



THE MALAWI GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

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GENERAL NOTICE NO. 17

Reference:



Licence No. P/DCCL/2022/01/Faster

(This licence number must be quoted on all correspondence and at interviews)

MALAWI COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL COURIER SERVICES LICENCE

This is to certify that

FASTER COURIER

of: P.O. Box 974
Lilongwe.

is licensed to provide Domestic Commercial Courier Services under Part XV of the Communications Act, 2016, for a period of FIVE(5) Years commencing on 1st January, 2022 and ending on 31st December, 2027 subject to the Licensee's compliance with all Terms and Conditions of the Licence and the Communications Act. The licence fees payable by the Licensee to MACRA shall be as follows—

(a) An Annual Licence Fee of the Malawi Kwacha equivalent of Five Thousand United States of America Dollars (US\$ 5,000.00) payable before the Gazetting of the Licence and on each anniversary of the Licence.

(b) A levy equal to one and half percent (1 ½ %) of the Licensees' Net Operating Revenue for each year payable in advance in four equal instalments. Calculation of the first three quarterly instalments shall be based on the management accounts of the Licensee for the financial year. A final quarterly payment shall be made based on Net Operating Revenue within 30 days of issue of audited accounts. Adjustments shall be made for the first three quarterly payments if the Net Operating Revenue in the budget differs from the audited accounts.

Nothing in this Licence shall be taken as discharging or exempting the Licensee from the obligation to comply with any other law applicable to its business.

STANLEY CHAKHUMBILA KHAILA(PhD)
Board Chairperson

DAUD SULEMAN
Director General

This Licence is issued subject to the terms and conditions hereto, and to any other terms and conditions and promises of performance that may from time to time be incorporated herein under the Communications Act and the Regulations thereto. Failure to comply with any terms and conditions may lead to suspension or revocation of this Licence

Issued without alteration or erasure, and void if altered or erased

Domestic Commercial Courier Services Licence for Faster Limited

1. Interpretation and Definitions

- 1.1 This document constitutes the Licence in its entirety;
- 1.2 The Schedules hereto shall form part of this Licence;
- 1.3 Terms used but not expressly defined in this Licence shall have the meaning given in the Act;
- 1.4 All technical terminology used in this Licence shall have the same meaning ascribed by the Universal Postal Union (UPU);
- 1.5 A provision conferring rights and obligations shall, notwithstanding that it is only in the interpretation Clause, be given effect if it were a substantive Clause in the Licence;
- 1.6 Words importing the singular shall include the plural and vice versa; words denoting persons shall include corporate bodies and unincorporated associations of persons and vice versa
- 1.7 Unless the subject matter or context otherwise requires, the following terms and conditions shall have the following meanings—
 - (a) “**Act**” means the Communications Act 2016.
 - (b) “**Authority**” means the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA), established under Section 4 of the Act.
 - (c) “**Cease and desist order**” means an order made by the Authority requiring a licensee to stop a breach.
 - (d) “**Commercial Courier Article**” means any letter, packet, small packet, or any other article whatsoever packaged in a Commercial Courier package or in any other packaging bearing a clear Commercial Courier Label, which has been collected by, or delivered to the Licensee for onward transmission through a Commercial Courier Service, but excludes any article which by the Act or any lawful regulations is prohibited from being accepted for transmission through post.
 - (e) “**Commercial Courier Label**” means a piece of paper, affixed onto a Commercial Courier package or commercial courier article, bearing the Licensee’s logo, the name of the courier service, the weight, the charge, time of posting, the sender’s and the recipient’s address and a unique identification number for tracking and tracing purposes.
 - (f) “**Commercial Courier service**” means a service for the conveyance, for reward, of Commercial Courier Articles in respect of which an undertaking is given to deliver the article to a specified destination within a specified time.
 - (g) “**Compliance order**” means an order made by the Authority requiring a licensee to comply with the Communications Act, Regulations, the licence or any other order made by the Authority.
 - (h) “**Domestic Commercial Courier Service**” means a courier service performed in respect of commercial courier articles accepted, conveyed and delivered within Malawi.
 - (i) “**Effective Date**” means the date when the Licence comes into force, namely when published in the *Gazette*.
 - (j) “**Licensee**” means entity that has been awarded a licence to operate courier business.
 - (k) “**Net Operating Revenue**” means the total revenue of the Licensee, less discounts given, Value-Added Tax and other taxes, derived from the provision of commercial courier services, net of any terminal dues paid or payable to courier operators. For the avoidance of doubt, ‘net operating revenue’ does not include revenue from the sale of assets.
 - (l) “**Successor Company**” means any successor company formed in terms of the Companies Act of the Laws of Malawi or any subsidiary of a successor company that takes on the burdens of the Licensee through merger, acquisition, or other means of succession.
 - (m) “**Tariff**” means fees and charges that may be charged by the Licensee in respect of the provision of licensed services.
 - (n) “**Universal Service Fund**” means a fund set up to cover a policy of the Government to make ICT services available throughout the country including rural and underserved areas at affordable prices.

