

Payroll System User Manual

Table of Contents

1. [Introduction](#)
2. [Login and Authentication](#)
3. [Dashboard](#)
4. [PAYE Calculator](#)
5. [Employees Management](#)
6. [Departments Management](#)
7. [Branches Management](#)
8. [Payroll Generation](#)
9. [Payrun](#)
10. [Drafts](#)
11. [History](#)
12. [Reports](#)
13. [Attendance Tracking](#)
14. [Bulk Emailing](#)
15. [Settings](#)

Introduction

Welcome to the Payroll System User Manual. This comprehensive guide is designed to help you navigate and utilize all features of the payroll management system effectively. The system provides a complete solution for managing employee information, calculating payroll, tracking attendance, and handling various HR-related functions.

This payroll system is designed with user-friendliness in mind, offering an intuitive interface that makes payroll management efficient and straightforward. Whether you're managing a small team or a large organization with multiple departments and branches, this system provides the tools you need to handle payroll operations with precision and ease.

Throughout this manual, you'll find detailed instructions, helpful tips, and visual guides to help you make the most of the system's capabilities. Each section focuses on a specific module or feature, providing step-by-step guidance on how to perform various tasks.

The payroll system includes the following key modules:

- **Dashboard:** Provides an overview of your organization with visual representations of key metrics
- **PAYE Calculator:** Offers tools for calculating tax deductions with both gross-to-net and net-to-gross options
- **Employees Management:** Allows you to add, edit, and manage employee records
- **Departments Management:** Helps you organize your workforce by departments
- **Branches Management:** Enables management of multiple physical locations or operational units
- **Payroll Generation:** The core module for processing payroll, including payrun creation, drafts, history, and reports
- **Attendance Tracking:** Facilitates monitoring and recording of employee attendance
- **Bulk Emailing:** Provides tools for sending mass communications to employees
- **Settings:** Allows you to manage your account security and preferences

This manual is organized to follow the natural workflow of payroll processing, starting with basic navigation and progressing through the various stages of payroll management. You can use the table of contents to quickly locate information about specific features or processes.

Let's begin by exploring how to access the system through the login process.

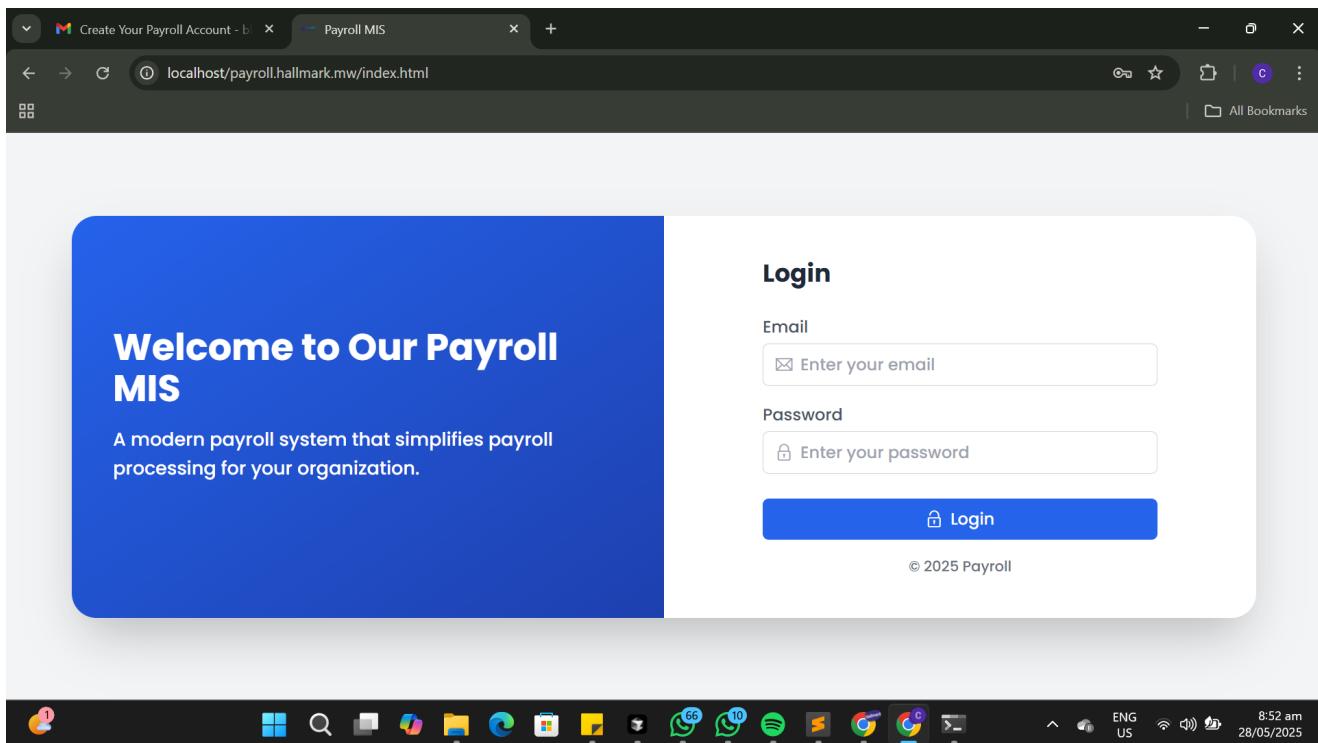
Login and Authentication

Overview

The login and authentication process is your gateway to the payroll system. This security measure ensures that only authorized personnel can access sensitive payroll information and perform system operations. The login page is designed to be straightforward while maintaining robust security protocols to protect your organization's data.

Accessing the Login Page

To access the payroll system, open your web browser and navigate to the system's URL provided by your administrator. The system will automatically direct you to the login page if you are not already authenticated.



Login Interface

The login page presents a clean, user-friendly interface with the following elements:

- 1. System Logo and Name:** At the top of the login form, you'll see the payroll system's logo and name, confirming that you're at the correct login portal.
- 2. Email Field:** Enter the email address associated with your account. This is typically your work email that was registered in the system by your administrator.
- 3. Password Field:** Enter your secure password. For security reasons, the characters you type will appear as dots or asterisks to prevent others from seeing your password.
- 4. Login Button:** After entering your credentials, click this button to submit your login information and access the system.
- 5. Remember Me Option:** Some implementations may include a checkbox that allows the system to remember your login credentials for future sessions on the same device. Use this feature with caution, especially on shared computers.

Login Process

To log in to the payroll system:

1. Enter your registered email address in the "Email" field.

2. Enter your password in the "Password" field.
3. Click the "Login" button.
4. If your credentials are correct, the system will authenticate you and redirect you to the Dashboard.
5. If you enter incorrect credentials, the system will display an error message. You can then try again with the correct information.

Security Considerations

When logging into the payroll system, keep these security best practices in mind:

- 1. Password Protection:** Never share your password with others, even colleagues or IT staff. Legitimate system administrators will never ask for your password.
- 2. Secure Environment:** Ensure you're logging in from a secure location and device. Avoid using public computers or unsecured networks when accessing the payroll system.
- 3. Browser Security:** Consider using private or incognito browsing mode when accessing the system from shared computers to prevent your login information from being saved.
- 4. Session Management:** Always log out when you've finished using the system, especially on shared computers. This prevents unauthorized access to your account.
- 5. Password Complexity:** Use strong, unique passwords that combine uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters. Avoid using easily guessable information like birthdays or common words.

Password Recovery

If you forget your password:

1. Contact your system administrator or IT support team.
2. They will guide you through the password reset process according to your organization's security protocols.
3. You may receive a temporary password or a password reset link via your registered email.
4. After resetting your password, you'll typically be required to create a new password upon your next login.

First-Time Login

If you are logging in for the first time:

1. Use the temporary credentials provided by your system administrator.
2. You may be prompted to change your password immediately after your first successful login.
3. Follow the on-screen instructions to create a new, secure password that meets the system's requirements.
4. Once your new password is set, you'll gain full access to the system features according to your assigned permissions.

Session Timeout

For security reasons, the payroll system may automatically log you out after a period of inactivity. If this happens:

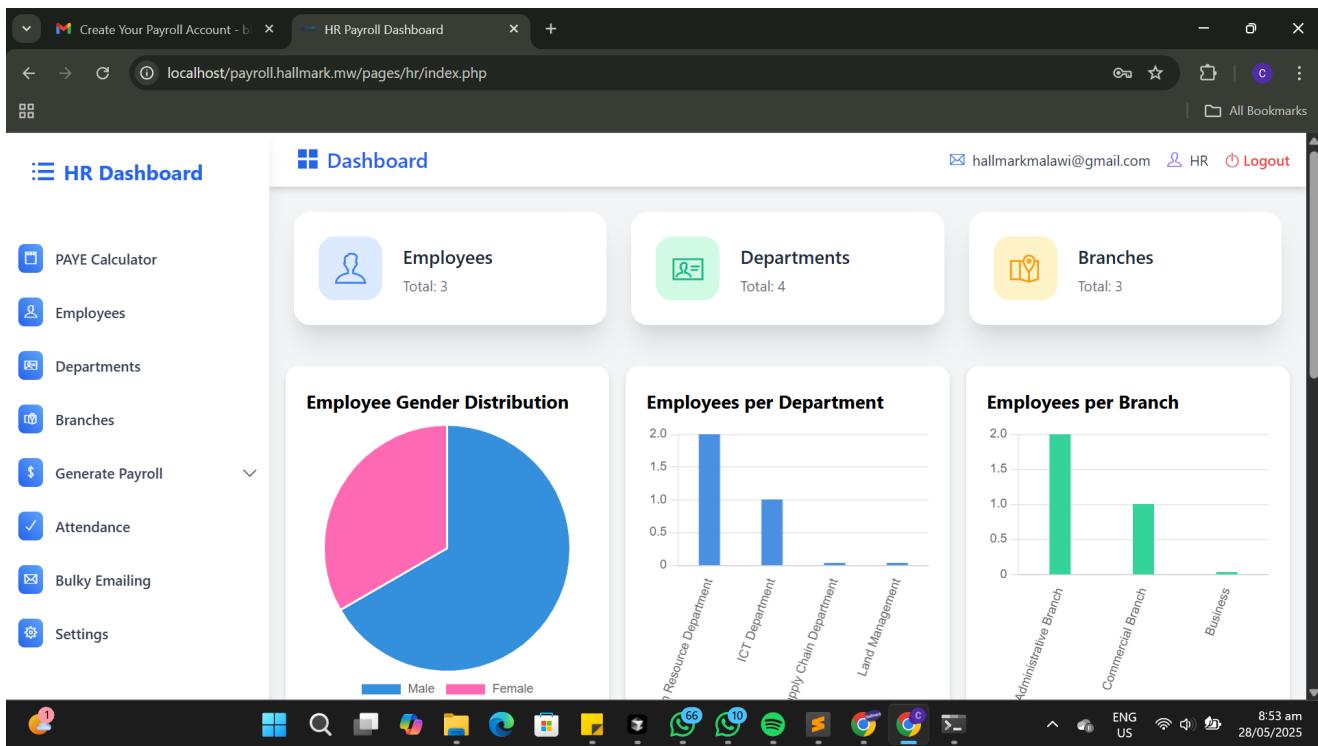
1. You'll need to log in again using your credentials.
2. Any unsaved work may be lost, so it's good practice to save your progress regularly when making changes in the system.

After successfully logging in, you will be directed to the Dashboard, which serves as the central hub for navigating to all other features of the payroll system.

Dashboard

Overview

The Dashboard serves as the central hub of the payroll system, providing you with a comprehensive overview of key organizational metrics and quick access to all system features. Upon successful login, you are automatically directed to this dashboard, which has been designed to give you immediate insights into your organization's workforce distribution and structure.



The Dashboard interface is divided into several key areas, each serving a specific purpose in helping you navigate and understand your organization's payroll data at a glance. The clean, intuitive layout ensures that critical information is readily available without overwhelming you with unnecessary details.

Navigation Panel

Located on the left side of the screen, the navigation panel provides quick access to all major modules of the payroll system. This panel remains visible throughout your session, allowing you to easily switch between different functions regardless of which section you are currently working in.

The navigation panel includes the following menu items:

- HR Dashboard: Returns you to the main dashboard view from anywhere in the system
- PAYE Calculator: Access tax calculation tools for gross-to-net and net-to-gross conversions
- Employees: Manage employee records, including adding, editing, and filtering employee data
- Departments: Oversee departmental structures and assignments
- Branches: Manage multiple location information and associated employees
- Generate Payroll: Access payroll processing functions, including payrun, drafts, history, and reports
- Attendance: Track and manage employee attendance records
- Bulky Emailing: Send mass communications to selected employees

- Settings: Configure system preferences and account settings

Each menu item is clearly labeled and features an intuitive icon for easy identification. The currently active section is highlighted, helping you maintain context as you navigate through the system.

Header Area

The header area spans the top of the dashboard and contains several important elements:

- Dashboard Title: Clearly indicates you are in the Dashboard section
- User Information: Displays your email address and role within the system
- Logout Button: Allows you to securely end your session when finished

This consistent header appears throughout the system, ensuring you always have access to these essential functions regardless of which module you are using.

Summary Cards

The upper portion of the main dashboard area features three summary cards that provide quick insights into key organizational metrics:

1. Employees Card: Displays the total number of employees currently registered in the system
2. Departments Card: Shows the total number of departments in your organization
3. Branches Card: Indicates the total number of branches or locations

Each card features a distinctive icon, a title, and the current count, making it easy to quickly assess the size and structure of your organization at a glance. These cards serve as quick reference points and can also function as navigation shortcuts to their respective detailed sections.

Data Visualization

The lower portion of the dashboard contains three graphical representations of your workforce data:

1. Employee Gender Distribution: A pie chart showing the proportion of male and female employees in your organization, with a clear color-coded legend for easy interpretation

2. Employees per Department: A bar graph displaying how employees are distributed across different departments, helping you visualize departmental staffing levels
3. Employees per Branch: A bar graph showing employee distribution across different branches or locations

These visualizations provide immediate insights into your workforce composition and distribution, allowing you to identify patterns or imbalances that might require attention. The graphs are designed to be clear and easy to interpret, with appropriate scaling and labeling.

Calendar Widget

Though not prominently shown in the current view, the dashboard may also include a calendar widget that highlights important dates such as payroll processing deadlines, tax submission dates, or other significant events relevant to payroll management.

Responsive Design

The dashboard is designed to be responsive, adapting to different screen sizes and resolutions. This ensures a consistent experience whether you're accessing the system from a desktop computer, laptop, or tablet device.

Refreshing Dashboard Data

The dashboard displays real-time information based on the current state of your payroll database. If you make changes in other sections of the system, such as adding new employees or departments, these changes will be reflected in the dashboard metrics and visualizations when you return to the dashboard view.

To manually refresh the dashboard data at any time, you can use the browser's refresh function or click on the "HR Dashboard" item in the navigation panel.

The dashboard serves as both an informational overview and a launching point for more detailed operations within the payroll system. From here, you can quickly assess the state of your organization and navigate to specific functions as needed.

PAYE Calculator

Overview

The PAYE (Pay As You Earn) Calculator is a powerful tool within the payroll system designed to help you perform accurate tax calculations for employee salaries. This feature offers two distinct calculation modes to accommodate different payroll scenarios: Gross to Net and Net to Gross. Understanding how to use this calculator effectively is essential for ensuring accurate salary processing and tax compliance.

