



# TRANSFORMATION

A PUBLICATION OF THE EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI



**Rev. Francis Mkandawire**, General Secretary, EAM

## EDITOR'S LETTER

In pursuit of its mission to mobilize, unite and equip churches for total proclamation of the Gospel through word and deeds, the Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) has over the past year or so been strengthening its structures, both at national, regional and district levels to ably support the growth in ministry of the association. The first half of the last year, the secretariat embarked on a national wide programme to re-establish district committees of EAM across the country. To date, over 70% of the districts in the northern and southern region have renewed the mandate of their district committees. The exercise will continue over the next three months or so. Through these structures and working with member churches and organizations, we have carried transformational initiatives which have contributed greatly to the realization of our mission. These include emergency relief programmes, health related programmes, education, advocacy and good governance, prayer mobilization, church leadership development, evangelism and discipleship.

Through the Transformation Newsletter, the EAM secretariat hopes to connect with its membership, partners and all

others who subscribe to the great mission. Information is critical for greater member engagement and involvement. We are therefore hopeful that this newsletter will enforce the readers to support and pray for the work of EAM from an informed point of view.

We urge all our member churches and organizations to take advantage of the Transformation Newsletter to give the secretariat transformational stories from their constituencies which would motivate others to reach out with Christ's love.

I therefore invite you to keep the momentum going. A big welcome to the Transformation Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,



## CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of the Evangelical Association of Malawi saw the association adopting a new revised constitution which among other things seeks to promote greater ownership and involvement of the EAM membership of the association and its mission.

The key elements in the new constitution are:

1. Inclusion of the chairperson of the EAM commissions into the National Executive Board.
2. Clear criteria for admission of members.
3. As a sign of commitment and ownership, members shall take responsibility for their costs for participating in the association's members meetings.

4. Establishment of a mediation court within the association to assist resolving internal conflicts. Mechanisms for the implementation of this court are being worked out with the assistance of some key legal minds. This new constitution became effective on November 23, 2015 immediately after receiving an endorsement by the EAM General Assembly.

**“The event has acted as a stepping stone, where local churches have learnt that in unity they can achieve greater things.”**

**Rev. Francis Mkandawire**  
General Secretary of EAM

# LOVE MALAWI FESTIVAL

More than 700 churches collaborate with Andrew Palau to reach out with the Good News, August 5-21, 2016.

Following successful events in seven capital cities in Africa, evangelist Andrew Palau and the Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) partnered with more than 700 churches and Christian leaders for the Love Malawi Festival, a significant evangelistic effort to foster unity, hope, and love in Malawi’s capital Lilongwe.

August 20-21, 2016 will always be remembered in the history of Malawi as the largest Christian gathering where people turned up to hear the message of hope and unity delivered by the international evangelist Andrew Palau. “The event has acted as a stepping stone, where local churches have learnt that in unity they can achieve greater things,” said Rev. Francis Mkandawire, General Secretary of EAM. He added that “the festival has reshaped the Christian way of life among the Malawians who came to witness the event.

## SPREADING THE GOSPEL

The festival took place at the fields by Maula Prison in the Capital City of Malawi, Lilongwe. The event in Lilongwe marked the conclusion of the festival which began in early August with activities in Ntcheu, Mzuzu, Blantyre, Zomba, and Dowa at the refugee camp. In all these places, the speakers delivered the message of hope and unity and encouraged the people to give their lives to Jesus Christ. Throughout the week prior to the festival, volunteers worked together with local ministries and churches to distribute eyeglasses at four clinics around the city. Outreaches to children (Children of the Nations, Rainbow, Chiuzira Community Based Care, SOS, and Village of Hope), street-kids (Chisomo Children’s Club and Youth Care Ministries), and prisoners (Maula, Chichiri, Mzuzu, Zomba, Ntcheu prisons), combined the message of hope from Andrew Palau and Duggie Dug Dug, with performances from BMX and FMX athletes. And the business and women dinners which attracted 1,200 guests were attended by some well-known business persons and politicians including former vice president Dr. Justin Malewezi, Leader of Opposition Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, and Dr. Jean Kalilani respectively.

Additionally, throughout the months leading up to the festival, Andrew Palau and several ministry partners led conferences for pastors and trainings in friendship evangelism.

