



NORTHERN REGION WATER BOARD

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR

IDENTIFYING CAUSES OF SOLAR POWER PLANT FAILURE AND RECOMMENDING WORKS RESOLVING THE CHALLENGES

REF : NRW/64/25

1. The Northern Region Water Board (NRWB) has a provision in its 2025/26 budget for Consultancy Services for Identifying causes of solar power plant failure and recommending works for resolving the challenges.
2. The Northern Region Water Board (NRWB) (herewith referred to as a Client), was created under the Laws of Malawi (Cap 72:01) to provide potable water and waterborne sanitation services in all the urban and peri-urban centers of the Northern Region of Malawi namely; Mzuzu, Ekwendeni, Rumphi, Mzimba, Nkhatabay, Chintheche, Chilumba, Karonga, Songwe and Chitipa.
3. NRW has 5 solar plants in Mzuzu and 1 solar plant in Ekwendeni. The solar plants comprise solar PV panels, PV grid-tied inverters, battery inverters, battery banks, SCADA system, switch gear, and fire-fighting system. However, some battery banks are out of commission due to battery modules that have been over-discharged and have shut down. As such, these plants cannot sustain the required power in the event that there is grid failure.
4. The SCADA system shows that it has inherent errors which are not cleared thereby affecting the charging and discharging of the battery banks.
5. It is against this background that the NRW urgently requires a consultant to diagnose the solar plants and make necessary recommendations.

SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

6. Consultant shall, among others:

- a) Identify the causes of the current failure of the solar plants as well as potential causes of future failure.
 - b) Recommend the works for resolving the challenges; and
 - c) Prepare and submit cost estimates for the recommended remedial works.
7. The assignment is expected to take 15 working days from the date of contract signing.
8. In assessing submissions, consideration shall be given to the technical competence of the consultant, experience on similar projects, managerial capability, liquidity of the consultant and capacity in all respects to undertake the assignment. Only consultants with demonstrated experience and good track record in similar assignments will be short-listed.
9. Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours [07:30 to 16:30 hours].
10. Expressions of interest must be delivered to the address indicated below by 14:00 hours Malawi time on Tuesday, 4th November, 2025

The Chairperson of Internal Procurement & Disposal of Assets Committee
Northern Region Water Board
Off Mzuzu-Lilongwe road
Bloemwater Street
Kawiluwilu House
Private Bag 94
Mzuzu
MALAWI

Attention: Eng. CB Mwafulirwa
Telephone: (265) 994060591
E-mail: cmbewe@nrwb.org.mw &
mbewe08@gmail.com

11. Only short-listed consultants will be invited to submit proposals through Request for Proposals (RFPs) which will include specific Terms of Reference for the assignment.