

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023/24 FINANCIAL YEAR
(APRIL 2023 - MARCH 2024)**

(DRAFT)

April, 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS I

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER..... III

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY..... V

1. INTRODUCTION..... 1

1.1 Background 1

1.2.1 Strategic Overview and Legal Framework of the Greenbelt Authority 1

1.2.2 Vision 1

1.2.3 Mission 1

1.2.4 Core Values 1

1.2.5 Strategic Outcomes 2

1.2.6 Mandate 2

2.0 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR 4

2.1 Directorate of Irrigation Operations..... 4

2.1.1 Infrastructure Development..... 4

2.1.2 Land Administration 4

2.1.3 Agriculture Production 5

2.2 Directorate of Corporate Services 6

2.3 Directorate of Finance and Investments 6

2.3.1 Major activities done 6

2.3.2 Initial Budget Request 7

2.3.3 Approved Budget 8

2.3.4 Cumulative Government Funding 8

2.3.5 Internally Generated Revenues 8

2.3.6 Annual Expenditures 9

2.4 General Management: Office of the Chief Executive Officer..... 9

3. PLANS FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR 11

3.1 Directorate of Irrigation Operations..... 11

3.2 Directorate of Corporate Services 11

3.4 Directorate of Finance and Investment	12
3.5 General Management	12
4. CHALLENGES AND SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS	14
4.1 Challenges	14
4.2 Recommendations	14
5. CONCLUSION	16
GBA TEAM	17

List of Tables

Table 1: Initial Budget	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 2: Approved Budget	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 3: Projects' Budget	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table 4: Cumulative Government Spending	8
Table 5: Expenditure	9

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ADD	Agricultural Development Divisions
ADL	Airport Development Limited
ATIA	Access To Information Act
CAETS	Controller of Agricultural Extension and Technical Services
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DAI	Development Alternative Initiative
DOFI	Director of Finance and Investments
DIO	Director of Irrigation Operations
DSC	Department of Statutory Corporations
ESCOM	Electricity Supply Corporation of Malawi
GBA	Greenbelt Authority
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GGL	Greenbelt Greenhouse Limited
GVH	Group Village Headman
HR	Human Resource
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
MASM	Medical Aid Society of Malawi
MDF	Malawi Defence Force
MEPA	Malawi Environmental Protection Authority
MG	Malawi Government
MIP-1	First Ten-Year Malawi Implementation Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSF	Medium-Scale Farmers
MT	Metric Tonnes
MW2063	Malawi 2063
NAO	National Audit Office
OPC	Office of the President and Cabinet
ORT	Other Recurrent Transactions
PAP	Project Affected Persons
PC	Personal Computer
PDU	Presidential Delivery Unit
PPDA	Public Procurement and Disposal of Assets Authority
PRO	Public Relations Officer
SC	Statutory Cooperation
ST	Secretary to Treasury
TA	Traditional Authority
TOR	Terms of Reference

WIFI
WUA

Wireless Fidelity
Water Users Association

STATEMENT FROM THE BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The 2023/24 financial year offered the Greenbelt Authority (GBA) another opportunity to continue executing its mandate of championing large scale commercial irrigation farming in Malawi through sustainable use of available water and land resources. We are pleased to present this Annual Report which makes an account of activities undertaken by the GBA in the 2023/24 financial year. The report has presented key achievements, challenges encountered, recommendations as well as plans for the 2024/25 financial year.

During the reporting period, GBA finalised its Strategic Plan to guide its operations for the next five years (2024-2029). In the next five years, GBA will focus on four key result areas, namely: 1) Sustainable irrigation infrastructure development, 2) Sustainable agricultural production and productivity, 3) Business development, agro-processing and marketing, and 4) Corporate services, finance and investments. The GBA Strategic Plan has aligned itself with the Malawi 2063 as well as the first Ten-Year Malawi Implementation Plan (MIP-1).

GBA is one of the key implementors of the Malawi Government's Mega Farms Programme. During the period under review, GBA focused on rehabilitating 200Ha of the 600Ha at Nkopola Irrigation scheme in Mangochi and 700Ha at Lweya Irrigation scheme in Nkhatabay in order to prepare these schemes for maize and rice production under irrigation during the 2024 irrigation season. GBA also continued rehabilitation of 150Ha at Nchalo irrigation scheme and construction of the 1Km flood protection dyke at Mwananjobvu scheme in Chikwawa. During the 2023/24 rainfed season, GBA cultivated maize on 100Ha at Chikwawa scheme in Salima district where 350MT is expected to be harvested.