## THE FINAL CHAPTER

The final chapter of the Love Malawi Festival was written in Lilongwe. Thousands of people flocked to the grand finale of the Love Malawi Festival in Lilongwe. The children’s programme in the morning, led by Duggie Dug Dug from London, was followed by exciting BMX stunts by Vic Murphy, John Andrus and their team. After Vic shared his testimony and the Gospel the FMX team raised the enthusiasm of the crowd to another level.

The Evangelist Andrew Palau took the stage, following local artists, including Faith Mussa, KBG and the Kamuzu Barracks Singers, and the international worship leader Dave Lubben. A very attentive crowd listened to the Gospel preached by Andrew and many decided to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. At the end of the event, 19,351 people recorded gave their lives or rededicated their lives to Jesus Christ in Malawi.

The festival ended with a concert of the renowned American singer-songwriter, pastor, and producer of Christian worship music, Don Moen. Thousands raised their voices in unison to praise the Lord. As EAM family we praise the Lord for giving us an opportunity to minister to his people in such a manner. We give God the glory.



Andrew Palau

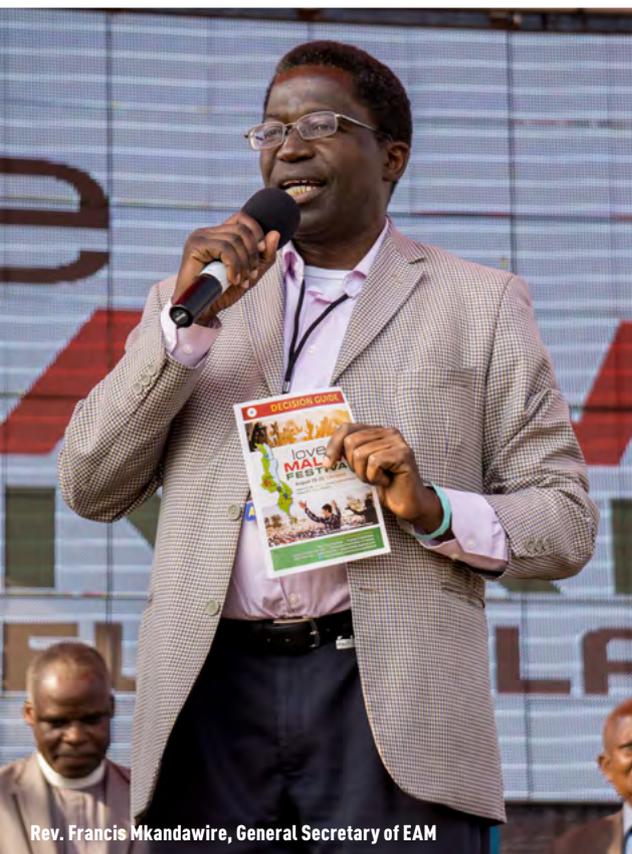
## ANDREW PALAU

Andrew grew up in a strong Christian home, one of four sons of world evangelist and author Luis Palau. Andrew, however, chose his own way and did not make an early commitment to Jesus Christ. It wasn't until he was 27 that he gave his heart to the Lord at one of his father's evangelistic outreaches in Kingston, Jamaica, after witnessing God's presence in the lives of some of the Jamaicans he met, including Wendy Levy, whom he would later marry.

After returning to the United States, Andrew served as Luis' personal assistant and found he thrived when involved with his father's outreach events. He was instrumental in crafting the content of the first Palau festival that marked a key shift away from the crusade model of evangelism. Today, Andrew preaches at his own festivals and outreaches around the world.

Andrew and Wendy have three children and live in Portland, Oregon, near the Palau World Headquarters.

[WWW.PALAU.ORG](http://WWW.PALAU.ORG)



Rev. Francis Mkandawire, General Secretary of EAM



Don Moen





Lilongwe



Lilongwe



Fr. Dr. Saindi, General Secretary of Episcopal Conference of Malawi, in Lilongwe



Karonga



Rumphi



Blantyre



Rev. Francis Mkandawire, General Secretary of EAM, in Lilongwe

# CELEBRATING LIFE

The Citizen's March for Life and Family was a powerful and peaceful celebration and defence of life and family that took place all over Malawi on December 6, 2016.

The Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) and the Episcopal Conference of Malawi (ECM) organized a pro-life and pro-family march called the Citizen's March for Life and Family which was held in all 28 districts in Malawi on December 6, 2016. It was an open call to all Malawians to stand up for godly values and what is morally correct in the face of a hugely funded campaign for abortion and legalization of homosexual practices. And estimated 60,000 Malawians participated in the events across the country.

## PROTECTING THE LIVES OF THE UNBORN

At the end of the march EAM and ECM presented a petition to parliament in Lilongwe and all district councils stating amongst other things:

1. The Holy Scripture clearly says that God values life even from the womb (Jeremiah 1:5, Jeremiah 20:17, Luke 1:15, Psalms 127:3, Isaiah 44:2, Luke 1:43-44, Psalms 139:5)
2. Life is under direct attack through planned liberalization of abortion in Malawi under the guise of "safe abortion" or "sexual reproductive health rights."
3. A liberalization of abortion would be against Malawi's culture, value system, and our current laws that only allow abortion to save the life of the pregnant woman.
4. Such calls are also in sharp contrast to the spirit and letter of key international human rights consensus documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples

Rights as well as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which recognize the right to life before as well as after birth.

5. The proposed abortion bill includes a clause allowing termination of pregnancy to prevent the injury to the physical or mental health of the pregnant woman which will lead to abortion on demand.
6. Malawians must stand up for life by saying NO to the culture of death manifested in this proposed bill. In that way they will be publicly reaffirming that no human being is owned by another human being, and that parliament, foreign agencies, cabinet or judiciary do not have mandate to authorize the killing of innocent unborn children.

Time will tell what will happen with the abortion bill, but EAM will continue to be an advocate for the unborn children that cannot raise their voices.

## DEFENDING THE BIBLICAL FAMILY MODEL

The March for Life and Family also proclaimed that according to the Word of God marriage and sex is between man and woman, and that practiced homosexuality is sin (Leviticus 18:22, Mark 10:6, Romans 1:32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Timothy 1:10). EAM made it also very clear, that as Christians we are obliged to love one another. But we should never give approval to a gay and lesbian lifestyle. EAM will keep on fighting that Malawian laws will continue to protect and preserve the family as a basic unit of a society.



Citizen Participation, Phase 2, Meeting in Nkhotakota

# LIGHT AND SALT

Advocacy programmes to promote participation of citizens in decision-making by government and the transformation of Malawi.

The Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) has been involved in advocacy for many years. On the spiritual front through national and district prayers for the nation and on the political level through governance programmes with various stakeholders, government departments and agencies.

Between 2007 and 2011 EAM had its first advocacy programme called “Constitutional Rights Awareness and Education.” The goal of the project was to mobilize citizens on their constitutional rights through information sharing and community level rights campaigns.

## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

### Project, Phase 1

After the completion of the first project in 2011, Bread for the World (formally EED) funded EAM’s second governance project. Between 2011 and 2015 the advocacy department implemented the “Citizen Participation and Good Governance Project” whose main goal was to empower citizens to demand their rights

from the duty bearers and policy makers. Through this programme over 200,000 citizens in Lilongwe, Mchinji, Ntcheu, and Nkhotakota were empowered with knowledge and skills to engage their duty bearers on various developments and press for accountability on district level development programmes. Citizens had the opportunity to meet their Members of Parliament (MP), District Council officials and various stakeholders through interface meetings. The project managed to establish 52 Village Rights Committees (VRC) and 30 Local Advocacy Networks (LAN) in the four central region districts. The voice of the citizens and the church on governance issues in the country became prominent through a Zodiac Broadcasting Station programme sponsored by EAM called, “Nzika Ichitepo Kanthu” that airs recorded interface meetings between MPs and citizens.

### Project, Phase 2

Since December 2015 EAM is implementing the “Citizen Participation and Policy Engagement Project” (CPPEP)



Citizen Participation, Phase 1, Budget literacy and tracking training for regional church leaders in Lilongwe



Citizen Participation, Phase 2, Meeting in Nkhotakota



Makhumbo Munthali, EAM's Advocacy Programme Coordinator

### ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

The Ethics, Peace and Justice Commission (EPJC) is a special commission of the Evangelical Association of Malawi, established by the General Assembly of 2007 to promote biblical ethics, peace, justice and good governance in the country. EPJC's vision is that of a transformed and prosperous Malawi influenced by a biblical worldview on issues of ethics, peace and justice. Its role is to promote greater and effective church's participation in the public arena as the light and salt of the society in addressing ethical, peace and justice concerns in our nation so that people live dignified lives to the glory of God.

