

ICTAZ AGM 2021



# THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL BODIES IN SHAPING GOOD POLICIES

Presented by Bram J. Fudzulani





# Covered Today

## A brief outline

The Calling  
Why Advocate for Good Policies  
The Digital Age  
Recent Developments in Malawi  
Traction  
Conclusion

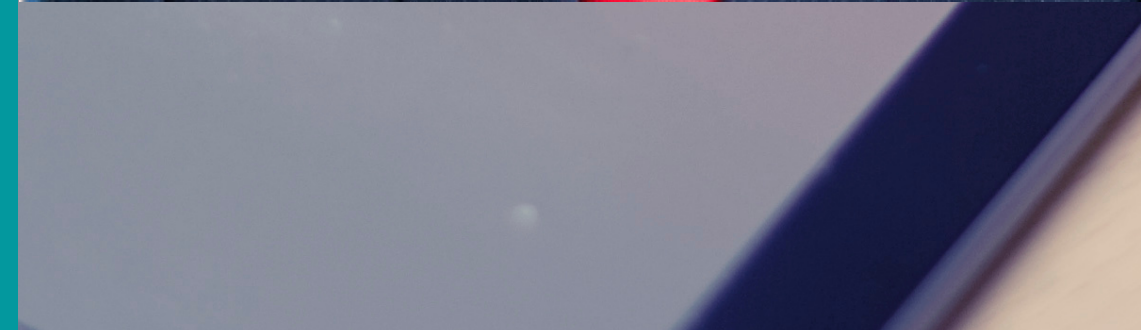




# The Calling

**Luke 12:48**

To whom much is given, much will be required



# Why Advocate for Good Policies

**ZAMBIA VISION 2030**



- RULE OF LAW/ HUMAN RIGHTS

- AGRICULTURE

- MINING

- HEALTH

- INDUSTRIALIZATION



# THE DIGITAL AGE



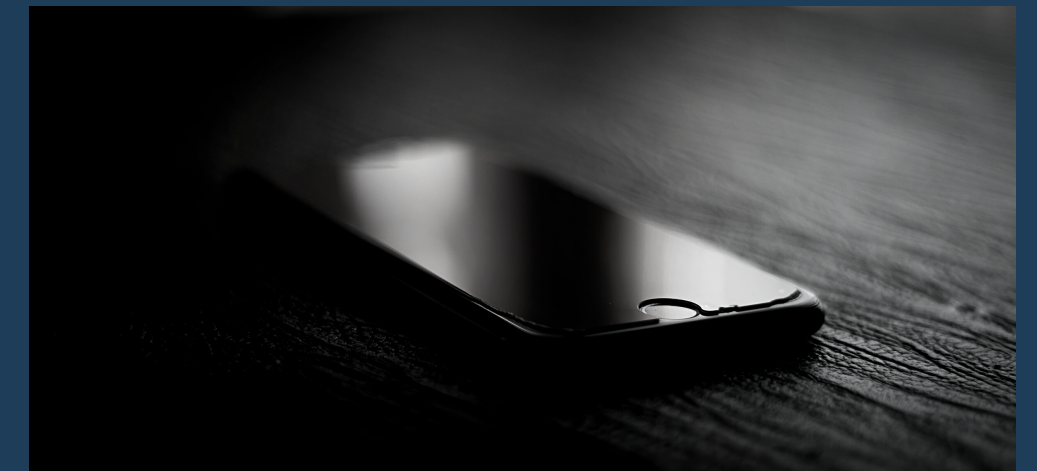
## GOVERNANCE

- Promoting more government accountability
- Citizen Participation and Democratization



## E-GOVERNMENT

- Passport
- National Identity
- Driver's License
- Access to Information



## LEGISLATION/ POLICY

The need for laws and policies that deals with issues of cyber-world.



## RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MALAWI

### ANNUAL INNOVATIONS AWARDS

Established in 2016, to  
create a platform for  
innovators and policy  
makers/ business

### INTERNATIONAL ICT EXPO

Launched in 2019 as a tool  
to showcase to the world  
our local solutions and  
creating a market place

### LEGISLATION/ POLICY

Involved in the drafting of  
legal bills that directly/  
indirectly impact the  
sector

### ADVOCACY

Playing a role in speaking  
out for the rural masses on  
digital consumer services.





PAN-AFRICAN-NAT... · 19/07/2021 ...  
RWANDA 🇷🇼 A COUNTRY ON THE  
MOVE #PANAFRICANNATIONS IS  
PROUD OF THIS COUNTRY  
@PaulKagame



2,453 views



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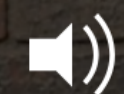


56







 Listen now

## Sam Masikini: The Malawi designer making learning easier

He designed an offline mobile learning app which makes e-learning work in a country with low digital literacy and access.