2. Applicable Law

2.1. This licence shall be governed by the laws of Malawi.

3. Validity, Effective Term and Renewal

3.1. This Licence shall be valid for a period of Five (5) years from the Effective date unless revoked in terms of the provisions herein.

3.2. This Licence may be renewed at Authority's discretion for such number of years as may be agreed between the parties at the expiry of the licence term.

3.3. The application for renewal shall be made in writing not later than twelve (12) calendar months before expiration of the term of the licence.

3.4. The Authority shall stipulate the fee payable in respect of any renewal of the licence.

3.5. The Licensee shall give notice of the intention to terminate the licence at least 12 months before the date of the proposed termination date.

4. Scope of the licence

4.1. The Licensee is authorised by this licence to provide Domestic Commercial Courier Services, to convey, deliver; and perform all the incidental services of receiving, collecting, sending, despatching, and delivering Commercial Courier articles for reward; and in respect of which an undertaking is given to deliver the article to a specified destination within a specified time.

4.2. The Licensee shall lodge with the Authority commercial courier label; registered trademark or logo, which will be prominently displayed on all correspondence and at all official premises of the Licensee.

5. Operating Environment

5.1. The Licensee shall operate from permanent premises, which will have the following basic amenities and facilities-

(a) well-built public counters,

(b) rooms or lobbies and amenities for the comfort of customers waiting to be served,

(c) secure and lockable units or strong-rooms, lockers, cages, drawers, cupboards, safes for storing articles awaiting delivery, processing, or forwarding,

(d) scales, in good working order for weighing courier articles for purposes of determining the tariff and

(e) adequate transport arrangements for the conveyance of Commercial Courier articles.

5.2. The Licensee shall ensure that the scales referred to in clause 5.1(d) are assized in terms of the Weights and Measures (assize) Regulations Cap 48:04 of the Laws of Malawi.

5.3. The Licensee shall obtain and provide the Authority with proof that there is adequate insurance cover for the Commercial Courier articles conveyed.

5.4. The Licensee shall provide adequate security arrangements and measures during the transmission of the courier articles.

5.5. The Licensee shall dispose of all undeliverable Commercial Courier articles according to the Act and Regulations made under the Act.

5.6. In accepting Commercial Courier articles for conveyance, the Licensee shall comply with the law regarding the transmission of prohibited articles.

6. Agents, Sub-contractors, and Service Providers

6.1. The Licensee may offer Commercial Courier Services under this licence through an agent, sub-contractor, or service provider. Provided that before entering an arrangement or contract with any agent, sub-contractor, or service provider the Licensee shall seek the prior approval from the Authority.

6.2. The Authority may in giving its approval under Clause 6.1 above, impose such terms and conditions it deems appropriate. Such terms and conditions may be changed by the Authority any time with written notice to the Licensee.