Accessing the PAYE Calculator

To access the PAYE Calculator, click on the "PAYE Calculator" option in the left navigation panel. The icon resembles a calculator or document. Upon clicking, you will be directed to the PAYE Calculator page where both calculation options are presented side by side for easy access.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <localhost/payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/paye.php>. The page is titled 'Dashboard' and features a sidebar with various HR management links: PAYE Calculator (selected), Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll, Attendance, Bulky Emailing, and Settings. The main content area is titled 'PAYE Calculator' and contains two sections: 'Gross → Net' and 'Net → Gross'. The 'Gross → Net' section has a 'Gross Salary (MWK)' input field with placeholder 'e.g., 1,000,000' and a blue 'Calculate Net Salary' button. Below it is a results box with placeholder 'Results will appear here...'. The 'Net → Gross' section has a 'Desired Net Salary (MWK)' input field with placeholder 'e.g., 800,000' and a green 'Estimate Required Gross' button. Below it is a results box with placeholder 'Results will appear here...'. The top right of the page shows the user's email (hallmarkmalawi@gmail.com) and a 'Logout' link. The bottom right corner of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with various icons and the date/time (8:53 am, 28/05/2025).

Calculator Interface

The PAYE Calculator page is divided into two main sections, each representing a different calculation direction:

1. Gross → Net (left side): This calculator allows you to determine the net salary (take-home pay) based on a given gross salary amount.

2. Net → Gross (right side): This calculator helps you determine what gross salary would be required to achieve a specific desired net salary.

Both calculators are clearly labeled with their respective functions and feature a clean, user-friendly interface with input fields, calculation buttons, and results areas.

Gross to Net Calculator

The Gross to Net calculator is used when you know an employee's gross salary and need to calculate their net pay after tax deductions. This is the most common scenario in payroll processing.

Using the Gross to Net Calculator:

1. Locate the "Gross → Net" section on the left side of the PAYE Calculator page.
2. In the "Gross Salary (MWK)" field, enter the employee's gross salary amount. The field accepts numerical input only and is formatted to handle Malawian Kwacha (MWK) values.
3. Click the "Calculate Net Salary" button, which is prominently displayed in blue below the input field.
4. The system will process the calculation, applying the current tax rates and deductions according to the tax regulations.
5. The results will appear in the "Results will appear here..." section below the calculation button.

The results typically include: - The original gross salary amount - Tax deductions broken down by category - The final net salary amount (take-home pay)

This information helps you understand exactly how the deductions affect the employee's final pay and provides transparency in the payroll process.

Net to Gross Calculator

The Net to Gross calculator serves the reverse function - it helps you determine what gross salary would be required to achieve a specific net salary. This is particularly useful when negotiating salaries or when you need to work backward from a desired take-home pay amount.

Using the Net to Gross Calculator:

1. Locate the "Net → Gross" section on the right side of the PAYE Calculator page.

2. In the "Desired Net Salary (MWK)" field, enter the target net salary amount. As with the Gross to Net calculator, this field accepts numerical input only and is formatted for MWK values.
3. Click the "Estimate Required Gross" button, which is prominently displayed in green below the input field.
4. The system will perform the reverse calculation, determining what gross salary would result in the specified net amount after all applicable taxes and deductions.
5. The results will appear in the "Results will appear here..." section below the calculation button.

The results typically include: - The target net salary amount - The calculated gross salary required - A breakdown of the taxes and deductions that would apply to this gross amount

This information is valuable for salary planning, budgeting, and ensuring that compensation packages meet both employee expectations and organizational constraints.

Understanding Tax Calculations

The PAYE calculator applies the current tax regulations and rates to ensure accurate calculations. The system is regularly updated to reflect any changes in tax laws or rates, ensuring compliance with the latest regulations.

The calculation takes into account: - Income tax brackets and progressive rates - Personal allowances and deductions - Other mandatory contributions such as pension or health insurance

It's important to note that while the calculator provides accurate estimates based on standard deductions, individual circumstances may vary. Factors such as additional income sources, special allowances, or unique tax situations may affect the actual tax liability.

Practical Applications

The PAYE Calculator serves several practical purposes in payroll management:

1. **Salary Planning:** HR managers can use the calculator to plan salary structures and understand the tax implications of different compensation levels.

2. **Employee Communication:** The calculator helps in explaining to employees how their gross salary translates to net pay, providing transparency in the payroll process.
3. **Budget Forecasting:** Finance departments can use the calculator to estimate total salary costs, including employer contributions and taxes.
4. **Compensation Negotiations:** When discussing salary adjustments or new hires, the calculator helps determine the gross salary needed to achieve a desired net pay.

Best Practices for Using the PAYE Calculator

To ensure the most accurate and effective use of the PAYE Calculator, consider the following best practices:

1. **Verify Input Values:** Double-check all salary figures before calculation to avoid errors.
2. **Regular Updates:** Ensure you're using the latest version of the system to benefit from updated tax rates and regulations.
3. **Documentation:** Consider saving or printing calculation results for record-keeping, especially for unusual or complex cases.
4. **Consistency:** Use the same calculation method consistently for all employees to ensure fairness and accuracy.

The PAYE Calculator is an essential tool for payroll professionals, providing quick, accurate tax calculations that help streamline the payroll process and ensure compliance with tax regulations. By understanding how to use both the Gross to Net and Net to Gross calculators effectively, you can manage employee compensation with confidence and precision.

Employees Management

Overview

The Employees Management module is a central component of the payroll system, designed to help you efficiently manage all employee information in one place. This comprehensive module allows you to store, organize, and access detailed employee

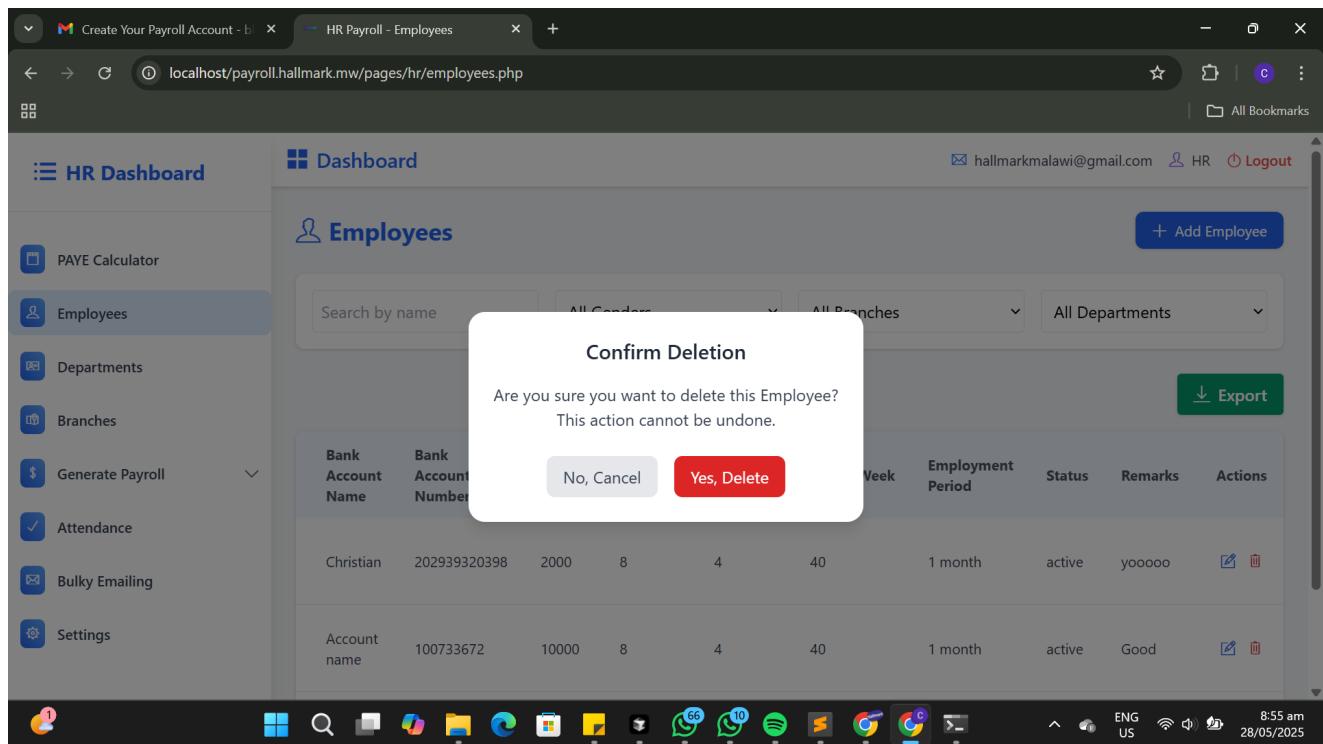
records, which form the foundation of your payroll processing operations. From basic personal information to employment details and banking information, this module serves as the complete repository for all employee-related data.

Accessing the Employees Module

To access the Employees Management module, click on the "Employees" option in the left navigation panel. The icon resembles a person silhouette. Upon clicking, you will be directed to the main Employees page where you can view and manage all employee records.

Employees Main Interface

The Employees page presents a comprehensive view of your workforce with several key components:

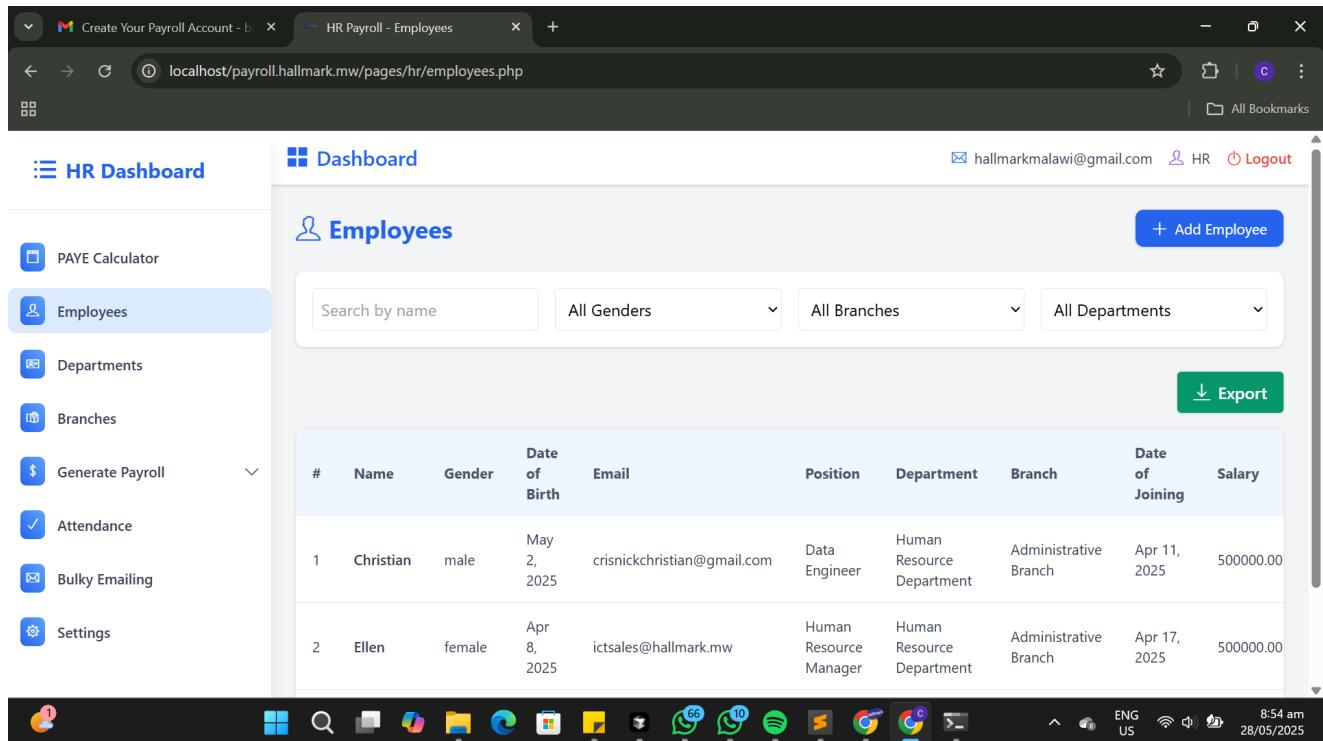


Page Header

At the top of the page, you'll find the "Employees" title, clearly indicating your current location within the system. On the right side of the header is the "Add Employee" button, which allows you to create new employee records as needed.

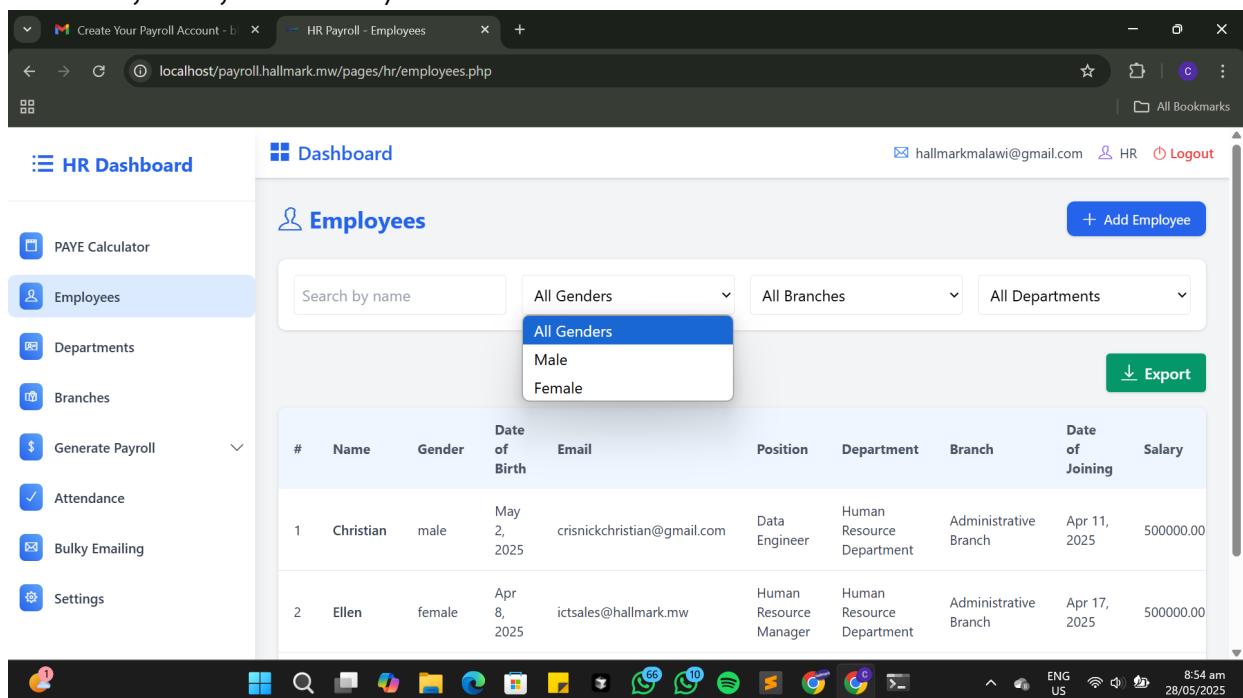
Search and Filter Bar

Below the header is a powerful search and filter bar that helps you quickly locate specific employees or groups of employees based on various criteria:



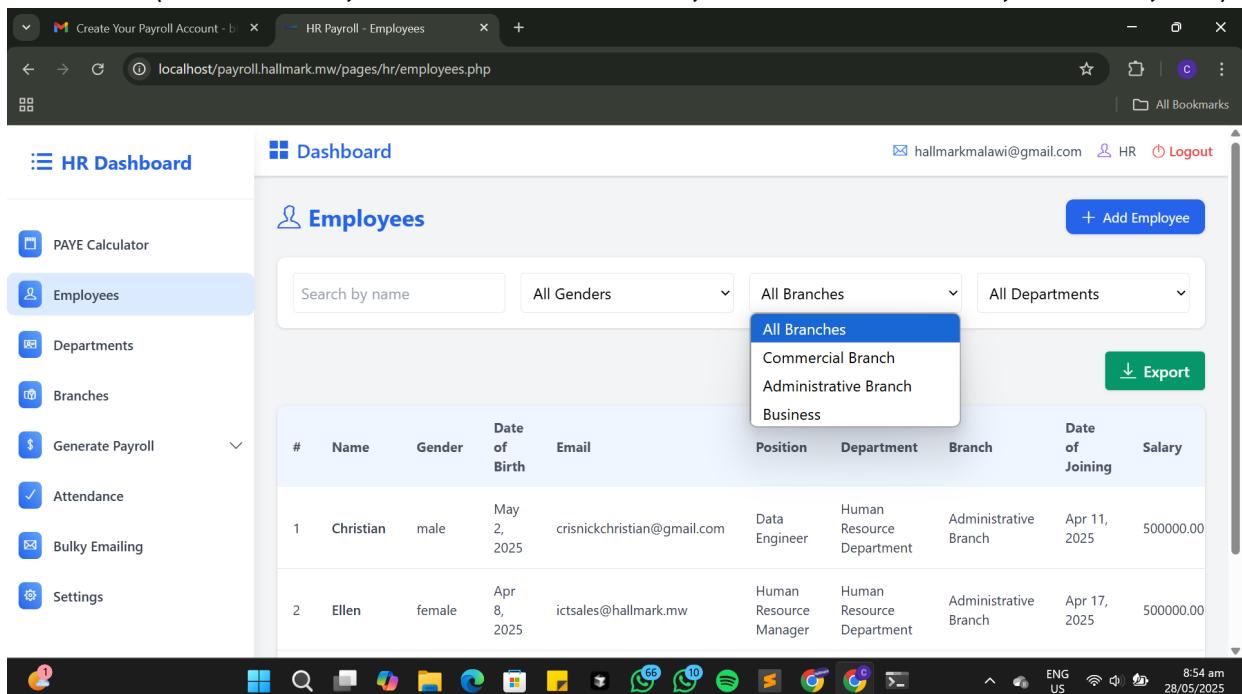
The screenshot shows the 'Employees' section of the HR Payroll application. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for PAYE Calculator, Employees (which is selected and highlighted in blue), Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll, Attendance, Bulky Emailing, and Settings. The main area has a title 'Employees' with a 'Dashboard' icon. Below it is a search bar labeled 'Search by name' and dropdown filters for 'All Genders', 'All Branches', and 'All Departments'. A blue button '+ Add Employee' is at the top right. The main table lists two employees: Christian and Ellen, with columns for #, Name, Gender, Date of Birth, Email, Position, Department, Branch, Date of Joining, and Salary. At the bottom right of the table is a green 'Export' button. The system status bar at the bottom shows various icons and the date/time: 8:54 am, 28/05/2025.

- 1. Search by Name:** A text field where you can enter an employee's name to quickly find their record.
- 2. Gender Filter:** A dropdown menu that allows you to filter employees by gender (All Genders, Male, or Female).



This screenshot is similar to the previous one but focuses on the gender filter. The 'All Genders' option in the dropdown menu is highlighted with a blue selection bar. The rest of the interface, including the sidebar, main table, and status bar, remains the same.

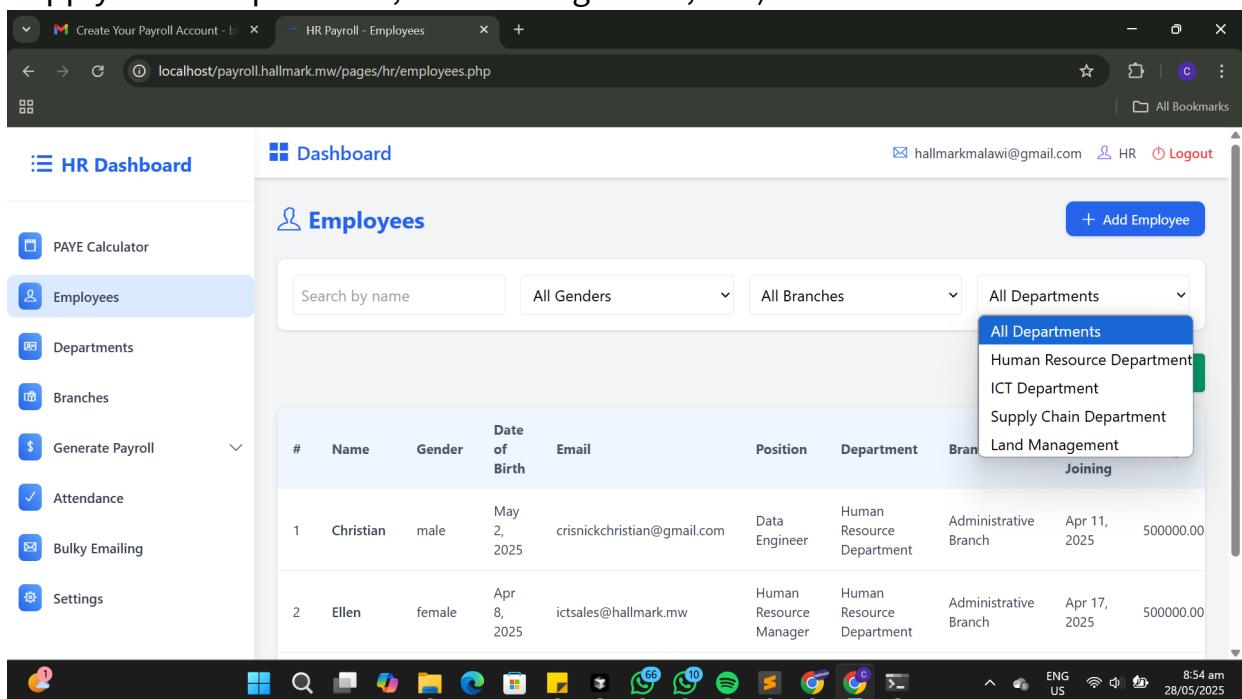
3. Branch Filter: A dropdown menu that enables you to view employees from specific branches (All Branches, Administrative Branch, Commercial Branch, Business, etc.).



The screenshot shows the 'Employees' section of the HR Dashboard. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for PAYE Calculator, Employees (selected), Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll, Attendance, Bulky Emailing, and Settings. The main area has a search bar, gender filters, and dropdowns for 'All Branches' and 'All Departments'. A modal is open over the table, showing the 'All Branches' options: All Branches, Commercial Branch, Administrative Branch, and Business. The table lists two employees: Christian and Ellen, with columns for #, Name, Gender, Date of Birth, Email, Position, Department, Branch, Date of Joining, and Salary.

#	Name	Gender	Date of Birth	Email	Position	Department	Branch	Date of Joining	Salary
1	Christian	male	May 2, 2025	crisnickchristian@gmail.com	Data Engineer	Human Resource Department	Administrative Branch	Apr 11, 2025	500000.00
2	Ellen	female	Apr 8, 2025	ictsales@hallmark.mw	Human Resource Manager	Human Resource Department	Administrative Branch	Apr 17, 2025	500000.00

4. Department Filter: A dropdown menu that lets you filter employees by their department (All Departments, Human Resource Department, ICT Department, Supply Chain Department, Land Management, etc.).



This screenshot is similar to the previous one but shows the 'All Departments' dropdown open. The modal lists: All Departments, Human Resource Department, ICT Department, Supply Chain Department, and Land Management. The table data remains the same as in the previous screenshot.

#	Name	Gender	Date of Birth	Email	Position	Department	Branch	Date of Joining	Salary
1	Christian	male	May 2, 2025	crisnickchristian@gmail.com	Data Engineer	Human Resource Department	Administrative Branch	Apr 11, 2025	500000.00
2	Ellen	female	Apr 8, 2025	ictsales@hallmark.mw	Human Resource Manager	Human Resource Department	Administrative Branch	Apr 17, 2025	500000.00

These filters can be used individually or in combination to narrow down your employee list based on specific criteria, making it easier to manage large numbers of employees efficiently.

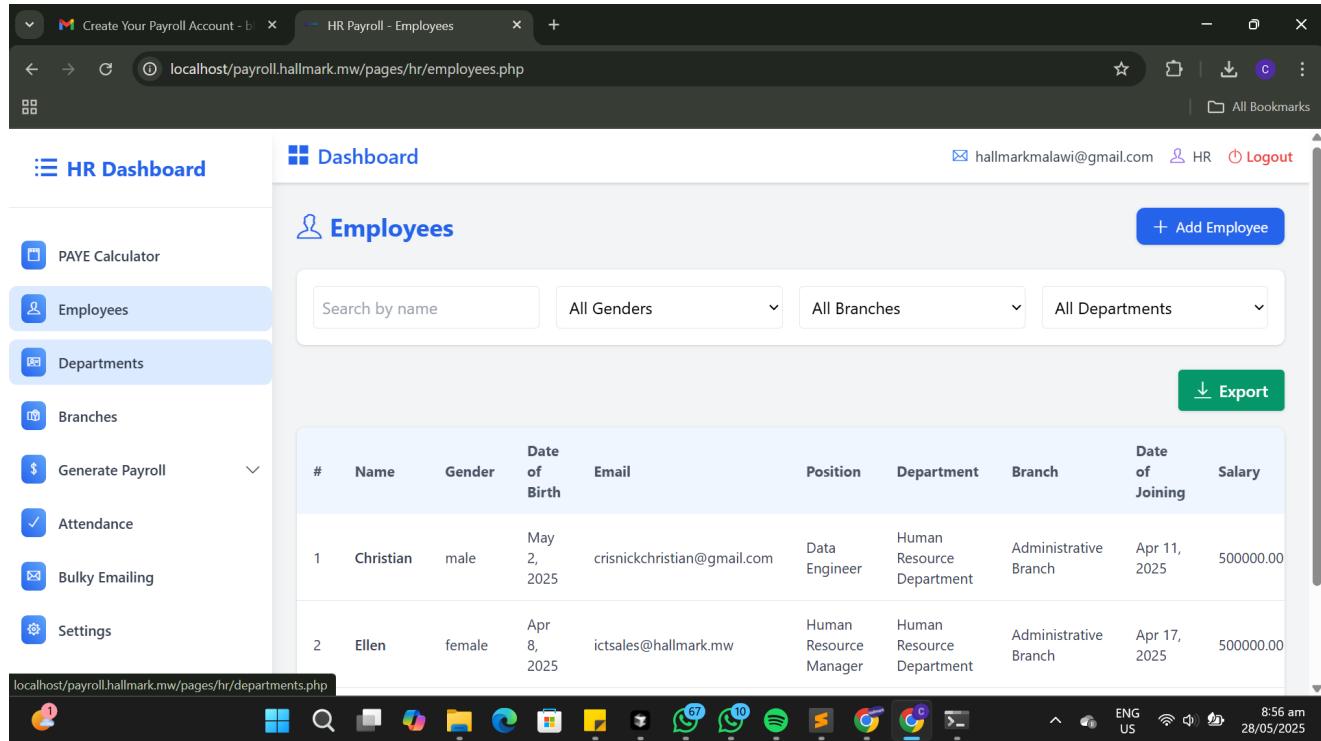
Export Function

In the upper right corner of the employee list section, you'll find an "Export" button that allows you to export the current filtered list of employees to a downloadable file format.

This feature is particularly useful for reporting, backup purposes, or when you need to share employee information with other systems or departments.

Employee List Table

The main component of the Employees page is the comprehensive employee list table. This table displays key information about each employee in a structured format with the following columns:



The screenshot shows a web-based HR payroll system interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with various menu items like PAYE Calculator, Employees (which is selected and highlighted in blue), Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll, Attendance, Bulky Emailing, and Settings. The main content area is titled 'Employees' and features a table with two rows of data. At the top of the table are columns for #, Name, Gender, Date of Birth, Email, Position, Department, Branch, Date of Joining, and Salary. Below the table are search/filter dropdowns for 'Search by name', 'All Genders', 'All Branches', and 'All Departments', along with an 'Export' button. The table data is as follows:

#	Name	Gender	Date of Birth	Email	Position	Department	Branch	Date of Joining	Salary
1	Christian	male	May 2, 2025	crisnickchristian@gmail.com	Data Engineer	Human Resource Department	Administrative Branch	Apr 11, 2025	500000.00
2	Ellen	female	Apr 8, 2025	ictsales@hallmark.mw	Human Resource Manager	Human Resource Department	Administrative Branch	Apr 17, 2025	500000.00

1. **#:** Sequential numbering of employees in the current view
2. **Name:** Employee's full name
3. **Gender:** Employee's gender (male/female)
4. **Date of Birth:** Employee's date of birth
5. **Email:** Employee's contact email address
6. **Position:** Employee's job title or role
7. **Department:** The department to which the employee belongs
8. **Branch:** The branch where the employee is stationed
9. **Date of Joining:** The date when the employee started working
10. **Salary:** The employee's current salary
11. **Actions:** Interactive buttons for editing or deleting the employee record

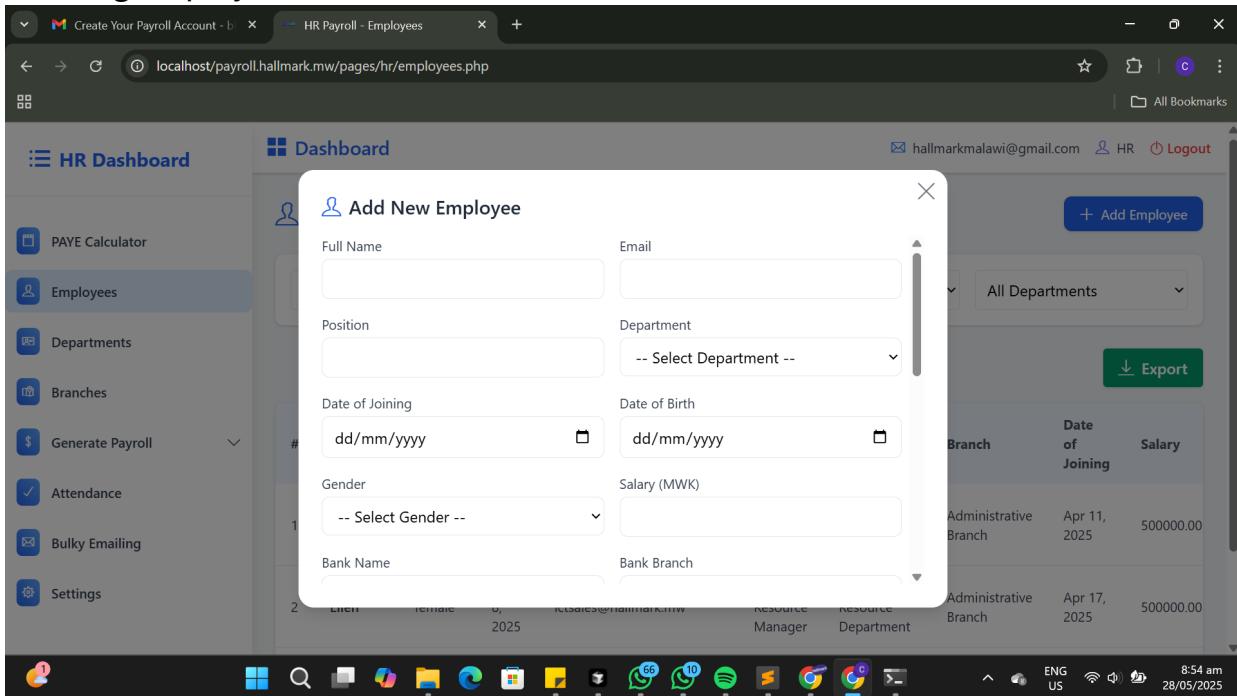
The table provides a paginated view of employees, allowing you to navigate through multiple pages if you have a large number of employees.

