

International Budget Partnership
OPEN BUDGET QUESTIONNAIRE
Malawi, September 2009

International Budget Partnership
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International Budget Partnership OPEN BUDGET QUESTIONNAIRE

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Section One: The Availability of Budget Documents

Table 1. Budget Year of Documents Used in Completing the Questionnaire

Budget Documents Used in Completing the Questionnaire	
	Budget Year Used
Pre-Budget Statement	Not Available
Budget Summary	2009/10
Executive's Budget Proposal	2009/10
Supporting Budget Documents	2009/10
Citizens Budget	2009/10
Enacted Budget	Not Available
In-Year Reports	2008/09
Mid-Year Report	Not Available
Year-End Report	2008/09
Audit Report	Not Available

Table 2. Key Budget Documents Used: Full Titles and Internet Links

Budget Document	Full Title, Date, and Internet Link
Pre-Budget Statement	Not Produced
Budget Summary	2009/2010 Highlights (Brief) of the national budget, 3rd July 2009. Publicly Available, but Not on the Internet
Executive's Budget Proposal	Budget Document No. 4 and Budget Document No. 5, "Draft Estimates of Expenditure on Recurrent and Capital Budget for the Financial Year 2009/10." Publicly Available, but Not on the Internet on 3rd July 2009
Budget Document One in Support of the Executive's Budget Proposal	2009/2010 Budget Statement/Speech. Friday, 3rd July 2009. Publicly Available, but Not on the Internet.
Budget Document Two in Support of the Executive's Budget Proposal	Annual Economic Report 2009 on 3rd July 2009. 3rd July 2009. Publicly Available, but Not on the Internet.
Budget Document Three in Support of the Executive's Budget Proposal	2009/10 Draft Financial Statement, 3rd July 2009. Publicly Available, but Not on the Internet.
Citizens Budget	2009/10 Budget Highlights (translated into vernacular languages).
Enacted Budget	Produced but Not Available to the Public
In-Year Reports	Monthly Economic Review reports, Quarterly Review reports 2008/09. Available on the Internet, (latest report for January to July 2009) on www.rbm.mw/publications/documents . Otherwise, the Public Expenditure Reports by Ministry of Finance are not made available to Public. Latest posting was in year 2003/04 on http://www.finance.gov.mw/publications.htm .
Mid-Year Review	Produced but Not Available to the Public

Year-End Report	Budget Document No. 2: Annual Economic Report 2009. Publicly Available, but Not on the Internet.
Audit Report	Audit Report for 2004/05; 2005/06 and 2006/07. Produced, but Not Available to the Public
Other Documents	Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS); Debt and Aid Division report; 2008 Malawi MDGs Report; MGDS Review reports; Constitution for the Republic of Malawi; Public Audit Act (2003); Public Finance Management Act (2003); Public Procurement Act (2003)...
Relevant Ministries & Departments	Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning; Ministry of Development Planning and Cooperation; National Audit Office; Reserve Bank of Malawi; Malawi National Assembly; Malawi Revenue Authority; Office of the Director of Public Procurement (ODPP)...

Table 3. Distribution of Documents Related to the Executive's Budget Proposal*

DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGET DOCUMENTS						
	Pre-budget	Executive's Budget Proposal				Citizens budget
		Main document	Budget summary*	Supporting Document 1	Supporting Document 2	
A. Not produced, even for internal purposes	Yes					
B. Produced for internal purposes, but not available to the public						
C. Produced and available to the public, but only on request		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
D. Produced and distributed to the public (for example, in libraries, posted on the Internet.)						Yes
<i>For budget reports that are produced and distributed to the public, what steps does the executive take to distribute these reports and to promote interest in them?</i>						
	Pre-budget	Executive's Budget Proposal				Citizens budget
		Main document	Budget summary*	Supporting Document 1	Supporting Document 2	
1. The release date is known at least one month in advance	NA	No	No	No	No	No
2. Advance notification of release is sent to users, media	NA	No	No	No	No	No
3. Released to public same day as official release to media	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Available on the Internet free of charge	NA	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
5. Free print copies available, limited distribution	NA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6. Free print copies available, mass distribution	NA	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7. Readily available outside capital and/or big cities ⁺	NA	No	No	No	No	No
8. Written in more than one language	NA	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
9. News conference is held to discuss release	NA	No	No	No	No	No

*A budget summary should be a stand-alone document, which could include a budget speech or a separately published executive summary.

+Mark "Yes" if access by mail order or by Internet, if Internet service is readily available outside the capital and/or big cities

*** Government Comments for Table 3 are available at the end of the Questionnaire.**

Table 4. Distribution of the Enacted Budget and Other Reports*

DISTRIBUTION OF ENACTED BUDGET AND OTHER REPORTS					
	Enacted budget	In-year reports	Mid-year review	Year-end report	Audit report
A. Not produced, even for internal purposes					
B. Produced for internal purposes, but not available to the public	Yes		Yes		Yes
C. Produced and available to the public, but only on request				Yes	
D. Produced and distributed to the public (for example, in libraries, posted on the Internet.)		Yes			
<i>For budget reports that are produced and distributed to the public, what steps does the executive take to distribute these reports and to promote interest in them?</i>					
	Enacted budget	In-year reports	Mid-year review	Year-end report	Audit report
1. The release date is known at least one month in advance	NA	No	NA	No	NA
2. Advance notification of release sent to users, media	NA	No	NA	No	NA
3. Released to public same day as official release to media	NA	No	NA	Yes	NA
4. Available on the Internet free of charge	NA	Yes	NA	No	NA
5. Free print copies available, limited distribution	NA	No	NA	Yes	NA
6. Free print copies available, mass distribution	NA	No	NA	Yes	NA
7. Readily available outside capital/big cities ⁺	NA	Yes	NA	No	NA
8. Written in more than one language	NA	No	NA	No	NA
9. News conference is held to discuss release	NA	No	NA	No	NA

+Mark "Yes" if access is available by mail order or by Internet, if Internet service is readily available outside the capital and/or big cities.

*** Government Comments for Table 4 are available at the end of the Questionnaire**

Section Two: The Executive's Budget Proposal

Notes on abbreviations:

BY = budget year (year for which the budget proposals are being made)

BY+1 = one year beyond the budget year

BY-1 = one year before the budget year

Note 1: The Open Budget Survey research process was carried out over a 12-month period and the final version of the Open Budget Questionnaires reflect decisions made after multiple rounds of discussions between Survey researchers, peer reviewers, and the International Budget Partnership (IBP) (in several countries these decisions also considered comments received from governments). When peer reviewers or governments agreed with the answers provided by researchers, they often provided no comment. Thus for many questions, the section in the questionnaire that should contain peer reviewer comments is left blank. However, if the government did not provide any comments to a question (because it did not dispute the answer), the section within the questionnaire that is meant to reflect government comments specifies the answer that the government agreed with (by default).

Since the IBP continued its discussions with the researchers even after receiving peer reviewer and government comments, for some questions these discussions resulted in a mutual decision to change the answers, even if the peer reviewers and governments agreed with the original answer provided by the researcher. Such changes may have happened as a result of:

1. A more consistent application of the Survey methodology;
2. New information identified by the researcher or by IBP that had a bearing on the answer for a particular question; or
3. Decisions made to ensure cross-country comparability of answers.

For more information on these changes for any question please write to info@internationalbudget.org.

The Executive's Budget Proposal	
Estimates for the Budget Year and Beyond	
<p>1. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All expenditures are classified by administrative unit. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit, but some small units are not shown separately. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit, but a significant number of units are not shown separately. No expenditures classified by administrative unit are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3, Financial Statement for Financial Year 2009/10. Budget Document No.4, Draft Estimates on Recurrent and Capital Budget for Financial Year 2009/10 (Output-based); Budget Document No.5, Draft Estimates on Recurrent and Capital Budget for Financial Year 2009/10 (Detailed Estimates).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is some level of categorization by administrative and economic units, detailing Programmes and Sub-programmes except for a few disaggregated units at the cost centre level.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	b

<p>2. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by functional classification?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures are classified by functional classification, and the categorization is compatible with international standards. b. All expenditures are classified by functional classification, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards. c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by function. d. No expenditures classified by function are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3, Financial Statement for Financial Year 2009/10, pp.17-18.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The alignment is being comprehensively done for the first time, in compatibility with international standards for comparisons to be made with other countries. This is reportedly to replace the previous system which was based on 51 spending programmes, although it is yet to be fully implemented due to the learning curve.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>3. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the budget year that are classified by economic classification?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures are classified by economic classification, and the categorization is compatible with international standards. b. All expenditures are classified by economic classification, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards. c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by economic classification. d. No expenditures classified by economic classification are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Same as above.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was “c”</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> If the answer to this question and to question 2 are to be consistent, this should be “a.” The ministry of finance has started classifying the expenditures following international standards.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I agree we need to be consistent and to acknowledge the principle of classifying the expenditures following international standards. I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer Two to “a.”</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “c,” as originally suggested by the researcher, in order to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>4. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the budget year?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program-level data are presented for all expenditures. b. Program-level data are presented for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. Program-level data are presented, but for less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. No program-level data are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.4. Draft Estimates of Expenditure on Recurrent and Capital Budget for Financial Year 2009/10 (Output-based), pp 26.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Classifications are done by administrative unit, at the programme and sub-programme levels.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a
<p>5. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of expenditure presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, multi-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are presented. b. No, multi-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3; No.4 and No.5 (Financial Statement; Output-based and Detailed Estimates respectively) for Financial Year 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Presented for at least three years prior and after the budget year.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> The answer is “a,” but the 3 years are not for both past and future year. Often the proposed expenditure figures are for future years, but the budget document for actual expenditures carries the historical figures. So these are not juxtaposed in one document.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a

6. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for expenditure estimates that cover a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?
- Yes, multi-year expenditure estimates are presented for all individual programs, and for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative).
 - Yes, multi-year estimates are presented for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative), but only for some individual programs.
 - Yes, multi-year estimates are presented, but only for a portion of one or more of the expenditure classifications (such as some functions, or some administrative units) and/or for only some individual programs.
 - No, multi-year estimates are presented for aggregate expenditure only, or they are not presented at all.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Documents No.4 and No.5 for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

No further details apart from aggregates are presented.

