

# THE DIOCESE OF KARONGA

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MALAWI  
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2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**RE: REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE PURCHASE  
OF A MAIZE MILL**

Greetings from the Diocese of Karonga, Malawi. Please find enclosed a request from Rev. Fr. Anantharaj MSFS – the Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish. His request is genuine. Although the Diocese makes every effort to meet the cost of its pastoral services, we don't have the necessary resources to meet the cost of some of our needs such as the one mentioned above. It is against this background that Rev. Fr. Anantharaj MSFS is asking for your financial support which we fully endorse and kindly request you to consider for funding. We sincerely hope you will help us.

Yours in Christ,

+ *M. A. Mtumbuka*  
+ Rt. Rev. M. A. Mtumbuka

**BY THE GRACE OF GOD BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF KARONGA**





# ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH

Livingstonia, Karonga Diocese  
Post Box 47, Rumphi, Karonga, Malawi  
0992342063 | 0987031094

1	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Construction Of A Maize Milling plant for St. Francis De Sales Parish (community), livingstonia, Rumphi.</b>
2	<b>Name of the Organization</b>	<b>St. Francis De Sales Parish</b>
3	<b>Address</b>	<b>St. Francis De Sales Parish, Livingstonia P.O. Box 47, Rumphi, Malawi.</b>
4	<b>Name &amp; Designation of Executor of the Project with Phone &amp; Email</b>	<b>Fr. PALRAJ Anantharaj MSFS St. Francis de Sales parish, PO Box 47, Livingstonia, Rumphi, Malawi Task and Position: <i>Parish Priest</i> Email: <a href="mailto:rajanantha123@gamil.com">rajanantha123@gamil.com</a></b>
5	<b>Name &amp; Address of the Project Legal Holder</b>	<b>Fr. Patrick Jayaraj msfs Msfs provincialate Kunnathur post Pudukkottai (dt) – 621 316 Tamilnadu, S. india Ph: 0431- 2680521, 2680522 Mobile: +91 9489703006 Email: <a href="mailto:provincialsoutheastmsfs@gmail.com">provincialsoutheastmsfs@gmail.com</a></b>
6	<b>Project-Location (Place/District/State/Country)</b>	<b>St. Francis De Sales Parish, Livingstonia P.O. Box 47, Rumphi, Malawi.</b>
7	<b>Estimated Cost of the Project</b>	<b>Mk 8,825,000.00, EURO 7,500.00</b>
8	<b>Own Contribution</b>	<b>Mk 175,000.00, EURO 150.00</b>
9	<b>Grant Requested</b>	<b>Mk 8,825,000.00, EURO 7,500.00</b>
10	<b>Name of the Diocese</b>	<b>Diocese of Karonga</b>

## **1. Profile of Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales (MSFS)**

The Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) was founded by Fr. Peter Mermier at Annecy, France in the year 1838. The Charism of the congregation is based on three 1. Renewal of Christian life (parish mission), 2. Mission overseas and pioneering evangelization and 3. Education and Formation of the young.

In 1845, the first missionaries set out to preach the Word of God to the people of India. The first MSFS arrived in East Africa, in 1987. Since then, missionaries of the congregation have established missions in 10 African countries including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Cameroon, Chad, Swaziland and Zambia. Now MSFS have established three new parishes in the country of Malawi.

The MSFS apostolate includes direct evangelization, Christian formation, primary and secondary school education, technical/vocational training, social work, including the care of women, orphans and street children, the press apostolate, youth ministry, holistic healing and research into alternative medicines.

Currently, MSFS of South- East India Province rendering our service in St. Francis De Sales parish at Livingstonia, St. Augustine of Hippo parish at Kameme and St. Martin De Pores parish Ngerenge in the Diocese of Karonga. We are the first missionaries to the Diocese arrived on 17<sup>th</sup> October and we are looking forward to work with lot of opportunities in this diocese. On May 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 we officially have taken up the parish at Livingstonia named after St. Francis De Sales.

### **1.1 Geographical Background**

The Catholic Diocese of Karonga is found in the Northern part of Malawi, covering an area of about 12,000km<sup>2</sup>. Malawi is a landlocked country in southeast Africa, bordered by Zambia to the northwest, Tanzania to the northeast, and Mozambique on the east, south and west. It is separated from Tanzania and Mozambique by Lake Malawi. Malawi is over 118,000 km<sup>2</sup> (45,560 sq. mi.). It has a population of about 17 million people of which over 85% live in rural areas.

The Diocese covers the whole of Karonga and Chitipa civil districts, and some parts of Rumphi civil district. It is an area of 12,000km<sup>2</sup>, with a population of about 500,000 of whom over 65,000 are Catholics. The Diocesan administrative centre is at Karonga town.