This clip is from





# LEGISLATION/ POLICY



MALAWI ICT POLICY 2013



COMMUNICATIONS ACT 2016



CYBER SECURITY &  
ELECTRONIC  
TRANSACTIONS ACT 2016



MALAWI DIGITAL ECONOMY  
STRATEGY 2021-2026



DATA PROTECTION &  
PRIVACY BILL 2020



# ADVOCACY



REGISTERED AT G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER VOL. 27 NO. 102 TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2020 WWW.MWNATION.COM PRICE: K600

## HRDC sets fresh anti-Ansah demos for May 28

ENELLESS NYALE, STAFF REPORTER

Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) says it will on May 28 hold a fresh wave of nationwide demonstrations to force out embattled Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) chairperson Jane Ansah and her team for alleged incompetence.

Briefing journalists in Lilongwe yesterday, HRDC national chairperson Gift Trapence said the impunity demonstrated by MEC commissioners has prompted the coalition to revive the demonstrations.

He said: "We have announced demos on 28th of May. We want Jane Ansah and her fellow commissioners to leave MEC."

"We have been doing this for the past 10 months and the courts vindicated us that the current commissioners are not competent enough to be at



» PAGE 2 Trapence makes a point during the briefing

## MEC DARED ON VOTERS' DATA



LLOYD CHITSULO  
STAFF REPORTER

Barely weeks after Malawi Congress Party (MCP) alleged anomalies in the national registration and Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) databases, Information and Communications

### ICT body urges independent audit of MEC, NRB systems

Technology Association of Malawi (Ictam) has called for an independent audit of the same.

In a written response yesterday following the

association's statement, Ictam president Bram Fudzulani said an independent audit and cleaning of the MEC and National Registration

Bureau (NRB) databases ahead of the July 2 fresh presidential election is critical to building

» PAGE 2



3 UTM Party office arson victims discharged  
—National P2



Fresh election threatens Covid-19 fight  
—CSOs  
—National P3



Absence of party monitors threatens credible election—Nice Trust  
—National P4

Year in year out, the ICT Association of Malawi (Ictam) submits proposals to the Ministry of Finance to reduce taxes on mobile gadgets if Malawi were to make strides in adapting to and embracing technology. In this interview with our business journalist JUSTIN MKWEU, Ictam President Bram Fudzulani articulates how taxes are also hampering digital banking uptake.

How do you look at digital banking in Malawi?

There is a disconnect between technological advancements that financial players are trying to push for versus technological advancements from telecoms point of view. For example, you will find that there are great technologies in banks but they are not working at some point because of network and or something to do with telecoms failure to give reliable service.

How does this affect its usage?

These frustrations go a long way in affecting the consumer psychology. That is why you find, at the end of the month, that there are of people queuing on ATM of their bank despite having a Visa card which can withdraw money at any ATM because they know if they try it, they might not get their money and it may take

How much do you think people know of their bank's digital services?

Most of the banks are spending millions on deploying these technologies but less is being done to civic-educate Malawians in terms of the usage of those services so, at the end of the day, you find that there are a lot of technologies but they are not being used heavily by consumers—not because they do not want but because they do not know about them.

How do you look at the penetration rate of digital banking?

The number of Malawians with access to the mobile phone is still very low that is why I think the National Planning Commission is drafting the Digital Economy

## 'Reduce taxes on technology'

the taxes on buying mobile phone and USSD because one frustration that people would run away from using these transactions is the fees they attract.

What should be the solution?

After Covid was announced, banks reduced transactional costs and the amount of transactions increased heavily. So, if we are saying we want to do financial inclusion, we should look at what happened during that period, what contributed to the rise of the transactions and we will find out that it is because we reduced transaction costs. Therefore, the government should make policies that are data-driven. We should reduce transaction costs, let us remove some taxes or the cost of USSD should be



FUDZULANI—Frustrations go a long way



# INTERNATIONAL ICT EXPO





# TRACTION

## UNVEILED THE STATE PRESIDENT, ICT CHAMPION

Government commitment to lead on matters of ICT

## DATA PROTECTION AND PRIVACY BILL

This bill came about due to ICTAM's active role in pursuing for its enactment

## CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MACRA

We play an oversight role in ensuring that consumer protection on digital services is upheld.

## STARTUP BILL

Creating a platform for innovators was not enough without the right legislation and policies.





Be Inspired

**"IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS TO  
DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE, DO MORE  
AND BECOME MORE, YOU ARE A  
LEADER."**

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