During the year under review, GBA partnered with Mpatsa Holdings Limited to form a new company, Mpatsa Greenbelt Mega Farms Limited, aimed at producing and processing different value chains including maize and soy beans. GBA also received approval from its Board of Directors to incorporate Special Purpose Vehicles with Bry Holdings Limited, Bwanje Limited and Medigrow Limited. GBA also commenced the restructuring process of its two joint venture companies, namely, Salima Sugar Company Limited and Greenbelt Greenhouses Limited in order to improve their operations for them to maximize production and processing of their value chains.

During the period under review, phase one activities in the construction of Nthola Ilora Rice processing factory in Karonga were completed in March, 2024 with the factory building constructed, equipment installed and water and electricity connected. GBA is currently working on phase two activities and operationalizing the factory as well as engaging out grower farmers to utilize the factory whose capacity is processing 50MT of Rice per day. Once fully operational, the factory will process over 9000MT of rice per year.

Insufficient and untimely funding as well as devaluation of the Kwacha affected the work of GBA. GBA will continue engaging Treasury on timely and increased funding for its projects as well as find alternative sources of financing through engaging strategic potential investors.

Moving forward, GBA will continue acquiring additional land for its investment projects, incorporating the Special Purpose Vehicles, rehabilitating and constructing irrigation infrastructure as well as producing its value chains under irrigation and rainfed.

As we look ahead, we are eager to continue engaging stakeholders and we anticipate to register more achievements in 2024/25 financial year building from the milestones of 2023/24 financial year. We urge all stakeholders to continue supporting GBA in its activities so that it can meaningfully contribute in making Malawi a medium income country by 2063 through championing sustainable irrigation farming.

Wester Peter Kosamu, LLB (Hons) Mw
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Eric Dudley Chidzungu
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report for the 2023/24 financial year summarizes Greenbelt Authority (GBA)'s activities, achievements and challenges as it continues to champion large-scale commercial irrigation farming in Malawi. Established by an Act of Parliament, Act No. 23 of 2017 (Cap 65:07 of the Laws of Malawi), GBA operates under a strategic framework guided by a clear vision, mission, and core values as enshrined in its Strategic Plan.

In the 2023/24 financial year, significant progress was made across various projects within the GBA's scope. Notably, construction of the Nthola-Ilora Rice Processing factory phase one activities in Karonga reached 100% completion, marking a major milestone for the Authority while the physical construction progress for the Water Intake reached 60%. Rehabilitation efforts for the Nkopola Irrigation Scheme and Nchalo irrigation scheme advanced, achieving 50% and 55% physical construction progress respectively, while substantial progress was also made on flood protection dyke construction at Mwananjovu. Additionally, site handover to the contractor and consultant at Lweya Mega Farm was done and rehabilitation commenced in March, 2024. Land Administration activities saw successful land lease acquisition and property assessments, alongside completion of compensation payments for Project Affected Persons. In Agriculture Production, diverse initiatives including Maize production on 100Ha at Chikwawa scheme in Salima, cotton harvesting at Chipoka in Salima district, distribution of farm inputs to cooperatives at Nkopola and Nthola-Ilola irrigation schemes, and establishment of management committees were executed, contributing to agricultural production and productivity. These achievements reflect the GBA's commitment to developing and improving irrigation infrastructure as well as increasing agricultural production and productivity.

To improve organizational performance and efficiency, the Corporate Services Directorate facilitated and supported the review of staff conditions of service and performance management handbook. Recruitment efforts led to the addition of key personnel at executive management, management and general staff levels. The organization also welcomed interns through the Government Internship Program, further enriching the talent pool with specialized skills which showcased its efforts in human capacity improvement. Operational efficiency was further

prioritized through initiatives such as security needs assessments, vehicle registration, and the maintenance of essential IT infrastructure, including WIFI connectivity and server maintenance.

Apart from striving for Institutional Efficiency, Agricultural Productivity, and Infrastructure Development, GBA plans to transform from a sub-vented organization to a commercial organization. To attain this goal, GBA has been engaging with Private sector investors to partner with in implementing investment projects. Furthermore, due diligence exercises were conducted on potential partners such as Sarrai Group of Uganda for sugarcane plantation, Bry Holdings Limited in Mchinji and Kasungu Districts, Bwanje Limited in Thyolo District and Medigrow Limited in South Africa, underscoring a meticulous approach to business collaborations.

