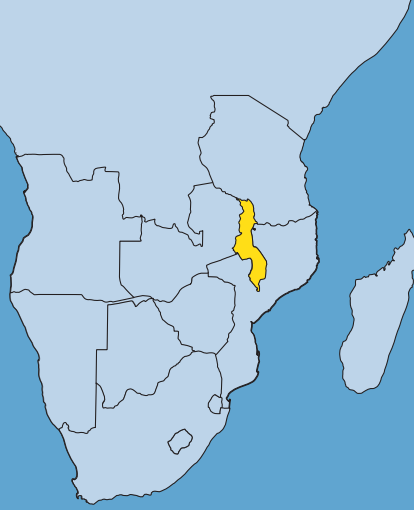


MALAWI

TRANSPARENCY ASSESSMENT

2018
FACT SHEET



ACCESS TO INFORMATION (ATI) IN MALAWI – OVERVIEW

This study shows that public bodies are improving their level of openness, both in terms of the availability of general information on their online platforms and their responses to requests for specific information. There was a 100% response rate by the surveyed institutions in 2018, which is a first. All the sampled institutions have online platforms and proactively provide information to the public.



Both the Constitution and the National ATI Policy of 2014 guarantee the right of access to information.



On 10 February 2017, President Peter Mutharika assented to the ATI Act, which the National Assembly had passed on 5 December 2016.



The ATI law will only come into effect on a date appointed by the Minister of Information and Communications Technology; the Minister is yet to set the date.

Since 2009, the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) has evaluated the level of openness of government and public institutions in its annual Transparency Assessment. Carried out by MISA Chapters alongside local researchers, the study seeks to establish the ease or difficulty with which citizens can access public information.

The study assesses whether public institutions proactively make relevant information available via an online presence in the form of a website or social media accounts. It further evaluates to what degree information is made available to citizens upon request.

Every year, on 28 September, MISA joins the international community in commemorating the International Day for Universal Access to Information.

MISA marks the occasion through:



The regional launch of the MISA Transparency Assessment



Hosting national Golden Key and Golden Padlock Awards Ceremonies

MALAWI ASSESSMENT RESULTS - OVERVIEW

INSTITUTIONS ASSESSED

1. Blantyre City Council (BCC)
2. Lilongwe City Council (LCC)
3. Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA)
4. Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC)
5. Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development (MOAIWD)
6. Ministry of Information and Communications Technology (MICT)
7. Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD)
8. Mzuzu City Council (MCC)
9. National Aids Commission (NAC)

AWARDS RECIPIENTS

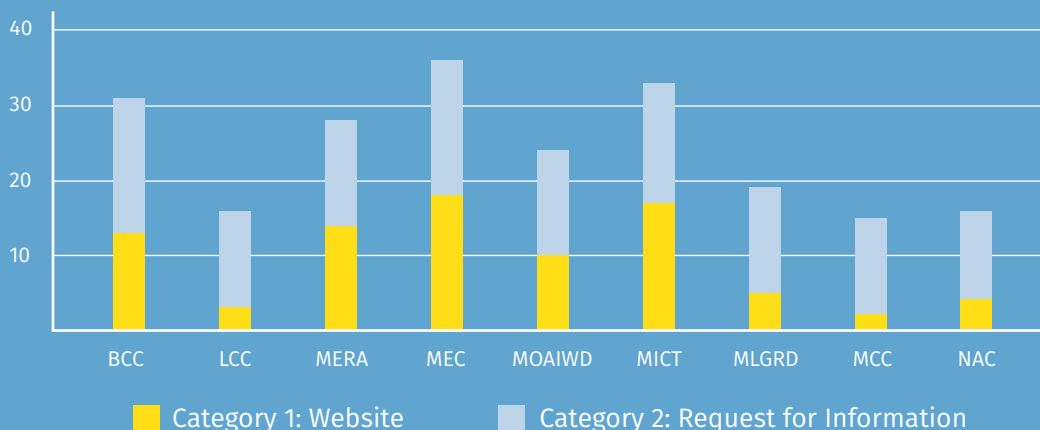


The recipient of the 2018 Golden Key Award, in acknowledgement of the institution's efforts to disclose information to the public, is the **Malawi Electoral Commission**.



The recipient of the 2018 Golden Padlock Award, as an institution not yet meeting recommended standards for the disclosure of public information, is the **Mzuzu City Council**.

ANALYSIS OF INSTITUTIONS



The maximum number of points allocated to categories 1 and 2 is 20 points each.

Category 1 (C1): Website Analysis

- 0 – 6 points: No or very limited website
- 7 – 13 points: Average website
- 14 – 20 points: Transparent website

Category 2 (C2): Requests for Information

- 0 – 6 points: Denied access or high level of secrecy
- 7 – 13 points: Average level of openness
- 14 – 20 points: Displayed openness