- 6.3. The Licensee shall ensure that any arrangement or contract entered with an agent, sub-contractor or service provider does not affect the Licensee's ability to comply with the terms and conditions of this licence.
- 6.4. The Licensee shall ensure that its agent, sub-contractor, or service provider complies with the terms and conditions of this licence.
- 6.5. The Licensee shall be responsible for the acts or omissions of its agent, sub-contractor, or service provider provided that the liability of the licensee shall be limited to acts or omissions which constitute contravention of the terms and conditions of this licence.
- 6.6. The Licensee shall, upon becoming aware of an act or omission by its agent, sub-contractor or service provider amounting to a breach of any term or condition of this licence, the Licensee shall act as expeditiously as is reasonably possible to remedy the breach.
- 6.7. The Authority shall, upon becoming aware of any breach of any term or condition of this licence, by an agent, sub-contractor or service provider of the Licensee notify the Licensee in writing to correct such a breach.
- 6.8. The failure by the Authority to notify the Licensee of a breach by the Licensee's agents, sub-contractors or service provider contravention shall not in any way negate or limit the Authority's rights in respect of such contravention under this licence or otherwise.

7. Licence Fees

7.1. The licence fees payable by the Licensee to the Authority shall be as follows -

- (a) An annual Licence Fee of the Malawi Kwacha equivalent of five Thousand United States Dollars (US\$5000) payable on or before the Effective Date and on each and every anniversary of the licence.
- (b) An annual levy equal to one and half percent (1½ %) of the Licensee's net operating revenue for each year payable in four (4) equal instalments. Calculation of the first three (3) quarterly instalments shall be based on the management accounts of the Licensee for the financial year. A final quarterly payment shall be made based on net operating revenue within thirty (30) days of issue of audited accounts. Adjustments shall be made for the first three (3) quarterly payments if the net operating revenue in the budget differs from the one in the audited accounts.

7.2 All fees and levies outstanding for a period of more than Six (6) months from their due dates shall attract interest at the base lending rate untill full liquidation thereof.

7.3 The Authority may revoke this licence if in any licence year, any fees or levies remain outstanding for a period of more than six (6) months from their due dates.

8. Universal Service Fund

8.1. The Licensee shall from time to time consult with the Authority on the actions to be taken to achieve the objectives of the National Postal Policy.

8.2. The Licensee shall be required to contribute to the Universal Service Fund (UFA) when so requested by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the National Postal Policy and Universal Service Regulations provided that the Licensee shall not be required to contribute in any year in which no other Courier Operator providing Intra City Courier Services so contributes.

9. Service standards

9.1. Customer service

9.1.1. The Licensee shall maintain adequately trained personnel to receive and respond promptly to complaints from customers.

9.1.2. The Licensee shall take all commercially reasonable measures to promptly remedy and avoid the recurrence of the cause of all customer complaints that relate to the quality, availability, or delivery of its service.

9.1.3. The Licensee shall take all commercially reasonable actions and insurance necessary to guarantee that amounts due to customers are paid in full if this operating licence is revoked.

9.1.4. The Licensee shall establish efficient procedures that take account of the predominant local languages so that customers can receive assistance from its personnel during normal business hours. These procedures shall be

included in the Licensee's standard terms and conditions for the provision of Courier services.

9.1.5 These procedures shall include without limitation:

- (a) Procedures for dealing with customer complaints
- (b) Customers' right of appeal to the Authority.

9.1.6 The Licensee shall submit to the Authority for approval a Master Customer Contract containing Service Level Agreements and standard terms and conditions for the provision of Courier Services within one month from the Gazetting of this licence.

9.1.7 The Licensee may amend the Master Customer Contract with the prior approval of the Authority.

9.1.8 An application for approval of an amendment to a Master Customer Contract shall be made by the Licensee to the Authority in writing. If the Authority fails to respond in writing to the Licensee's application for the amendment of the Master Customer Contract within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the application, the amendment shall be deemed to have been approved.

9.1.9 The Licensee shall display a copy of the approved Master Customer Contract shall be displayed at its principal offices and any branch offices open to the public.

9.1.10 The Licensee shall make available a copy of the Master Customer Contract to any interested party upon request.

9.2. Customer privacy

9.2.1 The Licensee shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure that information obtained or received in the provision of the service by itself, or its agents, sub-contractors or service providers is kept confidential, that is, not disclosed or made accessible to third parties or used otherwise than for the purposes or furtherance of the provision of the service.

9.2.2 The Licensee shall not disclose information of a customer except with the consent of the customer, which form of consent shall be approved by the Authority, except for the prevention or detection of crime or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders or except as may be authorised by or under the law.

