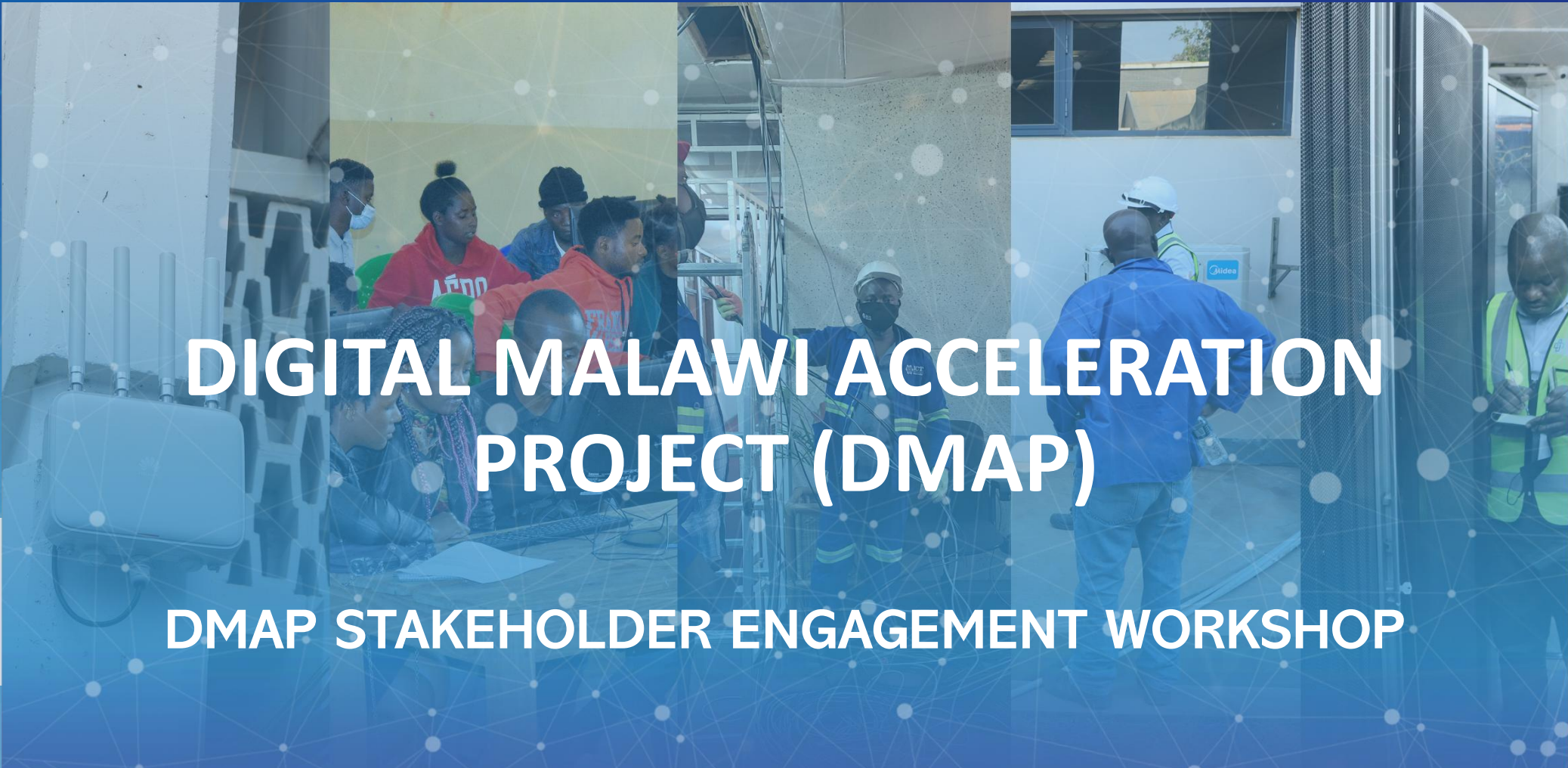


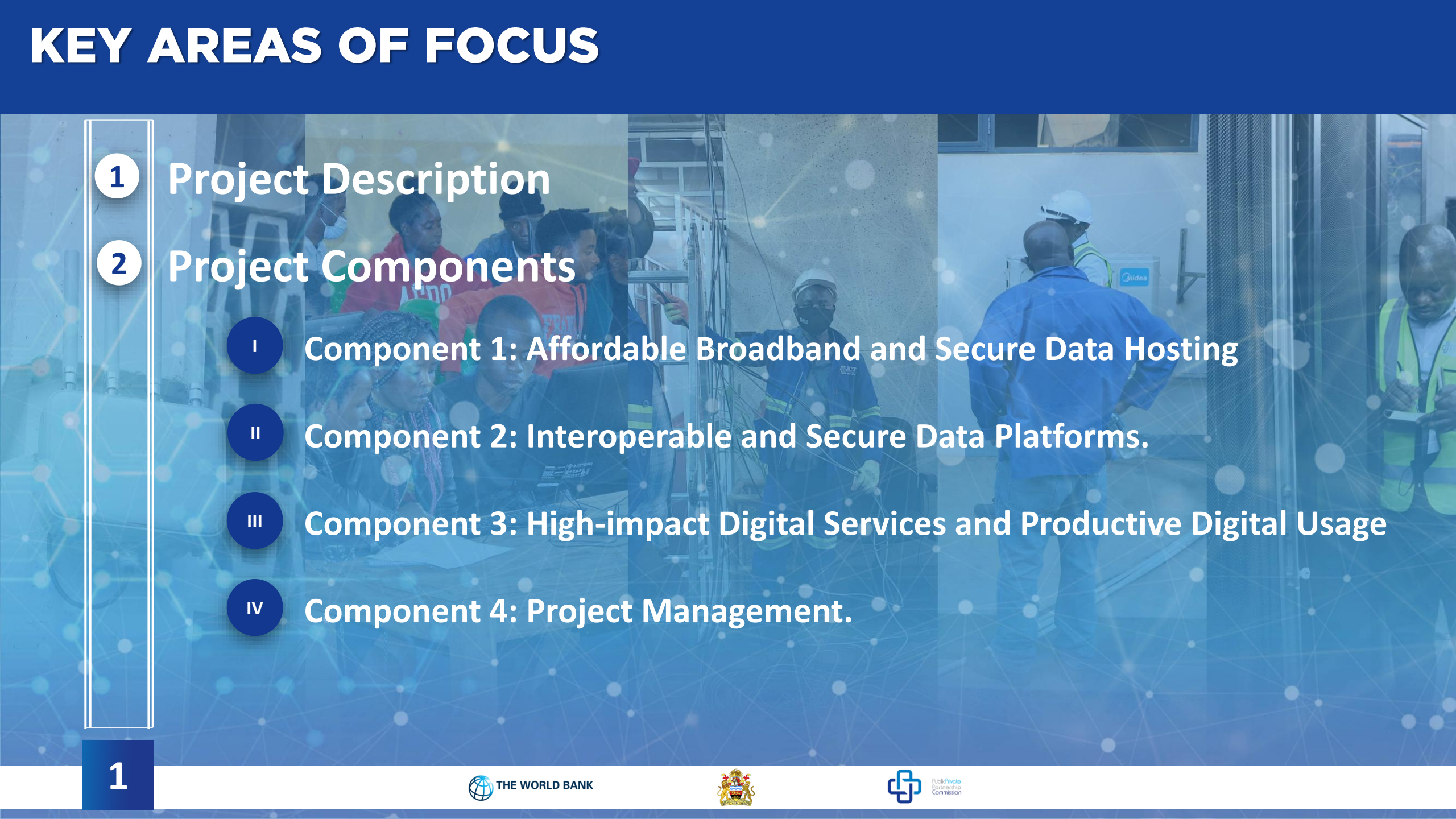


DIGITAL MALAWI ACCELERATION PROJECT (DMAP)

DMAP STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

24th MARCH 2026

KEY AREAS OF FOCUS

- 
- 1 Project Description
 - 2 Project Components
 - I Component 1: Affordable Broadband and Secure Data Hosting
 - II Component 2: Interoperable and Secure Data Platforms.
 - III Component 3: High-impact Digital Services and Productive Digital Usage
 - IV Component 4: Project Management.



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PROJECT DESCRIPTION



Project Development Objective

- To increase access to and inclusive use of the internet and improve the government's capacity to deliver digitally enabled services.
- Aligned with Malawi 2063 Vision, MIP – 1 (Economic Growth, Industrialization, Infrastructure Development, Human Resource Development, Governance), National Digitalization Policy, Digital Economy Strategy