*GBA requested for an initial funding of **MK 7,568,077,000.00** for the 2023/24 financial year from treasury where **MK 4,437,455,960.00** was the approved budget. A total of **MK 136,898,500.63** was internally generated through maize sales, cotton sales, land rentals, bid documents and bank interests with a total expenditure of **MK 4,317,084,950.22**. In addition, tax issues with MRA were effectively resolved, leading to the remittance of all withholding tax arrears up to February, 2024.*

The Office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) continued to play its critical role providing guidance and leadership in running the daily activities of GBA. The office has been actively engaged in enhancing stakeholder relationships and overseeing various strategic initiatives of the GBA which includes representing GBA at several key events both domestically and internationally. Efforts have also been focused on project monitoring and evaluation, with the development of data collection tools, monitoring and evaluation plans, and supervisory and monitoring visits to project sites to track progress. Furthermore, media coverage of all GBA contemporary activities and the documentation of success stories to showcase GBAs work was done within the financial year. GBA implemented activities in compliance with the Access to Information Act in the period under review.

Due to the capital-intensive nature of its projects, GBA was unable to complete rehabilitation and construction of irrigation infrastructure. Although this is the case, GBA made significant efforts in promoting irrigation farming and enhancing institutional capacity during the year. Moving forward, the GBA aims to overcome the challenges and achieve its goals in line with its Strategic Plan and the country's long-term development plan, Malawi 2063.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Greenbelt Authority (GBA) is a statutory corporation established through an Act of Parliament, Act No. 23 of 2017 (Cap 65:07 of the Laws of Malawi) with the aim of championing large scale commercial irrigation farming in Malawi through sustainable use of available land and water resources. This report presents the key achievements that GBA registered in the 2023/24 financial year and planned activities for the 2024/25 financial year. It also includes the challenges faced within the reporting period and concludes with recommendations to improve the activities of GBA as it aspires to transform from a subverted organization to a commercial organization.

1.2.1 Strategic Overview and Legal Framework of the Greenbelt Authority

1.2.2 Vision

To be a sustainable large scale commercial irrigation farming and agro-processing champion in Malawi.

1.2.3 Mission

To develop and promote climate smart commercial irrigation farming to the nation, through infrastructure development, agriculture productivity, value addition and marketing for sustainable wealth creation”.

1.2.4 Core Values

The Greenbelt Authority is centred on the following eight core values:

1. Integrity
2. Professionalism
3. Transparency and Accountability
4. Innovation and Creativity
5. Teamwork
6. Partnerships
7. Agility
8. Competence

1.2.5 Strategic Outcomes

In line with its five-year strategic plan, GBA seeks to register the following strategic outcomes:

- Improved and efficient irrigation infrastructure
- Increased agricultural production, productivity, and diversification.
- Market development, agro-processing, and value addition.
- Enhanced institutional efficiency and performance.

1.2.6 Mandate

The GBA derives its specific mandate from the Greenbelt Authority Act number 23 of 2017 and under Section 6 mandates Greenbelt Authority to:

- a) Oversee, direct and co-ordinate the implementation of irrigation policies and programmes.
- b) Identify irrigable land, determine potential water sources, and carry out feasibility studies for new irrigation projects and programmes.
- c) Investigate, plan, design, construct and supervise the implementation of irrigation projects, infrastructure, or programmes.
- d) Operate and maintain irrigation projects or programmes and do all acts incidental thereto.
- e) Conduct and co-ordinate research and investigation on the optimum use of water for irrigation.
- f) Modernise and upgrade aging irrigation schemes to enhance efficiency and improve services to the farmers.
- g) Train farmers on different methods of irrigation and use of irrigation equipment
- h) Provide support to farmer organisations including water users' associations and co-operative societies for the proper management of irrigation schemes.
- i) Promote public-private partnerships on irrigation programmes.
- j) Mobilise technical and financial resources for the implementation of irrigation in Malawi.

