



Terms of Reference

National Trade Facilitation Committee

1. Introduction

The Government of Malawi is committed to the implementation of trade facilitation reforms. The Government recognizes that effective implementation of trade facilitation programs will improve the country's trade competitiveness thereby contributing to accelerated national economic growth. The Government's commitment is visible in the overarching national development strategy, the Malawi 2063 and other sectoral policies that aim at providing strategic direction for the holistic implementation of trade facilitation programs in the country.

Trade facilitation by simple definition is about the simplification, harmonization, standardization, and modernization of international trade procedures with the aim of reducing transaction costs in local and international trade. Trade facilitation processes increase or reduce the transaction costs associated with trading across the borders of a country. The primary goal of trade facilitation reforms is to make trade across borders faster and cheaper. This entails making procedures and the related exchange of information and documents between the various partners in the supply chain more predictable, whilst ensuring the safety and security of transactions.

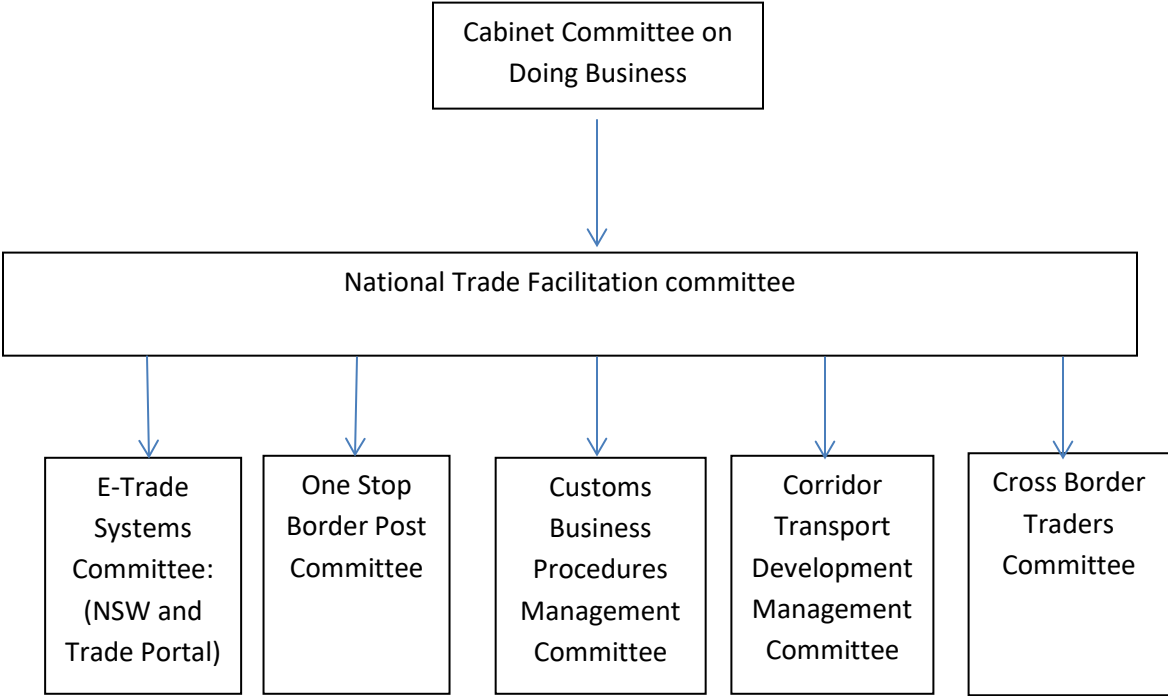
The Ministry of Trade and Industry is the coordinating agency for the implementation of trade facilitation initiatives in Malawi. In order to effectively implement multitask trade facilitation interventions, the Ministry facilitated the establishment of an inter-agency National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) on 8 July 2015 to oversee holistic implementation of trade facilitation reforms in the country. NTFC established to comply with Article 23.2 of the WTO

Agreement of Trade Facilitation, replaced the defunct Malawi Trade and Transport Logistics Working Group (MTTLWG). The NTFC is a forum whose purpose is to promote trade facilitation, encourage inter-agency coordination, and provide directions on major trade facilitation issues.

The National Trade Facilitation – Action Plan (NTF-AP) developed in collaboration with all stakeholders following recommendations of various studies undertaken in the area of trade facilitation, guides NTFC work operation.

Below the NTFC are several sub-committees mandated to work on sectoral issues and report to the NTFC. The NTFC implementation structure is as follows:

NTFC Governance Structure



2. Purpose & Specific Tasks of the NTFC

The overall purpose of the NTFC is to provide direction, coordination and implementation of the NTFC-AP including the provisions of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The NTFC meets every quarter and has, among other things, the following roles and responsibilities:

- Provide direction and drive the implementation of the NTF-AP;
- Provide the platform for discussion of all trade facilitation issues;
- Set up subsidiary bodies/task forces to deliver specific actions;
- Review and approve budgets for specific works/services (if necessary);
- Make policy recommendations on future trade-related investments;
- Liaise with development partners and drive resource mobilization;
- Support trade facilitation negotiations at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels; and
- Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the NTF-AP.

3. Membership of the NTFC and Meetings

In order to ensure the effectiveness of the NTFC committee, membership shall be limited to only very relevant institutions and kept at a manageable size, However, the Committee may co-opt any relevant agency for specific assignment when need arises. The Committee will meet quarterly except for emergency circumstances. The following institutions shall constitute the NTFC:

Membership:

1. Malawi Revenue Authority (MRA) - **Chairperson**
2. Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOTI) - **Secretariat**
3. Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM)
4. Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS)
5. Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC)
6. Department of Immigration
7. Malawi Police Service (MPS)
8. Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MTPW)
9. Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs
10. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
11. Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development
12. Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs
13. Ministry of Health
14. Department of Road Traffic and Safety Services
15. Roads Authority (RA)
16. Malawi Confederation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MCCCI)
17. Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association of Malawi (CAFAAM)
18. Road Transport Operators Association (RTOA)
19. Cross Border Traders Association (CBTA)
20. Bankers Association of Malawi
21. University of Malawi
22. National Association for Small and Medium Enterprises
23. Manufacturers Association
24. Donor Trade Facilitation Facilitator