



MALAWI FACT FILE

Capital: Lilongwe
Wildlife: Leopard, black rhino, elephants, hippos, buffalo and zebra
Area: 118,484 km² (20% covered by lakes)
Population: 16 million
Currency: 1 Malawian Kwacha (MK)
Religion: 68% Christian; 25% Muslim; 5% Other
Languages: Chicheŵa and English
President: Ms. Joyce Banda
Major Ethnic Groups: 32.6% Chewa; 17.6% Lomwe; 13.5% Yao



The Malawi flag has a black stripe that stands for the people of Africa. The colour red stands for the blood spilt in Malawi's struggle for independence; while the green symbolises the country's vegetation. The rising sun represents the dawn of freedom and hope on the African continent.



The national crest shows the rising sun representing the dawn of freedom in Africa, at the top and bottom of the shield. The fish eagle and the wavy blue and white bands on the shield symbolise Lake Malawi. The lion and the leopard support and guard the whole crest. The land at the base is the rugged Mount Mulanje. The Coat of Arms states the national motto "Unity and Freedom".



Nyau "mask" and the *Gule Wamkulu*, meaning "Great Dance" in English are an important part of Chewa culture.