



**NATIONAL
PLANNING
COMMISSION**

FINDINGS & LESSONS FROM VISION 2020

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PRESENTATION MADE AT THE LAUNCH OF ENVISIONING
PROCESS

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Outline

1. The Vision
2. What worked
3. What didn't work
4. Why didn't it work
5. Lessons for the next Vision

The Vision...

"By the year 2020,
Malawi, as a God-fearing nation will be secure,
democratically mature, environmentally
sustainable, self-reliant with equal opportunities for,
and active participation by all, having social
services, vibrant cultural and religious values and
being technologically driven middle-income
economy."

V2020 Pillars

1. Good Governance
2. Sustainable Economic Growth and Development
3. Achieving Vibrant Culture
4. Developing Economic Infrastructure
5. Food Security and Nutrition
6. Social Sector Development
7. Achieving Science and Technology led Development
8. Fair and Equitable distribution of Income
9. Natural Resource and Environmental Management

Main Findings I

What has Worked

1. The health sector posted some improvements

1. **Malawi ART Scale-up program is one of the world's best practices**
2. **Maternal mortality rates (MMR) have declined.**
 - In 2004 MMR was at 984 deaths per 100,000 live births.
 - Now MMR are around 439/100,000 live births
3. **Child mortality has also been reducing significantly**
 - In 1992, the IMR was at 135 deaths/1000 births.
 - Now the IMR was 42 deaths/1000 births in 2016.
4. **Under 5 mortality has reduced**
 - U5MR was 234 deaths per 1000 births in 1992
 - U5MR is 63 deaths per 1000 births in 2016.

2. Education access has somewhat improved

✓ Net enrolments in primary and secondary school have risen

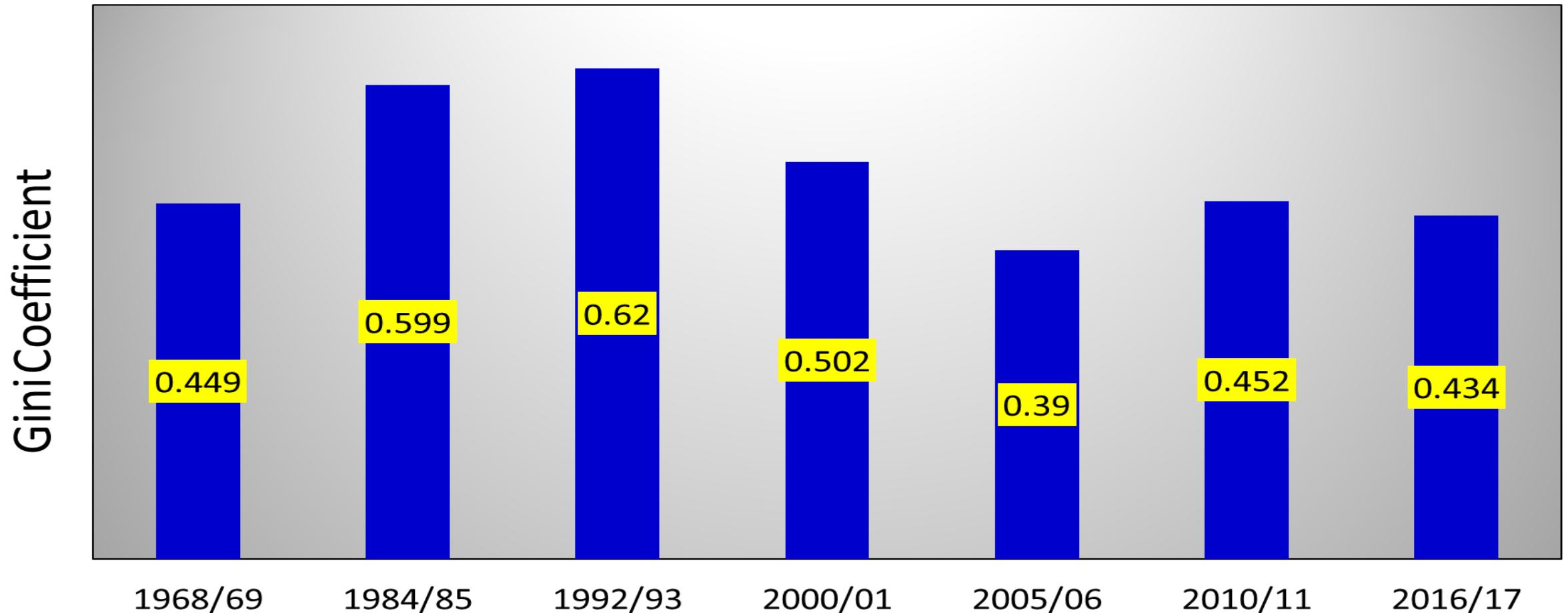
...But issues of quality and efficiency have worsened