Managing Employee Records

Adding a New Employee

To add a new employee to the system:

1. Click the "Add Employee" button in the upper right corner of the Employees page.
2. A modal dialog titled "Add New Employee" will appear with multiple fields for entering employee information.



3. Fill in the required information in each field:

- Full Name: Enter the employee's complete name
- Email: Enter the employee's email address
- Position: Specify the employee's job title or role
- Department: Select the appropriate department from the dropdown menu
- Date of Joining: Use the date picker to select when the employee started
- Date of Birth: Use the date picker to select the employee's birth date
- Gender: Select the appropriate gender from the dropdown menu
- Salary (MWK): Enter the employee's salary amount
- Bank Name: Enter the name of the employee's bank
- Bank Branch: Specify the branch of the employee's bank
- Bank Account Name: Enter the name on the employee's bank account
- Bank Account Number: Enter the employee's bank account number

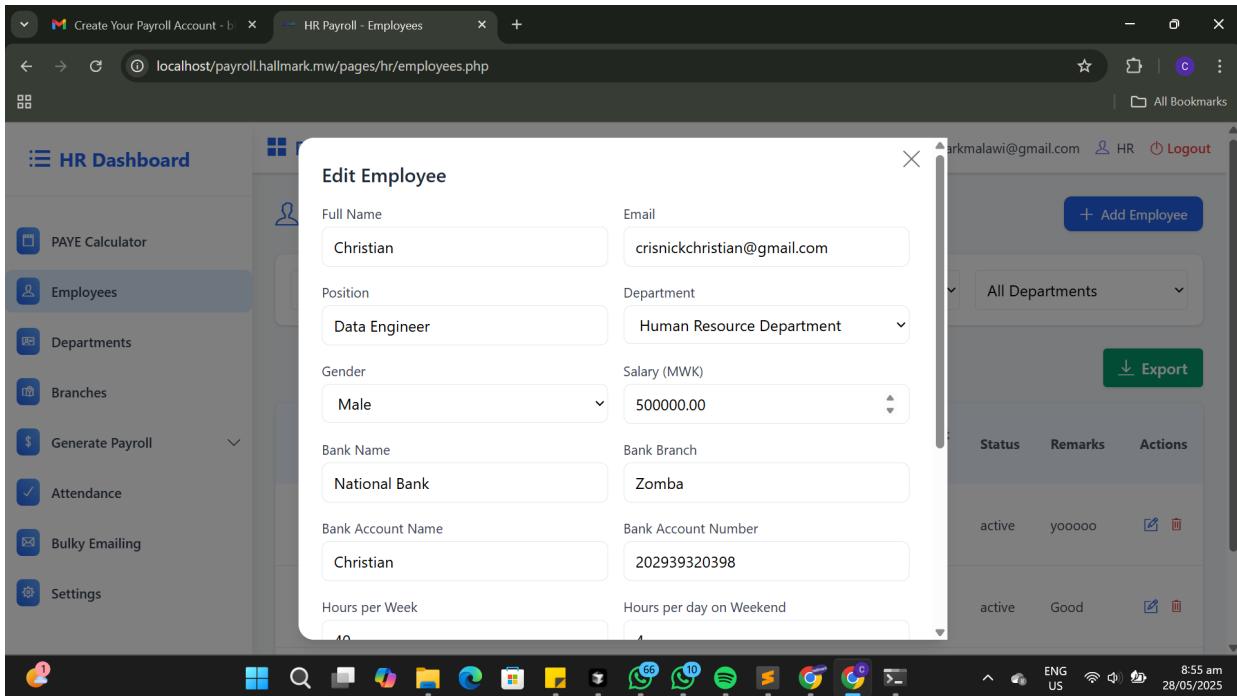
4. After filling in all required information, click the "Add Employee" button at the bottom of the dialog to save the new employee record.

The system will validate the information and, if all required fields are properly completed, add the new employee to the database. The employee list will update to include the new entry.

Editing Employee Information

To edit an existing employee's information:

1. Locate the employee record you wish to edit in the employee list table.
2. In the "Actions" column for that employee, click the edit icon (pencil symbol).
3. An "Edit Employee" dialog will appear, pre-populated with the employee's current information.



4. Modify any fields that require updating.
5. Click the "Update Employee" button to save your changes.

The system will validate the updated information and, if all required fields are properly completed, update the employee record in the database. The employee list will reflect the changes immediately.

Deleting an Employee

To remove an employee from the system:

1. Locate the employee record you wish to delete in the employee list table.
2. In the "Actions" column for that employee, click the delete icon (trash bin symbol).
3. A confirmation dialog will appear, asking you to confirm the deletion.
4. Click "Yes" to proceed with the deletion or "No" to cancel.

If you confirm the deletion, the employee record will be removed from the system. It's important to note that deleting an employee may have implications for historical payroll records and reports, so this action should be taken with caution.

Viewing Detailed Employee Information

The employee list table provides a summary view of key employee information. To view more detailed information about a specific employee, you can click on their name or use the edit function to see all stored data without making changes.

The screenshot shows a web-based HR payroll system. On the left, a sidebar menu includes 'HR Dashboard', 'PAYE Calculator', 'Employees' (which is selected and highlighted in blue), 'Departments', 'Branches', 'Generate Payroll', 'Attendance', 'Bulky Emailing', and 'Settings'. The main content area is titled 'Employees' and displays a table of employee data. The table columns are: Bank Account Name, Bank Account Number, Hourly Rate, Hours Per Weekday, Hours Per Weekend, Hours/Week, Employment Period, Status, Remarks, and Actions. Two rows of data are shown:

Bank Account Name	Bank Account Number	Hourly Rate	Hours Per Weekday	Hours Per Weekend	Hours/Week	Employment Period	Status	Remarks	Actions
Christian	202939320398	2000	8	4	40	1 month	active	yooooo	
Account name	100733672	10000	8	4	40	1 month	active	Good	

At the top right of the main area, there is a 'Logout' button. Below the table, there is a green 'Export' button with a downward arrow icon. The browser address bar shows 'localhost/payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/employees.php'. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with various pinned icons and system status indicators.

Employee Data Security

The Employees module handles sensitive personal and financial information. The system implements several security measures to protect this data:

- 1. Access Control:** Only authorized users with appropriate permissions can access employee information.
- 2. Audit Trails:** The system may log all actions taken within the Employees module, including who viewed, added, edited, or deleted employee records.
- 3. Data Encryption:** Sensitive information, particularly financial details, may be encrypted in the database.

Best Practices for Employee Management

To ensure effective use of the Employees Management module:

1. **Regular Updates:** Keep employee information current by promptly updating records when changes occur.
2. **Consistent Naming:** Use consistent naming conventions for positions, departments, and other categorical information.
3. **Complete Information:** Ensure all required fields are filled in for each employee to avoid issues with payroll processing.
4. **Periodic Review:** Conduct regular audits of employee data to ensure accuracy and completeness.
5. **Backup Export:** Periodically export employee data as a backup measure.

The Employees Management module serves as the foundation for many other functions within the payroll system. Maintaining accurate and up-to-date employee records is essential for effective payroll processing, reporting, and overall human resource management.

Departments Management

Overview

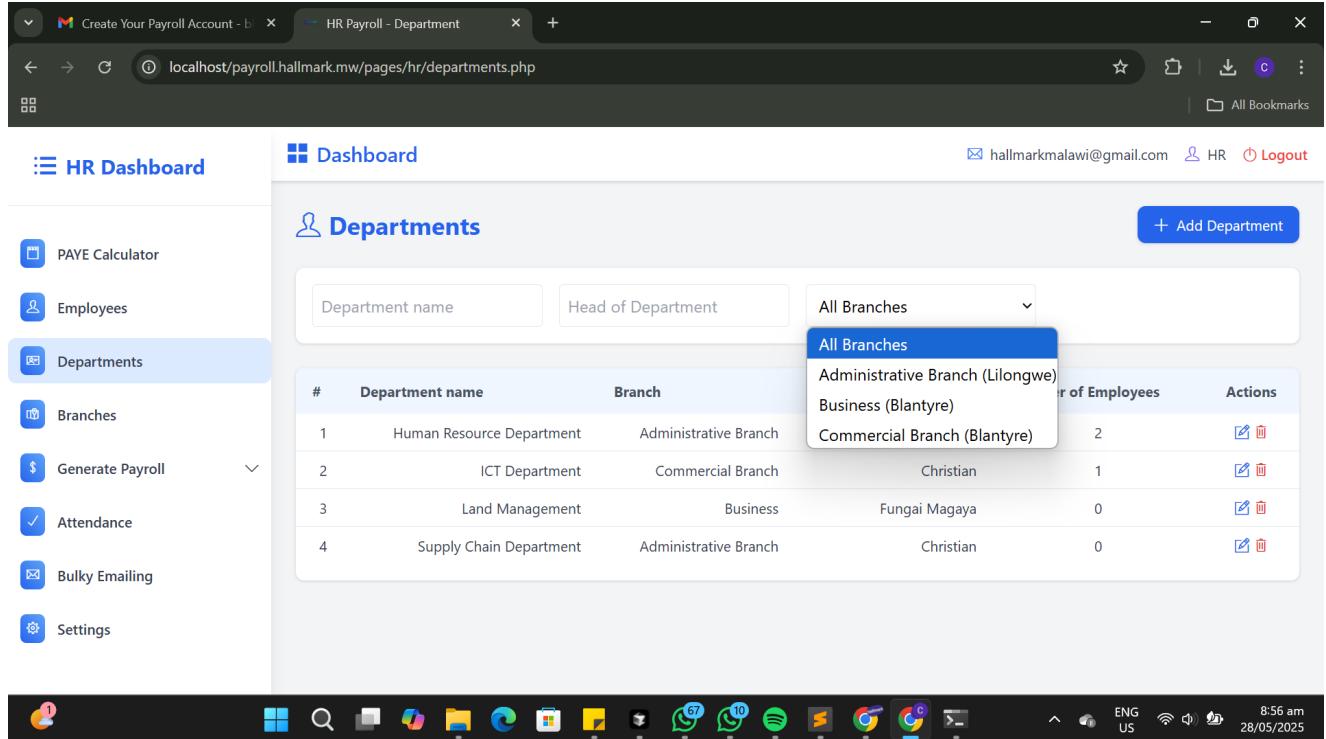
The Departments Management module is an essential component of the payroll system that allows you to organize your workforce into logical organizational units. This module provides tools for creating, viewing, editing, and managing departments within your organization. Proper department management is crucial for organizational structure, reporting hierarchies, and payroll administration.

Accessing the Departments Module

To access the Departments Management module, click on the "Departments" option in the left navigation panel. The icon resembles a document or organizational chart. Upon clicking, you will be directed to the main Departments page where you can view and manage all department records.

Departments Main Interface

The Departments page presents a comprehensive view of your organizational structure with several key components:



The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "HR Payroll - Department". The URL is "localhost/payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/departments.php". The page has a header with "Dashboard" and "Logout" links, and a sidebar with "HR Dashboard" and various menu items like "PAYE Calculator", "Employees", "Departments" (which is selected), "Branches", "Generate Payroll", "Attendance", "Bulky Emailing", and "Settings". The main content area is titled "Departments" and contains a table of department data. A dropdown menu for "All Branches" is open, showing options: "All Branches", "Administrative Branch (Lilongwe)", "Business (Blantyre)", and "Commercial Branch (Blantyre)". The table data is as follows:

#	Department name	Branch	Head of Department	Number of Employees	Actions
1	Human Resource Department	Administrative Branch		2	Edit Delete
2	ICT Department	Commercial Branch	Christian	1	Edit Delete
3	Land Management	Business	Fungai Magaya	0	Edit Delete
4	Supply Chain Department	Administrative Branch	Christian	0	Edit Delete

Page Header

At the top of the page, you'll find the "Departments" title, clearly indicating your current location within the system. On the right side of the header is the "Add Department" button, which allows you to create new department records as needed.

Search and Filter Bar

Below the header is a search and filter bar that helps you quickly locate specific departments:

The screenshot shows the HR Dashboard interface. On the left, a sidebar menu includes options like PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments (which is selected), Branches, Generate Payroll, Attendance, Bulky Emailing, and Settings. The main content area is titled 'Dashboard' and 'Departments'. It features a search bar with 'Department name' and a dropdown for 'All Branches'. Below is a table with columns: #, Department name, Branch, Head of Department, Number of Employees, and Actions. The table contains two rows: '1 ICT Department Commercial Branch Christian 1' and '2 Supply Chain Department Administrative Branch Christian 0'. At the bottom right of the dashboard, there's a toolbar with various icons and system status indicators.

- 1. Department Name:** A text field where you can enter a department name to quickly find specific departments.
- 2. Filter Button:** Allows you to apply the search filter to narrow down the displayed departments.

These search tools are particularly useful when managing a large number of departments, allowing you to quickly find the specific department you need to work with.

