



Ministry of Water and Sanitation



Blantyre Water Board

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

<b>Country</b>	:	Malawi
<b>Name of Project</b>	:	Malawi Water and Sanitation Project-1
<b>Grant No.</b>	:	IDA E159-MW
<b>Assignment Title</b>	:	Consultancy Services for an Independent Verification Agent (IVA)
<b>Reference No.</b>	:	MW-BWB-350889-CS-QCBS

The Government of Malawi through Blantyre Water Board (BWB) has applied for financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Malawi Water and Sanitation Project-1 (MWSP-1) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The objective of the MWSP is to increase access to improved water supply and sanitation services in Blantyre metropolitan area and to enhance the operational and financial efficiency of the Blantyre Water Board. Component 3 of the MWSP-1 will finance a set of institutional development activities aimed at enhancing BWB's financial efficiency and governance systems through a Performance Based Financing Mechanism (PBFM).

The BWB would like therefore to engage an Independent Verification Agent (IVA) who shall be providing verification services for the PBFM under the Malawi Water and Sanitation Project-1 (MWSP-1). Annually, the Independent Verification Agent is expected to confirm the performance of BWB against the Performance Based Conditions (PBC) as basis for the calculation of next annual financial disbursements under the PBFM.

The IVA will be engaged through a time-based contract with the initial duration of two (2) years, renewable for up to three (3) periods of one (1) year each upon satisfactory performance. The terms of contract shall be on an “on call” basis. The IVA should expect to begin work in August 2023. The detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) for the assignment can be found at the following website <https://www.bwb.mw/Tenders.php>.

The Blantyre Water Board now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The shortlisting criteria are:

- (i) Core business area in financial management, water supply services, and human resource management.
- (ii) Relevant similar experience, which should specifically include the below:
  - Experience in conducting performance-based grant verification assignments in the water sector.

- Experience of water supply utility operation, including cost-effectiveness, human resource management, customer satisfaction and fiscal sustainability.
  - Experience in audits and independent reviews of water utility services, monitoring systems and management
  - Experience on utility financial management in Malawi, and ability to collect and analyse data to independently verify reported KPIs on Non-Revenue Water (NRW), Working ratio, Staff efficiency, Customer satisfaction, and Diversity in management positions.
- (iii) Technical and managerial capability of the firm (Provide only the structure of the organization, general qualifications, and number of key staff. Do not provide CV of the staff). Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.
- (iv) Familiarity with relevant legislation and by-laws in Malawi.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" dated November 2020 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours *i.e., from 08:00 to 16.30 hours*.

Expressions of interest clearly marked ***Consultancy Services for an Independent Verification Agent (IVA)*** must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail or by e-mail) by **26 May 2023**.

The Chairperson  
Internal Procurement and Disposal of Assets Committee  
Blantyre Water Board  
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