- k) Review implementation progress and evaluate ongoing irrigation policies, projects, or programmes.
- l) Promote agro-processing and marketing of crops and produce grown or produced in national irrigation schemes in liaison with organisations responsible for marketing of agriculture produce.
- m) Arrange and coordinate activities which may contribute to training activities and costs related to the setting up and operation irrigation programmes, including the payment of any remuneration, honorarium or fees to persons employed in or engaged in undertaking commercial activities.
- n) Perform any other functions in irrigation as it may consider appropriate for achieving the purposes of the GBA Act.

2.0 MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

2.1 Directorate of Irrigation Operations

2.1.1 Infrastructure Development

1. The phase one activities in the construction of Nthola Ilora Rice Processing factory in Karonga were completed by the end of the reporting period. The factory building was completed, factory equipment was installed and water and electricity were connected.
2. Contractor and consultant for rehabilitation of the Nkopola Irrigation Scheme on 200Ha were identified and the site was handed over in December, 2023. Rehabilitation commenced and physical construction progress reached 50% by March, 2024.
3. Sixty percent of the physical construction works for the Nthola Ilora Irrigation Water Intake in Karonga was done within the reporting period.
4. Physical construction progress for the rehabilitation of the 150Ha irrigation scheme at Nchalo irrigation scheme reached 55% while for the 1KM of the 4KM flood protection dyke at Mwananjobvu reached 99% by March, 2024.
5. Contractor and supervising consultant for Lweya Mega Farm were identified and contracts were signed. Site handover for the scheme was done in March, 2024 and rehabilitation commenced in the same month.
6. Terms of reference for conducting Environmental and social impact assessment for Mwananjobvu irrigation project were developed
7. Lot 2 works tender documents for Nthola ilora irrigation project were prepared
8. Engaged Malawi Bureau of Standards on certification of Rice factory

2.1.2 Land Administration

1. Lease of 2.8Ha land where Nthola-Ilora Rice processing factory is constructed was offered to GBA for 99 years by Ministry of Lands.
2. Undertook land and property assessment in preparation of the Ethanol factory site at T/A Mwadzama in Nkhotakota district on 32.3Ha.
3. Completed Compensation payments for PAPs in Nthola-Ilola and Mwananjobvu Irrigation schemes. For Nthola, 21 PAPs were compensated at a total of MK48,600,000 while for Nchalo, 57 PAPs were compensated at a total of MK50,000,000.00

4. Created commercial plots and updated land rental records for medium scale farmers at the Chikwawa scheme in Salima district.
5. Conducted a sensitization meeting at Chikwawa Scheme in Salima District to prepare the 500 people for relocation where they are willing to relocate subject to provision of basic amenities.

2.1.3 Agriculture Production

1. Facilitated harvesting of Cotton at Chipoka (120MT), Maize at Nkopola (67MT) and Maize at Nchalo (40.9 MT) where Nkopola and Chipoka were funded under MEGA farms programme.
2. Two Metric tons of Kilombero Rice was distributed to farmers who are paid up Members at Nthola Ilora Cooperative. The Rice was grown on 50Ha and about 125MT is expected to be harvested.
3. ToRs for an operator for the Nthola-Ilola Rice Processing factory were developed.
4. GBA supported farmers at Nkopola (Mlambe) irrigation scheme in 2023/24 rainfed season with 8MT of maize seed and 500bags of fertilizer that have been used to grow maize on 320Ha and 500MT is expected to be harvested.
5. Facilitated the establishment and training of flood protection dyke management committee at Mwananjobvu project site.
6. Commenced maize production on 100Ha at Chikwawa irrigation scheme under rainfed production during the 2023/24 rainfed season and 350MT is expected to be harvested. Harvesting is set for the first month of the 2024/25 financial year.
7. Salima Sugar Company Limited produced maize on 160Ha during 2023/24 rainfed season.
8. Facilitated a sensitization meeting at Nthola-Ilola for a concept development for AGCOM 2 project in order for the farmers to benefit from the project.
9. Signed MoUs with farmers at Nkopola and Lweya.
10. Procured Rice for milling during His Excellency the President's visit to Nthola Ilora Rice processing factory.

