

### **Public Private Dialogue.**

The major services offered by the Confederation stems from its mandate to lobby and advocate for a conducive business environment. At the core of this service is the ability of the Confederation to lobby at the highest level on critical issues for the sustainable development of business in Malawi, hence the Public Private Dialogue.

The Public Private Dialogue Forum is a platform that is organized quarterly between select senior representative Chief Executives from the private sector and association led by a Private Sector Co-Convener, and Government Ministers and Principal Secretaries as policy-makers, led by the sitting Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism. The Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) and the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism constitute the Secretariat. The objective is to dialogue on policy level issues that require immediate decisions.

Both the private sector and the public sector are expected to derive benefits from this Forum where:

- Quick decisions are likely to lead to development of a vibrant and responsible private sector in Malawi.
- Confidence in the economy is expected to rise and the interface between the two sectors eliminate suspicions or doubts between them.
- An all sector dialogue leaves no section of the economy unserved.
- Associations are able to present their specific issues to high level officials.
- The involvement of development partners helps identification of areas where they be involved.
- There is shared accountability by both the private and public sectors of the economy.

The PPD Forum has yielded a number of results and in general

- There is now growing interest by Policy makers to participate at the forum
- Several Policy makers have now recognized the need to develop a vibrant private sector owing to poor performance of the economy

Through this forum, several business and economic laws have been reviewed and passed by Parliament and a number of policies have also been approved by Government. These laws have enabled some reforms in sectors such as energy sector to open up to independent power producers to start investing in the sector. Others include, ongoing process towards accreditation of Malawi Bureau of Standards through construction of state of art laboratories, review of monetary policy, payment of private sector arrears, and introduction of mandatory pension scheme.