St. Francis De Sales Parish is found at Livingstonia in Rumphi District. It was part of St. Anne's Parish, but now it is divided into a new parish which is now operated by the missionaries of St. Francis De Sales Fathers from May 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 onwards. Livingstonia is 270 miles north of the capital Lilongwe. It was founded in 1894 by the Missionaries from the Free Church of Scotland. It is approximately 1300ft above the sea level on the hill. This parish has the population of 3000

Catholics besides the dominance of other Christian denominations. It has 8 out-stations and 16 sub-stations, of which 2 sub-stations are on the hill and others are down the hill and besides the lake.

## **1.2 Political Situation**

Malawi is a democratic state. The president and the members of parliament are elected every 5 years. However, the democracy in Malawi is not yet matured as sometimes there are abuse of human rights and intolerance towards those who have different views or opinions. Politically, Malawi is divided into three regions: Northern Region, Central Region and Southern Region. The Diocese of Karonga belongs to the Northern Region, which is the most underdeveloped region in Malawi as evidenced with very poor infrastructural development. The people have problems to access clean water and good medical care. As a diocese we always stand on the side of the poor; their challenges are also our challenges. The North receives very little financial support from government as compared to the other two regions because all the heads of States have come from the Central and Southern Regions. The Diocese of Karonga, driven by the Catholic Social Teaching, always stands on the side of the poor and the voiceless. Their challenges are also the challenges of the Body of Christ, the Church.

## **1.3 Economic Situation**

Malawi is ranked amongst as one of the poorest and least developed countries in the world. Its economy is predominantly agricultural. Over 60% live on a less than a dollar per day, and earn their living through subsistence farming. Most of the people the Diocese of Karonga are subsistence farmers, but in the months of January, February, and March they experience acute food shortages. This aggravates their economic situation. Almost every year from February to March most part of the Diocese of Karonga is hit by floods which have a negative impact on the economy of the people. With the help of many partners, the Diocese of Karonga is engaged in addressing some of the socio-economic challenges faced by the people within its jurisdiction. This is done through the Diocese's social arm, the Caritas Commission. Diocese believes that it is not enough to preach the Gospel to the people without attending to their socio-economic needs. This is in line with the observations of the Council of Fathers of the Second Vatican Council, "The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of men of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well."

## **1.4 Socio-cultural**

The Diocese of Karonga cuts across a divergence of socio-cultural values in that there are different

ethnic groups within the Diocese like: the Ngonde and Nyakusa in Karonga, Lambya, Sukwa and Ndali in Chitipa. In Rumphi North and Chitipa South West there are Tumbuka people. However, the language that is spoken and understood widely in the Diocese is Tumbuka language. It is also the official liturgical language in the Diocese of Karonga. Almost all the faithful are Tumbuka speaking people.

Illiteracy rate is very high in the area under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Karonga, which has also impact on the faith and the social life of the people. There is strong belief in witchcraft, many incidents of domestic violence, murder, mob justice and high rate of alcohol abuse. This is also evident in the life of the Christians of St. Francis De Sales Parish. Most of them believe in and practice their traditional beliefs like witchcraft. The suspects of witchcraft are killed and their houses burned. This is contrary to the Gospel values and is an abrogation of one's right to life. The Church has a very big role to play in curbing socio-cultural practices which are contrary to the Gospel values. In the words of Pope Francis, "It is imperative to evangelize cultures in order to inculturate the Gospel... Each culture and social group needs purification and growth."

### **1.5 Religious-Pastoral Situation**

Out of the 17 million of the people of Malawi, about 80% are Christians. Catholics are about 25%, Protestants 55% (Presbyterians, Anglicans, Baptist, Evangelicals, and Seventh-day Adventists), while Muslims are less than 10%. The rest either belong to African Traditional Religion or to no other religion.

The area under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Karonga has a population of about 500,000 of which about 65,000 (about 14%) are Catholics. There are also protestant Churches like the Church of Central African Presbyterian (CCAP), Anglican, Lutheran and other Churches of Evangelical origins. There are also local African independent Churches like the Blackman's Church and Ngemera. Islam is a very minority religion in the area, but at the moment it has become a big threat to the Christian faith as it has tactfully come up with plans to establish its presence amongst the people through provision of social amenities, soft loans, scholarships, opening of orphanages etc.

## **2. Description of the situation to which the project responds**

St. Francis De Sales Parish, completing four years of challenging mission on the hills of Livingstonia, we realized that the local contribution alone is not enough to run the parish and to maintain the Livelihood of the people. At present, we depend on the province for our maintenance. We gradually realize that we are desperately in need of a Maize Mill Plant which could help us to

earn the income for the parish. Thus we will be able to maintain the sustainability of the community by ourselves.