2.2 Directorate of Corporate Services

1. Facilitated and supported review of Performance Management Handbook and its Appendices by all members of staff.
2. Facilitated and supported the review of Staff Condition of Service.
3. Prepared Key Performance Indicators for Directors in conjunction with Officials from the Comptroller of Statutory Corporations.
4. Registered GBA vehicles with statutory number plates.
5. Consistently maintained all GBA vehicles within the reporting period.
6. Maintained WIFI connectivity to staff and Directors and server connectivity.
7. Gathered and consolidated new website content for updating GBA website. The section has managed to gather and consolidate the content needed to be uploaded on the website. However, the website is on the development server and the link was shared to only senior members of staff to incorporate comments, as of now the site is 70% done.
8. Facilitated the process of server reinstallation.
9. Coordinated the recruitment of the following officers and managers: Registry Clerk, four Drivers, Information and Communications Technology Officer, Public Relations and Customer Experience Officer, Procurement and Disposal of Assets Manager, Internal Audit Manager, Planning Monitoring and Evaluation Manager, Agriculture Production Officer, Administration Officer, Accounts Assistant and Assistant Accountant.
10. Engaged www.gba.mw hosts to reactivate domain.
11. Conducted security needs assessment and assets and inventory verification exercise for Nchalo Project and Nkopola Irrigation project.
12. Developed the following policies: Investment Policy, ICT Policy, Training and Staff Development Policy, Loans Policy, Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Policy, Code of Conduct Policy, Occupational Health and Safety Policy, Assets Acquisition, Management and Disposal Policy and Funeral Policy.

2.3 Directorate of Finance and Investments

2.3.1 Major activities done

1. The Mpatsa Greenbelt mega farm company was incorporated in July 2023, and capital injection was not done due to the lack of Government guarantee to finance the working capital. A follow up with Treasury on the request for government guarantee was made.
2. Responded to the Management Letter for the 2022/23 Financial Year and submitted the responses to the National Audit Office.
3. Received interest quotes from CDH and NBS Banks for placement of funds.
4. Conducted meetings with the Ministry of Finance to draft a cabinet paper on the request for a government capital injection into Mpatsa Greenbelt Mega Farms Limited and to discuss the JV with Mpatsa Holdings, review and provide feedback to the Attorney General's (AG's) legal opinion on the incorporation of Mpatsa Greenbelt Mega Farms Limited.
5. Conducted a Pre-feasibility study assessment and a meeting with Bwanje Limited to discuss and review the JV strategic plan.
6. Complied and submitted 35 bound copies of the 2021-22 Financial year external audit queries to PAC.
7. Undertook due diligence exercises on Sarrai Group of Uganda, Bry Holding Limited in Mchinji and Kasungu Districts and Medigrow Limited in South Africa.
8. Conducted meeting with Bry Holdings Limited on updating their business plan and shareholders agreement.
9. Conducted a Pre-feasibility study assessment and a meeting with Bwanje Limited to discuss and review the joint venture strategic plan.
10. Resolved tax issues with MRA and managed to remit all withholding tax arrears up to February 2024.
11. Prepared and submitted 2024/25 Financial budgets to Ministry of Finance.

2.3.2 Initial Budget Request

No.	Name of Project	Initial Budget
1.	Other Recurrent Transactions (ORT)	1,657,028,000.00
2.	Nthola Ilola Rice Irrigation Project	2,768,594,000.00
3.	Nchalo Cotton Irrigation project	1,483,737,000.00

4.	New projects	1,690,000,000.00
	TOTAL	7,568,077,000.00

Table 1: Initial Budget request

2.3.3 Approved Budget

No.	Name of the Budget	Approved Budget
1.	Other Recurrent Transactions (ORT)	837,455,960.00
2.	Nthola Ilola Rice Irrigation Project	800,000,000.00
3.	Nchalo Cotton Irrigation project	800,000,000.00
4.	Mega Farms	2,000,000,000.00
	TOTAL	4,437,455,960.00

Table 2: Approved Budget

2.3.4 Cumulative Government Funding

No.	Budget Name	Approved budget	April 2023-Mar 2024 PAYE deducted by MoF	April 2023-Mar 2024 Net Funding received	April 2023-Mar 2024 Gross Funding	% of funding received
1.	ORT	837,455,960	119,954,417	670,982,622	790,937,039	94%
2.	Development	1,600,000,000	Nil	Nil	1,600,000,000	100%
3.	Mega Farm	2,000,000,000	Nil	Nil	2,000,000,000	100%
	TOTAL	4,437,455,960	109,049,470	600,465,033	4,309,514,503	97%

