



# A Brief On Malawi Digital Migration Project

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# DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION

## Presentation Flow

- Introduction
- Progress status in Malawi
- Conclusion

# DIGITAL TERRESTRIAL TELEVISION

## INTRODUCTION

- The Ministry of Information, Tourism and Culture is managing the Digital Migration Project.
- The project aims at introducing active digital television signal in Malawi.
- Malawi started implementing the ITU directive in 2010 when the project was incorporated in the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP)
- The Vice President of Malawi Switched on the Digital Network on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2013

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## Progress Status in Malawi

### Malawi work progress

- Malawi has installed Main control centre in Lilongwe and a sub control centre in Blantyre.
- Five transmitters have been installed in Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Zomba and Blantyre.
- Each transmitter has a covering radius of a maximum 90Km in aerial straight line.
- A coverage of 55% of the population (about 7.5 million Malawians) has been achieved.
- . The network coverage started with a total of 200 set top boxes in 2013 but now it has a total of 35,000
- . Government formed a company called Malawi Digital Broadcast Network (MDBN) to manage signal distribution

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## Progress Status in Malawi

### Malawi Achievements

- . We are sure we will make it for the 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 date because of political will and hard working spirit by Malawians
- . Government has accredited a few suppliers to supply STBs

### Malawi's Challenges

- . We have been slow in raising awareness because of lack of funds but now we are getting there.
- The country has an active network reaching 55% of population but the supply of receiving equipment is low.
- The nation has 35,000 Set Top Boxes supported by Gotv Set Top Boxes. In total we have about 35,000 families watching TV using the digital network against a population of 7.5 million.

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## Progress Status in Malawi

### What if we do not migrate!

- Transmitter signals reach beyond boundaries. For example: Zomba analogue transmitter reaches parts of Mozambique.
- Let us suppose Mozambique has migrated and have allocated the Very High Frequency (VHF) to a mobile operator. Our transmitter signal will interfere with the operator in Mozambique.
- This according to ITU is an international dispute and Malawi would pay for the loss of business to the operator in Mozambique.
- Some of the cases might be resolved in International Court of Justice which may make the country lose a lot of resources.

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## Progress Status in Malawi

### What if we do not migrate!

- The regulator will fail to generate revenue as the expected freed frequencies cannot be sold.
  - Freed frequencies generate a lot of revenue yearly.
- Malawi can benefit a lot through the process and see that migration may fund itself through such arrangements.

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## Conclusion

- Malawi has potential to grow in the digital industry.
- Maximum support is needed to attain 100% coverage and to meet the ITU deadline.
- Digital benefits will only be realised after full migration which will see all the current frequencies released.



Thank You