9.3. Services for Physically Challenged Persons

9.3.1 The Licensee shall provide facilities at its premises giving due regard to the requirements of the physically challenged members of the society. In particular, counters and access to service facilities shall be accessible to physically challenged persons.

9.4. Quality of service targets

9.4.1 The Licensee shall meet the service targets and standard of performance set out in schedule 1 and as may be determined by the Authority from time to time.

9.4.2 The Licensee shall, within fourteen (14) days after every quarter of the year submit to the Authority a report providing details of the performance of the Licensee during the previous quarter.

9.4.3 In the event of poor performance for the period in question, the Authority shall impose punitive measures in line with Schedule 1 of this licence.

9.4.4 The Licensee shall, within three months after the end of each financial year, submit to the Authority a report providing details of the performance of the Licensee during the previous financial year against the standards set in this licence.

9.4.5 Notwithstanding any punitive measures taken under this clause, the Authority reserves the right to impose any regulatory sanctions deemed necessary for poor performance.

10. Tariffs

10.1 The Licensee shall set tariffs that are just, reasonable, and cost based.

10.2 The Licensee shall, before providing the services, submit to the Authority for approval its proposed tariff for the services.

10.3. The Licensee shall not change its approved tariff without the prior written approval of the Authority.

10.4. The Licensee shall make available to its customers the tariffs for Commercial Courier articles and services offered to various destinations and at various weight steps for the benefit of the public, at all business premises.

11. Roll out

11.1. The Licensee shall begin to offer commercial courier services not later than three (3) months from the effective date of this license. Failure to comply shall be considered material breach of the terms and conditions of the licence.

11.2. The Licensee shall establish and maintain service coverage throughout Malawi as agreed with the Authority. Notwithstanding the foregoing the licensee shall maintain continuously a physical presence in the four (4) main cities of Malawi namely; Blantyre, Zomba, Lilongwe and Mzuzu.

11.3. The Licensee shall within 3 months from the effective date submit to the Authority a roll out plan for approval by the Authority which when approved shall be set in Schedule 2 of this Licence.

12. Provision of information

12.1. Confidentiality

12.1.1 All information furnished by the Licensee to Authority and marked "confidential" shall be held in confidence by the Authority. Such information may be released by the Authority to the extent that its release is required by the law.

12.1.2 This requirement of confidentiality shall continue after the termination or expiry of this licence or revocation of the licence.

12.2. Regulatory Reporting

12.2.1 The Licensee shall submit written Reports such as annual financial statements including budgets for the coming financial year, Quality of Service returns and any other documents or reports in a format determined by the Authority, at least sixty (60) days after the anniversary date of the licence, and on such other occasions as the Authority may require.

12.3. Preparation of accounts

12.3.1. The Licensee shall always keep at its principal place of business within Malawi, all proper books of accounts accurate and up to date in accordance with Internationally Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and good business practices. All financial information submitted by the Licensee to the Authority for any purpose shall be prepared and presented in accordance with GAAP or as the Authority shall direct.

13. Inspections

13.1. Access to inspection

13.1.1. The Licensee shall grant unhindered access to all its facilities, installations, office records, any equipment associated with its Commercial Courier service in Malawi to all authorized inspectors or Monitors of the Authority during normal working hours or, following prior written notice, for access after working hours, for purposes of verifying the performance by the Licensee of its obligations under this licence.

13.1.2. The Licensee may provide a representative to be present at any such inspection.

13.1.3. The mere fact that the Licensee has not provided a representative as provided in clause 13.1.2 above will not invalidate any findings of the Authority's inspectors or monitors.

13.2. Monitoring of service provision

13.1.1 The Authority may monitor, inspect, and test the service or any equipment associated with the Licensee's Commercial Courier service in Malawi without prior notice to the Licensee where there are reasonable grounds to believe that prior notification to the Licensee will prejudice the Authority's inspectors in the exercise of their duty.

14. General conditions

14.1. Ownership

14.1.1. The Licensee must be registered in Malawi. The Licensee shall ensure that foreign ownership in the License is in accordance to the Laws of Malawi.