- Digital Transformation
 - Digital inclusion, transformation, DPI, Govstack, AI, 4IR, international best practices

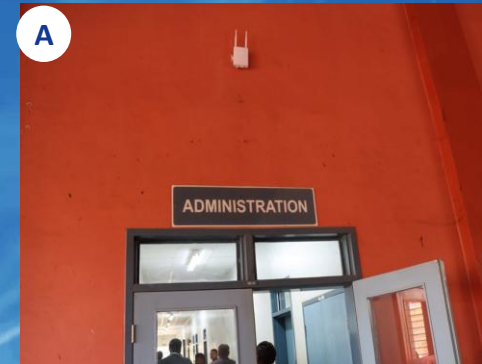
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PROJECT COMPONENTS

1 COMPONENT 1: AFFORDABLE BROADBAND AND SECURE DATA HOSTING

Sub-component 1.1: Rural connectivity

- a. **Expand broadband coverage in rural areas** to achieve universal coverage of mobile broadband,
 - Including traditionally marginalized, climate-vulnerable communities and unserved or underserved climate hotspots.
- b. **Closing last-mile connectivity gaps for government institutions** (offices, hospitals, and post offices) in rural areas.
 - Under Digital Malawi Phase 1, around 530 institutions — connected.
 - Under DMAP, an additional 500 institutions will be targeted.
 - Such as the Ministry of Lands, NSO, and NRB.
 - To improve government efficiency, resilience, and ability to sustain operations even in the face of natural disasters.



