

**MUSLIM EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT OF NORTHERN
MALAWI
(MEMON)**

Offering access and opportunities to the less privileged

1. Introduction

MEMON is a Malawian non-profit making Islamic organisation focused on the development of people's capacities and capabilities in varied spheres of life. It is deeply concerned with the development of the underprivileged in the secular and Islamic religious education system in Malawi. MEMON compliments the national policies including universal free primary school education, enhancement of opportunities including scholarships and accessibility. MEMON recognises that despite increased accessibility and opportunity to education, the privilege may not adequately extend to all Malawian school going children and or address specific needs of particular levels of an education system.

The concern and role of MEMON extends beyond opportunity giving: it is focused on the character building of the children, adhering to tenets of the Islamic education teachings and the secular curriculum. MEMON strives to develop a sustainable strategy for the production of Aalims who shall serve as Ustaadh in the communities.

Since the year 2000 when the program, Muslim Educational Movement for Northern Malawi was established it has seen a capacity increment of students from the initial 52 in its Boarding School to over 72. It has also registered an increment of over 605 makaatibs students in the fourteen makaatibs operating centres.

The increase in student attendance has not been augmented with a corresponding injection of the resources base to cushion the requisite elements for provision of basic amenities for an education system including teachers, infrastructure and necessary resources. The resulting increase in the cost of expenses continues to pose challenges of:

- A disproportional school attendance average of child–teacher ratio,
- Pressure on infrastructure and resources including classrooms, text books,
- Increased professional staff turnover due to less competitive personal emolument packages.
- Engagement of teachers with low teaching qualifications and experience.

MEMON continues to operate a fully subsidised scholarship education system which is targeted at the less privileged in the communities. The comparative reduced resource base has ultimately affected the level of output leading to dissatisfaction, frustration, indifference and ultimately lack of stewardship for the aalims.

MEMON therefore seeks support in order to complement its resource base in order to address its aim complimenting the Malawian education system, through the development of strategies and mechanisms that offer development of the underprivileged in the secular and Islamic religious education system and a conducive environment for both learning and enhancement of skills.

2. MEMON aims and objectives:

Provision of full scholarship of the underprivileged and promising aalims holds the promise for learning satisfaction which will ultimately address the problems of access to Islamic and Secular

Education, the propagation of Islamic Da’wah and the production of sufficient, competent and well trained Aalims who shall serve their communities as instructors, and as Ustaadh in the communities’ madressahs.

3. Target Population;

Muslim Educational Movement of Northern Malawi is formally a regional organisation with its catchment area being the Northern Region of Malawi. However it has of recent become a necessity to enrol deserving students from the other regions of Malawi who may not have an opportunity of admission elsewhere.

The current Boarding School intake is currently is 58 full board and scholarship students. The current enrolment classification is as below:

4. Islamic Studies

MEMON offers the following:

No.	Class	No. Of Students
1	Edadiyah	18
2	Ulaa	10
3	Thaniyah	9
4	Thaalithah	2
6	Khaameesa	6
	Hifz	13

Secular Studies

No.	Class	No. Of Students
1	Standard 5	24
2	Standard 6	11
3	Standard 7	11
4	Standard 8	2
5	Form 2	6

MEMON is therefore uniquely suited to refocus and develop the teaching and development of the Islamic Teaching and Social initiatives in the Northern Region of Malawi through provision of foundations through provision of access to Islamic and Secular Education, propagation of Islamic Da’wah and the production of sufficient, competent and well trained Aalims who shall serve their communities as instructors as Ustaadh in the communities’ madressahs.

These activities have had a track record of enhancement of capacity, visibility and acceptance of Islamic teachings.

5. Impact Areas

MEMON has a geographical operation area based in the Northern Districts of Malawi. The current national population of the impact area is over one million people. However; it is recognised that the Islamic religion is in growth hence the necessity of supporting structures including education, health and social amenities.

The following table refers to township madressahs in and those beyond Mzuzu city within the scope of northern region of Malawi.