Department List Table

The main component of the Departments page is the department list table. This table displays key information about each department in a structured format with the following columns:

- 1. #:** Sequential numbering of departments in the current view
- 2. Department Name:** The name of the department
- 3. Location:** The physical location or branch associated with the department
- 4. Departments:** The number of sub-departments (if applicable)
- 5. Employees:** The number of employees currently assigned to the department
- 6. Actions:** Interactive buttons for editing or deleting the department record

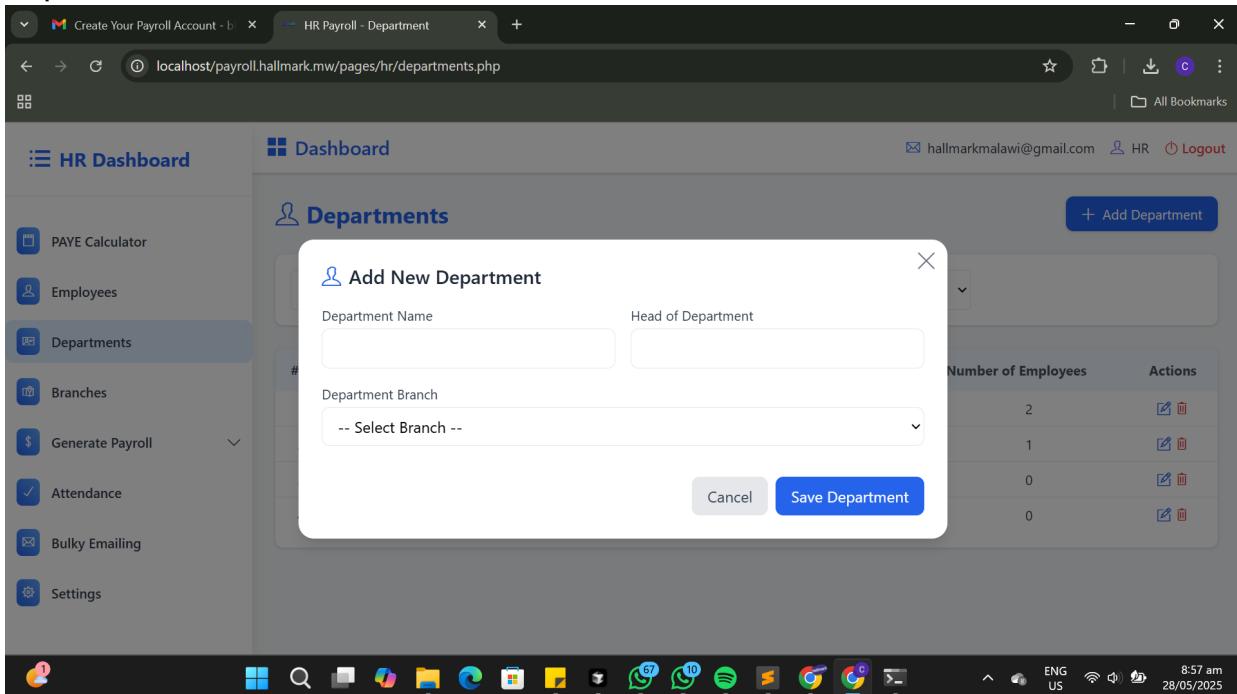
The table provides a clear overview of all departments, making it easy to assess your organizational structure at a glance.

Managing Department Records

Adding a New Department

To add a new department to the system:

1. Click the "Add Department" button in the upper right corner of the Departments page.
2. A modal dialog titled "Add Department" will appear with fields for entering department information.



3. Fill in the required information:

- Department Name: Enter the name of the new department
- Location: Specify the location or branch where this department operates

4. After filling in all required information, click the "Add Department" button at the bottom of the dialog to save the new department record.

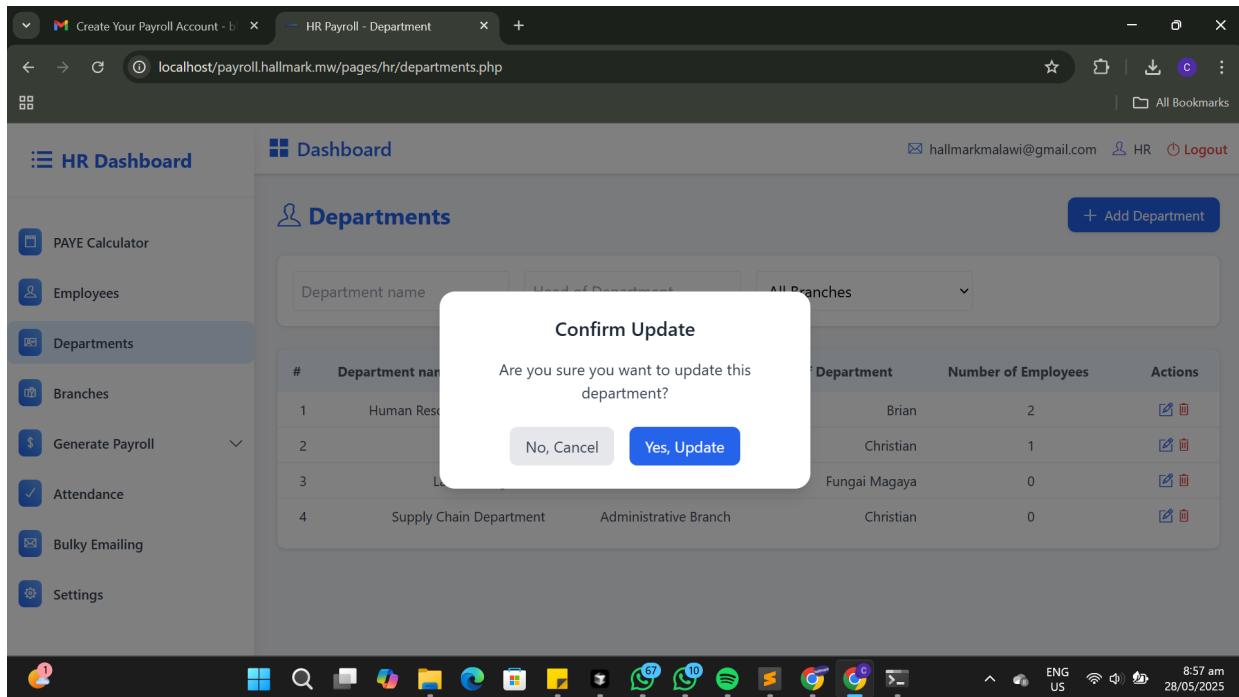
The system will validate the information and, if all required fields are properly completed, add the new department to the database. The department list will update to include the new entry.

Editing Department Information

To edit an existing department's information:

1. Locate the department record you wish to edit in the department list table.
2. In the "Actions" column for that department, click the edit icon (pencil symbol).

3. An "Edit Department" dialog will appear, pre-populated with the department's current information.



4. Modify any fields that require updating:

- Department Name: Update the department name if needed
- Location: Change the location if the department has moved or been reassigned

5. Click the "Update Department" button to save your changes.

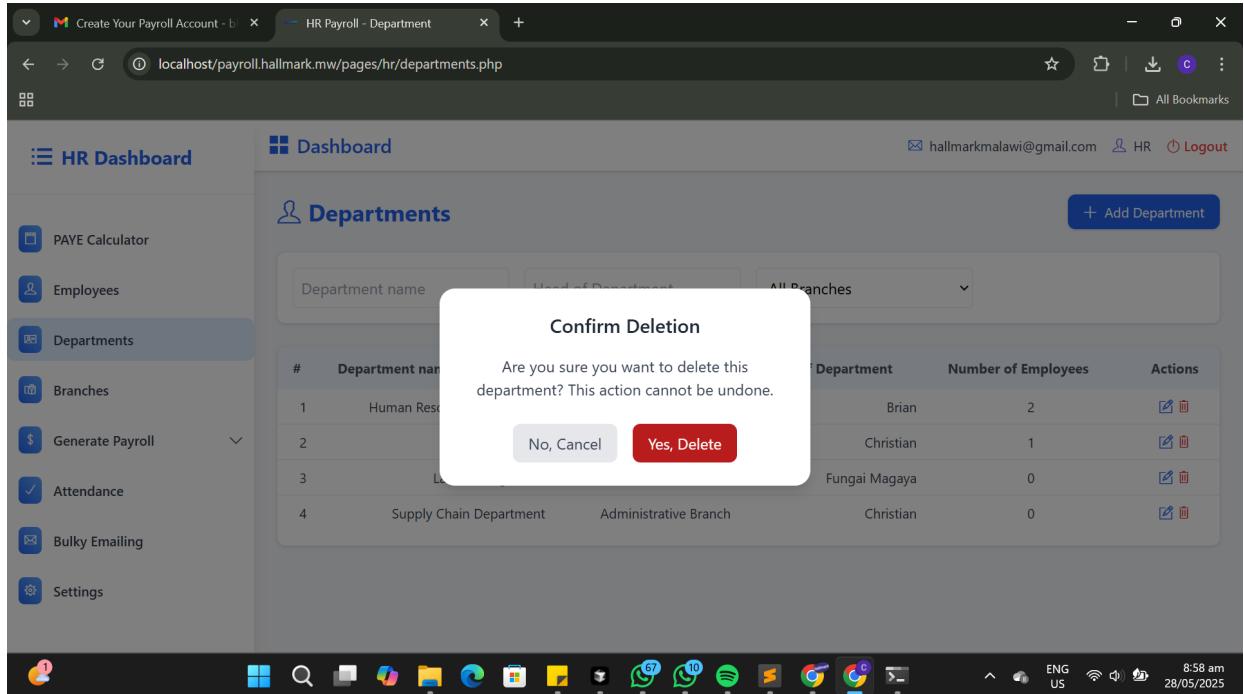
The system will validate the updated information and, if all required fields are properly completed, update the department record in the database. The department list will reflect the changes immediately.

Deleting a Department

To remove a department from the system:

1. Locate the department record you wish to delete in the department list table.
2. In the "Actions" column for that department, click the delete icon (trash bin symbol).

3. A confirmation dialog titled "Confirm Delete" will appear, asking you to confirm the deletion with the message "Are you sure you want to delete this department?"



4. Click "Yes, Delete" to proceed with the deletion or "No, Cancel" to cancel the operation.

If you confirm the deletion, the department record will be removed from the system. It's important to note that deleting a department may have implications for employees assigned to that department and for historical payroll records and reports. The system may prevent deletion of departments that have employees assigned to them, or it may require reassignment of those employees before deletion is allowed.

Department Filtering

The Departments page includes filtering capabilities to help you manage large numbers of departments:

1. Enter a search term in the department name field.
2. Click the "Filter" button to apply the search.

3. The department list will update to show only departments matching your search criteria.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled 'HR Payroll - Department'. The URL is 'localhost/payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/departments.php'. The left sidebar has a 'Departments' option selected. The main content area is titled 'Departments' and shows a table with one row. The table columns are '#', 'Department name', 'Branch', 'Head of Department', 'Number of Employees', and 'Actions'. The single row contains: #1, Department name 'ICT Department', Branch 'Commercial Branch', Head of Department 'Christian', Number of Employees '1', and Actions with edit and delete icons. There is also a search bar at the top with 'ICT' typed in, and dropdown filters for 'Head of Department' and 'All Branches'.

4. To clear the filter and view all departments again, clear the search field and click the "Filter" button.

Relationship with Other Modules

The Departments module is closely integrated with other modules in the payroll system:

- 1. Employees Module:** Departments are assigned to employees as part of their employment information. Changes to department structures may affect employee records.
- 2. Payroll Generation:** Department information is often used in payroll reports for organizational breakdowns of salary expenses.
- 3. Branches Module:** Departments are typically associated with specific branches or locations, creating a hierarchical organizational structure.

Best Practices for Department Management

To ensure effective use of the Departments Management module:

- 1. Consistent Naming:** Use clear, consistent naming conventions for departments to avoid confusion.
- 2. Regular Updates:** Keep department information current, especially when organizational restructuring occurs.

- 3. Hierarchical Structure:** Consider implementing a logical hierarchical structure if your organization has main departments and sub-departments.
- 4. Employee Assignment:** Ensure all employees are assigned to the appropriate departments to maintain accurate organizational records.
- 5. Department Codes:** Consider establishing department codes or abbreviations for easy reference in reports and communications.

The Departments Management module plays a crucial role in organizing your workforce and maintaining clear organizational structures. Proper management of departments contributes to efficient payroll administration, accurate reporting, and effective human resource management.

Branches Management

Overview

The Branches Management module is a vital component of the payroll system that enables you to manage multiple physical locations or operational units within your organization. This module provides comprehensive tools for creating, viewing, editing, and managing branch information, which is essential for organizations with operations spread across different geographical areas or functional divisions.

Accessing the Branches Module

To access the Branches Management module, click on the "Branches" option in the left navigation panel. The icon resembles a building or location marker. Upon clicking, you will be directed to the main Branches page where you can view and manage all branch records.

Branches Main Interface

The Branches page presents a comprehensive view of your organizational locations with several key components:

The screenshot shows the HR Dashboard interface. On the left, a sidebar menu includes options like PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches (which is highlighted), Generate Payroll, Attendance, Bulky Emailing, and Settings. The main content area is titled "Dashboard" and "Branches". It features a search bar for "Branch name" and "Branch location". Below is a table with columns: #, Branch Name, Location, Departments, Employees, and Actions. The table contains three rows of data:

#	Branch Name	Location	Departments	Employees	Actions
1	Administrative Branch	Lilongwe	2	2	
2	Business	Blantyre	1	0	
3	Commercial Branch	Blantyre	1	1	

The system status bar at the bottom shows various icons and the date/time: ENG US 28/05/2025 9:00 am.

Page Header

At the top of the page, you'll find the "Branches" title, clearly indicating your current location within the system. On the right side of the header is the "Add Branch" button, which allows you to create new branch records as needed.

Search and Filter Bar

Below the header is a search and filter section that helps you quickly locate specific branches:

- 1. Branch Name:** A text field where you can enter a branch name to find specific branches.
- 2. Branch Location:** A text field where you can enter location information to filter branches by their physical location.

These search fields are particularly useful when managing a large number of branches, allowing you to quickly find the specific branch you need to work with.

Branch List Table

The main component of the Branches page is the branch list table. This table displays key information about each branch in a structured format with the following columns:

- 1. #:** Sequential numbering of branches in the current view
- 2. Branch Name:** The name of the branch
- 3. Location:** The physical location or address of the branch

4. **Departments:** The number of departments operating within this branch
5. **Employees:** The number of employees currently assigned to this branch
6. **Actions:** Interactive buttons for editing or deleting the branch record

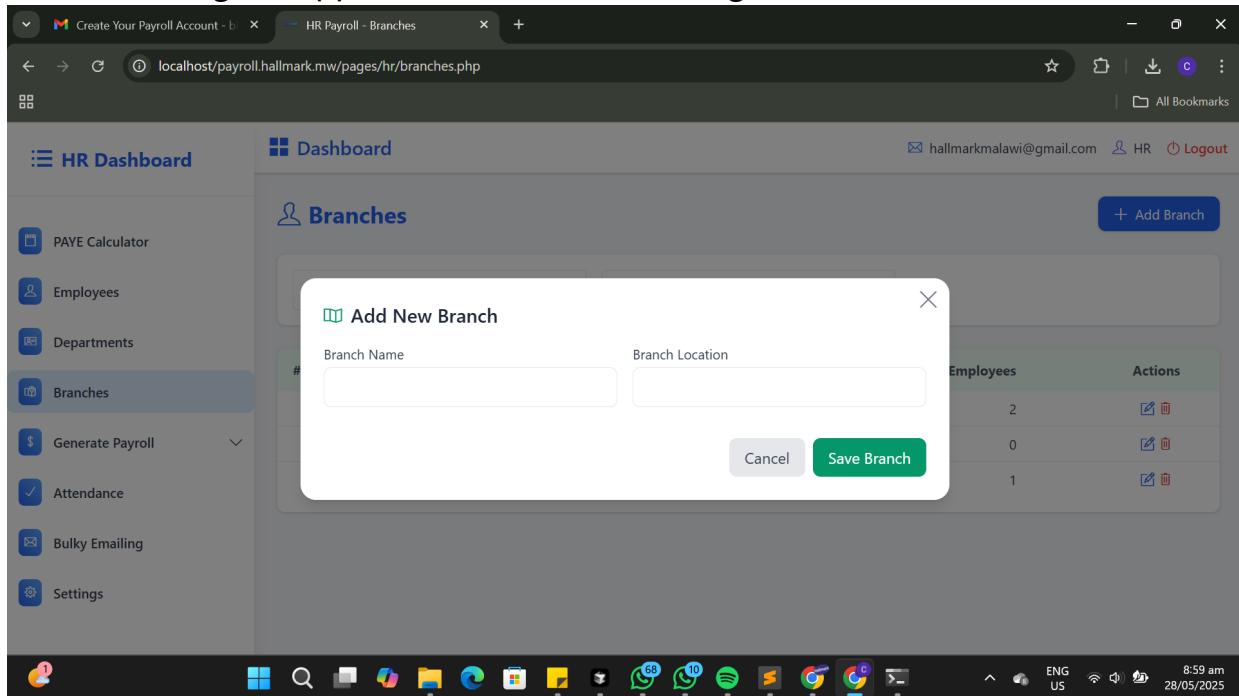
The table provides a clear overview of all branches, making it easy to assess your organizational structure and distribution at a glance.