Internet Connectivity at some sites

1 COMPONENT 1: AFFORDABLE BROADBAND AND SECURE DATA HOSTING...

Sub-component 1.2: Education sector connectivity

a. Universal School Connectivity:

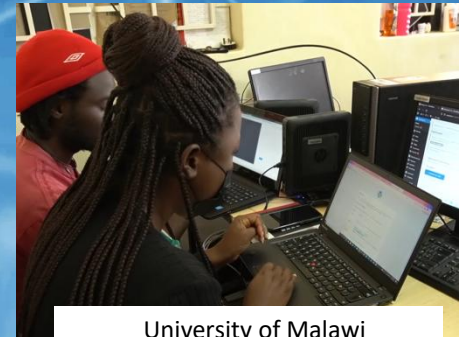
- 2,000 schools to be connected under DMAP through the Malawi Research and Education Network (MAREN).
- Under Phase 1, 80+ HEIs — connected.

b. Sponsoring Malawi's participation in the EU Africa Connect 4 program, in partnership with the UbuntuNet Alliance.

- To leverage additional EU funding.
- This activity will also include the pre-purchase of internet capacity for Malawi's schools and HEIs.



Mzuzu University



University of Malawi



Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS)

1 COMPONENT 1: AFFORDABLE BROADBAND AND SECURE DATA HOSTING...

Sub-component 1.3: Regional connectivity

- a. **Addressing gaps in missing cross-border broadband links**, possibly drawing upon a regional financing facility.
- b. **Integrated infrastructure planning of ‘digital corridors’ for Southern Africa.**
 - At the 2023 Transform Africa Summit, in April 2023, Botswana, Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe committed to building ‘digital corridors’ that would facilitate the growth of trade in the region.
- c. **Demand aggregation** at the regional level for internet connectivity for education, health, and government.
- d. **Climate resilience TA**
 - including the development of regionally harmonized standards and guidelines for the development of climate-resilient digital infrastructure.



1 COMPONENT 1: AFFORDABLE BROADBAND AND SECURE DATA HOSTING...

Sub-component 1.4: Enhancing data hosting capacity and transition to cloud computing

- a. **Provide ongoing support to the national data center and enable cloud services at the national and regional levels.**
 - In the late stages of Phase 1 of Digital Malawi, a national data center in Lilongwe — Established.
- b. **Ensure safe hosting of government data**
 - Supporting the migration of government data from various MDAs, currently located in server rooms that were not purpose-built and are currently in a deteriorated condition, presenting a high risk to critical government data.
- c. **Providing managed IT services** and a help desk to ensure the smooth functioning of the national data center to keep government data and applications safe.
- d. **Development of a National Data Strategy**
 - to ensure a well-structured framework for data governance and sharing protocols.



National Data Center in Lilongwe

2 COMPONENT 2: INTEROPERABLE AND SECURE DATA PLATFORMS

Sub-component 2.1: Next Generation Digital ID and identity verification services, including for eKYC and PKI

- a) Project funds will **support** the Government in transitioning to a next-generation cost-effective **digital ID**,
 - Introduce a choice of credentials (such as Mobile ID),
 - Support streamlined identity verification needed by multiple sectors, enabling secure digital authentication services, including for electronic Know-Your-Customer (eKYC).
- b) Develop **e-Signatures** capability for e-services that require a higher level of assurance.
 - Include the development of PKI which may also be developed based on a PPP arrangement and based on the “buy it as a service” model.



