

Malawi

Estimated population 12.3 million

Formerly the British colony of Nyasaland, Malawi became independent in 1964 and was subjected to a long authoritarian regime under Dr Hastings Banda . Multi-party democracy was introduced in the constitution of 1994 with a President elected for five years by universal suffrage and a National Assembly or parliament of 188 members. Malawi is 166th in the UN's Human Development Index and had a GDP per capita in 2005 of \$161. Tobacco accounts for 60 per cent of Malawi's exports. Female life expectancy is 47 and male 45.

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