

# **NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICE**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

**“ TO PROVIDE AND PROMOTE ACCURATE, APPROPRIATE, QUALITY  
AND TIMELY STATISTICAL INFORMATION FOR USE IN POLICY  
FORMULATION, DECISION-MAKING, RESEARCH AND GENERAL PUBLIC  
AWARENESS FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
STATUS OF ALL MALAWIANS”.**

The National Statistical Office (NSO) was established on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1964. General Administration and Foreign Trade Statistics were the only two sections at that time.

Since NSO was established, its status and position in the government structure has been changing between the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Ministry of Finance and Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC).

NSO has the Commissioner for Census and Statistics as its Controlling Officer and a Deputy Commissioner followed by Assistant Commissioners who head Divisions except General Administration which is headed by a Principal Administrative Officer.

The Divisions that make up NSO are:

1. Agriculture Statistics: this was established to provide agricultural, forestry and other related statistics.
2. Demography and Social Statistics: it is mandated to provide population, demographic, health and socio-economic statistical information for use in policy decision making, research and general public awareness.
3. Economics statistics: it provides statistical tools for economic policy formulation. It comprises of Foreign Trade, National Accounts/Balance of Payments, Pricing, Tourism and Industry Sections.
4. Publications, Transport Statistics: This is composed of a printing section , library and a transport statistics section. It is responsible for the consolidation of reports from various divisions within NSO and information from the public as well as the private sectors for inclusion into departmental reports such as the Monthly Statistical Bulletin, the Statistical Yearbook and Malawi in figures.
5. General Administration: The division provides office services, human resource management, stores and accounting services.

In addition there are two support sections: Computer and Cartography.

NSO has 357 established members of staff.