



## PRESS RELEASE

### NATIONAL AGRICULTURE FAIR AUGUST 30- 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018, CHICHIRI TRADE FAIR GROUNDS

Blantyre, Malawi, JULY 31, 2018

The Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI) in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development will hold the 15<sup>th</sup> National Agriculture Fair (NAF) from 30<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2018, at the Chichiri Trade Fair Grounds in Blantyre, under the theme: **“Access to Finance, value addition and markets – key to Agri based Industrialization’.**

The theme emphasizes the need for players in the sector to focus on value addition to products for economic acceleration and transformation.

The Agriculture sector, which currently represents 25% of the country’s GDP remains Malawi’s core economic driver. This is despite the fact that the sector is increasingly facing challenges such as unreliable rainfall patterns, low production per capita, inputs, high post-harvest losses, low adoption of technologies, inadequate extension services and low access to regional and international markets which hinder the development of the agro-industry in the country.

For 70 percent of the population, the sector is the primary source of livelihood. The vast majority of agricultural activities are at subsistence level. The result has been challenges for farmers in creating surplus for the market and providing the specialization to activate industrialization.

For the development of a competitive agro-processing industry, an uninterrupted and efficient supply chain is required. It is in this spirit that every year, MCCCI in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development, organizes the National Agriculture Fair to create a platform for information sharing on

best practices and for business linkages by stakeholders in the Agriculture sector, as well as letting the general public appreciate the evolving developments in the sector.

MCCCI and the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development, believe that agri-business has the potential to drive economic wealth creation through production of agricultural products and services that add value. This can be achieved through a shift from primary production to modern integrated agribusiness processes and industrialization. This will thus provide transformative opportunities for smallholder farmers as well as agricultural entities to unlock wealth through high value product trading and exchange to both local and regional international markets.

Value added exports will not only improve the country's balance of trade, but will also bring about positive economic developments such as jobs within the agribusiness value chains.

The 15<sup>th</sup> National Agriculture Trade Fair is free for patrons. For more information contact:

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