Table 3: Cumulative Government Funding

2.3.5 Internally Generated Revenues

No.	Maize Sale	Cotton Sale	Land rentals	Bid Documents	Bank Interest	Total
1.	14,215,000	28,200,000	68,134,916.40	650,000.00	25,698,584.23	136,898,500.63
	14,215,000	28,200,000	68,134,916.40	650,000.00	25,698,584.23	136,898,500.63

Table 4: Internally Generated Revenues

2.3.6 Annual Expenditures

No.	Budget Name	March 2024 Expenditure (MK)
1.	Internally Generated Revenue Funds	123,065,669.47
2.	ORT Funds	792,581,800.13
3.	Development Funds	1,796,521,004.95
4.	Mega Farms Funds	1,604,916,475.67
	TOTAL Expenditure	4,317,084,950.22

Table 5: Expenditure

2.4 General Management: Office of the Chief Executive Officer

1. To enhance stakeholder engagements the CEO was part of the delegation led by the Malawi Investment and Trade centre that went to Dubai and Abu Dhabi where GBA engaged with various investors. Locally, the CEO represented GBA in the following events:
 - The Malawi Agriculture Productivity and Commercialization Conference.
 - Malawi International Trade Fair
 - National Agriculture Fair
 - Presidential launch of 2023/24 AIP in Kasungu
 - Buy Malawi by Malawi Fair.
2. Developed data collection tools for a rapid assessment for all GBA projects.
3. Produced monthly and quarterly reports for the entire reporting period.
4. Prepared and updated PSIP quarterly reports and database.
5. Developed monitoring and evaluation plans for Nthola-Iloa, Nchalo, Nkopola and Lweya Irrigation schemes.
6. Conducted quarterly monitoring visits with Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.
7. Conduct quarterly and monthly monitoring and supervisory visits for GBA projects to track progress.
8. Prepared and submitted 2024/25 Annual budget.
9. Revamped Social Welfare and Team building Committees.

10. Revised GBA Strategic Plan.
11. Facilitated adherence to ATI Act through training of Staff and Management on the Act, designation of Information Officer, development of the ATI Manual and produced ATI Compliance report.
12. Prepared the 2024/25 Annual Plans in collaboration with all departments and consolidated them.
13. GBA engaged the Chief Advisors to the President, Dr Lembani and Mr. Mkandawire, in a monitoring and supervisory activity at Nthola Ilora Rice Irrigation project in Karonga district.
14. Produced the progress report on reform areas for the 2023/24 period and submitted it to the Reforms Unit.
15. Hosted His Excellency the President, Dr Lazurus Chakwera and the Vice president at the Nthola-Ilola Rice Processing Factory.
16. Hosted the Chief Advisors to the president, Minister of Agriculture, LUANAR delegates, MoFEA Officials and Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture at the Nkopola Irrigation Scheme.
17. Facilitated a monitoring visit by the Parliamentary Committee on Transport and Public Infrastructure to Nchalo Irrigation scheme.
18. Coordinated media coverage and visibility for all GBA activities.
19. Shot a documentary on Mega farms.
20. Produced and circulated social media and newspaper posters for public holidays.
21. Participated in the National Agriculture trade fair and the Buy Malawi by Malawi fair.
22. Produced 2024 GBA calendar and newsletters.
23. Produce GBA 2024/25 Performance Management Plans and Budget (PMPB) as guided by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs template.
24. Media orientation in Greenbelt Authority's work and Sensitize district-based media personnel in GBA work.
25. Managed all GBA social media pages.
26. Coordinated media coverage for all stakeholder visits to various project sites including SSCL and GGL.

3. PLANS FOR 2024/25 FINANCIAL YEAR

3.1 Directorate of Irrigation Operations

1. Acquisition of 3000Ha of land to expand its projects.
2. Drafting regulations for Greenbelt Authority
3. Declaration of Greenbelt areas.
4. Development of commercial zones in Salima.
5. Soliciting of 5000ha of land through partnerships.
6. Finalising the Nthola-Ilola irrigation scheme designs.
7. Finalise the rehabilitation of Nchalo irrigation scheme, Nkopola irrigation scheme and Lweya irrigation scheme.
8. Conduct a feasibility study and review existing irrigation designs at Mwananjovu irrigation scheme.
9. Conduct a capacity building session for WUA and Cooperative members in all project sites.
10. Winter and rainfed production.
11. Recruit an operator for the Nthola-Ilola processing factory.
12. Operationalise the Rice processing factory.