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: This should be changed to "a." The detailed budget estimates (document 4) contain a two year forward projection for all line items in the budget. The line item forms the basis of the economic classification. We therefore believe that multi-year expenditure estimates are presented to all individual programmes according to an economic classification, warranting an "a" assessment.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" in order to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

C

<p>7. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the budget year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All sources of tax revenue are identified individually. Sources of tax revenue amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, tax revenues are identified individually. Sources of tax revenue amounting to less than two-thirds of all tax revenues are identified individually. No sources of tax revenue are identified individually. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3. Financial Statement for FY 2009/10, pp.16.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A few of these still lack some level of disaggregated detail or are not indicated or presented.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	b
<p>8. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of goods and services) for the budget year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All sources of non-tax revenue are identified individually. Sources of non-tax revenue amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, non-tax revenues are identified individually. Sources of non-tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all non-tax revenue are identified individually. No sources of non-tax revenues are identified individually. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3 (Financial Statement, pp.16) and No.4 (Output-based Estimates).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Some disaggregated data is not available for all the different sources of non-tax revenues.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	c

<p>9. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of revenue presented for a multi-year period (at least two years beyond the budget year)?</p> <p>a. Yes, multi-year estimates of aggregate revenue are presented. b. No, multi-year estimates of aggregate revenue are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3 (pp.16) and Budget Document No.4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Aggregate estimates of revenues are presented.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a
<p>10. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for revenue estimates that cover a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?</p> <p>a. Yes, multi-year revenue estimates are presented for individual sources of revenue, and by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax). b. Yes, multi-year estimates are presented by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax), but only for some individual sources of revenue. c. Yes, multi-year estimates are presented, but only for some individual sources of revenue. d. No, multi-year estimates are presented for aggregate revenue only, or they are not presented at all. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents No.3 and No.4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This is done not for every source of revenue.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b

11. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present data on the total government debt outstanding for the budget year?
- a. Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt both at the start of the budget year and at the end of the budget year (and thereby reflect the net borrowing requirement of the budget).
 - b. Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt at the end of the budget year.
 - c. Yes, the data reflect the outstanding debt at the start of the budget year.
 - d. No, data on the outstanding debt are not presented.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: The answer should be "a" or "b." The financial statements and the Annual Debt and Aid report show Disbursed Outstanding Debt. The core budget document only shows the interest payments because that is expenditure. The balance on principal is not expenditure.

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "d," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer two to "a." There is at least mention of planned debt repayments in the financial statement and of course in the annual debt and aid reports, available on request and on the website.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" as suggested by the Peer Reviewer Two.

a

<p>12. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present interest payments on the debt for the budget year?</p> <p>a. Yes, interest payments on the debt are presented. b. No, interest payments on the debt are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3 for FY 2009/10, p.14.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> These are just presented as aggregates without details.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a
<p>13. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the composition of government debt (such as interest rates on the debt, maturity profile of the debt, currency denomination of the debt, or whether it is domestic and external debt) for the budget year?</p> <p>a. Yes, extensive information related to the composition of government debt is presented. b. Yes, key additional information is presented, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some additional information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, additional information related to the composition of government debt is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	d

14. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present the macroeconomic forecast upon which the budget projections are based?
- a. Yes, an extensive discussion of the macroeconomic forecast is presented, and key assumptions (such as inflation, real GDP growth, unemployment rate, and interest rates) are stated explicitly.
 - b. Yes, the macroeconomic forecast is discussed and most of the key assumptions are stated explicitly, but some details are excluded.
 - c. Yes, there is some discussion of the macroeconomic forecast (and/or the presentation of key assumptions), but it lacks important details.
 - d. No, information related to the macroeconomic forecast is not presented.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.1. Budget Speech/Statement for FY 2009/10.
Budget Document No.2. Annual Economic Report for 2009.
Budget Document No.3. Financial Statement for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

This is at least part of the narrative.

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: The Annual Debt and Aid Report show detailed data on Aid and Debt. It is available on the website.

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "a," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

b

<p>15. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation show the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions (i.e., sensitivity analysis) on the budget (including expenditures, revenues, and debt)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on the impact of macroeconomic assumptions on the budget is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of the major macroeconomic assumptions, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on the impact of different macroeconomic assumptions on the budget is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> N/A</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> None is presented.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>16. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how policy proposals in the budget, as distinct from existing policies, affect expenditures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on the impact of policy proposals on expenditures is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policy proposals on expenditures, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on the impact of policy proposals on expenditures is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents No.2; No.3 and No.4.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The efforts to show how policy proposals affect expenditures have been made. This is visible from the connection between the budget, on the one hand, and public sector plans, as enshrined in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy, as an overarching development policy agenda with all priority programmes, on the other.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>17. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year that shows how policy proposals in the budget, as distinct from existing policies, affect revenues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on the impact of policy proposals on revenues is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policy proposals on revenues, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on the impact of policy proposals on revenues is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Same as above.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A lot of effort has been put into drawing a clear connection between the policy proposals and the revenues, in particular through output-based planning initiatives.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>b</p>
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Estimates for Years Prior to the Budget Year	
<p>18. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by administrative unit (that is, by ministry, department, or agency)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1. b. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1, but some small units are not shown separately. c. Expenditures are classified by administrative unit for BY-1, but a significant number of units are not shown separately. d. No expenditures classified by administrative unit are presented for BY-1. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents Nos. 3, 4 and 5 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Almost all.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b
<p>19. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by functional classification?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All expenditures are classified by functional classification for BY-1, and the categorization is compatible with international standards. b. All expenditures are classified by functional classification for BY-1, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards. c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by function for BY-1. d. No expenditures classified by function are presented for BY-1. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Same as above.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The recent reforms resulted in the adoption of the international standards with regard to the functional classification, starting with the observed fiscal year.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a

20. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1) that are classified by economic classification?
- a. All expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1, and the categorization is compatible with international standards.
 - b. All expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1, but the categorization is not compatible with international standards.
 - c. Some, but not all, expenditures are classified by economic classification for BY-1.
 - d. No expenditures classified by economic classification are presented for BY-1.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Same as above.

Comment:

Aligned to international standards reportedly starting from this fiscal year.

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be - "Compare with Q3."

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "a," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" in order to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

C

<p>21. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present expenditures for individual programs for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Program-level expenditure data are presented for all expenditures for BY-1. b. Program-level expenditure data are presented for at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures for BY-1. c. Program-level expenditure data are presented, but for less than two-thirds of expenditures for BY-1. d. No program-level expenditure data are presented for BY-1. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Same as above.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a
<p>22. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, how many months of actual data are reflected in the expenditure estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect six or more months of actual expenditure. b. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels, but reflect less than six months of actual expenditure. c. Some BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original enacted levels to reflect actual expenditure. d. The BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original enacted levels, or no BY-1 estimates are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents Nos.4 and 5.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> In these documents they are actually termed revised estimates' data as reflected at (or close to) the end of the financial year.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a

<p>23. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of expenditure presented for years that precede the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, such prior-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are presented. b. No, such prior-year estimates of aggregate expenditure are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents Nos. 4 and 5.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a
<p>24. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for expenditure estimates that cover years preceding the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, such prior-year expenditure estimates are presented for all individual programs, and for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative). b. Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented for one or more expenditure classification (such as functional, economic, or administrative), but only for some individual programs. c. Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented, but only for a portion of one or more of the expenditure classifications (such as some functions, or some administrative units) and/or for only some individual programs. d. No, such prior-year estimates are presented for aggregate expenditure only, or they are not presented at all. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	d

25. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all expenditures reflect actual outcomes?

- a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).
- b. Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3).
- c. Before BY-3.
- d. No actual data for all expenditures are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "a." The Economic Report (budget document Number 2) contains government outturn / actual expenditure for two years prior to the current year in the final chapter ("Public Finances").

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed to "a." I chose my answer because this is at least presented in Budget Document Number 2, although it is for BY-1.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" as suggested by the Government.

a

<p>26. Are the expenditure estimates for the years prior to the budget year adjusted, as needed, to be comparable with the budget-year estimates in terms of classification and presentation?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, prior-year data are always adjusted to be comparable to the budget year data. Yes, in most cases, prior-year data are adjusted to be comparable. Yes, in some cases, prior-year data are adjusted to be comparable, but significant deviations between prior-year and budget-year classifications exist. No, prior-year data are not adjusted to be comparable, or no prior-year estimates are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.2. Annual Economic Report.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> With the new system introduced this fiscal year, significant deviations are anticipated to affect comparability.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	C
<p>27. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of tax revenue (such as income tax or VAT) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> All tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1. Tax revenues amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, tax revenue for BY-1 are identified individually. Tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all tax revenues for BY-1 are identified individually. No tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3. Financial Statement for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The answer is based on two elements - the data kept by the Malawi Revenue Authority, and the aforementioned tax-system reforms. One of the major aims of the latter has been to redefine the major sources for tax revenues.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b

28. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation identify the different sources of non-tax revenue (such as grants, property income, and sales of goods and services) for the year preceding the budget year (BY-1)?

- a. All non-tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1.
- b. Non-tax revenues amounting to at least two-thirds of, but not all, non-tax revenue for BY-1 are identified individually.
- c. Non-tax revenues amounting to less than two-thirds of all non-tax revenues for BY-1 are identified individually.
- d. No non-tax revenues are identified individually for BY-1.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.2. Annual Economic Report for 2009, pp. 126-127.

Comment:

Again reference is made to other data sources such as the Malawi Revenue Authority, the Reserve Bank of Malawi for these non-tax revenue sources. Examples are Treasury Fund Receipts, Rents, Departmental Receipts, Receipts from PIL, and Transfers from RBM, just to mention a few.

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: In the comment above, revenue from the Privatization Commission should be included as well.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "a," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" to maintain consistency within the questionnaire (see question 8).