Managing Branch Records

Adding a New Branch

To add a new branch to the system:

1. Click the "Add Branch" button in the upper right corner of the Branches page.
2. A modal dialog will appear with fields for entering branch information.



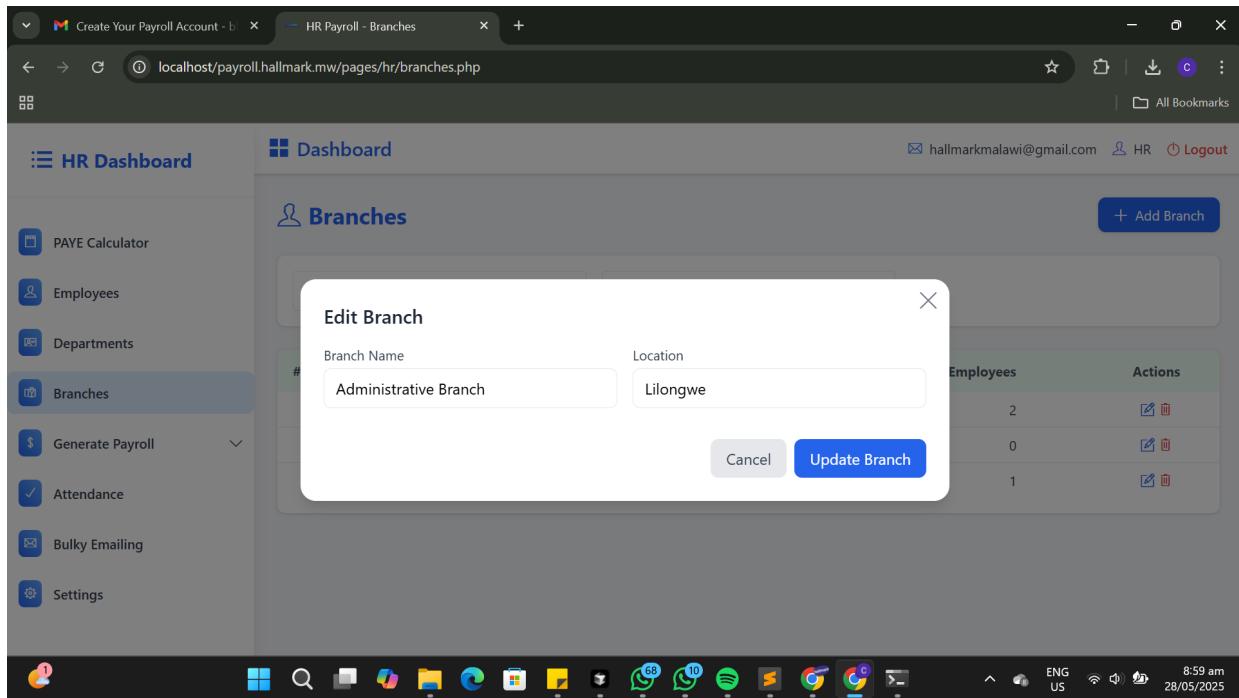
3. Fill in the required information:
 - Branch Name: Enter the name of the new branch
 - Location: Specify the physical location or address of the branch
4. After filling in all required information, click the "Add Branch" button at the bottom of the dialog to save the new branch record.

The system will validate the information and, if all required fields are properly completed, add the new branch to the database. The branch list will update to include the new entry.

Editing Branch Information

To edit an existing branch's information:

1. Locate the branch record you wish to edit in the branch list table.
2. In the "Actions" column for that branch, click the edit icon (pencil symbol).
3. An "Edit Branch" dialog will appear, pre-populated with the branch's current information.



4. Modify any fields that require updating:
 - Branch Name: Update the branch name if needed
 - Location: Change the location information if the branch has moved or if corrections are needed
5. Click the "Update Branch" button to save your changes.

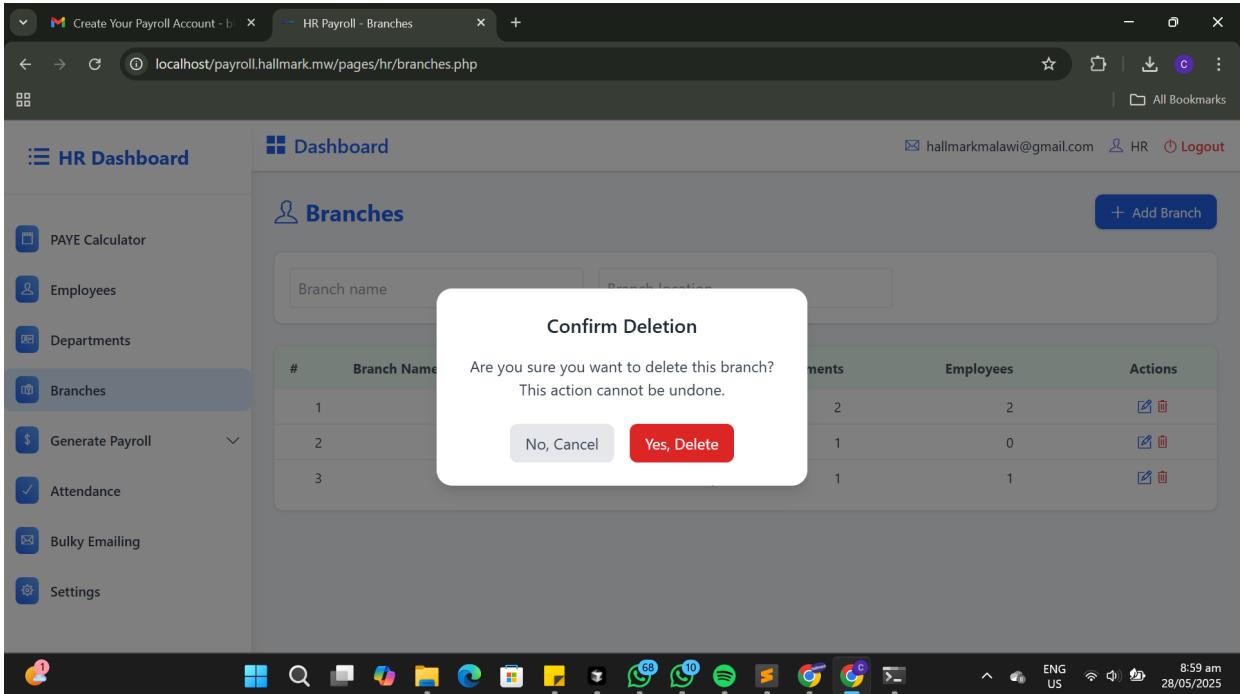
The system will validate the updated information and, if all required fields are properly completed, update the branch record in the database. The branch list will reflect the changes immediately.

Deleting a Branch

To remove a branch from the system:

1. Locate the branch record you wish to delete in the branch list table.
2. In the "Actions" column for that branch, click the delete icon (trash bin symbol).

3. A confirmation dialog titled "Confirm Delete" will appear, asking you to confirm the deletion with the message "Are you sure you want to delete this branch?"

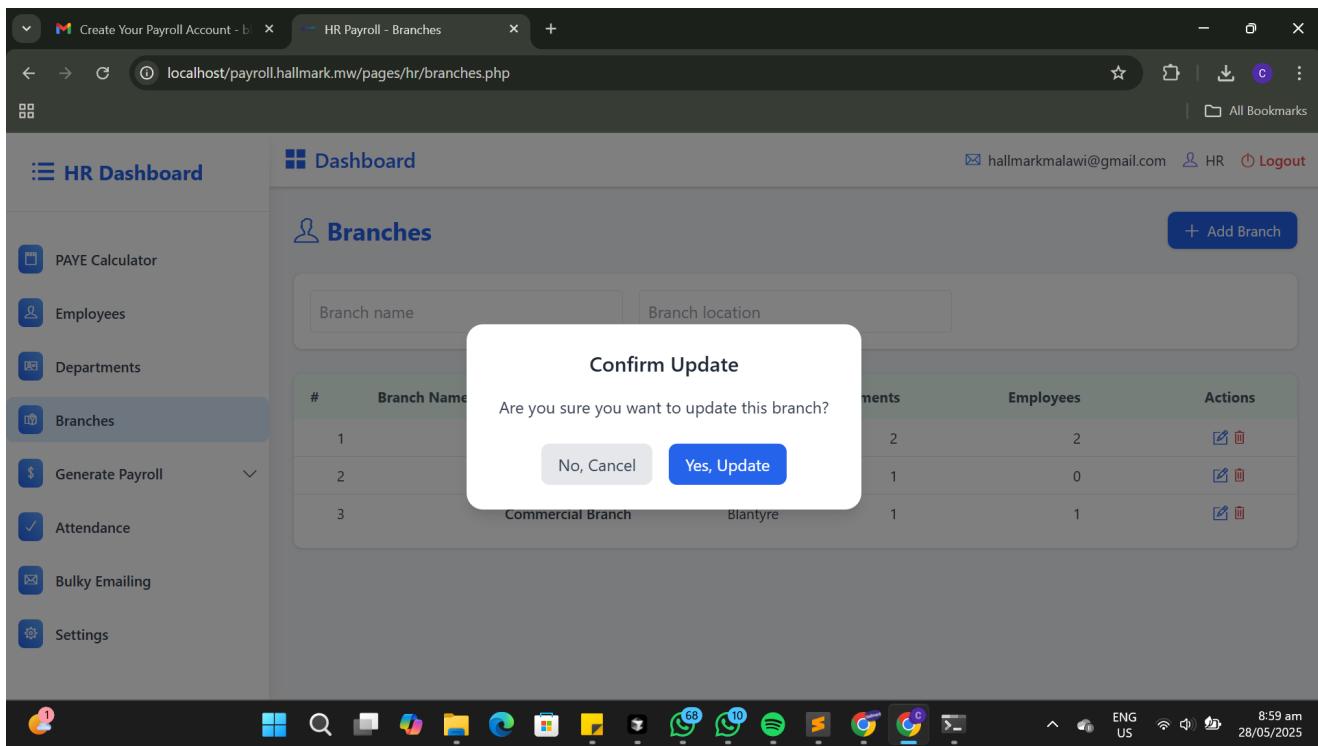


4. Click "Yes, Delete" to proceed with the deletion or "No, Cancel" to cancel the operation.

If you confirm the deletion, the branch record will be removed from the system. It's important to note that deleting a branch may have implications for employees and departments assigned to that branch, as well as for historical payroll records and reports. The system may prevent deletion of branches that have employees or departments assigned to them, or it may require reassignment of those entities before deletion is allowed.

Updating Branch Information

When updating branch information, you may encounter a confirmation dialog asking "Are you sure you want to update this branch?" This is a safeguard to prevent accidental changes to branch information. Click "Yes, Update" to confirm your changes or "No, Cancel" to keep the original information.



Relationship with Other Modules

The Branches module is closely integrated with other modules in the payroll system:

- 1. Employees Module:** Branches are assigned to employees as part of their employment information. Changes to branch structures may affect employee records.
- 2. Departments Module:** Departments are typically associated with specific branches, creating a hierarchical organizational structure.
- 3. Payroll Generation:** Branch information is often used in payroll reports for geographical or operational breakdowns of salary expenses.

Best Practices for Branch Management

To ensure effective use of the Branches Management module:

- 1. Consistent Naming:** Use clear, consistent naming conventions for branches to avoid confusion.
- 2. Complete Location Information:** Provide detailed and accurate location information for each branch to facilitate proper identification and communication.
- 3. Regular Updates:** Keep branch information current, especially when relocations or organizational restructuring occurs.

- 4. Branch Codes:** Consider establishing branch codes or abbreviations for easy reference in reports and communications.
- 5. Hierarchical Structure:** If your organization has main branches and sub-branches, consider implementing a logical hierarchical structure in your naming and organization.

The Branches Management module plays a crucial role in organizing your workforce across different locations and maintaining clear organizational structures. Proper management of branches contributes to efficient payroll administration, accurate reporting, and effective human resource management across multiple locations.

Payroll Generation

Overview

The Payroll Generation module is the core component of the payroll system, designed to streamline and automate the complex process of calculating, reviewing, and finalizing employee compensation. This comprehensive module is divided into four key sub-modules: Payrun, Drafts, History, and Reports, each serving a specific function in the payroll processing workflow. Understanding how to effectively use these features is essential for accurate and efficient payroll management.

Accessing the Payroll Generation Module

To access the Payroll Generation module, click on the "Generate Payroll" option in the left navigation panel. The icon resembles a document with a currency symbol. Upon clicking, you'll notice that this is a dropdown menu with four sub-options: Payrun, Drafts, History, and Reports. Select the appropriate sub-module based on the task you need to perform.

The screenshot shows a web-based HR payroll system. The top navigation bar includes tabs for 'Create Your Payroll Account' and 'HR Payroll - Branches'. The URL in the address bar is 'localhost/payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/branches.php'. On the right side of the header are user details ('hallmarkmalawi@gmail.com', 'HR') and a 'Logout' button. The main content area has a left sidebar titled 'HR Dashboard' with icons for PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches (which is selected), Generate Payroll (with sub-options Payrun, Drafts, History, Reports), and Attendance. The main panel is titled 'Dashboard' and 'Branches'. It features search fields for 'Branch name' and 'Branch location'. Below is a table listing three branches:

#	Branch Name	Location	Departments	Employees	Actions
1	Administrative Branch	Lilongwe	2	2	
2	Business	Blantyre	1	0	
3	Commercial Branch	Blantyre	1	1	

The bottom of the screen shows a taskbar with various application icons and system status indicators like battery level, signal strength, and the date/time (28/05/2025).

Payrun Sub-Module

The Payrun sub-module is where the initial payroll generation process begins. This feature allows you to select employees, apply bulk edits to overtime hours, additions, and deductions, and generate a payroll draft.

Payrun Interface

When you access the Payrun page, you'll see several key components:

The screenshot shows the 'Branches' section of the HR Payroll application. On the left, a sidebar menu includes 'PAYE Calculator', 'Employees', 'Departments', 'Branches' (selected), 'Generate Payroll' (with 'Payrun' sub-item), 'Drafts', 'History', 'Reports', 'Attendance', 'Bulky Emailing', and 'Settings'. The main area has a 'Dashboard' header and a 'Branches' section. It features a search bar for 'Branch name' and 'Branch location'. A table lists three branches: 1. Administrative Branch (Lilongwe, 2 employees), 2. Business (Blantyre, 1 employee), and 3. Commercial Branch (Blantyre, 1 employee). A blue button '+ Add Branch' is at the top right. The bottom status bar shows the URL 'localhost/payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/branches.php' and system information like ENG US, 9:00 am, and 28/05/2025.

