

## Recommendations

There is an urgent need that the government should increase funding for EIA related activities both at district and national level, in order to ensure that mining projects are efficiently monitored in all aspects as provided for in the EIA.

In terms of compliance to environmental policies and standards, GoM should ensure that district environmental offices are adequately equipped with environmental pollution monitoring equipment, more especially radiation monitoring equipments such as Radex meters (gieger counter) and Cintillometers.

There is need for decentralization of mining monitoring exercises to districts so that the District Officers can frequently visit the mines. District officers need to be empowered, both financially and technically.

Miners should sign a development agreement with communities. This will help in uplifting the livelihoods of local communities as there would be direct benefits.

Communities should be consulted extensively and their consent sought before mining companies are given mining licenses.



Exploration site at Kanyika Mine



## CIVIL SOCIETY ANALYSIS OF THE 2011 TO 2014 NATIONAL BUDGET ALLOCATION TO ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT WITH FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SECTOR

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### DEVELOPED BY

Elyvin Nkhonjera  
Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy  
Plot LK 388, Namiwawa, Along Glyn Jones Road  
P.O.Box 1057, Blantyre, Malawi  
Telephone: +265 212 700 104

Website :[www.cepa.org.mw](http://www.cepa.org.mw)



## INTRODUCTION

CEPA conducted a national budget analysis and monitoring exercise for Environmental Impact Assessment sector under the Environmental Affairs Department with the aim of informing policy advocacy and enhance linkages between approved national policies and national budgetary allocations.

The review focused on allocations the sector has received in the financial years of 2011/2012, 2012/2013 and 2013/14 approved national budgets. The results of the analysis acts as evidence for advocating for increased allocation to specific priority areas in the Environmental Impact Assessment Section so as to facilitate sustainable development in Malawi.



Coal Dust at Mchenga Coal Mine

### Key Findings from The Budget Analysis

Unstable allocation of EIA activities with some years receiving a very high allocation while others very low allocation. The reduction in resources implies that the department will not be able to meaningfully mitigate or eliminate adverse environmental hazards that arise from development projects as

It was also discovered that even within EAD, EIA services are not highly prioritized as Environmental Education and Outreach section. EEO was allocated K77 million against Environmental Impact Assessment which was only given K32 million in 2012 / 2013 Budget. It is only in 2011 where EIA was allocated the highest within the department but this was just 4.8% of the total budget allocated to EAD.

In 2012 EIA section received a hike of 77% from the previous year, while EEO got the highest hike of 94.3%. These hikes resulted into the department getting an overall increase of 26.4% from the previous budget allocation. However, the hikes were not maintained in the 2013/2014, the estimates reflect a huge drop in the resources allocated to the EIA sector with a percentage of 65, while the department in general experienced a drop of 14%.

It is expected that this drop affected the delivery of services on the ground.



Tailings Dam at Mwabulambo Coal

### Key Findings from the District Monitoring

The district Environmental Officers get very little allocation in Other Recurrent Transactions (ORT) which limits the implementation of on the ground. Karonga for example received an allocation of MK43,

593.00 in August 2013 while Rumphi received ORT of 11,331.00 in the same month despite the increase in the demand for Environmental monitoring activities in their districts. In the Month of December all these offices did not get any funding. However these funds are supposed to cover the utility bills for the office, stationary, monitoring of mining sites, waste management, environmental education etc.

It was also noticed that in some districts there are no officers as such the positions are held by the Acting EDO. For example in Rumphi, despite having 5 mines within the district that needs regular monitoring, there is no EDO and it is the District Forestry Officer that acts on this position.

The research also established that there are no environmental monitoring, mitigation and management plans at district level. This implies that the district officers do not have a specific tool for guiding environmental monitoring exercises for mining projects in their respective districts. This increases the vulnerability of workers and communities.

The study also revealed that monitoring exercises for mining ventures are only done on quarterly basis and are centralized i.e. are mostly conducted by staff from the head quarters (EAD and Ministry of Mines). Much as it is important for staff from the headquarters to periodically conduct such monitoring exercises, it would however be more effective and resource efficient if the district officers were empowered to do such work.

Mineral explorations by mining companies holding exploration licenses