<p>29. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, how many months of actual data are reflected in the revenues estimates of the year prior to the budget year (BY-1)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original estimates to reflect six or more months of actual revenue collections. b. All BY-1 estimates have been updated from the original estimates, but reflect less than six months of actual revenue collections. c. Some BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original estimates to reflect actual revenue collections. d. The BY-1 estimates have not been updated from the original estimates or no BY-1 estimates are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents Nos. 3, 4 and 5 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The revised estimates reflect almost all months of actual approved revenue collections or at least for more than six months' data.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a
<p>30. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, are estimates of the aggregate level of revenues presented for years that precede the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, such prior-year estimates of aggregate revenue are presented. b. No, such prior-year estimates of aggregate revenue are not presented. c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.2. Annual Economic Report for 2009, p.126.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Data is actually presented for more than three years (four to be precise) prior to budget year 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a

<p>31. In the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation, is more detail than just the aggregate level presented for revenue estimates that cover years preceding the budget year by more than one year (that is, BY-2 and prior years)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, such prior-year revenue estimates are presented for individual sources of revenue, and by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax). b. Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented by revenue classification (such as tax and non-tax), but only for some individual sources of revenue. c. Yes, such prior-year estimates are presented, but only for some individual sources of revenue. d. No, such prior-year estimates are presented for aggregate revenue only, or they are not presented at all. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.2 for FY 2009/10, pp.124-132.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Just aggregate estimates are presented, detailing the central government operations from FY 2006/07 to 2009/10 estimates.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>b</p>
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32. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which all revenues reflect actual outcomes?

- a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).
- b. Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3).
- c. Before BY-3.
- d. No actual data for all revenues are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.2 for 2009.

Comment:

Effort is made to mention some scanty data outcomes for BY-1.

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: The answer to this question does not seem consistent with Qs 8 and 28. Unless the parts that are not actuals are tax revenues. But if nontax revenues are presented by source fully in BY-1 then this must also hold for all revenues. And revenue data is available even if not in core budget documents.

Government Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "a." As noted in the previous comment, the Economic Report (Budget Document Number 2) contains actual / outturn figures for government budgetary operations, including tax collection, for the BY-2 in the final chapter "Public Finances."

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed to "a." It is at least available in the Economic Report (pages 4 – 8) as was already cited but for overall performance for BY-1.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" as suggested by the Government.

a

33. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information related to the government debt for the year preceding the budget year?

- a. Yes, extensive information is presented on the level and composition of government debt for the year preceding the budget year.
- b. Yes, information on the level of debt is presented, but some important details about the composition of the debt are excluded.
- c. Yes, but only information on the level of debt is presented.
- d. No, information related to the government debt for BY-1 is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.3 for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

Some mention is made about this but some details are still not presented.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "a." The current response contradicts Q13. The Annual Debt and Aid report has all the information on debt.

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I chose my answer because of the level of detail available at least in the annual debt and aid report, updated and available on the website and on request. I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer two to "a."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" to maintain consistency within the questionnaire (see question 13).

d

34. In the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation, what is the most recent year presented for which the debt figures reflect actual outcomes?

- a. Two years prior to the budget year (BY-2).
- b. Three years prior to the budget year (BY-3).
- c. Before BY-3.
- d. No actual data for government debt are presented in the budget or supporting budget documentation.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.2 for FY 2009/10, pp.124 - 132.

Comment:

Presented from the FY 2006/07 to 2009/10 in the general statements, and in passing in the Budget Speech.

d

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" because annual aid report is not a supporting budget document.

Comprehensiveness	
<p>35. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on extra-budgetary funds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on extra-budgetary funds is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key extra-budgetary funds, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on extra-budgetary funds is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.2. Annual Economic Report for 2009.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Some direct project support is sometimes not captured as extra-budgetary support, but at least other accompanying reports state this and are available on request from the Ministry of Finance's Debt and Aid Division.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The Ministry of Finance's Debt and Aid Division has made huge strides in capturing the extra-budget funds such as donor project support.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>b</p>

<p>36. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on intergovernmental transfers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on intergovernmental transfers is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key intergovernmental transfers, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on intergovernmental transfers is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents No.3 and 5 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Details are included about transfers to government programmes and sub-programmes, including transfers to Local Assemblies, among others.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>a</p>
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37. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on transfers to public corporations?

- a. Yes, extensive information on transfers to public corporations is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key transfers to public corporations, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on transfers to public corporations is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Documents No. 3 (pp.15-35) and No.5 for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

Details about transfers to Statutory Corporations and other government subventions are included, such as ADMARC, MBC, TVM, and ESCOM, among others.

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: I would have put "c" because important details are not presented.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" as suggested by Peer Reviewer One.

38. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on quasi-fiscal activities?
- a. Yes, extensive information on quasi-fiscal activities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and, where possible, quantitative estimates.
 - b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key quasi-fiscal activities, but some details are excluded.
 - c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
 - d. No, information on quasi-fiscal activities is not presented.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Documents No.3 and No.5 for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

Details are presented for almost all Development Budgetary Projects, such as the Shire-Zambezi Water Way Inland Port project, the Input Subsidy Programme, the Nkula Hydro-Electric Power Plants' maintenance projects, the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) projects, just to mention a few.

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" because the information in question is not readily available.

<p>39. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on financial assets held by the government?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on financial assets is presented, including a listing of the assets, a discussion of their purpose, and an estimate of their market value. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key information, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on financial assets is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This information is not presented anywhere in the budget documents.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	d
<p>40. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on non-financial assets held by the government?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on non-financial assets is presented, including a listing of the assets, and (where possible) an estimate of their market value. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key information, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on non-financial assets is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	d

41. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on expenditure arrears?

- a. Yes, extensive information on expenditure arrears is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key expenditure arrears, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, information on expenditure arrears is not presented.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.3. Financial Statement for FY 2009/10, pp.4-15.

Comment:

This is mentioned in passing with emphasis on how much of this is slated to be repaid in the Fiscal Year 2009/10. However the public debt decline is also attributed (p.6) to the cancelled debt, repayments and improved fiscal management.

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" because the information in question is not readily available.

<p>42. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on contingent liabilities (such as government loan guarantees)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on contingent liabilities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key contingent liabilities, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on contingent liabilities is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3 for FY 2009/10</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Development Budget and other extra-budgetary allocations are highlighted explicitly.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>C</p>
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43. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on future liabilities, such as civil service pensions?
- a. Yes, extensive information on future liabilities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
 - b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key future liabilities, but some details are excluded.
 - c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
 - d. No, information on future liabilities is not presented.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.3 for FY 2009/10 (p.15).

Comment:

Details about allocations made towards Pensions and Gratuities, among other transfers expected, are presented.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

C

<p>44. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation provide details on the sources of donor assistance, both financial and in-kind?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All sources of donor assistance are identified individually. b. At least two-thirds of, but not all, sources of donor assistance, are identified individually. c. Less than two-thirds of sources of donor assistance are identified individually. d. No sources of donor assistance are identified individually. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document Nos.1, 3 and particularly No.4 (Output-based) for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Details are for instance presented about donors in the outlook for all planned outputs and activities for FY 2009/10 in all ministries and sector votes.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The Ministry of Finance's Debt and Aid Division keeps extensive documentation on all donor assistance. Malawi has made great strides in this aspect because in the past, project support was virtually unknown and now is tracked and well documented.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>45. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information for at least the budget year on tax expenditures?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on tax expenditures is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key tax expenditures, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on tax expenditures is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document Nos. 2, 3 and 4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> For all previous budget years, the actual, approved and revised estimates are presented, with estimates also presented for the budget year.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was “b”</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s original answer “b,” which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “d” because no report on tax expenditures is available.</p>	d
<p>46. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation identify all earmarked revenues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All earmarked revenues are identified individually. b. At least two-thirds of, but not all, earmarked revenues are identified individually. c. Less than two-thirds of earmarked revenues are identified individually. d. No earmarked revenues are identified individually. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document Nos. 2, 3 and 4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Some earmarked revenues have not been fully identified yet, although efforts to do so are clearly recognizable.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b

<p>47. What percentage of expenditure in the budget year is dedicated to spending on secret items relating to, for instance, national security and military intelligence?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. One percent or less of expenditure is dedicated to secret items. b. Three percent or less, but more than one percent, of expenditure is dedicated to secret items. c. Eight percent or less, but more than three percent, of expenditure is dedicated to secret items. d. More than eight percent of expenditure is dedicated to secret items, or the percentage is not available to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is no single particular vote earmarked as "national security" or "military intelligence" over and above the usual "secret items." This can best be described as not presented in terms of percentages, but rather as a sum of the allocations made in favor of the Defence Force, Prisons, Police Service, OPC, Foreign Affairs, and others that could be termed as constituting some of these secret items, particularly when access to such information is not common practice.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> In Malawi, secret items are not related to national security or military intelligence; rather top secret budget items are "State Residences" and "Office of the President and Cabinet" (OPC). The expenditures such as a new presidential jet and the president's foreign trips are top secret and are not included in the budget.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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The Budget Narrative & Performance Monitoring	
<p>48. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation explain how the proposed budget is linked to government’s stated policy goals, by administrative unit (or functional category), for the budget year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on the link between the budget and the government’s stated policy goals, by administrative unit (or functional category) is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the link between major policy goals and the budget, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on the link between the budget and the government’s stated policy goals is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Some clear linkages and interface are made between the budget and the government's policy agenda through priorities earmarked in the MGDS. This is a departure from the previous fiscal years' budgets.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was “a”</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s original answer “a,” which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer “b” to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.</p>	<p>b</p>

49. Does the executive's budget or any supporting budget documentation explain how the proposed budget is linked to government's stated policy goals for a multi-year period (for at least two years beyond the budget year)?
- Yes, extensive information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals over a multi-year period is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
 - Yes, information is presented, highlighting the major policy goals, but some details are excluded.
 - Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details.
 - No, information on the link between the budget and the government's stated policy goals over a multi-year period is not presented.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.3 (pp.16-22) and Budget Document No.4 for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

Explicit mention is made of the fact that the budget estimates have been prepared "... based on the MTEF and MGDS, taking into consideration the newly adopted reforms aimed at establishing expenditure trends in the various functional and economic classifications" (pp.16-27 of the Financial Statement for FY 2009/10).