NO.	NAME OF MADRESSAH
1	AREA 1B- MASJID ZAITUN
2	MASASA EAST- MASJID ZUL-QARNAIN
3	CHIBAVI- MASJID DAWAH
4	CHIPUTULA- MASJID ABOOBAKR
5	CHING'AMBO- MASJID AL KHAIR
6	ENUKWENI- MASJID ZAKIYYA
7	EKWENDENI- MAIN MASJID
8	CHINTHECHE- OMAR OSMAN(ISLAMIC CENTRE)
9	KARONGA- MAIN MASJID
10	MZIMBA- MASJID AMINA
11	JENDA- MASJID ABDULLAH BIN ZUBAIR
12	RAIPLY- MASJID ZAHRA
13	MADEDE – AL-IMAAN ISLAMIC CENTRE
14	CHIWETA- MASJID MUHAMMAD ILYAS
15	MZILWAYINGWE – MASJID MFUMU GELOO

Current Success stories

Operational challenges

MEMON in its growth is currently facing a number challenges. The operational challenges that are currently being experienced have included the reduced or inadequate funding for the Movement's operations as well as the staff emoluments. A brief outline of the challenges is as follows:

i. Student support and welfare requirements

As a scholarship based institution, MEMON has the responsibility of providing all the necessary resources to the students under its charge including full boarding, clothing, learning, medical and sanitary requirements.

ii. Staff emoluments

This is considered a major challenge of all, as emoluments packages are not competitive enough and have over time been constant. In this case the Institution has been having staff turnover of highly qualified and experienced personnel including madressah sheikhs and secular teachers.

The impact of the staff turnover has been ineffective delivery of service leading to decreased student intake and dropping out. It presumed that the Movement need to be competitive in attracting qualified staff who will compliment the ideals of MEMON.

iii. Staff accommodation

The Movement is at the moment in the process of implementing a structural development strategy which envisions provision of staff accommodation. Staff accommodation is a premise for incentivisation of the qualified that are necessary for the effective delivery of the ideals of the Movement.

iv. Structural maintenance and development

The impact of the services delivered by MEMON is continuously being appreciated by the Societies as such the reactionary impact is the necessity to provide structures that will address the perceived growth.

As such MEMON needs a strategy and funding base that aims at addressing the structural requirements handicaps as well as adapting and reconfiguring the current structural assets so that they are accommodative to the current and future requirements.

v. Provision of teaching and learning materials

In order to be effective in the delivery of educational services, MEMON undertakes the full scholarship of teaching and learning materials. This implies that the main chunk of the budgetary provisions of the Movement is aimed at addressing the tasks.

MEMON therefore seeks to identify partners that will be able to provide a helping hand in addressing the budgetary shortfalls as well as undertaking subsidy measures to address the same.

6. Budget and Expenditures

MEMON receives its budgetary support from a number of well-wishers including the payment of the other recurrent (ORT) expenditures of the institution.

The table below illustrates the total monthly budget expenses:

Items Description	Monthly expenses (MK)	Monthly Income	Conversion to Us Dollars
Personal emoluments	MK4,186,548.75		\$5,582.00
Personal emoluments for school staff	MK511,071.00		\$681.35
Personal emoluments for Maktaabs and Sheikhs	MK735,988.00		\$981.32
Students monthly provisions	MK2,270,775.00		\$3027.70
Madressah monthly income		MK3,018,600.00	\$4,024.80
Total monthly expenses	MK7,704,277.50		\$ 10,272.37
TOTAL BUDGETORY SHORTFALL	MK4,685,677.50		\$6,247.57

7. A Word of Request and Appeal to Donors, Sponsors and all well wishers on virtues of charity for the Cause of Allah:

We would like to take a chance of reminding all our valued donors, sponsors and the entire well-wishers of a few virtues of charity for the cause of Allah the Almighty in the following words:

Your charity is with Allah Ta'ala:

“And be steadfast in prayer and regular in charity: and whatever good you send forth for your souls before you, you shall find it with Allah; for Allah sees well all that you do.”

Quran 2:110

Charity is a beautiful Loan

“For those who give in charity, men and women, and lend to Allah a beautiful loan, it shall be increased manifold (to their credit), and they shall have (besides) a liberal reward.”

Quran 57:18

Charity by day and night that defeats fear

“For those who (in charity) spend of their goods by night and by day, in secret and in public, have their reward with their Lord,; on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.” Quran 2:274

With these few inspirations from the Holy Quran on the virtue of charity giving, Mzuzu Islamic boarding would like to earnestly ask you donors, sponsors and all well wishers to kindly increase your donation substantially and contribute generously towards our budget and some various projects insha-Allah.

May Allah the Almighty accept your donations and grant you the best and abundant rewards

Ameen.