

MALAWI

By Grain W. P. Malunga M.I.M.M.

Real GDP grew by 1.8% in 2001 from 2.1% owing to a contraction in large-scale agricultural production. Inflation reduced to 28.1% from 34.9% in 2000. The final quarter of 2001 saw inflation rise to 35.4% because of a hike in maize prices from around US\$0.07/kg to US\$0.40/kg. The reasons for the price hike were higher imports and lower domestic output.

Malawi's hydro-plant installed capacity remained at 285 MW. Availability of power remained at about 90% due to disruptions in power supply caused by lack of investment to strengthen distribution.

Several mineral exploration targets exist in Malawi, most of which have been identified through ground geophysical surveys and geochemical sampling. Anomalies for gold and platinum group metals have been identified in the Kirk Range in southern Malawi. These are associated with ultra-basic complexes.

Delineated Mineral Reserves in Malawi (Mt)

Commodity Reserves		Grade
Bauxite	28.8	43.3% Al ₂ O ₃
Monazite	11	2.0% Rare Earths (La, Ce, Nd)
Strontianite	11	8.0% Sr
Iron Sulphides	34	8% S
Graphite	2.7	5.8% C
Titanium	100	0.34% rutile, 1-4% ilmenite
Rock Phosphate	2	17.0% P ₂ O ₅
Pyrochlore	0.9	0.37% tantalum oxide
Vermiculite	2.5	10.0%
Coal	20	14 to 40% ash
Ceramic Clay	15	33.8% Al ₂ O ₃
Limestone	4.1	52.0% CaO
Glass Sands	1.6	97% Silica

Mulanje Minerals Ltd identified two potential areas for coal and coal-bed methane in Karonga in northern Malawi and around Chiromo in southern Malawi, areas where Karoo sedimentary rocks are believed to be around 3 km in thickness.

Malawi Development Corp. in collaboration with GEEEM of France, undertook a magnetic survey over the Tundulu phosphate and identified several anomalous areas expected to be associated with buried phosphate deposits. Follow-up drilling is expected to be conducted in 2002. This may significantly increase the rock phosphate reserve which currently amounts to 2.0 Mt at 17% P₂O₅.

Allied Procurement Services and Mulanje Minerals Ltd carried out exploration for heavy mineral sands in central Malawi along Lake Malawi. A resource of over 500 Mt has been indicated.

Ilomba Granite Co. Ltd opened up an area with high-quality blue sodalite for market trials in Italy. A similar activity was undertaken by Granite Ltd for exploitation of a rare amazonite-bearing granite.

Mineral Production Statistics

('000 t except where stated)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Coal	63.21	54.2	43.8	34.3	36.7
Cement	175.8	134.0	186.5	155.1	180.1
Limestone	258	171.9	171.9	-	-
Lime	1.94	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.9