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "a," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

b

<p>50. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present non-financial data, such as the number of beneficiaries, for expenditure programs?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Non-financial data are presented for all programs. Non-financial data are presented for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. Non-financial data are presented for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditure. No non-financial data are presented. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3 and No.4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A lot of effort has been made to present this data, although not all expenditures are fully covered.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The number of beneficiaries for the government's fertilizer subsidy programme has been very difficult for government to estimate because the international price of fertilizer has risen rapidly.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b
<p>51. Are the non-financial data presented useful for assessing how an expenditure program is performing?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The non-financial data are very useful for assessing program performance. The non-financial data are mostly useful for assessing program performance. The non-financial data are somewhat useful for assessing program performance. No non-financial data are provided or they are not useful for assessing program performance. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.3 and No.4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A lot more needs to be done to draw out the performance assessment mechanism as expected.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	c

<p>52. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation contain performance indicators for expenditure programs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Performance indicators are presented for all programs. b. Performance indicators are presented for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. Performance indicators are presented for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. No performance indicators are presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document No.4 (Output-based) for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> It presents its past and future budgetary operations for further scrutiny in line with the public finance management, with further efforts to report the actual and planned activities of each vote, associated outputs and budget estimates, alongside a given set of activities and verifiable targets versus overall objectives. This budget year is being celebrated as a much better one and evolving towards a much improved performance assessment mechanism, from the one developed alongside the MGDS and the Budget.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b
<p>53. Are the performance indicators sufficiently well designed, such that one can assess whether there has been progress toward meeting policy goals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All performance indicators are well designed. b. Most performance indicators are well designed. c. Some performance indicators are well designed, but most are not. d. No programs have performance indicators, or they are not well designed. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Same as for Q52.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is room for improvement, since some misalignments between the budgetary and the MGDs allocations, on the one side, and the performance indicators, on the other, are still visible in the budget.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	c

<p>54. Are performance indicators used in conjunction with performance targets presented in the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. All performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets. b. Most performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets. c. Some performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets, but most are not. d. No performance indicators are used in conjunction with performance targets. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Same as above in Q52.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Performance indicators are still evolving toward a much more robust performance assessment mechanism.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>55. Does the executive’s budget or any supporting budget documentation present information on policies (both proposals and existing commitments) in at least the budget year that are intended to benefit directly the country’s most impoverished populations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on policies intended to alleviate poverty is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the impact of key policies intended to alleviate poverty, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on policies intended to alleviate poverty is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents No.2, 3 and 4 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Comprehensive plans have been presented and well articulated, with implementation as well as monitoring remaining quite key on how these proposals and commitments are to translate into service delivery.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> Malawi's budget is pro-poor and this is reflected in the spending priorities.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>Additional Key Information for Budget Analysis & Monitoring</p>	
<p><i>Please note that the questions in this section ask about information that is generally available to the public. The information need not be included in the executive's budget proposal or supporting documents, but may be found in other documents issued by the executive.</i></p>	
<p>56. Does the executive make available to the public a description of the tax rate or fee schedule for all revenue sources, including commercial projects involving the private sector?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on tax rates, fees, royalties and other revenues sources is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, information is presented, highlighting the rates and fees for major revenue sources, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents Nos 1, 3 and 5 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Quantitative estimates are still missing.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	<p>b</p>

<p>57. Does the executive make available to the public an analysis of the distribution of the tax burden?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, a detailed analysis of the distribution of the tax burden is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an analysis is presented, highlighting key aspects of the distribution, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some analysis is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No analysis on the distribution of the tax burden is presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>58. Does the executive make available to the public an explanation of the conditions associated with assistance from international financial institutions (IFI)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on conditions associated with IFI assistance is presented, including a narrative discussion and any quantitative targets related to both macro-economic conditionality and project-specific conditionality. b. Yes, information is presented, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on conditions associated with IFI assistance is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> Agreements are not made public. Also, no information on procurement requirements, i.e. buying goods and services from a particular country, is provided to parliament or to the public.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u> A more appropriate response to this question would be "b." The conditions of loans are available on the world Bank website and it is a requirement of IDA to make them public. They are also available to parliament at the time of bill submissions. Some finer details are not included in the documents.</p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d," as originally suggested by the researcher, in order to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>59. Does the executive make available to the public an explanation of the conditions associated with assistance from donor countries?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive information on conditions associated with donor country assistance is presented, including a narrative discussion and any quantitative targets related to both macro-economic conditionality and project-specific conditionality. b. Yes, information is presented, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, information on conditions associated with donor country assistance is not presented. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p>Peer Reviewer One Comment: Agreements are not made public. Also, no information on procurement requirements, i.e. buying goods and services from a particular country, is provided to parliament or to the public.</p> <p>Peer Reviewer Two Comment: Often the conditions given for grants are not made public.</p> <p>Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	d
<p>60. Does the executive make available to the public a summary that describes the budget and its proposals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, it provides a summary that is very informative. b. Yes, it provides a summary that is somewhat informative. c. Yes, but the summary is not very informative. d. No, it does not provide a summary. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Highlights' Fliers for FY 2009/10 by the Ministry of Finance.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The flier was presented to the public via e-mail and newspaper inserts in several vernacular languages, a departure from what the Ministry of Finance has done in previous years.</p> <p>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</p> <p>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</p> <p>Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	a

<p>61. Does the executive publish a "citizens budget" or some non-technical presentation intended for a wide audience that describes the budget and its proposals?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, it publishes a citizens budget that is very informative. b. Yes, it publishes a citizens budget that is somewhat informative. c. Yes, but the citizens budget is not very informative. d. No, it does not publish a citizens budget. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Highlights' Flier for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> As hinted above, the flier is published in newspapers for the public to be informed of what is proposed in the budget for the year. This has been widely presented and circulated in at least four vernacular languages.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> In the comment above, the word "hinted" should be replaced with "mentioned."</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	b
<p>62. Does the executive make available to the public non-technical definitions of terms used in the budget and other budget-related documents (for instance, in a glossary)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, thorough definitions of budget terms are provided. b. Yes, definitions are provided, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some definitions are provided, but it lacks important details. d. No, definitions are not provided. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	d

<p>63. Do citizens have the right <i>in law</i> to access government information, including budget information?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the right has been codified into law, and citizens are generally able in practice to obtain government information, including budget information. Yes, the right has been codified into law, but it is sometimes not possible for citizens in practice to obtain government information, including budget information. Yes, the right has been codified into law, but it is frequently or always impossible in practice to obtain access to government information, including budget information. No, the right to access government information has not been codified into law, or this right does not include access to budget information. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> The Republic of Malawi Constitution, Section 37.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The right to information is embodied in the bills of rights, but it has not been supported with an enabling legislation, the access to information bill, as it is yet to be tabled for discussion in parliament.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The last phrase in the comment is a bit misleading. The enabling legislation, the bill, was drafted with assistance from the local chapter of the regional body Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA). Because the bill did not originate with Government, it has been stalled for years. Not only has it not been tabled in parliament, it has not been approved by cabinet and therefore has very little chance of being revived.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>64. Are citizens able in practice to obtain financial information on expenditures for individual programs in a format that is more highly disaggregated than that which appears in the executive’s budget proposal if they request it (for example, from a ministry or agency)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for all programs except those considered related to national security or military intelligence. b. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. In practice, highly disaggregated information is available to the public for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. In practice, no highly disaggregated expenditure information is available. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This is still information that is regarded as privileged and thus quite difficult to access.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>65. Are citizens able in practice to obtain non-financial information related to expenditures (for example, number of beneficiaries, number of persons employed by the program, etc.) for individual programs in a format that is more highly disaggregated than that which appears in the executive’s budget proposal if they request it from a ministry or agency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for all programs except those considered related to national security or military intelligence. b. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for programs representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditures. c. In practice, highly disaggregated non-financial information is available to the public for programs representing less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. In practice, no highly disaggregated non-financial expenditure information is available. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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Section Three: The Budget Process

The Budget Process		
Executive's Formulation of the Budget		
<p>66. How far in advance of the release of the budget is the day of its release known?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The release date is set in permanent law. b. The executive announces the release date at least two months in advance. c. The executive announces the release date less than two months but more than two weeks in advance. d. The executive announces the release date two weeks or less before the release, or makes no announcement. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Republic of Malawi Constitution; Budget Calendar.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Nonetheless, with the budget calendar done in line with the provisions of the constitution, the budget is usually released in June every year, prior to the financial year's expiry, although the exact date is not known.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The coding is correct. The citation should also reference Constitution Section 178. The Government of Malawi often does not have the budget ready by the end of the fiscal year and therefore the calendar is often not followed. The government may continue to spend for up to 4 months after the end of the fiscal year if the budget is not ready.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	d	

<p>67. Does the executive release to the public its timetable for preparation of the executive’s budget proposal (that is, a document setting deadlines for submissions from other government entities, such as line ministries or subnational government, to the ministry of finance or what ever central government agency is in charge of coordinating the budget’s formulation)?</p> <p>a. Yes, a detailed timetable is released to the public. b. Yes, a timetable is released, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, a timetable is released, but it lacks important details. d. No, a timetable is not issued to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The budget calendar and the circulars for the ministries and government departments are some of the documents considered internal and are thus not issued to the public.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	d
<p>68. Does the executive adhere to its timetable for the preparation and release of the budget?</p> <p>a. The executive adheres to the dates in its timetable. b. The executive adheres to most of the key dates in its timetable. c. The executive has difficulty adhering to most of the dates in its timetable. d. The executive does not adhere to the dates in its timetable, or it does not release to the public its timetable. e. Not applicable/other (please comment).</p> <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Same as above.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The Executive keeps the timetable secret even to parliament.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	d

<p>69. Does the executive hold consultations with members of the legislature as part of its process of determining budget priorities?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the executive holds extensive consultations with a wide range of legislators. b. Yes, the executive holds consultations with a range of legislators, but some key members are excluded. c. Yes, the executive holds very limited consultations, involving only a few members of the legislature. d. No, the executive does not typically consult with members of the legislature as part of the budget preparation process. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This has not happened in the past years.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The trend is actually getting worse. There were limited consultations between 1999 and 2004, but now there are no consultations with MPs. In the past few years, the Ministry of Finance has consultations with the private sector, civil society, and academics but these never include MPs. The budget is a top secret document and MPs only get it when the parliamentary budget session starts.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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70. Does the executive hold consultations with the public as part of its process of determining budget priorities?