1. Filtering Section: At the top of the page, you'll find filtering options that allow you to narrow down the employees for whom you want to generate payroll. These filters may include department, branch, employment status, and date range.

The screenshot shows the 'Payroll Drafting' section of the HR Payroll application. The sidebar is identical to the previous screenshot. The main area has a 'Payroll Drafting' header. It includes a 'Select Branch' dropdown, a 'Select Department' dropdown, and a 'Select Gender' dropdown. Below these are fields for 'Min Salary' and 'Max Salary'. A grid of buttons represents different payroll components: Gross Pay (MWK 0.00), Net Pay (MWK 0.00), PAYE (MWK 0.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 0.00), Additions (MWK 0.00), Deductions (MWK 0.00), Welfare Fund (MWK 0.00), Weekend OT (MWK 0.00), Weekday OT (MWK 0.00), and Total OT (MWK 0.00). Buttons for 'Bulk Edit Hours', 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions', and 'Generate Payroll' are at the bottom. The bottom status bar shows the URL 'https://payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/drafts.php' and system information like ENG US, 9:09 am, and 28/05/2025.

2. Employee Selection: Below the filters, you'll see a list of employees matching your filter criteria. Each employee entry includes checkboxes that allow you to select individual employees or use the "Select All" option at the top to choose everyone

in the current view.

The screenshot shows the HR Payroll Dashboard with the "Payroll Drafts" section selected. On the left sidebar, under the "Generate Payroll" dropdown, the "Drafts" option is highlighted. The main area displays various payroll summary cards and three buttons at the bottom: "Bulk Edit Hours", "Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions", and "Authorize Payroll".

3. Bulk Edit Options: Once you've selected employees, you'll have access to bulk edit functions that allow you to apply the same changes to multiple employees simultaneously. These typically include:

- Overtime Hours: Set standard overtime hours for selected employees

The screenshot shows the "Payroll Drafts" section with the "Select Date and Time Made" dropdown open, displaying a list of recent entries. The "Bulk Edit Hours" button is visible at the bottom of the page.

- Additions: Apply bonuses, allowances, or other additions to compensation

The screenshot shows the 'Payroll Drafts' section of the HR Payroll system. At the top, there are dropdown menus for 'Select Month & Year' (set to May 2025) and 'Select Date and Time Made'. Below these are several summary boxes:

- Total Gross Pay: MWK 0.00
- Total Net Pay: MWK 0.00
- Total PAYE: MWK 0.00
- Total Pension (5%): MWK 0.00
- Total Additions: MWK 0.00
- Total Deductions: MWK 0.00
- Total Welfare Fund: MWK 0.00
- Total Weekend OT Pay: MWK 0.00
- Total Weekday OT Pay: MWK 0.00
- Total Overtime Pay: MWK 0.00

At the bottom of the page are three buttons: 'Bulk Edit Hours', 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions', and 'Authorize Payroll'. The browser taskbar at the bottom shows various open tabs and system icons.

- Deductions: Apply standard or special deductions across selected employees

The screenshot shows the 'Payrolls' section of the HR Payroll system. A confirmation dialog box is centered on the screen, asking 'Are you sure you want to generate the payroll? This will create draft payslips for all selected employees.' It has 'Cancel' and 'Generate' buttons. In the background, a table lists employees with their details and calculated pay components. The table includes columns for Name, Department, Position, Salary, PAYE, Net Salary, Pension, Additions, Deductions, and Welfare Fund.

Name	Department	Position	Salary	PAYE	Net Salary	Pension	Additions	Deductions	Welfare Fund
Christian	Human Resource Department	Data Engineer	MWK 500000.00	MWK 85750.00	MWK 425250.00	MWK 87000.00	MWK 100000.00	MWK 20000.00	MWK 20
Ellen	Human Resource Department	Human Resource Manager	MWK 500000.00	MWK 85750.00	MWK 825250.00	MWK 87000.00	MWK 100000.00	MWK 20000.00	MWK 20

The browser taskbar at the bottom shows various open tabs and system icons.

You can choose which bulk edit action to perform from a dropdown menu.

The screenshot shows a web-based HR payroll system. At the top, there are several tabs: 'Create Your Payroll Account - b', 'HR Payroll - Payrolls', 'HR Payroll Dashboard', and 'HR Payroll - Payrolls'. The main header includes the URL 'payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/payrun.php' and user information 'hallmarkmalawi@gmail.com', 'HR', and 'Logout'. On the left, a sidebar titled 'HR Dashboard' lists various options: PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll (with sub-options Payrun, Drafts, History, Reports), and Attendance. The central area is titled 'Dashboard' and contains summary boxes for Gross Pay (MWK 2200000.00), Net Pay (MWK 2442600.00), PAYE (MWK 435400.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 366000.00), Additions (MWK 300000.00), Deductions (MWK 60000.00), Overtime (End OT MWK 20000.00, Weekday OT MWK 63000.00, Total OT MWK 105000.00), and a progress bar for 'Processing Payslips & Report...'.

Name	Department	Position	Salary	PAYE	Net Salary	Pension	Additions	Deductions	W.F.U
Christian	Human Resource Department	Data Engineer	MWK 500000.00	MWK 85750.00	MWK 425250.00	MWK 87000.00	MWK 100000.00	MWK 20000.00	MWK 20
Ellen	Human Resource	Human Resource	MWK 68100.00	MWK 68100.00	MWK 68100.00	MWK 68100.00	MWK 68100.00	MWK 68100.00	MWK 68100.00

4. Individual Edit Options: For each employee, you'll also have the option to make individual adjustments to hours, additions, and deductions, allowing for personalized payroll processing. These are typically accessed via icons in the employee row.

The screenshot shows the HR Payroll Dashboard interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll (with sub-options Payrun, Drafts, History, Reports), and Attendance. The main dashboard area has dropdowns for Select Branch, Select Department, and Select Gender, along with fields for Min Salary and Max Salary. A central box displays various payroll calculations like Gross Pay, Net Pay, PAYE, Pension, and Additions. Below this is a table of employee details. A modal window titled "Bulk Edit Additions & Deductions" is open, containing input fields for "Additions (MWK)" (set to 100000) and "Deductions (MWK)" (set to 20000), with "Cancel" and "Apply" buttons.

Clicking the icons opens specific dialogs:

- Individual Overtime Edit:

This screenshot is similar to the previous one but with a different focus. The "Generate Payroll" option in the sidebar is highlighted. The main dashboard area now features a "Bulk Edit Hours" button instead of the "Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions" button. The table of employee details remains the same, showing Christian from the Human Resource Department.

- Individual Additions/Deductions Edit:

The screenshot shows the HR Payroll - Payrolls interface. On the left, a sidebar menu includes options like PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, and a dropdown for Generate Payroll (with Payrun selected). The main area is titled 'Dashboard' and shows summary statistics: Gross Pay (MWK 2200000.00), Net Pay (MWK 2442600.00), PAYE (MWK 435400.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 366000.00), Additions (MWK 300000.00), Deductions (MWK 60000.00), Welfare Fund (MWK 6000.00), Weekend OT (MWK 420000.00), Weekday OT (MWK 630000.00), and Total OT (MWK 1050000.00). Below these are three buttons: Bulk Edit Hours, Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions, and Generate Payroll. A table lists employees with their names, departments, positions, salaries, and calculated payroll components. The table includes columns for Name, Department, Position, Salary, PAYE, Net Salary, Pension, Additions, Deductions, and Welfare Fund. Two employees are listed: Christian and Ellen, both from the Human Resource Department.

Name	Department	Position	Salary	PAYE	Net Salary	Pension	Additions	Deductions	Welfare Fund
Christian	Human Resource Department	Data Engineer	MWK 500000.00	MWK 85750.00	MWK 425250.00	MWK 87000.00	MWK 100000.00	MWK 20000.00	MWK 20
Ellen	Human Resource Department	Human Resource Manager	MWK 500000.00	MWK 85750.00	MWK 825250.00	MWK 87000.00	MWK 100000.00	MWK 20000.00	MWK 20

5. Generate Payroll Button: After making all necessary adjustments, a prominent "Generate Payroll" button allows you to create a payroll draft based on your selections and edits.

Using the Payrun Feature

To generate a payroll using the Payrun feature:

1. Apply appropriate filters to select the group of employees for whom you want to generate payroll.
2. Select the employees by checking the boxes next to their names, or use the "Select All" option if appropriate.
3. If needed, apply bulk edits to overtime hours, additions, or deductions by using the bulk edit functions.
4. Review each employee's details and make any individual adjustments as necessary.
5. Click the "Generate Payroll" button to create a draft payroll based on your selections and edits.
6. The system will process your request and create a draft payroll, which will then be available in the Drafts sub-module for further review and finalization. A success

message confirms the draft generation.

The screenshot shows a web-based HR payroll system interface. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Create Your Payroll Account - b', 'HR Payroll - Payrolls', and 'HR Payroll Dashboard'. The current page is 'HR Payroll - Payroll Drafts'. The left sidebar is titled 'HR Dashboard' and includes links for PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll (with sub-options Payrun and Drafts selected), History, Reports, and Attendance. The main content area is titled 'Payroll Drafts' and features a section for selecting 'Month & Year' and 'Date and Time Made'. Below this are several summary boxes: 'Total Gross Pay' (MWK 0.00), 'Total Net Pay' (MWK 0.00), 'Total PAYE' (MWK 0.00), 'Total Pension (5%)' (MWK 0.00), 'Total Additions' (MWK 0.00), 'Total Deductions' (MWK 0.00), 'Total Welfare Fund' (MWK 0.00), 'Total Weekend OT Pay' (MWK 0.00), 'Total Weekday OT Pay' (MWK 0.00), and 'Total Overtime Pay' (MWK 0.00). At the bottom are three buttons: 'Bulk Edit Hours' (green), 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions' (purple), and 'Authorize Payroll' (blue). The taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the system date/time.

Drafts Sub-Module

The Drafts sub-module is where you review, refine, and finalize payroll drafts before they become official payroll summaries. This intermediate step allows for thorough verification and adjustment before payroll is officially processed.

Drafts Interface

When you access the Drafts page, you'll see several key components:

The screenshot shows the HR Payroll Dashboard with the 'Payroll Drafts' section selected. A modal window in the center says 'Loading Payroll Data...'. Below the modal, there are several summary cards with payroll data:

- Total Gross Pay: MWK 2200000.00
- Total PAYE: MWK 435400.00
- Total Pension (5%): MWK 366000.00
- Total Additions: MWK 300000.00
- Total Deductions: MWK 60000.00
- Total Welfare Fund: MWK 6000.00
- Total Weekend OT Pay: MWK 420000.00
- Total Weekday OT Pay: MWK 630000.00
- Total Overtime Pay: MWK 1050000.00

At the bottom, there are buttons for 'Bulk Edit Hours', 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions', and 'Authorize Payroll'.

1. Month Selection: A dropdown or date picker that allows you to select the month for which you want to view drafts.

The screenshot shows the HR Payroll Dashboard with the 'Payroll Drafts' section selected. A modal window in the center says 'Loading Payroll Data...'. Below the modal, there are several summary cards with payroll data:

- Total Deductions: MWK 60000.00
- Total Welfare Fund: MWK 6000.00
- Total Weekend OT Pay: MWK 420000.00
- Total Weekday OT Pay: MWK 630000.00
- Total Overtime Pay: MWK 1050000.00

Below the cards, there is a table with columns: Name, Department, Position, Gross Salary, PAYE, Net Salary, Pension, Additions, and Deductions. The table contains three rows of data for employees Christian, Ellen, and Pledge.

	Name	Department	Position	Gross Salary	PAYE	Net Salary	Pension	Additions	Deductions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Christian	Human Resource Department	Data Engineer	MWK 500000.00	MWK 68750.00	MWK 454250.00	MWK 75000.00	100000.0	20000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ellen	Human Resource Department	Human Resource Manager	MWK 500000.00	MWK 68750.00	MWK 854250.00	MWK 75000.00	100000.0	20000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pledge	ICT Department	ICT Manager	MWK 1200000.00	MWK 243500.00	MWK 1224500.00	MWK 180000.00	100000.0	20000.00

2. Draft List: A list of available drafts for the selected month, typically showing the draft date, status, and options for further actions.

3. Draft Details: When you select a specific draft, you'll see detailed information about the included employees, their compensation calculations, and any applied additions or deductions.

4. Edit Options: Tools to make final adjustments to the draft before authorization.

The screenshot shows the HR Payroll Dashboard interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with links like PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll (with sub-options Payrun, Drafts, History, Reports), and Attendance. The main area has a dashboard with four summary boxes: Total Deductions (MWK 60000.00), Total Welfare Fund (MWK 6000.00), Total Weekend OT Pay (MWK 420000.00), and Total Weekday OT Pay (MWK 630000.00). Below the dashboard are three buttons: Bulk Edit Hours (green), Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions (purple), and Authorize Payroll (blue). The main table lists employee details:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Department	Position	Gross Salary	PAYE	Net Salary	Pension	Additions	Deductions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christian	Human Resource Department	Data Engineer	MWK 500000.00	MWK 68750.00	MWK 454250.00	MWK 75000.00	100000.0	20000.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ellen	Human Resource Department	Human Resource Manager	MWK 500000.00	MWK 68750.00	MWK 854250.00	MWK 75000.00	100000.0	20000.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pledge	ICT Department	ICT Manager	MWK 1200000.00	MWK 243500.00	MWK 1224500.00	MWK 180000.00	100000.0	20000.00

5. Authorize Button: A button to finalize the draft and convert it to an official payroll summary.

Using the Drafts Feature

To work with payroll drafts:

1. Select the appropriate month to view available drafts.
2. Click on a specific draft to view its details.
3. Review all calculations, additions, and deductions for accuracy.
4. Make any necessary final adjustments to individual employee records within the draft using the edit options.

5. When satisfied with the accuracy and completeness of the draft, click the "Authorize" button to finalize it as an official payroll summary.

The screenshot shows the 'Payroll Drafts' section of the HR Payroll system. A central modal window displays a circular loading icon and the text 'Loading Payroll Data...'. Below the modal, there are several summary cards: 'Total Gross Pay MWK 0.00', 'Total PAYE MWK 0.00', 'Total Pension (5%) MWK 0.00', 'Total Additions MWK 0.00', 'Total Welfare Fund MWK 0.00', 'Total Weekend OT Pay MWK 0.00', 'Total Weekday OT Pay MWK 0.00', and 'Total Overtime Pay MWK 0.00'. At the bottom of the page are buttons for 'Bulk Edit Hours', 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions', and 'Authorize Payroll'. The date range selected is 'May 2025' from '28 May 2025, 12:38:33 PM'.

6. Note that the system will prevent you from authorizing a new payroll summary if one already exists for the same period, displaying an error message in such cases.

