

Status and Record of Completed Law Reform Programmes

NO.	PROGRAMME	YEAR OF COMPLETION	PROPOSED LEGISLATION	STATUS
1	Review of Certain Laws on Defilement of Young Girls, Wills and Inheritance, Citizenship, Marriage and Affiliation	October, 1996	(a) Penal Code, Defilement of Young Girls (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 28 and 29 of 1998
			(b) Wills and Inheritance (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 22 of 1998
			(c) Citizenship (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(d) Marriage (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 29 of 1997
			(e) Affiliation (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 30 of 1997
2	Technical Review of the Constitution	November, 1998	Constitution (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 13 of 2001 and Act No. 8 of 2010
3	Development of Bail Guidelines	February, 2000	Bail (Guidelines) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 8 of 2000
4	Review of the Penal Code	June, 2000	Penal Code (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 1 of 2011
5	Review of the Army Act	July, 2001	Defence Force Bill	Enacted as Act No. 11 of 2004
6	Review of the Censorship and Control of Entertainment Act	June, 2001	Classification of Public Entertainment and Publications Bill	Before Cabinet

7	Review of the Legal Education and Legal Practitioners Act	September, 2002	Legal Education and Legal Practitioners (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 9 of 2004
8	Review of the Corrupt Practices Act	November, 2002	Corrupt Practices (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 17 of 2004
9	Review of the Police Act	July, 2003	Police Bill	Enacted as Act No. 12 of 2010
10	Review of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code	December, 2003	Criminal Procedure and Evidence Code (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 14 of 2010
11	Criminal Justice Reform on Conversion of Fines	December, 2003	Fines (Conversion) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 10 of 2005
12	Review of [the?] Wills and Inheritance Act	January, 2004	(a) Deceased Estates (Wills, Inheritance and Protection) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 4 of 2011
			(b) Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 1 of 2016
13	Review of the Legal Aid Act	July, 2005	Legal Aid Bill	Enacted as Act No. 7 of 2011
14	Review of the Children and Young Persons Act	October, 2005	Child (Care, Protection and Justice) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 22 of 2010
15	Review of Land-Related Laws	March, 2010	(a) Land Bill	Enacted as Act No. 16 of 2016
			(b) Customary Land Bill	Enacted as Act No. 19 of 2016

			(c) Registered Land (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 7 of 2017
			(d) Physical Planning Bill	Enacted as Act No. 17 of 2017
			(e) Forestry (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 5 of 2017
			(f) Public Roads (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 8 of 2017
			(g) Mines and Minerals (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(h) Land Survey Bill	Enacted as Act No. 18 of 2016
			(i) Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 9 of 2017
			(j) Local Government (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 10 of 2017
			(k) Malawi Housing Corporation (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 6 of 2017
			(l) Companies (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
16	Review of the Laws on Marriage and Divorce	June, 2006	(a) Marriage, Divorce and Family Relations Bill	Enacted as Act No. 4 of 2015
			(b) Penal Code (Amendment) Bill	Before Parliament

17	Review of the Traditional Courts Act	September, 2007	Local Courts Bill	Enacted as Act No. 9 of 2011
18	Review of the Constitution	September, 2007	(a) Constitution (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(b) Constitution (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(c) Impeachment of President Bill	Before Cabinet
			(d) Political Parties Registration and Regulation (Amendment) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 1 of 2018
			(e) Electoral Commission (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(f) Parliamentary and Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(g) Courts (Amendment) Bill	Modified by [the?] Ministry of Justice [and Constitutional Affairs?] and rejected by Parliament
			(h) Ombudsman (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
19	Development of Legislation on Declaration of	August, 2008	(a) Public Officers (Declaration	Enacted as Act No. 22 of 2013

	Assets, Liabilities and Business Interests by Public and Elected Officers		of Assets, Liabilities and Business Interests) Bill	
			(b) Parliamentary and Presidential Elections (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(c) Local Government Elections (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
20	Development of HIV and AIDS Legislation	December, 2008	(a) HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Management) Bill	Enacted as Act No. 9 of 2018
			(b) Employment (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
21	Review of the Education Act	March, 2010	Education Bill	Enacted as Act No. 21 of 2013
22	Development of Trafficking in Persons Legislation	February, 2011	(a) Trafficking in Persons Bill	Enacted as Act No. 3 of 2015
			(b) Tourism and Hotels (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(c) Immigration (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(d) Penal Code (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
			(e) Extradition (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet

			(f) Child Care, Protection and Justice (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
23	Development of Legislation on Gender Equality	February, 2011	Gender Equality Bill	Enacted as Act No. 3 of 2013
24	Review of the Legal Education and Legal Practitioners Act	May, 2013	(a) Legal Education and Legal Practitioners Bill	Enacted as Act No. 31 of 2018
			(b) Debt Collectors Bill	Before Cabinet
25	Review of the Trade Marks Act	July, 2013	(a) Trade Marks Bill	Enacted as Act No. 2 of 2018
			(b) Company and Intellectual Property Office Bill	Before Cabinet
26	Review of [the?] Firearms Act	June, 2013	Firearms and Ammunition (Control) Bill	Before Cabinet
27	Review of the Adoption of Children Act	August, 2013	Adoption of Children Bill	Before Cabinet
28	Review of the Chiefs Act	August, 2015	Traditional Leaders Bill	Before Cabinet
29	Review of the Law on Abortion	March, 2016	Termination of Pregnancy Bill	Before Cabinet
30	Review of the Sheriffs Act	October, 2015	(a) Sheriffs Bill	Before Cabinet
			(b) Courts (Amendment) Bill	Submitted to the Minister responsible for

				justice and laid before Parliament
31	Development of Legislation on Spent Convictions	December, 2015	Spent Convictions Bill	Before Cabinet
32	Review of Electoral Laws	March, 2017	(a) Constitution (Amendment) Bill	Modified by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and rejected by Parliament
			(b) Electoral Commission (Amendment) Bill	Modified by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and rejected by Parliament
			(c) Elections Management Fund Bill	Modified by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and rejected by Parliament
			(d) Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections Bill	Modified by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and rejected by Parliament
			(e) Assumption of Office of President (Transitional Arrangements) Bill	Modified by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and

				rejected by Parliament
			(f) Referendum Bill	Enacted as Act No. 6 of 2018
33	Technical Review of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act	October, 2015	Prevention of Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill	Before Cabinet
34	Development of Legislation on Sentencing Guidelines	December, 2018	Sentencing Guidelines Bill	Before Cabinet
35	Review of the Prisons Act	December, 2018	Prisons (Amendment) Bill	Submitted to the Minister responsible for justice and laid before Parliament
36	Review of the Citizenship Act	August, 2021	Citizenship (Amendment) Bill	Submitted to the Minister responsible for justice
37	Review of the Immigration Act	September, 2023	Immigration Bill	Submitted to the Minister responsible for justice
38	Review of the Public Health Act	July, 2023	(a) Public Health Bill	Submitted to the Minister responsible for justice
			(b) Anatomy (Amendment) Bill	
			(c) Liquor (Amendment) Bill	

39	Review of the Witchcraft Act		Witchcraft (Prevention and Suppression) Bill	Submitted to the Minister responsible for justice
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