- a. Yes, the executive holds extensive consultations with a wide range of constituencies.
- b. Yes, the executive holds consultations with a range of constituencies, but some key constituencies are excluded.
- c. Yes, the executive holds very limited consultations, involving only a few constituencies.
- d. No, the executive does not typically consult with the public as part of the budget preparation process.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

These are done on an ad hoc basis, but consultations with the public have yet to be institutionalized as a norm, where government should be mandated to consult all key stakeholders with traceable mechanisms for public input in the budget, without necessarily reducing it to a “window-dressing and politically correct exercise.”

Researcher Response to this Question was “b”

Peer Reviewer One Comment: I would have coded this as an “a,” if the question is only asking about non-legislative consultations. I cannot think of any key constituencies that were not included. The Minister of Finance and his team met with the private sector, civil society, labour unions, farmers, women's group, etc. Radio adverts and TV adverts ask for public input as well, although no one knows if the emails and letters were ever opened.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher’s original answer “b,” which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer “c” in order to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

C

71. When does the executive release a pre-budget statement to the public?

- a. The executive releases a pre-budget statement at least four months in advance of the start of the budget year.
- b. The executive releases a pre-budget statement at least two months (but less than four months) in advance of the start of the budget year.
- c. The executive releases a pre-budget statement, but it is released less than two months before the start of the budget year.
- d. The executive does not release a pre-budget statement.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Public Finance Management Act (2003), Section 14.

Comment:

The only pre-budget statement is the verbal unstructured hint in the remarks made by the Minister of Finance and the Ministry of Finance officials prior to the pre-budget consultations. Otherwise, no formal pre-budget statement is released as mandated by the PFMA (2003), at least by 1st April every year.

d

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: According to the instructions where the pre-budget statement is defined, this answer should be "d." In fact, the comment above also says that.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "c," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer One to "d."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d," as suggested by Peer Reviewer One, because the pre-budget statement is considered as not produced.

72. Does the pre-budget statement describe the government's macroeconomic and fiscal framework?

- a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the government's fiscal and macroeconomic policy is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key aspects of the fiscal and macroeconomic framework, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, an explanation is not presented, or the executive does not release to the public a pre-budget statement.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.2, 2009/10 Draft Budget Statement (or Speech);
Budget Document No.3, 2009/10 Draft Financial Statement (pp. 4-10).

Comment:

The narrative is elaborately stated.

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "c," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" because pre-budget statement is considered as not produced.

d

73. Does the pre-budget statement describe the government's policies and priorities that will guide the development of detailed estimates for the upcoming budget?

- a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the government's budget policies and priorities is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key aspects of the government's budget policies and priorities, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, an explanation is not presented, or the executive does not release to the public a pre-budget statement.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.3, 2009/10 Draft Financial Statement (pp. 4-10).

Comment:

An explanation is provided, with an emphasis on how it fits the government's leadership vision and policies.

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "c," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" because the pre-budget statement is considered as not produced.

d

Legislative Approval of the Budget	
<p>74. How far in advance of the start of the budget year does the legislature receive the budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The legislature receives the budget at least three months before the start of the budget year. b. The legislature receives the budget at least six weeks, but less than three months, before the start of the budget year. c. The legislature receives the budget less than six weeks before the start of the budget year. d. The legislature does not receive the budget before the start of the budget year. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> For this budget year, the legislature received this year's budget proposal immediately after the "late" Budget Session opening, which was after the financial year had already expired (on 3rd July 2009).</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> I agree with the answer. Usually, the budget is distributed at the same time as the Minister of Finance's statement on a Friday. By Monday MPs are expected to debate it which leaves virtually no time for them to analyze it. 2009 was an election year so this may partially explain why the budget session began after the end of the fiscal year.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	d

<p>75. Does a legislative committee (or committees) hold public hearings on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework presented in the budget in which testimony from the executive branch and the public is heard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, public hearings are held on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework in which testimony is heard from the executive branch and a wide range of constituencies. b. Yes, hearings are held in which testimony is heard from the executive branch and some constituencies. c. Yes, hearings are held in which testimony from the executive branch is heard, but no testimony from the public is heard. d. No, public hearings are not held on the macroeconomic and fiscal framework in which testimony from the executive branch and the public is heard. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The time is rather too short for the committees to get organized and conduct these hearings in the 21days they are expected to, as well as to deliberate on the budget according to the constitution and the parliamentary standing orders.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> Because the executive does not release the budget in advance, there is no time for hearings. However, the Budget and Finance Committee does hire a local economist to analyze the budget and write a report for them which gets tabled and debated in parliament. The report often includes private sector and civil society views in the report as well.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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76. Do legislative committees hold public hearings on the individual budgets of central government administrative units (that is, ministries, departments, and agencies) in which testimony from the executive branch is heard?

- a. Yes, extensive public hearings are held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the executive branch is heard.
- b. Yes, hearings are held, covering key administrative units, in which testimony from the executive branch is heard.
- c. Yes, a limited number of hearings are held in which testimony from the executive branch is heard.
- d. No, public hearings are not held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the executive branch is heard.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

From some media reports, the hearings are known to have taken place. They have taken place after the budget session, when committees of parliament (such as the Budget & Finance, Public Accounts, Education, Health, Media and Communication, Legal Affairs, etc) have sought clarification on some key issues and allocations from the various departments and Ministries, as part of their oversight function.

d

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: This question is not clear. If the question is talking about public hearings before passage, then the answer "d" is correct. But if the question also includes post-passage hearings, then "c" would be the answer.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's answer.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed to "c." I chose my answer because at least we hear of some hearings taking place where, having been summoned by the legislative committees, the controlling officers and other officials from ministries clarify some issues.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher, in order to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

<p>77. Does a legislative committee (or committees) hold public hearings on the individual budgets of central government administrative units (that is, ministries, departments, and agencies) in which testimony from the public is heard?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, extensive public hearings are held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the public is heard. b. Yes, hearings are held, covering key administrative units, in which testimony from the public is heard. c. Yes, a limited number of hearings are held in which testimony from the public is heard. d. No, public hearings are not held on the budgets of administrative units in which testimony from the public is heard. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There have been limited hearings for the civil society; these have largely been held on particular issues during and after budget sessions of parliament, and upon invitation by both the committees of parliament and civil society.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>C</p>
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78. Do the legislative committees that hold public hearings release reports to the public on these hearings?

- a. Yes, the committees release very informative reports, which include all written testimony presented at the hearings.
- b. Yes, the committees release reports, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, the committees release reports, but they are not very informative.
- d. No, the committees do not release reports or do not hold public hearings.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

Occasional articles about the hearings are featured in the media rather informally.

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: The options really do not work well for the Malawi situation. Committees are not permitted to release the reports before they are tabled in parliament. So, technically the answer is "d." But this misses the meaning of the question. I would have given the answer "b." Committees in Malawi now meet quarterly even though the media rarely reports on their activities. Clerks have drafted many reports but most are not official as they have never been tabled. The executive branch determines the agenda at parliament through the Business Committee and they have not allowed committee reports to be debated because they are critical of the executive.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's answer.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "d." I chose my answer because they are never released to the public officially.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.

d

<p>79. Is the legislature (or the appropriate legislative committee or members of the legislature) given full information for the budget year on the spending of all secret items relating to, for instance, national security and military intelligence?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Yes, the appropriate legislative committee or members of the legislature is provided extensive information on all spending on secret items, which includes detailed, line item descriptions of all expenditures.b. No, the legislature is provided information on spending on secret items, but some details are excluded, or some categories are presented in an aggregated manner, or the legislature is provided no information on secret items.c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Some details are still withheld, although this has largely been part of politics, which have been improving since the general elections in May 2009.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The Defense and Security Committee at parliament does not receive regular briefings in camera on security issues.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	<p>b</p>
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80. Does the legislature have authority *in law* to amend the budget presented by the executive?

- a. Yes, the legislature has unlimited authority *in law* to amend the budget.
- b. Yes, the legislature has authority *in law* to amend the budget, with some limitations.
- c. Yes, the legislature has authority *in law* to amend the budget, but its authority is very limited.
- d. No, the legislature does not have any authority *in law* to amend the budget.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Public Finance Management Act (2003), Part IV Section 21.
Republic of Malawi Constitution, Section 178.

Comment:

Limitations are there due to the "game of numbers." For instance, for this budget year, the budget was adopted without any amendments, even though some suggestions for amendments were subjected to parliamentary scrutiny during the plenary, as well as the deliberations in the parliamentary committee of supply.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: I would choose answer "c" because of the constitutional limitations found in Section 57. The wording in the Malawian constitution is exactly the same as in the Kenyan, Zambian and other constitutions so the answers for all these countries should be consistent. If Zambia and Kenya get a "b" then Malawi should get a "b," but if the others get a "c" then so should Malawi. It is a judgment call as to whether the limitations are "some" or "very." The prohibition on Money Bills says "Except upon the recommendation of the Minister of Finance, signified in writing, the National Assembly shall not (a) proceed upon any Bill or any amendment to a Bill that... (1) for the imposition of tax or alteration of tax, (2) for the imposition of any charge upon the Consolidated Fund or the alteration of any such charge,...(4) for the composition or remission of any debt..." In other words, the Malawian National Assembly has no power to change the revenues or expenditures, or to bring about debt. All those powers are held by the Executive.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b." I chose my answer because of reasons highlighted earlier about what has been happening in the Malawi parliament.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c," as suggested by Peer Reviewer One, for the reasons mentioned in her/his comment.

C

81. What is the most detail provided in the appropriation (expenditure budget) approved by the legislature?

- a. The approved budget includes program-level detail.
- b. The approved budget includes departmental totals and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs).
- c. The approved budget includes only departmental totals.
- d. The approved budget includes less information than departmental totals or the approved budget is not released to the public.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.5 (Detailed Estimates) for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

Details are provided for all cost centers in each of the votes.

d

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" because the enacted budget is not released to the public. The cited document is a part of the Executive's Budget Proposal.