...Inequality in access is rising (rural-urban /rich-poor)

...Malawi's access falls far short of regional peers

3. *During V2020 Inequality initially came down... but stabilised at elevated level*

Inequality in Malawi



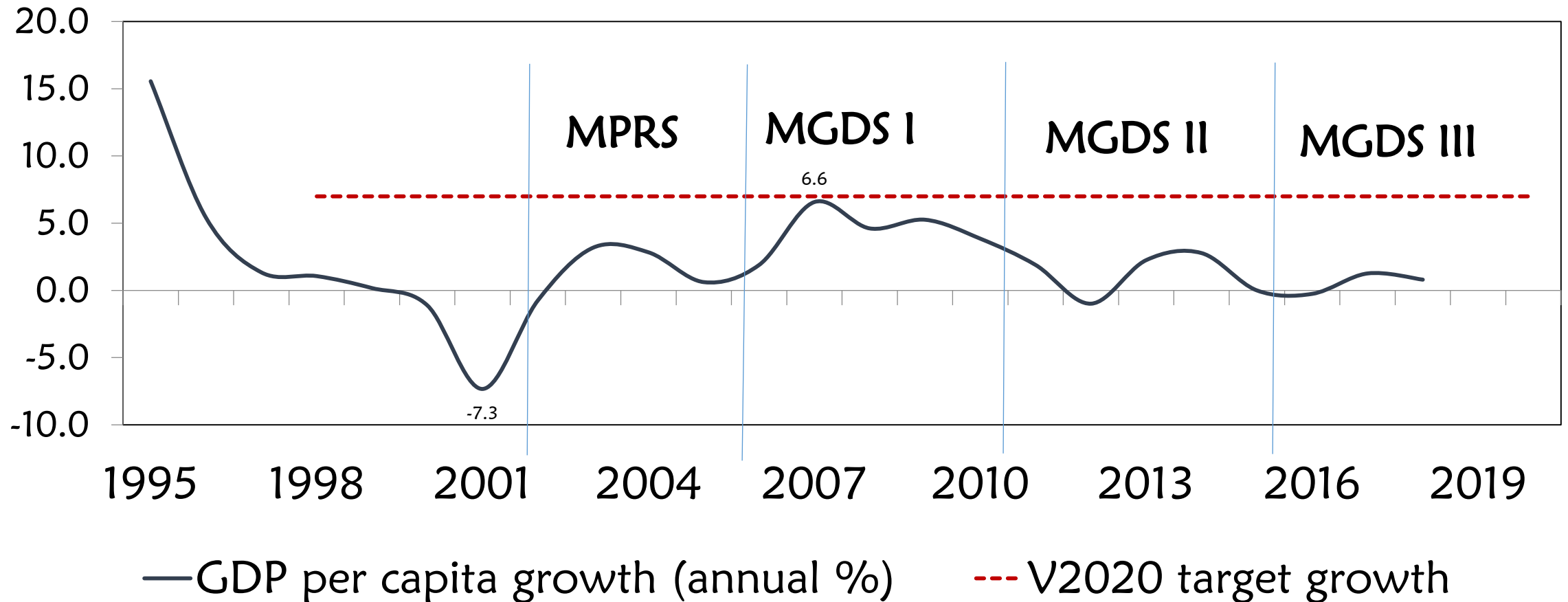
Main Findings II

What has not Worked

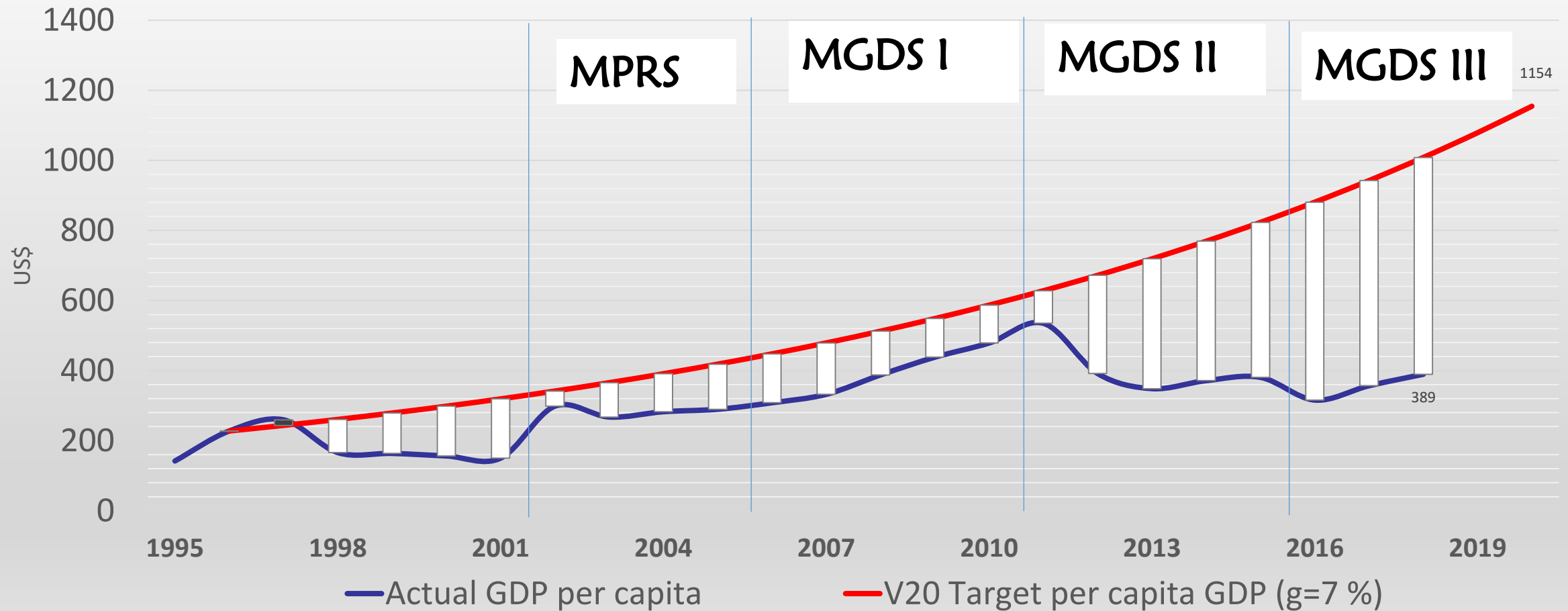
1. Malawi's economy did not grow at a rate sufficient to achieve Vision 2020

- To achieve Middle Income Status Malawi needed to grow at an average of 9 % per annum
- Between 1998 and 2018 Malawi's economic growth averaged only 4.39 percent

2. Throughout V20 per capita GDP growth remained below V20 target



If Malawi grew at V20 target rates, average income today would be at USD1154



3. During V2020 Malawi did not achieve economic transformation

- Lack of power and economic liberalisation led to premature de-industrialisation
- Collapse of manufacturing resulted in continued dominance of agriculture.
- Within agriculture there has been no transformation, especailly smallholder agriculture

4. Malawi failed to transform from an importing and consuming nation to a producing and exporting nation

- Exports growth averaged 6 % [from US\$431 million to US\$1 billion]
- Imports growth averaged 10 % [from US\$515 million to US\$2.8 billion].
- Therefore the trade balance deteriorated from US\$84 million in 1995 to US\$1.8 billion in 2019.