14.1.2. The Licensee shall seek approval from the Authority before effecting any change in its shareholding structure.

14.2. Transfer of licence

14.2.1. The licence shall not be assigned or otherwise transferred or pledged without the written consent or approval of the Authority.

14.3. Amendment

14.3.1. Any amendment to the licence shall be in accordance with the Act.

14.3.2. No amendment shall be of any force or effect, unless reduced to writing and signed by the Authority.

14.4. Penalties

14.4.1. The Authority shall reserve the right to impose any regulatory sanction deemed appropriate for breach of any licence terms or conditions.

14.4.2. The regulatory sanctions stipulated in 14.4.1 above may include;

- (a) Impose such fines which it sees fit and are proportional to the breach;
- (b) Compensation;
- (c) Warnings;
- (d) Suspension;
- (e) Cease or desist order;
- (f) Compliance order;
- (g) Revocation; or
- (h) Any other sanction deemed appropriate by the Authority.

14.4.3. Notwithstanding Clause 14.4.2 above the Authority shall impose specific penalties and fines as set out in Schedule 3 of this licence

14.5. Suspension or Revocation

14.5.1. The Authority may suspend or revoke this license on any of the following grounds:

- (a) if the Licensee is in substantial breach of any term or condition of this license;
- (b) if the Licensee fails to pay outstanding license fees within a period of 12 (twelve) months from the date the fees became due and payable;
- (c) if the Licensee has been declared insolvent;
- (d) if the Licensee takes steps to deregister itself or is deregistered; or
- (e) If the licensee agrees in writing on cancellation of the license.
- (f) If the Licensee has ceased to provide the services specified in the licence.

14.6. Exercise of powers

14.6.1. In exercising any powers granted to the Authority in terms of this licence, the Authority shall;

- (a) act reasonably having regard to all surrounding circumstances;
- (b) prior to exercising any power, afford the Licensee every reasonable opportunity to make representations to the Authority in respect of all relevant issues;

(c) at the request of the Licensee, furnish written reasons for any decisions made.

14.7. Force majeure

14.7.1. Any failure by the Licensee to comply with any obligation, terms or conditions of the licence shall be excused to the extent that it is caused by an event which is beyond the control of the Licensee, including, but not limited to extreme weather conditions, fire, war or civil strife or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of the Licensee.

14.7.2. The Licensee shall use reasonable endeavours to minimise the impact on its operations of any event of this nature and to remedy, if possible, the failure. The Licensee shall keep the Authority informed of any problems that may be encountered, their consequences on its operations and the steps it is taking to address the problems.

14.8. Liability

14.8.1. The Licensee shall indemnify the Authority against any losses, claims, charges or expenses, actions, damages or demands which may be made against the Authority by any third party as a result of or in relation to the activities of the Licensee, its service providers, servants, or agents, in connection with the provision of the service.

14.9. Fair trading

14.9.1. The Licensee shall not show undue preference to, or exercise undue discrimination against, particular persons or persons of any class or description in respect of the provision of commercial courier services under this licence.

14.9.2. The Licensee may be deemed to have shown undue preference or undue discrimination as described in clause 13.9.1 if the Authority determines that it unfairly favours to a material extent any business carried on by it to place at a significant competitive disadvantage persons lawfully competing with that business.

14.9.3. The Licensee will not alone or together with others, engage in or continue or knowingly acquiesce in any anti-competitive practices and, in particular, the Licensee shall:

(a) not engage in any cross-subsidization.

(b) not engage in the abuse of its dominant position, if any.

(c) not enter into any agreements or undertakings with any person, including any supplier of services that compete with the service, which have as their objective or effect the fixing of prices or any other restraint on competition.

(d) not engage in any anti-competitive tied or linked sales practices, provided that the Licensee may bundle services so long as the bundled services are also available separately.

(e) not use information obtained from competitors if the object or effect of such use is anti-competitive.

15. Compensation and Safety Measures

15.1 The Licensee shall be responsible for all commercial courier articles entrusted to it and shall pay compensation as may be appropriate to customers for losing, misplacing or failing to guarantee the integrity of any commercial courier article.

15.2 The Licensee shall in respect of all its systems, tools, equipment and installations, possessed, operated, maintained or used under this licence, take all proper and adequate safety measures to safeguard life of staff and property.