Executive's Implementation of the Budget	
<p>82. How often does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual expenditure (organized by administrative unit, economic classification and/or function)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least every month. In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least every quarter. In-year reports on actual expenditure are released at least semi-annually. In-year reports on actual expenditure are not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> PFMA(2003), Section 84(2). Monthly Economic Review Report for July 2009, pp 16 - 17 (Central Government Operations)</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Public Expenditure Reports used to be produced monthly and released quarterly on the Ministry of Finance website. The last time this was updated however was in the fiscal year 2003/04 on http://www.finance.gov.mw/publications.htm. Currently, they probably remain internal documents for the Ministry of Finance. Nonetheless, Monthly Economic Reviews are at least accessible from the Reserve Bank of Malawi's website on internet: http://www.rbm.mw/publications/</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "b"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> I would code this as "d" because I agree with the comments that these reports are not on the Ministry of Finance website. I confirm that the last in-year reports posted were from 2003/04.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should be changed to "c." I chose my answer because in practice, the in-year reports posted on the RBM website were updated semi-annually rather than quarterly.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "c" based on the researcher's response.</p>	<p>C</p>

<p>83. What share of expenditure is covered by in-year reports on actual expenditure (organized by administrative unit, economic classification and/or function)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, in-year reports cover all expenditures. b. Yes, in-year reports cover at least two-thirds, but not all, of expenditures. c. Yes, in-year reports cover less than two-thirds of expenditures. d. No in-year reports are released to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> PFMA(2003), Section 84(2) Monthly and Quarterly reports on RBM website. www.rbm.mw/publications/documents.doc.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Other than these RBM reports, the budget in-year reports from the Ministry of Finance are however not as accessible in that sense (as perhaps could be expected of it) by the public. The PFMA (2003) provisions dictate that they should be widely circulated after they are certified by the Auditor General as per the Section 84(2).</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>b</p>
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84. What is the most detail provided in the in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by *administrative unit*?

- a. The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain program-level detail.
- b. The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain departmental totals and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs).
- c. The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit contain only departmental totals.
- d. The in-year reports on actual expenditures organized by administrative unit are not released to the public, not produced, or contain less information than departmental totals.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Same as Q83

Comment:

Same comment as for Q83.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" since the in-year reports are not organized according to the administrative classification.

d

85. Do the in-year reports released to the public compare actual year-to-date expenditure with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

- a. Yes, comparisons are made for all expenditures.
- b. Yes, comparisons are made for at least two-thirds, but not all, of expenditures.
- c. Yes, but comparisons are made for less than two-thirds of expenditures.
- d. No, comparisons are not made, or no in-year reports are released to the public.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Monthly Economic Reviews cited in above questions.

Comment:

Same as above comment.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" since the in-year reports correspond to the previous period.

a

86. How often does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue?

- a. In-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue are released at least every month.
- b. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are released at least every quarter.
- c. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are released at least semi-annually.
- d. In-year reports on actual revenue collections by source of revenue are not released.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation and/or comment:
Same as for above question.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" since the information is available in the monthly reports that are uploaded twice a year.

C

<p>87. What share of revenue is covered by the in-year reports on actual revenue collections?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. In-year reports cover the actual revenue collections of all sources of revenue. b. In-year reports cover the actual revenue collections of at least two-thirds of, but not all, sources of revenue. c. In-year reports cover actual revenue collections of less than two-thirds of revenue sources. d. In-year reports on actual revenue collections are not released to the public. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Monthly Economic Reviews 2009 as cited above.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Same as above.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>a</p>
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88. Do the in-year reports released to the public compare actual year-to-date revenue collections with either the original estimate for that period (based on the enacted budget) or the same period in the previous year?

- a. Yes, comparisons are made for all revenue sources.
- b. Yes, comparisons are made for at least two-thirds of, but not all, revenue sources.
- c. Yes, but comparisons are made for less than two-thirds of revenue sources.
- d. No, comparisons are not made, or no in-year reports are released to the public.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Same as above.

Comment:

Same as above comments.

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" since the in-year reports correspond to the previous period.

a

<p>89. Does the executive release to the public in-year reports on actual borrowing?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least every month. b. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least every quarter. c. Yes, in-year reports on actual borrowing are released at least semi-annually. d. No, in-year reports on actual borrowing are not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Monthly Economic Review report for July 2009 (pp. 7 - 12).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> However the monthly economic review reports that are updated on the Reserve Bank of Malawi website are at least up-to-date on the debt stocks.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "b"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The Reserve Bank of Malawi website has not been working for some time so I cannot confirm this comment.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b." In addition to in the RBM reports, the information is available in the Annual Debt and Aid reports available on their website.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>b</p>
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90. Do in-year reports released to the public on actual borrowing present information related to the composition of government debt (such as interest rates on the debt, maturity profile of the debt, and currency denomination of the debt) for the budget year?
- Yes, extensive information related to the composition of government debt is presented.
 - Yes, key additional information is presented, but some details are excluded.
 - Yes, some additional information is presented, but it lacks important details.
 - No, additional information related to the composition of government debt is not presented, or such in-year reports on borrowing are not released.
 - Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Monthly Economic Review reports.

Comment:

These at least make up for the inaccessible Public Expenditure reports by the Ministry of Finance.

a

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: A more appropriate response to this question would be "a." All relevant information of the borrowing is released, either in newspapers for domestic borrowing or in parliamentary bills, and in the Reserve Bank of Malawi reports and the Debt and Aid reports.

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer one to "a." I chose my answer because they are indeed available particularly in the parliamentary bills, and in the debt and aid annual reports.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "a" to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

91. For in-year reports on actual expenditure released to the public by the executive, how much time typically elapses between the end of the reporting period and when the report is released (e.g., are quarterly reports released less than 4 weeks after the end of the quarter)?

- a. Reports are released 1 month or less after the end of the period.
- b. Reports are released 2 months or less (but more than 1 month) after the end of the period.
- c. Reports are released more than 2 months after the end of the period.
- d. In-year reports are not released.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Monthly Economic Reviews and the Public Relations Office of the Reserve Bank of Malawi.

Comment:

Only the Central Bank's Monthly and Quarterly reports are posted on the internet, sometimes two months or more after the end of the quarter.

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "b"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: The answer should be "c" because they are released 2 months or more after the end of the period.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "b," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should be changed as suggested by Peer Reviewer one to "c." I chose my answer because although the central bank said they release these quarterly, in practice this is not the case; they are usually released more than two months after the end of the quarter.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" based on the comments made by the peer reviewer and the researcher.

92. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that discusses the changes in economic outlook since the budget was enacted?
- a. Yes, the mid-year review includes an extensive discussion of the economy that includes a revised forecast for the full fiscal year and its effects on the budget.
 - b. Yes, the mid-year review includes a discussion of the economy, but it lacks some details.
 - c. Yes, the mid-year review includes a discussion of the economy, but it lacks important details.
 - d. No, the mid-year review does not include a discussion of the economy, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget.
 - e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

The mid-year report was last released and discussed in parliament for FY 2006/07 and it was not released to the public.

d

Researcher Response to this Question was "e"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: The answer should be "d" since "d" includes the option "The executive does not release a mid-year review." I do not know why this question would be "not applicable" to Malawi.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: I think the problem here is the definition of "released to the public." All budget documents are available to all the public as long as the supply lasts. Every year there is a mid-year review.

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "e," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "e." I chose my answer because the mid-year report is not released to the public at least for the BY in question and before.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" because the mid-year review is not made available to the public.

93. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that includes updated expenditure estimates for the budget year underway?

- a. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated expenditure estimates for the full fiscal year, providing extensive information on why estimates have changed from the original enacted levels.
- b. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of expenditure, but some details on why estimates have changed are not provided.
- c. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of expenditure, but important details on why estimates have changed are not provided.
- d. No, the mid-year review does not include updated expenditure estimates for the budget year, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

Researcher Response to this Question was "e"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: The answer should be "d" since "d" includes the option "The executive does not release a mid-year review." I do not know why this question would be "not applicable" to Malawi. In some prior years, the government did release a mid-year review and it the answer would be "c" but not for 2009/2010.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: Same as for Q92.

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "e," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "e." I chose my answer because of reason in Q92.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" because the mid-year review is not made available to the public.

d

94. What is the most detail provided in the mid-year review for expenditures?

- a. The mid-year review includes program-level detail for expenditures.
- b. The mid-year review includes departmental totals (or functional totals) and some additional details (for instance, sub-department totals or major programs).
- c. The mid-year review includes only departmental totals (or functional totals).
- d. The mid-year review includes less information than departmental totals (or functional totals) for expenditures, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

The Executive does not release a mid-year report to the public.

Researcher Response to this Question was "e"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: The answer should be "d" (see comment above).

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: The answer is "c" if we resolve the definition of released to the public.

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "e," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "e." I chose my answer because for the BY in question it was never released to the public.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" because the mid-year review is not made available to the public.

d

95. Does the executive release to the public a mid-year review of the budget that includes updated revenue estimates for the budget year underway?

- a. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated revenue estimates for the full fiscal year, providing extensive information on why estimates have changed from the original enacted levels.
- b. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of revenue, but some details on why estimates have changed are not provided.
- c. Yes, the mid-year review includes updated estimates of revenue, but important details on why estimates have changed are not provided.
- d. No, the mid-year review does not include updated revenue estimates for the budget year, or the executive does not release a mid-year review of the budget.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

The Executive does not release a mid-year review to the public.

d

Researcher Response to this Question was "e"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: The answer should be "d" (see comment above).

Peer Reviewer Two Comment: Same as Q94 above.

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "e," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire "e." I chose my answer because it was not released to the public.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" because the mid-year review is not made available to the public.