2 COMPONENT 2: INTEROPERABLE AND SECURE DATA PLATFORMS...

Sub-component 2.2: Extending the Bomalathu data exchange platform for Government and Financial Institutions

a) The Digital Malawi Foundations Project supported the development of a government data exchange platform

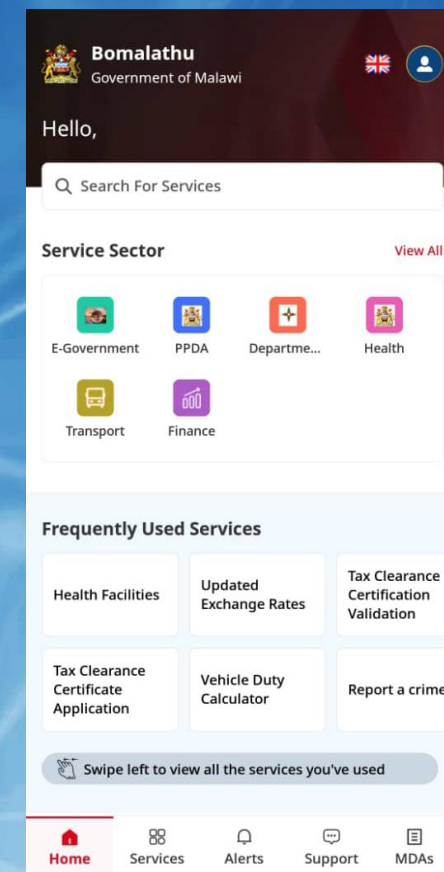
- Now known as *Bomalathu* ('my Government'), which has onboarded seven Government agencies so far
- Has developed an e-services portal, as a pilot.

b) To become truly transformational, it will be necessary to extend the functionality of *Bomalathu* to the private sector

- by developing APIs for financial institutions that require eKYC and seamless identity verification.

c) Expansion of e-services portal

- Phase 1 supported the development of the e-services portal that benefited from the data exchange platform.
- However, only a few e-services have thus far been tested with many more expected to go live under DMAP.



2 COMPONENT 2: INTEROPERABLE AND SECURE DATA PLATFORMS...

Sub-component 2.3: Enhancing policy and regulatory frameworks, operationalization of the Data Protection Authority and supporting the MCERT

a) Regional policy and regulatory harmonization

- To support digital integration, cross-border digital services, and data flows.

b) Operationalization of the Data Protection Authority (DPA),

- For which the Data Protection Bill was approved by Parliament on December 7, 2023, as well as support for MACRA, the regulatory authority, which currently hosts the DPA.

c) The project will support Malawi in enhancing **cybersecurity resilience**

- By, among other things, supporting the Malawi Computer Emergency Response Team (MCERT), including support for Government emergency response.



COMPONENT 3: HIGH-IMPACT DIGITAL SERVICES AND PRODUCTIVE DIGITAL USAGE...

Sub-component 3.1: Digital skills and digital literacy

a) **Planned to expand support to the tech hubs through:**

- A further round of competitively awarded performance-based grants,
- Disbursed in tranches, with agreed targets for
 - Offering higher-level ICT skills, digital entrepreneurship, and development of digitally enabled solutions that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

b) **DMAP will also initiate a sub-grants program for digital entrepreneurs**

- Of up to US\$100,000 for around 20 grants to digitally enabled start-ups and high-growth firms.
- including those that work in addressing climate change-induced disasters.

c) **Provide TA to facilitate the establishment of tech entrepreneur associations,**

- The development of the necessary policies, strategies, and implementation plans, and the provision of seed financing to start-ups.



Digital skills: training sessions

COMPONENT 3: HIGH-IMPACT DIGITAL SERVICES AND PRODUCTIVE DIGITAL USAGE

Sub-component 3.2 Participation in the regional program on device affordability

a) Malawi is too small to attract major device manufacturers to invest.

- Yet, the excise duty on some imported ICT devices is close to 35 percent.
- Thus, device affordability is a major barrier to further market development, particularly, for higher-end devices such as smartphones and laptops.

b) The device affordability program will be complemented by an e-waste initiative for recycling and resale or safe disposal of laptops and phones.

- This will be carried out in conjunction with the tech hubs, focusing on skills development and job creation for young people and PWDs.

Sub-component 3.3: Sectoral deep dives, including social protection, disaster and emergency response, financial inclusion, and land management

a) In line with national priorities, and coordination with other projects in the World Bank portfolio in Malawi, four key priority sectors selected:

- (a) social protection, (b) financial sector, (c) disaster and emergency response, (d) identity verification,



Sub-component 4.1. Establishment of MITA

- a) DMAP will fund the establishment and operationalization of the newly created Malawi Information Technology Authority (MITA),
 - Including support for selected consultants to be embedded in MITA.
 - It is expected that some of the staff of the existing e-Government department will transition into MITA, on a competitive selection basis.
- b) Until MITA is established, the project will continue to support the existing eGovernment department of MID,
 - Including support for internships and teams of ICT professionals.

Sub-component 4.2. Program management and coordination

- **Coordination and program management,**
 - Including procurement, FM, and environmental and social safeguards.
 - Other standard project management functions include communications, M&E, security, and gender awareness.

LAST WORD

- Thank you for gracing the Workshop
- Together, we are driving Malawi's digital transformation