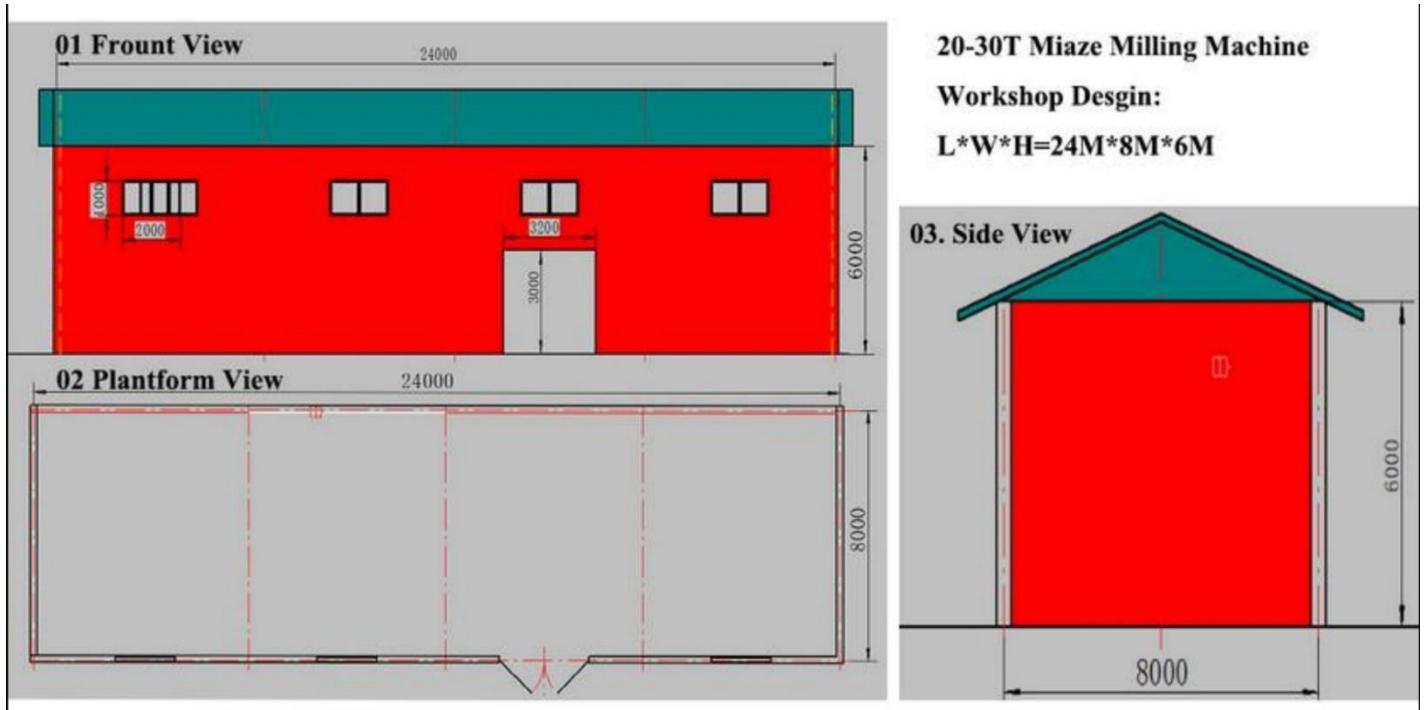
## 2.1 Objectives

To manage the day today needs of the community.

## 2.3 Specific objectives

1. To provide the decent food for the people.
2. To educate the children
3. To take care medical expenses of the people.

## 2.4. Plan and Structure of the Maize Milling plant:



## 3. The description of the financial plan

Item	Description of Goods	Unit	Quantity	Rate	Amount
1	Engine 28 Hp 2piston India		1		5,150,000.00
2	Maize Mill C87		1		1,950,000.00
3	Base Frames		1		450,000.00
4	Set of pipe Fittings		1		175,000.00
5	Pully for Engine		1		83,000.00
6	Pully for Mill		1		25,500.00
7	V Belts B144		2	17,500	35,500.00
8	Foundation Bolts		8		45,500.00
9	Haif Shift		1		85,500.00
10	plunks		30	10,000	300,000.00
11	Cement		30	17,500	525,000.00
				<b>Total</b>	<b>8,825,000.00</b>

#### 4. FINANCING PLAN

The Table below shows the financing plan of the project.

No	Activity	MWK	Euro
<b>01</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>	8,825,000.00	7,500.00
<b>02</b>	<b>Local contribution</b>	175,000.00	150.00
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>9,000,000.00</b>	<b>7,650.00</b>

Placing this request, we are looking forward for a positive response from you. We thank you in anticipation.

Thanking you

**Yours Faithfully**



Fr. Anantharaj, MSFS  
Parish Priest  
Livingstonia.



Fr. D. Nelson Arockiasamy, Msfs  
Project Coordinator  
Malawi Mission

**Project sight Photos of the Maize Mill as Follows:**