3.2 Directorate of Corporate Services

1. Improve the work environment for all staff members.
2. Identify new office spaces.
3. Identification of user ICT needs.
4. Enhance and automate operations.
5. Website management.
6. Development of a training plan.
7. Participate in international and local trainings.
8. Attend CPD trainings.
9. Conduct a team building activity for the Authority.
10. Orient and induct new staff members on all GBA projects.
11. Supervising unskilled labour in project sites.
12. Conduct performance appraisals for staff members.

13. Operationalise GBIHL.
14. Procurement of capital assets and equipments.
15. Procurement of office stationery and equipment's.
16. Improve asset management by asset acquisition and disposal.
17. Procurement of new vehicles.
18. Procurement of cleaning services and office security.
19. Conduct quarterly Board meetings.
20. Conduct Board orientation and project supervisory visits.
21. Development of new performance management systems.

3.4 Directorate of Finance and Investment

1. Development of new ERP systems.
2. Development of annual plans and budgets.
3. Implementation of internal and external audit recommendations.
4. Monitoring SSCL and GGL operations.
5. Preparation of quarterly reports for the Board.
6. Incorporation and capitalisation of approved SPVs.
7. Development of new SPVs.
8. Holding investment taskforce meetings.
9. Conduct pre-feasibility studies for JVs.
10. Conduct quarterly Audit visits to project sites.
11. Production of Audit reports.

3.5 General Management

1. Archiving documents inline wit ATI.
2. Training staff members on record management.
3. Development of communication policy, strategy, and plan.
4. Production of IEC materials.
5. Coverage of GBA functions and activities.

6. Conduct monitoring and supervisory project sites visits.
7. Conduct community awareness campaigns.
8. Conduct media tours.
9. Conduct GBA appearances in Newspapers, TV, and Radio coverages.
10. Implementation of ATI mandatory activities.
11. Production of monthly, quarterly, and annual reports.
12. Updating PSIP data with up-to-date information on all ongoing and pipeline projects.
13. Conduct a Monitoring and Evaluation staff training session on M and E processes.
14. Development of Annual plans.
15. Review of the Strategic Plan.
16. Launching of the Strategic Plan.
17. Production of a PMPB reports
18. Production of reports for submission to the Board.
19. Creation of a database for storing GBA information.
20. Production of reports for submission to the OPC, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

4. CHALLENGES AND SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Challenges

1. Delay in payment of compensation to Project Affected Persons for Nthola-Illola in Karonga, Mwansambo in Nkhotakota and Nchalo in Chikwawa delayed project implementation.
2. Insufficient funds and untimely disbursement of funds from Treasury affected project progress due to the capital-intensive and time-sensitive nature of GBA projects.
3. Scarcity of forex affected procurement of construction materials hence slow project implementation progress.
4. Devaluation of the Malawi Kwacha which resulted in contractors and consultants requesting for price adjustments.
5. Climate change issues that led to a prolonged dry spell which affected production of Maize at the Chikwawa Scheme in Salima District.
6. Failure to secure government guarantee for GBA to find alternative financing of capital injection into Mpatasa Greenbelt Mega Farms Limited.
7. Few vehicles against increased number of activities that demand vehicles and aging fleet that requires regular maintenance.
8. Inadequate ICT equipment due to insufficient funding which affects operations and automations of GBA activities.
9. The Lweya Irrigation scheme's social issues hindered the timely handover of the site to both the contractor and consultant for rehabilitation, thereby delaying the project's commencement and impeding progress.

4.2 Recommendations

1. Develop clear contractual provisions regarding price adjustments to account for currency fluctuations.
2. Implement climate resilient agricultural practices to mitigate the effects of climate change induced challenges on project outcomes.
3. There is need for GBA to proactively engage Treasury on the need for timely and adequate funding of GBA projects. Irrigation farming is capital intensive. As such, an increase in allocation of resources to GBA will be vital so that rehabilitation and development of

irrigation infrastructure are completed. Once these are completed, GBA will be ready to engage in large scale commercial irrigation and this will contribute greatly to the economic growth of the country.

4. There is need to continue engaging government on modalities for capital injection into Mpatsa Greenbelt Mega Farms Limited and other SPVs to be incorporated.
5. There is need for GBA to consider procurement of vehicles to address the high vehicle demand at the Authority.
6. Enhance community engagement with farmers to address social issues and ensure effective participation in GBA activities in all project sites.
7. GBA staff vacancies should also be filled to allow the authority to operate at full capacity so that GBA performance is not affected due to understaffing.
8. Provide trainings to the farmers on irrigation systems for better utilization of the schemes after rehabilitation and construction of the schemes.

5. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the annual report for the Greenbelt Authority (GBA) has provided a comprehensive overview of our accomplishments, challenges, and plans. Over the past financial year, GBA has made significant strides in advancing its mandate of championing large-scale commercial irrigation farming in Malawi while upholding our core values of integrity, professionalism, and transparency.

From Irrigation Operations to finance and Investments to General Management and Corporate Services, GBA has demonstrated unwavering commitment and dedication to achieving its strategic outcomes. Key achievements include the identification and commencement of rehabilitation works on various irrigation schemes, successful land administration activities, improved stakeholder engagement activities, and substantial progress in agriculture production and productivity.

However, amidst these successes, the Authority encountered several challenges that have hindered progress of most of the projects, ranging from delayed compensation payments to funding constraints and social issues affecting project timelines. Nevertheless, these challenges serve as opportunities for growth and improvement.

Moving forward to the next financial year, GBA remains focused on its vision of becoming a sustainable champion in commercial irrigation farming and agro processing in Malawi. Comprehensive plans have been outlined to address the identified challenges, including enhancing stakeholder engagement, improving operational efficiency, and securing adequate funding for all its investment projects.

GBA TEAM

In 2023/24 financial year, GBA made significant strides in transforming agriculture in general and people's lives in particular through championing large scale commercial irrigation farming because of hard work, dedication and commitment of its amazing Board of Directors, Management and Staff. A big thank you note to the GBA family for making GBA work possible.

Our Board of Directors

Wester Peter Kosamu, LLB (Hons), **Board Chairperson**

Regina Sambakunsi, **Vice Board Chairperson**

Reverend Philip Kambulire, **Director**

Gift Geremane, **Director**

Vitumbiko Gubuduza, **Director**

Secretary to the Treasury, **Ex-Officio**

Secretary for Agriculture, **Ex-Officio**

Secretary for Lands, **Ex-Officio**

Comptroller of Statutory Corporations, **Ex-Officio**

Our Management and Staff

Eric Dudley Chidzungu, **Chief Executive Officer**

Chisomo Kumbuyo, PhD, **Director of Irrigation Operations**

Linda Phiri, **Director of Finance and Investments**

Rachel Silungwe, **Director of Corporate Services**

Frank Chidampamba, **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Manager**

Oscar Matope, **Land Administration Manager**

Synoden Kautsi, **Infrastructure Development Manager**

Mesiah Moleni, **Agriculture Production Manager**

Sam Chiwaya, **Internal Audit Manager**

Masautso Kamowa, **Procurement and Disposal of Assets Manager**

Kelvin Lichapa, **Management Accountant**

Fatsani Mponela, **Civil Engineer**

Chester Chikwere, **Irrigation Engineer**
Grace Wani, **Civil Engineer**
Mulunga Lamba, **Human Resources Officer**
Dyson Matimati, **Administration Officer**
Gideon Zumani, **Agriculture Production Officer**
Samuel Majamanda, **Public Relations and Consumer Affairs Officer**
Alinafe Pinakuwa, **ICT Officer**
Hope Kamwinda, **Irrigation Engineer (Intern)**
Wezzie Gondwe, **Investments Officer (Intern)**
Patience Sikelo, **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (Intern)**
Machiru Moyo, **Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (Intern)**
Tionge Nthanga, **Public Relations Officer (Intern)**
Kondwani Kamaliza, **Land Administration Officer (Intern)**
John Chiona, **Accountant (Intern)**
Betty Kamanga, **Administrative Officer (Intern)**
Shukurani Suleman, **Agribusiness Officer (Intern)**
Lonjezo Chizauni, **Executive Assistant**
Gift Nyirenda, **Assistant Accountant**
Cryton Mauwa, **Accounts Assistant**
Rodrick Chitani, **Accounts Assistant**
Peter Sinjani, **Stores Clerk**
Corins Kawenga, **Registry Clerk**
Magret Zulu, **Office Assistant**
Maureen Banda, **Office Assistant**
Davie Chindanda, **Driver**
Astone Shumba, **Driver**
Rabson Kwaderanji, **Driver**
Benjamin Kasapha, **Driver**