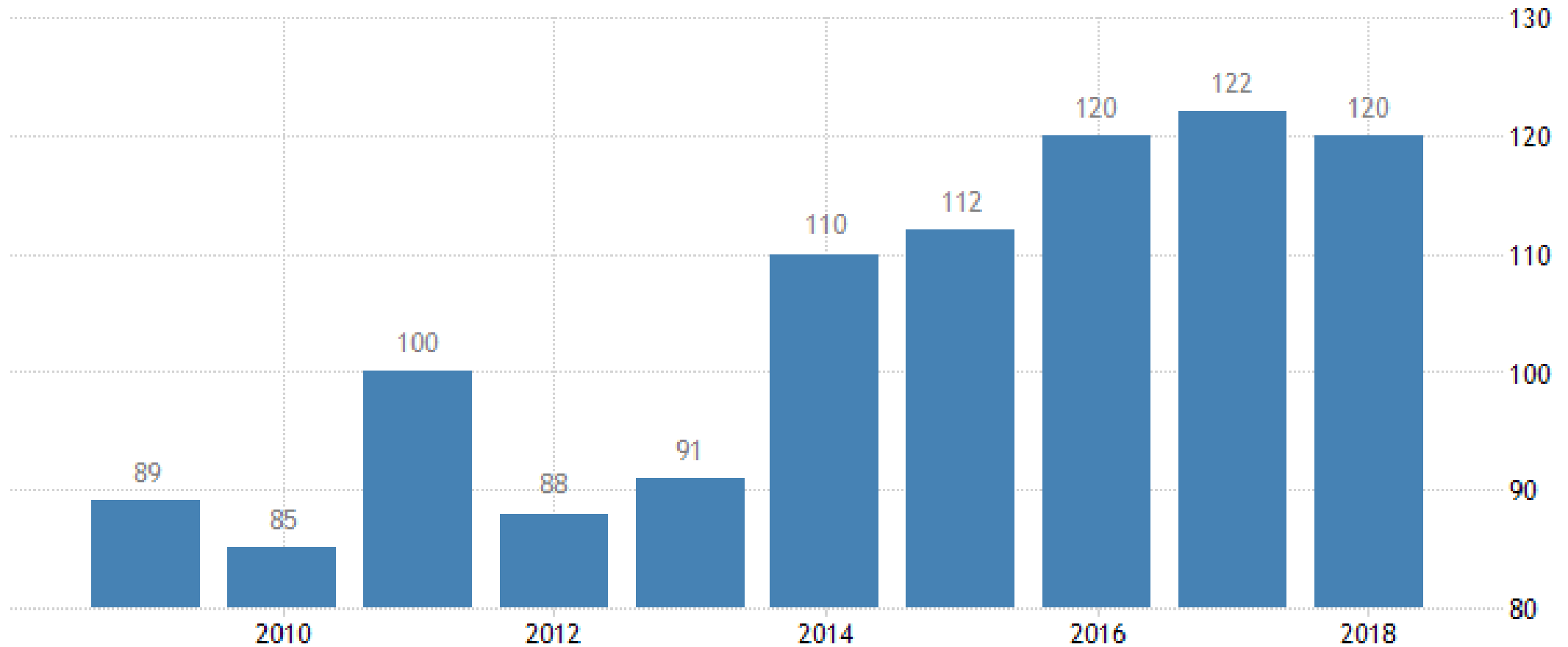
5. Fiscal stress has worsened growth prospects as well as social welfare provisioning

- Share of foreign grants has declined from a high of 42.4 percent in 2006 to about 10 percent in 2019
- Domestic revenues in government expenditure rose from 60 percent in 2006 to over 90 percent in 2019.
- Domestic revenues can hardly cover recurrent expenditure with little provision for capital investments

6. Although urban poverty has fallen, national poverty rate remains high because rural poverty has increased

| | <u>2004/05</u> | <u>2010/11</u> | <u>2016/17</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| National | 52.4 | 50.7 | 51.5 |
| <i>Urban</i> | 25.4 | 17.0 | 17.7 |
| <i>Rural</i> | 55.9 | 57.0 | 59.5 |
| Regional Area | | | |
| <i>Rural North</i> | 56.3 | 59.9 | 59.9 |
| <i>Rural Centre</i> | 46.7 | 48.7 | 53.6 |
| <i>Rural South</i> | 64.4 | 63.3 | 65.2 |

7. Malawi's corruption perception has worsened during V2020



SOURCE: [TRADINGECONOMICS.COM](https://tradingeconomics.com) | [TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL](https://www.transparency.org)

Main Finding III

why didn't V2020 work?

1. Vision 2020 was orphaned. It had no institutional home or champions

- When Vision 2020 was crafted, Government created a National Economic Council (NEC) to champion it
 - Vision 2020 was evangelised through jingles and campaign material in different languages
- When Government abolished the NEC, nobody in the MEP&D adopted and championed it.
 - New civil servants were not introduced to V2020
 - Private sector never saw a stake in its implementation

2. Visions can not be fulfilled by accident

- V2020 lacked a system of monitoring/tracking performance through reviews
 - V2020 was never translated into measurable indicators to guide monitoring
- The only target that was included related to becoming “a middle income country with per capita income of US\$1,000 by the year 2020.”

3. There was weak linkage between Vision and medium term development strategies

- The Vision was supposed to be actualised through medium term development strategies (e.g. MGDs)
- But subsequent Malawi's medium term strategies were aligned more to the UN's Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable development Goals at the expense of V2020

Lessons for future Vision

1.

There was nothing wrong with the Vision.

It remains valid to this very day

2.

There was nothing particularly wrong with the **process of coming up with Vision 2020**

- It was derived from a nation-wide consultative process and was comprehensive
- The Vision was endorsed by both the President and Leader of Opposition

3.

- The *capacity* and willingness to *implement* the National Vision should be a primary consideration if future Visions are to be realised.
- Nicely crafted documents abound but have not helped

5.

- Capacitating Institutional champions is critical to achieving alignment and enforcement of future Visions.
- National Planning Commission need to be capacitated to demand alignment of sectoral policies with medium and long term plans.

5.

The crafting of a National Vision ought to recognise the primacy of **politics** in such processes.

Developing and implementing a National Vision in Malawi requires bottomless **Political Will** and commitment to a **Fresh Transformational Agenda**.

The End

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