

## Malawi-A Small emitter but paying sacrifice to the world

Mr. Evans Davie Njewa is currently working as Environmental Officer (On Policy & Planning, Climate Change & Global Environment Facility issues). Among others, he has been Climate Change Desk officer since 2001 assisting the Director on coordination of climate change issues at national, regional and international levels, the Director and Department being the UNFCCC Focal Point for Malawi.

*Environmnet News* reporter Tewodros Negash has met Mr. Evans Davie Njwa and dicussed on Malawi's involvemnt in climate Change negotioations and on the preparation to the upcoming meeting of the conference of parties to the United Nations Fraework Convention on Climate Change to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

*Environment News : Tell us about your involvements in climate change issues ?*

*Mr Njewa:* My involvemnt in Climate change issues ranges from research to Policy formulation levels. I have participated in the preparation of the National Adaptation Plan of Action(NAPA), Coordinated a survey to develop an Inventory on Climate Change-related activities for Malawi last year, and I have also prepared the Green House Gas Inventories based on the years 1990 and 1994. I was also Desk Officer for the Global Environment Facility, a mechanism that was established in 1991 by the UN to provide financial and technical resources to about 189 UN member states especially developing countries to implement projects on biological diversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, ozone depleting substances and persistent organic pollutants of which Malawi is a beneficiary.

*Environment News: Most people don't understand what The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is? How can it be explained easily to the layman?*

*Mr Njewa:* To Simply put it, the UNFCCC is an agreement that was signed by over 150 member states of the United Nations in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil in 1992 at the Earth Summit, and later adopted by about 180 states in New York to contribute to the stabilization of green house gases that contribute to the changes in temperature and rainfall as a result of global warming of the atmosphere.

*Environment News:* Tell to us Malawi's involvement in the UNFCCC process since 1992?

*Mr Njewa:* Malawi is a Party to most of the agreements internationally. The following can be mentioned as best examples to show Malawi's involvement in climate change issues internationally;

- Malawi signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992 and ratified it in 1994. Environmental Affairs Department is the Focal point in Malawi for the UNFCCC.
- Developed the National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) in 1994 which recognized climate change as one of the issues affecting environmental sustainability in the country.
- Adopted the National Environmental Policy in 1996, it has since been revised in 2004.
- Enacted the Environment Management Act in 1996.
- Produced the first State of Environment Report in 1998.
- We have tried to mainstream climate change in the key socio-economic sector policies and legislation including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, energy, water, gender, wildlife; and also in national action strategies and plans such as the Malawi Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development.

- Malawi has made its voice heard in regional and international for a as well as sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the Conference of Parties of the UNFCCC
- There is a National Climate Change Committee with members from government, civil society, NGOs, private sector, and academia
- We have Project Steering Committees for any of the ongoing projects, at any time.
- There is a Government of Malawi/ Development Partners Working Group on Climate Change. Government is represented by Principal Secretaries in this Working Group.
- Have Parliamentary and Cabinet Committees on Environment issues

*Environment News: What has Malawi benefited so far by being party to climate negotiations?*

*Mr Njewa:* Malawi has benefited from technical and financial resources to develop the reports mentioned above. We have shared experiences and lessons learnt through interaction with other delegates from all over the world at the regional and international conferences. We have put mitigation and adaptation measures in place such as the NAPA.

*Environment News : Tell us about Climate Injustice in the world?*

*Mr Njewa:* Generally, the developed countries have been the major polluters after the Industrial Revolution, in the 1750s but the most affected have been the developing countries especially least developing countries Africa, coastal zones, low lying areas. Unfortunately, the vulnerable communities, because of their poverty, have a low resilience or adaptive capacity. The developed

countries do not give us much required financial resources to the funds established in the Convention.

*Environment News : Malawi is not a big emitter but is burdened/paying a lot of sacrifice? Why so? What should be done?*

*Mr Njewa:* Yes, Malawi is a small emitter. However, through the financial mechanism, the GEF, it gets some resources for capacity building, mitigation and adaptation activities. The Convention obliges us still to put in place measures on mitigation through what are called nationally appropriate mitigation activities (NAMA).

*Environment News : What are some of the issues/concerns Malawi will be raising at the climate change negotiations in COP15, Copenhagen?*

*Mr Njewa:* With regard to the amendment of the Kyoto protocol our government is of a view that the Kyoto Protocol must be amended, and not replaced completely. Malawi would like to see a financial mechanism that has a more equitable and balanced representation of all Parties within a transparent system of governance.

Malawi further wishes to see that responsibility for green house gas emissions must be matched with responsibility for taking mitigation measures and adaptation actions. Developing countries are and will continue to be subjected to undue burdens from impacts of climate change and require more concrete funding commitments from Annex 1 countries(Developed nations) commensurate with their contribution to global warming. In this regard, Malawi proposes that a percentage be imposed on Annex 1 countries to funds established

under the Convention so that there is more assured funding than the current framework under which Annex 1 have no real obligation on which planning can be based.

Malawi is of the view that the current framework perpetuates inequalities among member states of the Convention, contrary to the provisions of the Convention which among other things seeks to promote equity and building capacity of state parties to address impacts of climate change.

Malawi therefore calls for funding mechanism which meets specific needs and requirements for adaptation for most of the LDC countries which include improved financing for the identified needs in the NAPA for both short and long term interventions (NAPA needs support) and the governance of the Adaptation Fund should be more transparent and accessible.

*Environment News: What are your expectations from COP15?*

*Mr Njewa:* I believe, developed countries in Copenhagen should give targets in the range of 25 to 40% reductions by the year 2020 based on 1990 and also they should pledge funding for adaptation, mitigation, technology transfer and capacity building.

*Environment News: wish you success in COP 15 and thank you very much for your time and cooperation*

*Mr Njewa: You are very welcome.*