

Press Release



Stop Open Defecation! Launch of Open Defecation Free Malawi (ODF) Strategy

7th December 2011.

The Government of Malawi (GoM) through the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and key line ministries in collaboration with development partners, NGOs, private sector, communities and other key sector players will on 7th December, 2011 launch the Open Defecation Free (ODF) Malawi Strategy (2012-2015). The objective of the strategy is to ensure effective coordination and implementation within the sector at National and Community level to eliminate open defecation in rural communities and contribute to the realization of Government of Malawi vision of "Sanitation for All" and its Mission of "ensuring that all people in Malawi own and have access to Improved Sanitation facilities. practice sustainable management of the Environment and Socio-economic Development".

The strategy compliments a number of other initiatives being undertaken by the Government of Malawi which among others include the development of a National 10 Year Sanitation and Hygiene Investment Plan and Strategy, Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan for Low Income areas, and the National Sanitation Policy 2008. The strategy also aims at aligning, synchronising and harmonizing sanitation and hygiene initiatives and interventions contributing towards meeting the goals of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) II and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of halving the number of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015.

The implementation of the ODF Malawi strategy, although a huge endeavour, is achievable with a comprehensive nationwide collaboration, coordination, effective implementation and support by all. Implementation of the strategy is expected to assist the GoM eradicate open defecation, increase access to improved sanitation and promote the use of safe hygiene practices which are key to the prevention of the occurrence and prevalence of

diarrhoea and cholera cases. Diarrheal diseases pose significant health risks for the rural population and accounts for 18% of deaths each year in children under the age of five.

In order to meet the objective of the strategy, several approaches will be used to fully harness the skills, knowledge and efforts of the various stakeholders on the ground. These among others include Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS), School-Led Total Sanitation (SLTS) and Sanitation Marketing, Sanitation and Hygiene Campaigns, equity and inclusion. The strategy also recognizes the significant role of community structures and community leaders including Natural Leaders, Religious Leaders, Community Volunteers, Traditional Leaders, school teachers, and extension staff from various sectors to

The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development is pleased to inform the General Public and key stakeholders that the formal Launch of the strategy has been planned for Wednesday, the 7th of December, 2011 and will be graced and launched by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development. The launch will take place in Chipojongo Village in T.A. Mbang'ombe district starting from 8.00 am.

Signed

Sandram C. Y. Maweru

SECRETARY FOR IRRIGATION AND WATER DEVELOPMENT

Please Stop Open Defecation!

Those wishing to be part of this auspicious occasion please contact the Ministry through the Officials whose contact details are indicated below:

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