



**The Brentthurst Foundation** and **Konrad Adenauer Stiftung** have jointly established a platform for public debate around Africa's political economy – to help to understand the political motives that lie behind development policy choices. The **Governance Accountability Platform** (or GAP) aims to allow the space for a more competitive testing of these choices. The GAP is thus open to providing a platform for ruling and opposition parties, along with Africa's civil society to improve accountability.

The first in this regular series appropriately focuses on the upcoming Malawi election.

The result of Malawi's 2019 election was thrown out by its Constitutional Court following widespread abuses including the extensive use of correction fluid to alter numbers and the failure to audit two thirds of the results before the winner was announced.

Malawi's Constitutional Court ruled that the election be redone. It is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 23 June 2020 at a moment that the world is reeling from the Covid-19 pandemic. Limits to global travel and social distancing protocols will dramatically curtail foreign observation of the poll, raising concerns of a repeat to the 2019 so-called 'Tippex Election'.

Will Malawi be able to stage a legitimate, free-and-fair election this time around? Or will Covid-19 be the blanket under which an election robbery takes place? What are the different offers that the government and opposition are presenting to Malawi's electorate?

Please register [here](#) for the GAP webinar on:

## **Malawi's Moment of Truth: The Presidential Election Second Time Around**

Friday 19 June 2020

0900-1000 South Africa time (GMT +2)

### **Guests:**

HE President A Peter Mutharika (Invited; to be confirmed)

Rt Hon Dr Lazarus Chakwera, Tonse Alliance

### **Hosts:**

Dr Greg Mills, The Brentthurst Foundation

Henning Suhr, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

## **PRESIDENT A PETER MUTHARIKA**

Peter Mutharika is a Malawian politician who has been President since 31 May 2014. Educated at University of London and Yale University, he is an expert on international and constitutional law. He was adviser to his older brother, President Bingu wa Mutharika, until his death in 2012. He has held the Justice, Education and Science and Technology ministries and was also Minister of Foreign Affairs. He is the candidate of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) in the forthcoming election.

## **DR LAZARUS CHAKWERA**

After providing three decades of leadership in the church world, Dr Chakwera entered frontline politics in 2013 as leader of the Malawi Congress Party. Dr Chakwera ran for the presidency in 2019 on the 'SUPER Hi5 Agenda' which championed five pillars of his governing blueprint: Servant Leadership; Uniting Malawi; Prospering Together; Ending Corruption; and the Rule of Law. After attempts were made to alter the result in favour of his opponent, the result was taken to the Constitutional Court where a panel of five judges nullified the election and called for a fresh poll. Dr Chakwera is a candidate in the fresh elections set for Tuesday, 23 June 2020 and has allied with State Vice-President Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima of the United Transformation Movement as part of a coalition of nine parties.

## **DR GREG MILLS**

Dr Greg Mills heads the Brenthurst Foundation. He holds degrees from the Universities of Cape Town and Lancaster and was the National Director of the SA Institute of International Affairs from 1996 to 2005. He has directed numerous reform projects in African presidencies, sat on the Danish Africa Commission and on the African Development Bank's high-level panel on fragile states, and has served four deployments to Afghanistan with the British Army as the adviser to the commander. A member of the advisory board of the Royal United Services Institute, he is the author of the best-selling books *Why Africa Is Poor* and *Africa's Third Liberation*, and most recently, together inter alia with President Olusegun Obasanjo *Making Africa Work: A Handbook for Economic Success*. In 2018 he completed a second stint as a visiting fellow at Cambridge University, writing this time a book on the state of African democracy, which was published as *Democracy Works* in 2019. *The Asian Aspiration: Why and How Africa Should Emulate Asia* has followed in 2020, which identifies the relevant lessons from Asia's development and growth story.

## **HENNING SUHR**

Henning Suhr is the Resident Representative of KAS in South Africa. Henning studied Political Science at universities in New York City, Florence and Potsdam. He concluded his studies with a Master's degree in International Relations at the Free University, the Humboldt University of Berlin and the University of Potsdam in 2006. After a short stay as a consultant for the German Technical Corporation he started working for the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) as a trainee in Rio de Janeiro. In 2009 he was transferred to the Foundation's head office in Berlin to work as a desk officer for Southern Africa. From 2012 until 2017, he had assignments as Resident Representative in the KAS offices in Venezuela, Costa Rica and Panama. Since April 2017 he is in charge of the KAS office in South Africa.