

Cross Party Group on Malawi

Wednesday 29th March 2017
Scottish Parliament, Committee Room 5

MINUTES

Co-Conveners: Liam McArthur MSP and Alexander Stewart MSP

Supporting economic development in Malawi- #BuyMalawian2017

Attendees

1. Linda Fabiani – MSP
2. Clare Haughey – MSP
3. Liam Kerr – MSP
4. John Mason – MSP
5. Angus MacDonald – MSP
6. Liam McArthur – MSP
7. Stuart McMillan – MSP
8. Alexander Stewart – MSP
9. Annie Wells – MSP
10. Wade Ball – Just Trading Scotland
11. Enock Bamusi – AMS
12. Charlie Bevan – Scotland Malawi Partnership
13. Colin Cameron - SMP Member
14. Kathryn Chipperfield – Scotland Malawi Partnership
15. Daniel Cosgrove – Unicef
16. Moira Dunworth – Mamie Martin Fund
17. Rachel Farey – One World Shop
18. Jackie Farr – Scotland Malawi Partnership
19. Jane Forster – Balerno Fair Trade Village
20. Sally Foster-Fulton – Christian Aid
21. Bob Garrow – SMP Member
22. David Hope-Jones – Scotland Malawi Partnership
23. Francis Kaunjika – Africanos World
24. Miriam Kaunjika – Africanos World
25. Davie Luhanga – SMP Member
26. Lesley Mann – Wool n Wood
27. Grace Manyika – SMP Board Member
28. Jamie McLuckie – Luckie Beans
29. Helen Mein – SMP Member
30. Margaret Merchant – Churches of God Fellowship
31. Emily Mnyayi – Scotland Malawi Partnership
32. Joyce Nicoll
33. Tom Picckles
34. Colin Reilly – SMP Board Member
35. David Stevenson – University of Edinburgh
36. Peter West – Hon Consul to Malawi
37. Adah Younger – SMP Member

Apologies

Mario Aguilar – University of St Andrews	Gemma Love – Classrooms for Malawi
Janey Andrews – University of Strathclyde	Steve Mannion - Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons
Claudia Beamish – MSP	Ruth Milliken – Dunelm Energy
Michael Daly – Classrooms for Malawi	Mark Ruskell – MSP
Lore Gallastegi – The Open University	Tavish Scott – MSP
Patrick Harvie – MSP	

1. Welcome and introductions

The CPG on Malawi Co-Convenor Liam McArthur MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and a number of apologies were noted (see above). Minutes were approved from the previous CPG meeting in November.

2. #BuyMalawian2017 Campaign

David Hope-Jones spoke about the importance of supporting Malawian exports. Malawi currently exports \$1.27 billion and imports \$2.29 billion, leaving a negative trade balance of \$1.02 billion. Boosting exports is vital in a country where half the population lives on less than one pound per day. The main imports are currently petrol, fertilizer, medicine and wheat, while the main exports are made up of tobacco (55%), dried legumes (7%), sugar (6%), tea (5%) and cotton (3%). The top export destinations are Belgium, Germany, India, South Africa and the US.

David told the group about the SMP's [#BuyMalawian2017 campaign](#), which aimed to help build Scottish markets for Malawian products. He explained that by buying Malawian products you get to enjoy great quality, as well as supporting Malawian farmers, entrepreneurs and small businesses. This enables the creation and sustainability of livelihoods right across the supply chain. By buying a Malawian product and entering the campaign competition, participants were in with the chance of winning a dream holiday to Malawi! In order to enter, participants had to buy a Malawian product, take a selfie, upload it to the SMP website or social media and get people to vote for it.

The #BuyMalawian2017 campaign was a great success. It reached around 300,000 people on social media, and secured local and national coverage in the press. Over 100 people uploaded selfies (including dozens of MSPs and Ministers) and the online gallery had around 30,000 visits, with over 4,000 votes cast. Do take a look at the [selfies on the SMP website](#), and [26 selfies with MSPs](#). All of this has had a great impact building awareness of Malawian exports and helping to generate new Scottish markets for these products. This in turn will help support sustainable economic development in Malawi and also assist the SMP as we look to lobby for a more just trade and tax relationship with Malawi.

3. Blind tasting of Malawi's Linga wine

The meeting was used to formally launch Malawi's Linga Fruit Wines into Scotland. Linga Wine is yet another amazing story of Scotland-Malawi cooperation and friendship, 50 years in the making. It began in 1965 when Rev Tom Colvin, an engineer and missionary from Glasgow and an enthusiastic fruit wine maker, took up the position of Chaplain at the new University of Malawi.

When communion wine stocks ran low, Rev Colvin shared his passion for fruit wine-making with Timothy Ngwira, a student of Chemistry and Biology at the university. In 1970 Rev Colvin married Timothy Ngwira to Margaret Gunn, a Scottish VSO volunteer from Lennoxton, later giving them all the equipment and literature to start their own small scale fruit wine production. In 1978 the Ngwiras started wine making. They registered the company Linga Fine Foods and Winery in 2005 and after almost 40 years of hand-crafting fruit wine, they are starting to export to Scotland.

Margaret and Timothy joined the CPG via video and kindly talked the group through their selection of fruit wines. This session ended with a friendly competition between the Holyrood parties, with a representative from each undertaking our blind-tasting challenge. They had four tasters in front of them and had to identify the Malawian fruit behind each wine. Congratulations to Linda Fabiani MSP who won the blind taste test!

4. Market stall pitches, tastings and live Malawian music

A number of distributors came to the CPG to tell attendees about the Malawian products that they sell. They set up stalls to showcase the products, offered tasting samples and spoke about the impact of buying Malawian products. The businesses heard from were:

- Luckie Beans – Malawi AAA coffee
- Africanos World – sells a wide selection of Malawian food and drink
- Wool n Wood – craft products designed in Scotland and made in Malawi
- OneWorld Shop- promoted Malawian Traidcraft and Liberation products

The attendees were able to taste Malawi gin, various flavours of Linga wine, Malawi AAA coffee, Sobo, Liberation nuts, Traidcraft cookies and Nali sauce (with oatcakes and Orkney cheese). They could also look at beautiful craft items from Wool n Wood and other food products including Kilombero rice from Just Trading Scotland, tea from the Rare Tea Company, coffee from Traidcraft and Artisan Roast and peanut butter from Traidcraft.

Photos from the evening can be viewed on the [SMP website](#).

5. Any other business

David announced that this is the last CPG on Malawi that will be supported by Charlie Bevan, as she moves on to work as the Advocacy and Campaigns Manager at Tearfund. David and Liam thanked Charlie for her hard work and commitment over the last five years.

The date of the next CPG is Wednesday May 10th.