The advocacy department is an implementation organ of the EPJC. Its roles include: resource mobilization for various governance and advocacy programmes as technically directed by the commission. Advocacy department does actual implementation of the governance programmes at community, district, and national level.

funded by Bread for the World. It is premised on the two main issues: Empowering of citizens and the church to engage policy makers on policy issues of concern to them; and strengthening the capacity of the church to ably represent the voice of their members and citizens to the policy makers. It uses the bottom-up and right-based approach, and it is people-centred. EAM VRCs and LANs at group village level act as the foot of the project. The national Ethics, Peace and Justice Commission (EPJC) and EAM board on the other hand act as hands that are envisioned to influence the government as main policy maker on various policies and legal issues that affect the citizens and the church in the country. The CPPEP uses the same community and district structures already established during the first phase of the Citizen Participation Project in 2011-2015. CPPEP, however, also aims at strengthening the institutional structure of EAM in the northern and southern regions of the country. Through CPPEP, 12 district level EPJC focal points will be established which will be feeding their issues to the regional and then to the national level EAM governance forums.

### MINING GOVERNANCE PROJECT

EAM was one of the six partners in the Tilitonse funded "Tonse Tipindule Mining Governance Project" (2013-2016) whose main goal was to increase inclusiveness, accountability and responsiveness in the Malawi's mining sector. EAM's programme interventions were focused on output two of the project proposal whose main thrust was to foster establishment of effective community framework for engagement with stakeholders and mining investors.

### Impact areas

EAM was implementing the Tonse Tipindule Project in the following southern districts Mu-



lanje (T/A Mabuka, T/A Njema & Senior Chief Mkanda), Phalombe (Senior Chiefs Nazombe & Chiwalo) and Mwanza (STA Govati). A total of 6 Community Action Groups (CAGs) have been established and are functional in the impact areas.

In Mulanje and Mwanza mining activities are still largely at the exploration stage whilst in Phalombe the activities are both at exploration and mining stages. Mkango Resource Mining Company and Optichem are mining companies operational in Phalombe's T/A Nazombe and T/A Chiwalo respectively. It is also reported through media that Mkango Resources have also started exploration of rare earth minerals in Mwanza.

### Results and challenges

A number of notable changes have been registered during the implementation stages of the project in the districts. Communities have demonstrated confidence to demand what they want in issues of mining governance. Their knowledge base has been greatly enhanced. Communities are able to understand the pros and cons of mining industry, in terms of both short term and long term impacts.

Among the key result is the strengthened working relationship between different civil society organizations and community based organizations at community and district level. Unity is essential to effectively address several mining governance issues with both mining investors and government stakeholders.

Although government officials have always shown great interest in addressing mining issues, they have been limited by lack of a special mining office at district level, and apparent lack of resources to provide technical support to local governance structures which are key to address any development issues at community level. In Mulanje and Phalombe the district councils have closely followed up on CAGs' programme interventions with investors through district level mining indaba. The office of the district environmental officers has been pivotal in coordinating mining issues at districts.

Despite the great interest expressed, the current governance arrangement to have district environmental officers do

the duties of mining officers is rather weak and conflicting as mining and environmental issues are most of times opposed to each other. As a result communities are not sure if this governance arrangement at the district would be effective in handling mining governance issues. There continues to be a growing tendency of prospective mining investors bypassing the District Council in carrying out exploration of minerals in the project impact areas. The case of Mkango Resources in Mwanza as was reported in the press is one such evidence.

### Cautious optimism

Communities, however, are still optimistic should the new Mines and Minerals Bill be enacted as soon as possible. There is outcry from communities about the need for government to table the new Mines and Mineral Bill in Parliament. It would provide legal basis for negotiating of communities benefit from the mining investors. Special attention is drawn on the section that deals with Community Development Agreements (CDAs). Communities feel that if implemented as proposed in Mining Bill, CDAs would enable impacted communities benefit from the mining initiative.



- 1 Participants at stakeholders capacity building on revenue transparency and accountability
- 2 Participants at Phalombe mining indaba
- 3 Kanyika community members at Mzimba set off on a march to the Mzimba DC's office
- 4 District Commissioner Mr. Chirwa addresses the gathering after receiving a petition in Mzimba

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