



# MwAPATA Institute

## Enabling Business Environment in the Agriculture Sector

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# Enabling the Business Environment in Agriculture Sector : A Call to Action

- i. Most of Malawi's agricultural sector challenges are well-known with known solutions, but resolving them is hampered by implementation challenges
- ii. Unfriendly business environment in the agriculture sector constrains private investment and smallholder farmers' productivity
- iii. To deal with this, some key reforms—most of them already known (e.g. EBA 2019 recommendation)- are needed
- iv. However, this will only be possible if a coalition to support the needed reforms could be mobilized:
  - ✓ A critical mass of high level multi-sectoral policy champions
  - ✓ A platform where policy champions will freely interact, build consensus on specific policy issues, needed reforms, and way forward to effective implementation
  - ✓ A strategy for generating empirical evidence to inform policy processes
- v. The coalition will build and sustain reforms momentum and move the agenda over election cycles

# Critical Mass of High Level Multi-sectoral Policy Champions

- i. This will be a form of “a coalition of the willing”, a “social movement” involving all important stakeholder in agricultural sector including public, parliamentarians, civil society, non-state actors, private sector, academia and think tanks
- ii. This movement should ideally constitute those at decision making levels (or senior enough) to ensure fast-tracking of implementation
- iii. Should be guided by clearly defined terms of reference (ToRs)
- iv. Should have clear ownership modalities for members
- v. Should have a clearly defined modality of bringing the key policy decisions to the attention of political leadership

# An Integrated Policy Coordination Platform

- i. In order to enhance policy coordination, collaboration and synergies, there is need for a platform where policy champions:
  - ✓ Interact freely interact and build consensus on policy issues
  - ✓ Share information and new knowledge
  - ✓ Mobilize a coalition of support for implementing needed programs and policies
- ii. There is need to amalgamate existing policy platforms and create a “single policy coordination platform” for policy champions to play these roles
- iii. This will only be possible if all stakeholders in the sector will be willing to come together, do what is right, and get their comparative advantages optimized for the good of the nation
- iv. An integrated policy coordination platform should be one of the vehicles for delivering home-grown solutions to local challenges faced in the agriculture sector

# Strategy for Generating Empirical Evidence to Inform Policy Choices

- i. The transformation of the agribusiness sub-sector will not be possible in the absence of new knowledge being the basis of policy choices
- ii. The policy champions will need to be guided by current knowledge in their decision making
- iii. The role of generating this new knowledge should be led by participating think tanks and academia
- iv. MwAPATA Institute is an indigenous policy think tank that is set to play this role
- v. The research outputs of these think tanks should also form the basis of public debate, facilitate consensus-building, and creation of politically feasible solutions for transforming agribusinesses in Malawi (examples include EBA Reports of 2017 & 2019)



**Thank you for your  
attention**