able to experience almost every dance from every part of Malawi. You will have to contact Chingalire in advance to enjoy this experience.

Plant a Tree

The personnel at the centre recommends every guest to plant before they leave. This is one way of preserving the environment as well as ensuring that the guest return to see how their tree is growing.

Storytelling

Traditional storytelling by village elders on topics like traditional beliefs, medicines, marriages, foods, funerals, communal gatherings, etc.

Cultural Afternoon

On Sunday afternoons, the centre holds different activities such as football matches, performances, a disco, and several other activities. This sometimes falls on a Saturday afternoon and it is not usually every weekend. This is usually common after the community harvests their fields. You will have to contact the centre first to find out if there is a cultural afternoon on the weekend you plan to visit.

○ 04:00 pm

Head Back to Lilongwe

Ongoing Plans

You have to keep an eye on this facility as it will introduce the following things soon.



Bee Keeping Chingalire will soon start beekeeping and the honey will be sold

to quests



Solar Energy The centre will soon fully integrate solar energy so that people have an uninterrupted power supply.



Fruit Orchard There are plans to start growing different fruits so that they are readily available to guest.



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