

Who can join us

Membership is open to any politically interested Malawian youth who:

- is between **18 and 35** years
- is **active in politics and member of a political party**
- obtained at least the **Junior Certificate of Education (JCE)**

Please contact us for
further information



Young Politicians Union
Gelu House, 1st Floor
Kamuzu Procession Road
P.O. Box 1185
Lilongwe, Malawi

Tel: +265 1 759 160

Fax: +265 1 759 274

E-mail: ypusecretariat@yahoo.co.uk

www.young-politicians-union.org



Konrad Adenauer Stiftung
Gelu House, 1st Floor
Kamuzu Procession Road
P.O. Box 1185
Lilongwe, Malawi

Tel: +265 1 759 160

Fax: +265 1 759 274

E-mail: info@kasmw.org

www.kas.de



Give Youth A Voice

Who we are

The **Young Politicians Union (YPU)** is an inter-party youth organization consisting of young people of all political parties who assist in promoting unity and multi-partism and encourages the youth to participate in active politics. YPU also collaborates and networks with governmental departments, political parties, civil society organizations and other organizations internally and externally.

YPU is present in 28 districts where they meet very regularly. Additionally it exists a YPU group at Chancellor College. All of them are combined by the National Secretariat in Lilongwe.

YPU is funded and supported by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS).

What we stand for

The YPU focuses on unity, democracy, cultural values, active political participation, leadership and civic education on social concerns amongst the youth to create a conducive environment for the development of the nation.

What we are fighting for

- Improve inter and intra-party democracy.
- Create a best trained, capable, critical and democratic thinking mass of young politicians who may take on a leadership role in future.
- Improve the capacity of generating party ideologies and programmes.
- Enhance the role of women and youth in the parties' executive positions and especially avoid their use as support forces and instruments of mobilization.

Where we come from

The YPU was registered in 2004 following a resolution of the graduates of the 2003 Training of Young Politicians (TYP) programme.

With funding from KAS, TYP was aimed at consolidating the democratic process in the country, for which it signed a partnership contract with the Center for Social Research of the University of Malawi (CSR) in February 2001.

A lot has been said and written about the strengths and deficiencies of the political leadership in Malawi since Independence. No amount of effort and investment can change the past. Ironically, tendencies reminiscent of the past in terms of lack of party leadership succession plans and limited inner party democracy presently manifest themselves in different forms and shades in many political parties.

There is some but limited space to influence the present. However, we can determine and shape the future political leadership for Malawi.

The support provided to political parties by KAS through the Young Politicians Union is an *investment* into the future political leadership for Malawi. Through the YPU, politically interested young people are identified, groomed, nurtured and exposed to democratic leadership skills and practices to remedy the present and redeem the future.

Samson B. Lembani

National Coordinator

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung



Before KAS started TYP I was not able to sit together with members of other political parties which made me involved in political violence of 1999 in Rumphi.

After the training of Young Politicians in 2002 I realized that it's of importance for members of different political parties to stay together and share ideas about politics.

This has been demonstrated when I initiated the formation of Rumphi Young Politicians Union in 2002 together with my political enemy Afick Mbewe who now is my best friend and has become like a brother for me.



Moir W. Mkandawire

National Secretary

YPU Rumphi

In their district groups, the members of the YPU try to be as independent and self-supporting as possible.

This is done through fundraising and other voluntary activities to mobilize the population and to get money and other resources for new ideas and projects. For example, they have farming projects for soya beans, maize and rice and a pig farming project.



Rice Field, Phalombe YPU

They also organize big walks, live band performances and drama shows, where they promote democracy and human rights as well as they are involved in charitable activities.

In Blantyre they were given airtime on a radio programme once in a week for three months to tell the nation about their objectives and to discuss with them.