<p>96. Does the executive seek input from the legislature when the executive shifts funds between administrative units (except when the amounts are below a certain <i>minimal</i> level specified in law or regulation)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the executive seeks approval from the legislature before shifting funds between administrative units. b. Yes, the executive gives prior notification to the legislature before shifting funds, giving the legislature an opportunity to block or modify the proposed adjustment. c. Yes, the executive seeks legislative approval, but only after the shift of funds has been implemented. d. No, the executive shifts funds between administrative units without seeking input from the legislature, or the amount allowed under the law or by regulation is significantly large enough to undermine public scrutiny and accountability (please describe arrangements below). e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Malawi Constitution.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> In the FY 2008/09, this was done in retrospect after the shift had already been affected, during the 2009/10 budget session.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>C</p>
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97. During the past year, have there been credible reported instances in which the procurement of goods and services has not followed an open and competitive process in practice?

- a. There were no credible reported instances of procurement failing to follow an open and competitive process in practice during the past year.
- b. The procurement of goods and services frequently followed an open and competitive process in practice, but there were some reported instances of irregularities.
- c. The procurement of goods and service followed an open and competitive process in many instances, but there were significant reported examples of irregularities.
- d. No, the procurement process was not open and competitive in practice.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Public Procurement Act (2003).

Comment:

There have been some media reports about some few cases of irregularities, otherwise there has been a general effort and campaign mounted against irregularities by the Directorate of Public Procurement, in close collaboration with the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

C

Researcher Response to this Question was "c"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: In the comment above "some media reports" I would change to "several major reports."

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's answer.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "c."

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "c" as originally suggested by the researcher.

<p>98. When does the legislature typically approve supplemental budgets?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Supplemental budgets are approved before the funds are expended, or the executive rarely proposes a supplemental budget (please specify). b. Supplemental budgets are approved after the funds are expended, or the executive implements supplemental budgets without ever receiving approval from the legislature (please specify). c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A case in point was when the Supplemental budget for 2008/09 was actually approved in retrospect, during the FY 2009/10 budget session.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "b"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> This has varied over the years. Some years the executive brings a supplemental budget and other years it does not even bother.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "b."</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "b" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	<p>b</p>
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<p>99. In most years, how large are supplemental budget requests relative to the size of the original budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Supplemental budgets are generally equal to 2 percent or less of the original budget.b. Supplemental budgets are generally equal to more than 2 percent, but less than 5 percent, of the original budget.c. Supplemental budget are generally equal to more than 5 percent, but less than 10 percent, of the original budget.d. Supplemental budget are generally equal to 10 percent or more of the original budget, or insufficient information is available to the public regarding the amount of supplemental budgets.e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> In the FY 2009/10, this was reported to be due to the surpassed revenue targets by the MRA, as much as to some over-expenditures in allocations such as the Input Subsidy Programme, just to mention a few.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>100. When does the legislature approve the expenditure of contingency funds or other funds for which no specific purpose was identified in the budget?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Expenditures are approved before the funds are expended, or contingency funds or other funds with no specific purposes are not included in the budget.b. Expenditures are approved after the funds are expended, but before the end of the fiscal year.c. Expenditures are approved after the end of the fiscal year, for example in the next budget.d. Such expenditure takes place without legislative approval.e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> PFMA (2003).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This is in line with the PFMA (2003) which talks of cases of "unforeseen expenditures" being included in the budget for such funds.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	<p>a</p>
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Executive's Year-end Report and the Supreme Audit Institution	
<p>101. How long after the end of the budget year does the executive release to the public a year-end report that discusses the budget's actual outcome for the year?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The report is released six months or less after the end of the fiscal year. b. The report is released 12 months or less (but more than six months) after the end of the fiscal year. c. The report is released more than 12 months after the end of the fiscal year. d. The executive does not release a year-end report. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> PFMA (2003), Section 86.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Annual Economic Report is released along with the budget proposal, as Budget Document No.2, on the same day as the Minister presents the Budget Statement/Speech in parliament. In the FY 2009/10, this occurred on the 3rd July 2009.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	a

102. In the year-end report have the data on the actual outcomes been audited?

- a. Yes, all data on actual outcomes have been audited.
- b. At least two-thirds, but not all, of the data on actual outcomes have been audited.
- c. Less than two-thirds of the data on actual outcomes have been audited.
- d. None of the data on actual outcomes has been audited, or a year-end report is not released.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Document No.2. Annual Economic Report for 2009
Budget Document No.4; No.5. Draft Estimates for Recurrent and Capital Budget Expenditures (Output-based and Detailed estimates respectively) for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

The Auditor General still has some backlog of reports to deal with, but as of now, he just released three reports to parliament for FYs 2004/05; 2005/06 and 2006/07, implying that 2008/09 has not yet been audited.

d

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: The comment above needs to be rewritten. "The Auditor General has a backlog to clear. The Office of the Auditor General is just now releasing reports for FY 2004/2005, 2005/2006 and 2006/2007. FY 2007/2008 and 2008/2009 have not yet been audited."

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's answer.

Researcher Response: I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "d." I chose my answer because this was the scenario in the BY in question although the picture is changing.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.

<p>103. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for expenditures?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Document Nos. 2, 4 and 5 respectively for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The revised or actual budgetary estimates are highlighted against the approved, although some details are still not presented on the variations and reasons for the differences.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b
<p>104. What level of detail is the focus of the explanation of the differences between the enacted levels and the actual outcome for expenditures presented in the year-end report?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The explanation of the differences between the enacted expenditure levels and the actual outcome focuses on the program level. The explanation focuses on departmental totals (or functional totals) or some lower level of detail (but not the program level in all cases). The explanation focuses on a higher level of aggregation than departmental totals (or functional totals). No explanation of the differences is provided, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Same as above question.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Same as above question.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b

<p>105. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted levels (including in-year changes approved by the legislature) and the actual outcome for revenues?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents No.2, No.3, No.4 and No.5 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Same as above question comment.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>b</p>
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106. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original macroeconomic forecast for the fiscal year and the actual outcome for that year?

- a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates.
- b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded.
- c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details.
- d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Budget Documents No.2, No.3, No.4 and No.5 for FY 2009/10.

Comment:

This is well articulated and expounded as part of the government celebrating its success stories and milestone achievements, such as the fact that Malawi was by December 2008 the second fastest growing economy in the world (Second to Qatar).

b

Researcher Response to this Question was "a"

Peer Reviewer One Comment:

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "a," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "b" to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.

<p>107. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original estimates of non-financial data and the actual outcome?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents No.2, No.3, No.4 and No.5 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Although some finer details are still missing; there is obviously some room for improvement.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	b
<p>108. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the original performance indicators and the actual outcome?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. b. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. d. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget Documents No.2, No.3, No.4 and No.5 for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This explains some of the challenges highlighted in terms of consolidating a more robust performance assessment mechanism with very good and fool-proof, verifiable indicators for outputs and outcomes.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	c

<p>109. Does the year-end report explain the difference between the enacted level of funds intended to benefit directly the country’s most impoverished populations and the actual outcome?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, an extensive explanation of the differences is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, an explanation is presented, highlighting key differences, but some details are excluded. Yes, some explanation is presented, but it lacks important details. No, an explanation is not presented, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Budget documents No.2 (Annual economic Report for 2009) and No.4 (Output-based Draft Estimates) for FY 2009/10.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Not really, although implications and insinuations are always made.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	C
<p>110. Does the year-end report present the actual outcome for extra-budgetary funds?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, extensive information on the actual outcome for extra-budgetary funds is presented, including both a narrative discussion and quantitative estimates. Yes, information is presented, highlighting key issues, but some details are excluded. Yes, some information is presented, but it lacks important details. No, information is not presented on extra-budgetary funds, or such a report is not released. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Such a report is not made available to the public as a separate report.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	d

The Independence and Performance of the Supreme Audit Institution	
<p>111. How long after the end of the fiscal year are the final annual expenditures of national departments audited and (except for secret programs) released to the public?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Final audited accounts are released to the public six months or less after the end of the fiscal year. Final audited accounts are released 12 months or less (but more than six months) after the end of the fiscal year. Final audit accounts are released more than 12 months, but within 24 months of the end of the fiscal year. Final audited accounts are not completed within 24 months after the end of the fiscal year or they are not released to the public. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Finance Management Act (2003) and National Audit Reports (2004/05; 20005/06 and 2006/7).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> These are the most recently released reports to Parliament and their issues are currently enjoying publicity through the media, although they have not been officially released to the public.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "d"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> For a few years, there was no Auditor General and therefore there is a current backlog that the new Auditor General is trying to address. This has been made possible thanks to donor support to the NAO.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response:</u> I suggest the answer should remain as I indicated in the questionnaire: "d."</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.</p>	d

112. Two years after the completion of a fiscal year, what percentage of annual expenditures has been audited and (except for secret programs) the report(s) released to the public?

- a. All expenditures have been audited and the reports released to the public.
- b. Expenditures representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, expenditure have been audited.
- c. Expenditure representing less than two-thirds of expenditure have been audited.
- d. No expenditures have been audited, the reports have not been released to the public, or was released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year.
- e. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

National Audit Reports for Years ended 30th June 2005; 30th June 2006 and 30th June 2007 and other previous ones on:
www.nao.mw/pdf/annual_report.pdf (accessed on 11th September 2009).

Comment:

The audits concluded have audited a selection of all annual expenditures, and except for the recently submitted ones (currently under discussion by parliament), the previous ones are available to the public on the internet on the NAO website.

Researcher Response to this Question was "d"

Peer Reviewer One Comment: The reports available on the NAO website are for 2001, 2003, and 2004. The website is www.nao.mw.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's answer.

IBP Comment: IBP editors chose answer "d" as originally suggested by the researcher.

d

<p>113. Does the annual audit report(s) that is released to the public include an executive summary?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The annual audit report(s) includes one or more executive summaries summarizing the report's content. b. No, the audit report(s) does not include an executive summary, or such reports are not released to the public, or were released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year. c. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> National Audit Reports cited above.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	<p>b</p>
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114. Must a branch of government other than the executive (such as the legislature or the judiciary) give final consent before the head of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) can be removed from office?

- a. Yes, the head of the SAI may only be removed by the legislature or judiciary, or the legislature or judiciary must give final consent before they are removed.
- b. No, the executive may remove the head of the SAI without the final consent of the judiciary or legislature.
- c. Not applicable/other (please comment).

