



## **National Commission for Science and Technology**

### **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE MALAWI AWARD FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACHIEVEMENT (MASTA)**

#### **1. Background**

The National Commission for Science and Technology (NCST) is a parastatal organization established under the Science and Technology Act number 16 of 2003. As the national apex body for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) in Malawi, the main thrust of NCST is the advancement of STI in the country as provided for in the National Science and Technology Policy of 2002. The main function of NCST is to advise the Government and other stakeholders on all science and technology matters in order to achieve a science and technology-led development; and its mission is to promote, support coordinate and regulate the development and application of STI in order to create wealth and improve the quality of life.

In partial fulfilment of its Mission, NCST administers the Malawi Award for Scientific and Technological Achievement (MASTA) using budgeted funds.

#### **2. What is the Malawi Award for Scientific and Technological Achievement (MASTA)?**

The MASTA is a prestigious national award honouring achievement and excellence in **scientific and technological** research. It is conferred upon any individuals, groups or institutions that make an innovation, invention or discovery in the country, necessary for wealth creation and transforming people's livelihoods in line with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III and the new vision, Malawi 2063. The award comprises an appropriate symbol (a shield or medal), a certificate of citation and such sum of money as the NCST Board may determine from time to time. MASTA was last conferred in 1992 to a group of researchers from Chitedze Agricultural Research Station who developed maize hybrid varieties MH17 and MH18.

#### **3. Aims and Objectives of the MASTA**

- (a) To nurture initiative and creativity in the promotion of scientific and technological achievements in Malawi;
- (b) To foster the utilization of such achievements in Malawi; and
- (c) To catalyse and propel the development of scientific and technological capability and capacity in Malawi.

#### **4. Category of Achievement**

The Awards Committee shall consider the following categories of achievement:

- (a) Innovation or adaptation of known technology or processes for use in Malawi;
- (b) Design of prototype of industrial plants, machinery or equipment for manufacture or use in the country; and
- (c) Any other achievements in R&D that have some socioeconomic significance.

#### **5. Eligibility**

Malawian researchers or institutions registered and operating in Malawi are eligible for MASTA. The Award is for research contributions made in Malawi by an individual, group or institution primarily during the five years preceding the year of the prize.

#### **6. Evaluation Criteria**

The Awards Committee shall consider the importance of an innovation or invention in its application to the search for the solution of the various social and economic problems of the country. The potential catalytic effect of the claimed invention, innovation or discovery in accelerating development in Malawi and/or its global novelty and innovative character shall be the basic criteria to be used in considering an application for the award. In evaluating individual application, the following criteria shall be followed:

- (a) The relevance of the claim to Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III and the new vision, Malawi 2063 and the claim's potential impact on socioeconomic development and national transformation;
- (b) The claim's potential to increase productivity and/or efficiency;
- (c) Environmental impact of the invention;
- (d) The potential contribution of the claim to the advancement of knowledge generally; and
- (e) The originality of the claim.

#### **7. Nomination and Application Procedure**

Nominations shall be endorsed by Heads of local S&T institutions, institutions of affiliation or professional bodies. Nomination forms for individual/group and institutional applications can be accessed through NCST's website: [www.ncst.mw](http://www.ncst.mw).

All applications should be submitted electronically to the [directorgeneral@ncst.mw](mailto:directorgeneral@ncst.mw) on a prescribed form accompanied with recommendation letter by the person/institution making the nomination.

All applications will be received and processed in confidentiality and with complete acknowledgment of Intellectual Property Rights of the proponents.

#### **8. Deadline for Submission of applications/nominations**

Monday **19<sup>th</sup> April 2021** at 16:30 hours.