15.3 The Licensee shall not accept for transmission any prohibited articles as specified by written laws of the country, international conventions and Postal Regulations.

16. Severability

16.1 Should any provision of this licence be invalid or unenforceable, the same shall be severed from the licence and the remaining provisions shall remain valid and enforceable.

17. Notices

17.1 Any notice required or permitted under the terms and conditions of this Licensee shall be in writing in the English language and shall be sufficiently served if delivered by hand or sent by registered mail as follows;

(a) In the case of MACRA, to—

The Director General,
MACRA,
Private Bag 261,
Blantyre,
Email: dg@macra.mw

(b) In the case of the Licensee, to—

The Managing Director
Faster Courier
P.O. Box 974
Lilongwe.
Email: rmakondi@rtminitiative.com

18. Arbitration

Any dispute arising out of or in relation to this license shall, if not settled amicably on the written request of either party be referred to arbitration in accordance with the Arbitration Act.

Issued at Blantyre on this 21st day of January, 2022.

Signed: DR STANLEY CHAKHUMBILA KHAILA (PhD)

Chairperson

Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA)

DAUD SULEMAN

Director General

Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA)

Schedule 1: Quality of Service Targets

Domestic Courier Transmission Targets

Service Category Target

Service Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
4 hour service Intracity	90%	95%	98%
Same-day service - (Intercity/Intracity)	90%	95%	98%
24-hour service (Overnight service)	90%	95%	98%
48-hour service	95%	98%	98%

Schedule 3: Penalties and Fines

1. Domestic Commercial Courier Services License		US Dollar US\$
(a) Implementing tariffs without notifying the Authority		600
(b) Failure to meet roll out targets per service area		2150
(c) Failure to meet quality of service standards		1,000
(d) Failure to comply with customer service provisions		1,000
(e) Operating without assized scales per station		600
(f) Implementing unpublished tariffs		175
(g) Failure to dispose undeliverable articles		175
(h) Not affixing commercial courier label on article		600
(i) Failure to display tariffs and services offered at all business places		600
(j) Any other offence not covered above shall attract a maximum penalty of		2,000

**THE OFFICIAL JOURNALS OF PATENTS, TRADE MARKS
AND DESIGNS**

for

MALAWI

CLOSING HOUR FOR ACCEPTANCE OF COPY

Advertisers should note that the closing day for the acceptance of 'copy' is the last Wednesday of each month.

Any copy received after this day will be held over for the following month.

ADVERTISEMENT RATES

With effect from **1st January, 2018**, rates for advertising are as follows—

Full column	..	..	..	K48,600
Three-quarters column	..	..	..	K40,500
Half column	..	..	..	K27,000
One-third column	..	..	..	K20,250
Quarter column or less	..	..	..	K12,150

No Patent or Trade Mark advertisement will be accepted for publication in the Journals unless it is in the approved form and accompanied by proof of the authority of the Registrar of Patents or of Trade Marks, as the case may be, for publication.

No responsibility can be accepted for losses arising from omissions or typographical errors.

Manuscript of Advertisements should be written on one side of the paper only and not as a part of the covering letter. All proper names must be plainly incised; in the event of any name being incorrectly printed as a result of indistinct writing, the advertisement can be republished only on payment of the cost of another insertion.

All cheques, bank drafts, postal orders or money orders must be crossed and made payable to the Government Printer, P.O. Box 37, Zomba.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

The subscription rates for the combined Journals are as follows—

K100,000 within Malawi for 12 months.

US\$1,900 outside Malawi for 12 months.

The subscription year starts on 1 January and ends on 31 December each year.

Price per single copy K3,500.

Subscriptions are payable in advance through the Government Printer, P.O. Box 37, Zomba, Malawi.

Address correspondence to—

(1) Either the Registrar of Patents or the Registrar of Trade Marks (as the case may be), P.O. Box 100, Blantyre, Malawi, in connexion with all matters pertaining to Patents and Trade Marks.

(2) The Government Printer, P.O. Box 37, Zomba, Malawi, in connexion with subscriptions and publication of Patents and Trade Marks advertisements.