Citation:

Comment:

It has happened before that the Executive has removed the head of the SAI without prior approval of the other two arms of government (Legislature and Judiciary).

Peer Reviewer One Comment: See Malawi Constitution Section 184. Most people believe that the President violated the constitution by removing the former head of the SAI without cause. The Malawi constitution does not provide for the removal of the head of the SAI by the President unless he is over the retirement age, incapacitated, or compromised...because of serious financial probity or incompetence. The constitution provides for the Public Appointments Committee to be able to inquire at any time about the head of the SAI's competence or financial probity. This was not done. The constitution is not very clear but it is implied that the Public Appointments Committee would have to conduct an investigation before the President removes the Auditor General. This was not done. So while the answer "b" is correct, the question misses the other aspect, i.e. under what conditions can the president remove the Auditor General. In Malawi, the conditions are supposed to be very narrow.

Peer Reviewer Two Comment:

Government Comment: Government did not dispute researcher's answer.

b

<p>115. Does the Supreme Audit Institution release to the public audits of extra-budgetary funds?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, the SAI releases to the public audits of all extra-budgetary funds. Yes, the SAI releases audits representing at least two-thirds of, but not all, extra-budgetary funds. Yes, the SAI releases audits representing less than two-thirds of all extra-budgetary funds. No, the SAI does not release to the public audits of extra-budgetary funds, or it does not audit such funds, or such a report was released more than 24 months after the end of the fiscal year. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Audit Act (2003) section 15. Constitution of the Republic of Malawi, Section 184 (2).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Not as a separate undertaking. However, there is an inconsistency between the two (i.e. Section 15 of PAA (2003) and Section 184(2) of the Constitution). The Auditor General is mandated to submit reports to the National Assembly through the President and the Speaker in the PAA (2003), while in the Constitution, the AG is mandated to report to the National Assembly through the Minister of Finance.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>116. Beyond the established year-end attestation audits, does the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) have <i>the discretion in law</i> to undertake those audits it may wish to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The SAI has full discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake. b. The SAI has significant discretion, but faces some limitations. c. The SAI has some discretion, but faces considerable limitations. d. The SAI has no discretion to decide which audits it wishes to undertake. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Public Audit Act (2003) Section 6(d). Constitution of the Republic of Malawi, Section 184.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> It is mandated by law to do so.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>a</p>
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<p>117. Who determines the budget of the Supreme Audit Institution?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. b. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, and the funding level is broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. c. The budget of the SAI is determined by the legislature or judiciary (or some independent body), but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. d. The budget of the SAI is determined by the executive, but the funding level is not consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u> Constitution of the Republic of Malawi, Section 178.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Office of the SAI is treated just like any other government department in terms of the budget estimates and allocations in the consolidated account.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> Sadly, the National Audit Office (NA) is so poorly funded by government that it is currently only functioning due to donor support (from the Norwegian government).</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>118. Does the Supreme Audit Institution employ designated staff for undertaking audits of the central government agencies pertaining to the security sector (military, police, intelligence services)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The SAI employs designated staff, and the staffing levels are broadly consistent with the resources the SAI needs to fulfill its mandate. b. The SAI employs designated staff, but the staffing levels are a cause of some constraints to the SAI in fulfilling its mandate. c. The SAI employs designated staff, but the staffing levels pose a significant constraint on the SAI in fulfilling its mandate. d. The SAI does not employ designated staff for auditing of the security sector, or does not undertake audits of the security sector. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Not adequate with the high staff turn-over among other things.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>119. Does the Supreme Audit Institution maintain formal mechanisms of communication with the public to receive complaints and suggestions to assist it in determining its audit program (that is, to identify the agencies, programs, or projects it will audit)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public, and received more than 100 communications from the public during the past year. b. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public, and received less than 100 but more than ten communications from the public during the past year. c. Yes, the SAI maintains mechanisms of communication with the public but it receives very little (less than ten) or no information from the public on potential subjects for audit. d. No, the SAI does not maintain any formal mechanisms of communication with the public. e. Not applicable. <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Lately though, there have been some growing in-roads made towards a mutual interface through the civil society and the media, but formal mechanisms are yet to be fully operationalised.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>120. Does a committee of the legislature view and scrutinize the audit reports?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, all audit reports are scrutinized. b. Yes, most audit reports are scrutinized. c. Yes, some audit reports are scrutinized. d. No, audit reports are not scrutinized. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Public Accounts Committee of parliament has in recent years been very thorough on this. Currently, it is scrutinizing the three recently submitted reports for the fiscal years 2004/05; 2005/06 and 2006/07.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> One additional comment: "During these hearings senior officials from the executive branch have been summoned to answer questions about the audit reports."</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	a
<p>121. Does the executive make available to the public a report on what steps it has taken to address audit recommendations or findings that indicate a need for remedial action?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, the executive reports publicly on what steps it has taken to address audit findings. b. Yes, the executive reports publicly on most audit findings. c. Yes, the executive reports publicly on some audit findings. d. No, the executive does not report on steps it has taken to address audit findings. e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Largely this is yet to be achieved. Thus far, what steps (if any) the executive has taken for remedial action has only been reported on when the Executive has been summoned to explain some irregularities by the PAC or Budget and finance Committees of parliament.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> Although a written report is not done, the executive officials who attend PAC meetings often announce measures that will or already have been put in place that will prevent a similar problem in the future.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's answer.</p>	d

<p>122. Does either the Supreme Audit Institution or the legislature release to the public a report that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes, a comprehensive report is released regularly that tracks actions taken by the executive to address audit recommendations. b. Yes, a report is released, covering key audit recommendations, but some details are excluded. c. Yes, a report is released, but it lacks important details. d. No, a report is not produced or it is prepared for internal purposes only (please specify). e. Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This is yet to be seen.</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> The comment should not be “This is yet to be seen” but instead “This is not done.”</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher’s answer.</p>	<p>d</p>
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<p>123. Are audit reports of the annual accounts of the security sector (military, police, intelligence services) and other secret programs provided to the legislature (or relevant committee)?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, legislators are provided with detailed audit reports related to the security sector and other secret programs. Yes, legislators are provided audit reports on secret items, but some details are excluded. Yes, legislators are provided audit reports on secret items, but they lack important details. No, legislators are not provided audit reports on secret items, or secret programs are not audited (please specify). Not applicable/other (please comment). <p><u>Citation:</u></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is room for improvement with all programs, especially those considered secret.</p> <p><u>Researcher Response to this Question was "a"</u></p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer One Comment:</u> This question is poorly constructed because it is double barreled. For the security sector, I would give it "a" but for other secret programmes, I would give it a "d" because OPC and other accounts controlled by the president are not audited. However, since the emphasis of the question is on security, I recommend keeping the answer "a."</p> <p><u>Peer Reviewer Two Comment:</u></p> <p><u>Government Comment:</u> Government did not dispute researcher's original answer "a," which the IBP modified for consistency purposes.</p> <p><u>IBP Comment:</u> IBP editors chose answer "d" in order to maintain consistency with the criteria used for selecting answers across countries.</p>	<p>d</p>
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Government Comments: Section 1

Table 3. Distribution of Documents Related to the Executive's Budget Proposal

DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGET DOCUMENTS						
	Pre-budget	Executive's Budget Proposal				Citizens budget
		Main document	Budget summary*	Supporting Document 1	Supporting Document 2	
A. Not produced, even for internal purposes						
B. Produced for internal purposes, but not available to the public						
C. Produced and available to the public, but only on request	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
D. Produced and distributed to the public (for example, in libraries, posted on the Internet.)						Yes
<i>For budget reports that are produced and distributed to the public, what steps does the executive take to distribute these reports and to promote interest in them?</i>						
	Pre-budget	Executive's Budget Proposal				Citizens budget
		Main document	Budget summary*	Supporting Document 1	Supporting Document 2	
1. The release date is known at least one month in advance	No	No	No	No	No	No
2. Advance notification of release is sent to users, media	No	No	No	No	No	No
3. Released to public same day as official release to media	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
4. Available on the Internet free of charge	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
5. Free print copies available, limited distribution	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6. Free print copies available, mass distribution	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
7. Readily available outside capital and/or big cities ⁺	No	No	No	No	No	No
8. Written in more than one language	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
9. News conference is held to discuss release	No	No GC: Yes	No GC: Yes	No GC: Yes	No GC: Yes	No GC: Yes

*A budget summary should be a stand-alone document, which could include a budget speech or a separately published executive summary.

+Mark "Yes" if access by mail order or by Internet, if Internet service is readily available outside the capital and/or big cities.

GC: Government Comment

Table 4. Distribution of the Enacted Budget and Other Reports

DISTRIBUTION OF ENACTED BUDGET AND OTHER REPORTS					
	Enacted budget	In-year reports	Mid-year review	Year-end report	Audit report
A. Not produced, even for internal purposes	Yes GC: No				
B. Produced for internal purposes, but not available to the public			Yes		Yes
C. Produced and available to the public, but only on request	GC: Yes	Yes		Yes	
D. Produced and distributed to the public (for example, in libraries, posted on the Internet.)					
<i>For budget reports that are produced and distributed to the public, what steps does the executive take to distribute these reports and to promote interest in them?</i>					
	Enacted budget	In-year reports	Mid-year review	Year-end report	Audit report
1. The release date is known at least one month in advance	NA	No	NA	No	NA
2. Advance notification of release sent to users, media	NA	No	NA	No	NA
3. Released to public same day as official release to media	NA	No	NA	Yes	NA
4. Available on the Internet free of charge	NA	Yes	NA	No	NA
5. Free print copies available, limited distribution	NA	No	NA	Yes	NA
6. Free print copies available, mass distribution	NA	No	NA	Yes	NA
7. Readily available outside capital/big cities ⁺	NA	Yes	NA	No	NA
8. Written in more than one language	NA	No	NA	No	NA
9. News conference is held to discuss release	NA	No	NA	No	NA

+Mark "Yes" if access is available by mail order or by Internet, if Internet service is readily available outside the capital and/or big cities.

GC: Government Comment