



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

DIRECTORATE OF OPEN DISTANCE & e-LEARNING

SKILLS FOR A VIBRANT ECONOMY PROJECT (SAVE PROJECT)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE MALAWI COLLEGE OF DISTANCE EDUCATION REGIONAL OFFICE IN AREA 3, LILONGWE FOR AN ED-TECH HUB

NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE

The Government of Malawi is implementing Skills for a Vibrant Economy (SAVE) Project with support from the World Bank (International Development Association). SAVE is financed through a national resource envelope of US\$100 million from International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) for a period of five years. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase equitable access to market-relevant skills in priority areas of the economy, especially for females and vulnerable youth. The project consists of 4 Components which are; Component 1. Supporting public higher education institutions in increasing equitable access to market relevant skills development programs; Component 2 - Supporting Technical, Entrepreneurial, and Vocational Education and Training to increase equitable access to market relevant skills development; Component 3- Tertiary education student financing and system strengthening, project management, M&E and communications and Component 4- Contingency Emergency Response.

This notice therefore serves to notify interested and or affected persons/ parties and the general public of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and the Asbestos Management Plan, that were developed for the rehabilitation of the Malawi College of Distance Education (MCDE) regional office buildings in Area 3, Lilongwe, with support from the Skills for a Vibrant Economy (SAVE) project.

The facility will serve as a model education technology center to support teaching and learning best practices, research and innovation aimed at improving open, distance and e-learning (ODeL) in Malawi.

The Ed-Tech Hub will draw expertise from Government, universities, TEVET, Teacher Training Colleges, researchers, innovators, private sector and students. It is hoped that it will grow to become a center of excellence in education technology in Malawi, which will promote sustainable growth of ODeL for increased equitable access, enhanced quality, efficient governance and management and resilience of education in Malawi. The rehabilitation exercise will involve the creation of Teaching and Learning Technologies Studio, Learning Analytics Room, Virtual Science and Virtual Reality/Artificial Intelligence Lab, Research Room, Teachers' Lounge, Training Room, and an Ed-Tech Maintenance Workshop.

In conformity with both national as well as the World Bank Environmental, Health and Safety instruments, the project needed to be planned and designed in a manner that enhances potential positive environmental and social impacts and minimises potential negative environmental and social impacts. This was achieved through conducting an environmental and social assessment and preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Plan. The environmental and social assessment identified and evaluated potential environmental and social impacts that the project will generate, proposed measures to enhance the positive impacts and measures to mitigate the negative impacts, and developed a monitoring plan to check implementation of the enhancement measures for the positive impacts and mitigation measures for the negative impacts.

The positive impacts that the ESMP identified included increased equitable access to education, creation of job opportunities to workers hired to rehabilitate the infrastructure, skills transfer and hands on experience, creation of temporary small-scale business opportunities, increased business opportunities, source of Government revenue through taxes, improved sanitation facilities, improved ventilation and increase in parking space.

The negative impacts that the ESMP identified included noise pollution from delivery vehicles and workers, increased generation of municipal solid waste such as packaging materials, food leftovers and cartons, generation of demolition waste and construction rubble, generation of hazardous waste e.g. electrical and chemical wastes, increased energy demand and increase in dust emissions during demolition.

The Environmental and Social Management Plan for the project site has been presented to the Malawi Environment Protection Authority and the World Bank and is now ready to be presented interested stakeholders for any observations.

The report is now available for reference purposes at any time at the following locations:

- The Ministry of Education Headquarters in Lilongwe;
- Malawi College of Distance Education, Central Region Office, Area 3, Lilongwe
- The Ministry of Education website, www.education.gov.mw
- The Ministry of Education facebook page

To this end, the Directorate of Open Distance and e-Learning propose to engage stakeholders on the report. Stakeholders and or interested person/parties are invited to participate in the Public Disclosure processes by examining the documents available as detailed above and submit any observations no later than 17 May, 2024 to:

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We look forward to the public participating in the consultation and disclosure process.