



# THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIATION OF TAX ADMINISTRATORS

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(Annex – II)

## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS

Useful additional information on Malawi such as entry requirements, traveling to Lilongwe and getting around and much more is placed below for the benefit of members.

### 1- Language

The official language in Malawi is English but there are more than a multitude of more than **50 ethnic languages** in the country.

### 2- Air Transport

There are two international airports in Malawi: Kamuzu International Airport in the capital city of Lilongwe and Chileka Airport in Blantyre. There are several airlines that land at these airports on a daily basis including Air Malawi, South African Airways, Kenya Airways and Zimbabwe Airlines.

### 3- Getting to Mangochi

**Lilongwe** District is located on the Central Region of Lake Malawi. It is about three and half hours drive from Blantyre and the roads are in excellent condition. The organizing committee has organized very comfortable and efficient transport for delegates' excursion trip to the Lake in Mangochi at times to be communicated in due course. The road to Mangochi is of beautiful scenery and delegates will enjoy the drive along the Lakeshore road from Lilongwe and through typical Malawi settings.

### 4-Getting around in Lilongwe

The organizing committee shall provide transportation to delegates from the various hotels to the conference venue and back throughout the duration of the conference and for the different tours. Since there is a lot to see and do in Lilongwe, special transport will be arranged for delegates wishing to explore the beauty of the central district on request.

Delegates might wish to bring along their swimming attire and water sporting equipment that they would want to use at the beautiful Lake Malawi. It is a fresh water Lake full of life and with beautiful beaches and activities like scuba diving, snookering, water skiing,

fishing, game and bird watching, boat rides and many more. **Bringing a family is a must.**

#### **6- Visa**

A visa is compulsory to enter Malawi. CATA delegates can obtain this visa from the Malawi High Commission or Consulate in their country

However, for member countries in which Malawi's diplomatic mission is not established, visas shall be issued at the port of entry into the country.

#### **7- Airport Stamp**

There is an airport stamp for departure from Malawi to be paid by all airport users both for international flights and for local flights. The amount is US\$30 for international flights and \$5 for local flights. These are normally included in the ticket fare

#### **8 - Health**

A vaccination against Yellow Fever is compulsory (the international Health Certificate is required at the airport). Precaution against malaria is highly recommended and it is preferable to drink mineral water. There are referral and private hospitals in Lilongwe that are well equipped but a clinic with a medical doctor and nursing staff shall be on standby at the conference venue.

#### **10 - Money**

The currency in Malawi is the Kwacha (K) (1 \$ = K145). The commonly accepted currencies include the Euro, US dollar, South African rand and other major currencies.

#### **\* Banks and money exchange**

Several forex bureaus will be available around the conference venue to cater for delegates. Traveler's cheques and visa cards are acceptable in most hotels in Malawi. Cash dispensers/Automatic Teller Machines are located at a walking distance from the conference venue are also available and operate 24/24.

#### **11-Tipping**

Service is included in prices and tipping is not mandatory in Malawi.

#### **12- Electrical current**

The electrical current in Malawi is 220V. Plugs and sockets are the same as in Europe. Adapters are widely available in departmental stores. In case your equipment requires different voltage, an electrical transformer will be needed.

#### **13- Weather**

During September the weather is warm in Malawi with Temperatures ranging from 23 degrees C to 30 degrees C. Delegates are therefore, advised to carry summer clothing

**14- Time zone**

The time in Malawi is 2 hours behind Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).

**15- Telephone area code**

When you dial into Malawi, the international code is 265 then dial the subscriber number. There are mobile telephone companies to assist you call home.

**16- Shopping**

There are various art and craft items to buy in Lilongwe. These include paper and cloth paintings, clay, grass and wooden carvings/household items. The market provides various Malawian goodies worth taking home with you.

**17-\* Insurance**

The conference organizers cannot accept liability for loss of, or damage to, property belonging to conference participants (or accompanying persons), either during or as a result of the conference and/or tour. Please check the validity of your own travel insurance.

**18- Taking of Pictures**

Taking of pictures is allowed in Malawi, except for those of presidential palaces, airports, military zones and installations, security and defense personnel and aspects likely to undermine the country's customs and good reputation. It is advisable to get people's consent before you photograph or film them.

**13- Catering**

All the designated hotels and other restaurants in Lilongwe provide international cuisine as well as delicious Malawian dishes prepared with a variety of products including our delicious variety of fresh water fish including the popular **Chambo** (brim), game and fruits, etc.

**14- Hospitality**

Malawi is the warm heart of Africa – a paradise of smiles from our friendliest people in the world. You will prove this right from the warm welcome you get on arrival and throughout your stay in the country. You are part of our family and you will be home away from home!!!!

**15- CATA 2008 Website**

Please watch out for the CATA 2009 website in the near future.