Sensitisation Tour, Rumphi YPU



Conflict Management & Resolution Workshop, Thyolo YPU

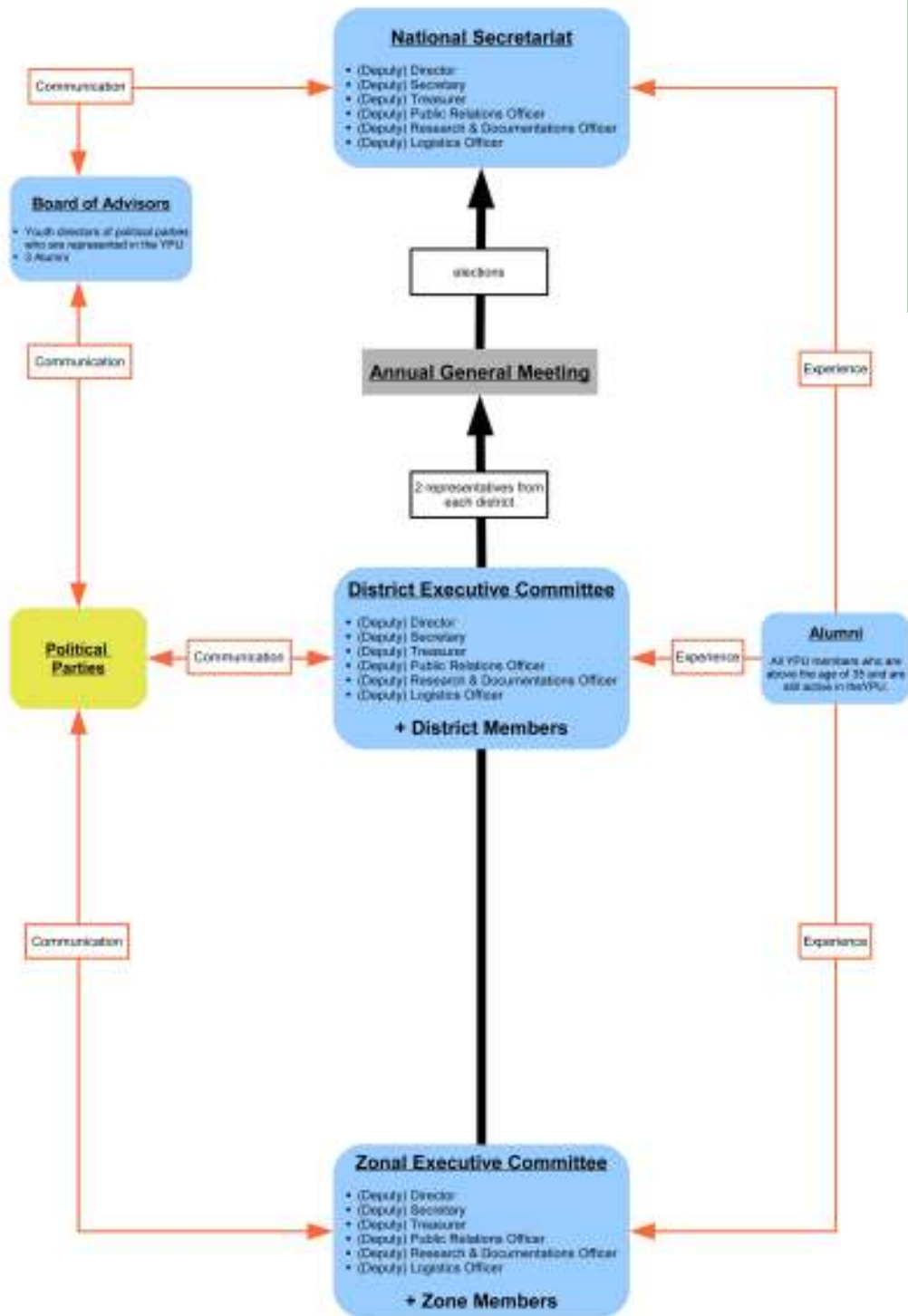
One district attended a training workshop on conflict management and resolution, after which they decided to organize a workshop themselves in partnership with Malawi Human Rights Youth Network to train some political leaders in their district. In consequence an inter-party peace committee was created. Their aim is to build such committees also on local level in their district to create a conflict free society.

What we have achieved

- Boosted interest among the young people to actively and positively contribute to the democratic development in Malawi.
- Improved peaceful coexistence and collaboration among young people from different political parties. Inter-party rivalry among active party youths has declined substantially.
- Enhanced the level of leadership responsibility, which has enabled some former graduates of the training programme to assume senior positions in their parties including being appointed/elected into the National Executive Committees (NEC) or National Governing Council (NGC) of their parties.
- One former TYP graduate from Chikwawa, Hon. C Luya, MP, of RP managed to make it to parliament in 2004, while many others stood as candidates in the same election.
- Enhanced personal skills and capacity in training others. Some of the capable graduates were provided with training of trainers in 2004 and were later used as Facilitators in the district training workshops in 2005 and 2006. It is hoped that other agencies will also utilize them as qualified and experienced trainers in issues of conflict management, democracy, leadership, gender and political participation and political communication.
- With funding from KAS, opened a National Secretariat in Lilongwe and received a donation of two used computers from National Youth Council.

Who are our partners

- Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)
- Political parties (DPP, UDF, MCP, AFORD, PPM, PETRA, NRP, MDP, MAFUNDE) and other Independent Politicians
- Forum for Dialogue and Peace
- National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE)
- National Youth Council (NYC)
- Malawi Human Rights Youth Network
- Ministry of Youth
- Media (Radios, TVM and Print)
- Local and international NGOs and CBOs



What our Projects are



To support the members of the YPU, KAS sponsors district training workshops modeled after the TYP Programme.

In 2006, over 710 participants who were nominated by their party leaders at district level attended these workshops and acquired knowledge on democracy.

The following modules are used to give the participants of the workshops a broad view about politics:

1. Introduction to politics
2. Political parties, systems, structure and function
3. Civil society and democracy
4. Rights and responsibilities in a democracy
5. Gender relations and political participation
6. Political communication
7. Politics and economic management in a democracy
8. Political leadership in a democracy
9. Understanding and managing conflict



In consequence of what the YPU members learned, they try to influence political life in their districts by engaging with traditional authorities, political party leaders, NGOs, Youth Officers and the Police. They also work on social mobilization, like on HIV/AIDS, environment etc.