The screenshot shows the 'Payroll Drafts' section of the HR Payroll system. The interface is identical to the previous one, but the modal window now displays an error message: 'An error occurred while processing your request. Please try again later.' This indicates that an attempt was made to authorize a payroll summary that already exists for the specified date range.

History Sub-Module

The History sub-module provides access to past payrolls and individual payslips, serving as a comprehensive archive of all processed payroll information.

History Interface

When you access the History page, you'll see several key components:

The screenshot shows the HR Dashboard interface. A modal window titled "Bulk Edit Overtime Hours" is open, prompting for "Weekend Hours" (10) and "Weekday Hours" (20). Below the modal is a table listing employees Christian and Ellen with their respective details like department, position, and pay information. At the top right, there are buttons for "Edit Additions/Deductions" and "Generate Payroll". The status bar at the bottom indicates the date as 28/05/2025 and the time as 9:06 am.

- 1. Period Selection:** Tools to select specific months or date ranges for viewing historical payroll data.

The screenshot shows the HR Dashboard interface. On the left, the "Generate Payroll" menu is expanded, with "Payrun" selected. The main area displays various payroll metrics in boxes: Gross Pay (MWK 2200000.00), Net Pay (MWK 1574000.00), PAYE (MWK 381000.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 330000.00), Additions (MWK 0.00), Deductions (MWK 0.00), Welfare Fund (MWK 6000.00), Weekend OT (MWK 4000.00), Weekday OT (MWK 87000.00), and Total OT (MWK 91000.00). Below these are buttons for "Bulk Edit Hours", "Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions", and "Generate Payroll". A table lists employees Christian and Ellen with their details. The status bar at the bottom indicates the date as 28/05/2025 and the time as 9:06 am.

- 2. Payroll List:** A list of finalized payrolls from previous periods, typically organized by date.
- 3. Payroll Details:** When you select a specific historical payroll, you'll see comprehensive information about that payroll period, including totals and breakdowns.

4. **Payslip Access:** Options to view and possibly print or export individual employee payslips from past payroll periods.

Using the History Feature

To access historical payroll information:

1. Select the desired month or period for which you want to view historical data.
2. Browse the list of available payroll summaries for that period.
3. Click on a specific payroll summary to view its details.
4. Access individual employee payslips as needed for reference or distribution.
5. Use available export or print functions if you need physical or digital copies of historical payroll information.

Reports Sub-Module

The Reports sub-module provides analytical tools and pre-formatted reports that help you understand payroll trends, costs, and distributions across your organization.

Reports Interface

When you access the Reports page, you'll see several key components:

Employee	Deductions	Welfare Fund	Hourly Rate	Weekend Hours	Weekday Hours	Weekend OT Pay	Weekday OT Pay	Total Overtime	Hours/Month
Employee 1	MWK 0.00	MWK 2000.00	2000.00	1.00	29.00	MWK 4000.00	MWK 87000.00	MWK 91000.00	40
Employee 2	MWK 0.00	MWK 2000.00	10000.00	0	0	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	40
Employee 3	MWK 0.00	MWK 2000.00	9000.00	0	0	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	40

1. **Report Types:** A selection of different report formats and focuses, such as department summaries, cost centers, tax reports, or trend analyses.

2. Parameter Selection: Options to set date ranges, departments, branches, or other parameters relevant to the selected report type.

The screenshot shows the HR Payroll Dashboard interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with options like PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, and Generate Payroll (which is currently selected). The main area has several summary boxes: Gross Pay (MWK 0.00), Net Pay (MWK 0.00), PAYE (MWK 0.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 0.00), Additions (MWK 0.00), Deductions (MWK 0.00), Welfare Fund (MWK 0.00), Weekend OT (MWK 0.00), Weekday OT (MWK 0.00), and Total OT (MWK 0.00). Below these are buttons for Bulk Edit Hours, Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions, and Generate Payroll. A large table below the summary boxes shows payroll details for three employees. The columns include Name, Deductions, Welfare Fund, Hourly Rate, Weekend Hours, Weekday Hours, Weekend OT Pay, Weekday OT Pay, Total Overtime, and Hours/Month. The data for each employee is as follows:

Name	Deductions	Welfare Fund	Hourly Rate	Weekend Hours	Weekday Hours	Weekend OT Pay	Weekday OT Pay	Total Overtime	Hours/Month
Employee 1	MWK 0.00	MWK 2000.00	2000.00	1.00	29.00	MWK 4000.00	MWK 87000.00	MWK 91000.00	40
Employee 2	MWK 0.00	MWK 2000.00	10000.00	0	0	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	40
Employee 3	MWK 0.00	MWK 2000.00	9000.00	0	0	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	40

3. Report Preview: A preview of the generated report based on your selected parameters.

4. Export Options: Functions to export reports in various formats such as PDF, Excel, or CSV for further analysis or sharing.

Using the Reports Feature

To generate and work with payroll reports:

1. Select the type of report you wish to generate from the available options.
2. Set the relevant parameters such as date range, departments, or other filtering criteria.
3. Generate the report by clicking the appropriate button.
4. Review the report preview for accuracy and relevance.
5. Export the report in your preferred format if needed for distribution or further analysis.
6. Use the insights gained from reports to inform future payroll decisions, budget planning, or organizational strategy.

Integration Between Sub-Modules

The four sub-modules of the Payroll Generation feature work together in a sequential workflow:

1. **Payrun:** Initiates the payroll process by selecting employees and making initial adjustments.
2. **Drafts:** Reviews and refines the payroll calculations before finalization.
3. **History:** Archives finalized payrolls for future reference and record-keeping.
4. **Reports:** Analyzes payroll data to provide insights and support decision-making.

This integrated approach ensures a comprehensive payroll management system that handles everything from initial calculations to long-term analysis.

Best Practices for Payroll Generation

To ensure accurate and efficient payroll processing:

1. **Regular Schedule:** Establish and maintain a consistent payroll schedule to ensure timely processing and payment.
2. **Thorough Review:** Always carefully review draft payrolls before authorization to catch and correct any errors.
3. **Documentation:** Maintain clear records of any special adjustments or unusual circumstances affecting payroll calculations.
4. **Backup:** Regularly export or backup payroll history and reports for security and compliance purposes.
5. **Reconciliation:** Periodically reconcile payroll totals with accounting records to ensure consistency across systems.

The Payroll Generation module is the heart of the payroll system, providing all the tools necessary to manage the complete payroll lifecycle from initial calculations to historical record-keeping and analysis. Mastering these features will enable efficient and accurate payroll management across your organization.

Attendance Tracking

Overview

The Attendance Tracking module is a powerful component of the payroll system designed to monitor and manage employee attendance efficiently. This module allows

you to record daily check-ins and check-outs, view attendance patterns over various time periods, and generate comprehensive attendance reports. Accurate attendance tracking is essential for proper payroll processing, employee performance evaluation, and compliance with labor regulations.

Accessing the Attendance Module

To access the Attendance Tracking module, click on the "Attendance" option in the left navigation panel. The icon resembles a calendar or clock. Upon clicking, you will be directed to the main Attendance page where you can view and manage all attendance records.

Attendance Main Interface

The Attendance page presents a comprehensive view of employee attendance with several key components:

Page Header

At the top of the page, you'll find the "Attendance" title, clearly indicating your current location within the system. The header area may also include options for selecting different views or time periods for attendance data.

Time Period Selection

The Attendance module allows you to view attendance records for different time periods:

1. **Daily View:** Shows attendance records for a specific day, typically the current date by default.

This screenshot shows the HR Dashboard interface. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll (with sub-options Payrun, Drafts, History, Reports), and Attendance. The Attendance option has a checked checkbox. The main area is titled "Payroll Drafting". It features several input fields: "Select Branch", "Select Department", "Select Gender", "Min Salary", and "Max Salary". Below these are various payroll components like Gross Pay, Net Pay, PAYE, Pension, Additions, Deductions, Welfare Fund, Weekend OT, Weekday OT, and Total OT, each with numerical values. At the bottom are buttons for "Bulk Edit Hours", "Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions", and "Generate Payroll". The status bar at the bottom shows system information including the date (28/05/2025) and time (9:01 am).

2. **Weekly View:** Displays attendance patterns across a selected week.

This screenshot is similar to the previous one but shows a dropdown menu for "Select Department" in the "Payroll Drafting" section. The dropdown menu is open, displaying two options: "Human Resource Department" and "Supply Chain Department". The rest of the interface, including the sidebar with the checked "Attendance" option, the payroll components, and the status bar at the bottom, remains the same.

3. Monthly View: Provides a broader overview of attendance for an entire month.

The screenshot shows the 'Payroll Drafting' section of the HR Dashboard. On the left, a sidebar menu includes 'PAYE Calculator', 'Employees', 'Departments', 'Branches', 'Generate Payroll' (with 'Payrun' selected), 'Drafts', 'History', and 'Reports'. Below this is an 'Attendance' section with a checkmark icon. The main area has dropdown menus for 'Select Branch' (showing 'Administrative Branch' and 'Business'), 'Select Department', and 'Select Gender'. It also features a 'Max Salary' input field. To the right are several boxes: 'Gross Pay' (MWK 0.00), 'Net Pay' (MWK 0.00), 'PAYE' (MWK 0.00), 'Pension (5%)' (MWK 0.00), 'Additions' (MWK 0.00), 'Deductions' (MWK 0.00), 'Welfare Fund' (MWK 0.00), 'Weekend OT' (MWK 0.00), 'Weekday OT' (MWK 0.00), and 'Total OT' (MWK 0.00). Buttons for 'Bulk Edit Hours', 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions', and 'Generate Payroll' are at the bottom. A toolbar at the bottom of the screen includes icons for file operations, search, and various system applications.

These different views help you analyze attendance patterns at various levels of detail, from day-to-day monitoring to longer-term trends.

Attendance Record Table

The main component of the Attendance page is the attendance record table. This table displays detailed attendance information with columns that typically include:

1. **Employee Name:** The name of the employee
2. **Department:** The department to which the employee belongs
3. **Check-In Time:** The time when the employee started work
4. **Check-Out Time:** The time when the employee ended work
5. **Total Hours:** The calculated duration of the employee's workday
6. **Status:** Indicators for attendance status (present, absent, late, etc.)
7. **Notes:** Any special remarks or explanations regarding attendance

The table may be sortable by different columns and might include color coding to quickly identify attendance issues such as late arrivals or early departures.

Managing Attendance Records

Recording Daily Attendance

To record attendance for employees:

1. Navigate to the Daily Attendance view if not already there.

2. Locate the employee record for whom you want to record attendance.

3. For check-ins:

- Click in the check-in field for the employee
- Enter the time manually or use a time picker
- Alternatively, there may be a "Check In" button that automatically records the current time

4. For check-outs:

- Click in the check-out field for the employee
- Enter the time manually or use a time picker
- Alternatively, there may be a "Check Out" button that automatically records the current time

5. Any notes or special circumstances can be recorded in the Notes field

6. The system will automatically calculate the total hours worked based on check-in and check-out times

The screenshot shows a web-based payroll application. On the left, a sidebar menu includes options like PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll (selected), Payrun (highlighted in blue), Drafts, History, Reports, and Attendance. The main dashboard is titled 'Payroll Drafting' and features several input fields: 'Select Branch', 'Select Department', 'Min Salary', 'Max Salary', and a dropdown for 'Select Gender' which is currently set to 'Select Gender'. Below these are various financial calculations: Gross Pay (MWK 0.00), Net Pay (MWK 0.00), PAYE (MWK 0.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 0.00), Additions (MWK 0.00), Deductions (MWK 0.00), Welfare Fund (MWK 0.00), Weekend OT (MWK 0.00), Weekday OT (MWK 0.00), and Total OT (MWK 0.00). At the bottom are buttons for Bulk Edit Hours, Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions, and Generate Payroll. The status bar at the bottom right shows the date (28/05/2025) and time (9:01 am).

Bulk Attendance Recording

For efficiency in larger organizations, the system may offer bulk attendance recording options:

1. Select multiple employees using checkboxes next to their names
2. Use bulk action buttons to mark selected employees as present, absent, or on leave
3. Apply the same check-in or check-out time to multiple employees if they arrived or departed as a group

Modifying Attendance Records

To correct or update existing attendance records:

1. Locate the attendance record that needs modification
2. Click on the field that requires updating (check-in time, check-out time, status, or notes)
3. Make the necessary changes
4. Save the updated information

The system may require special permissions for modifying past attendance records as a security measure to prevent unauthorized changes.

Viewing Attendance History

The Attendance module allows you to review historical attendance data:

1. Use the date selector to choose a specific day, week, or month
2. The attendance table will update to show records for the selected time period
3. You can typically filter or search for specific employees or departments
4. Some systems may offer attendance summary statistics for the selected period, such as average arrival time or total absences

Attendance Reports

The Attendance module may include reporting capabilities to help analyze attendance patterns:

1. **Individual Reports:** Detailed attendance history for a specific employee over a selected time period
2. **Department Reports:** Attendance summaries grouped by department
3. **Exception Reports:** Highlighting attendance issues such as frequent tardiness or absences
4. **Overtime Reports:** Tracking of hours worked beyond standard schedules

These reports can be valuable for performance reviews, payroll processing, and identifying attendance trends that may require management attention.

Integration with Payroll Processing

The Attendance module is closely integrated with the Payroll Generation module:

1. Attendance records directly influence payroll calculations, particularly for hourly employees
2. Overtime hours recorded in the Attendance module may automatically flow into payroll processing
3. Absences or leave may affect salary calculations based on company policies

This integration ensures that payroll processing is based on accurate attendance data, reducing errors and ensuring fair compensation.

Best Practices for Attendance Management

To ensure effective use of the Attendance Tracking module:

1. **Consistent Recording:** Establish clear procedures for recording attendance consistently across all departments
2. **Prompt Updates:** Ensure that attendance is recorded daily rather than retrospectively to maintain accuracy
3. **Regular Audits:** Periodically review attendance records for accuracy and completeness
4. **Clear Policies:** Establish and communicate clear attendance policies, including definitions of tardiness and procedures for reporting absences
5. **Training:** Ensure that all managers and supervisors understand how to properly use the attendance tracking features

The Attendance Tracking module plays a vital role in workforce management, providing the data necessary for accurate payroll processing, performance evaluation, and compliance with labor regulations. By maintaining accurate attendance records, organizations can ensure fair compensation, identify attendance issues early, and make informed decisions about staffing and scheduling.

Bulk Emailing

Overview

The Bulk Emailing module is a powerful communication tool within the payroll system that enables you to send emails to multiple employees simultaneously. This feature streamlines the process of distributing important information such as payslips, tax documents, company announcements, or policy updates to your workforce. By allowing targeted communication to specific groups of employees or the entire staff, the Bulk Emailing module significantly enhances organizational communication efficiency.

Accessing the Bulk Emailing Module

To access the Bulk Emailing module, click on the "Bulky Emailing" option in the left navigation panel. The icon resembles an envelope or email symbol. Upon clicking, you will be directed to the main Bulk Emailing page where you can create and manage email communications to employees.

Bulk Emailing Interface

The Bulk Emailing page presents a user-friendly interface with several key components designed to help you efficiently communicate with your employees:

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <localhost/payroll.hallmark.mw/pages/hr/payrun.php>. The page is titled 'Dashboard' and features a sidebar on the left with the 'HR Dashboard' header. The sidebar includes links for PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll (selected), Payrun, Drafts, History, and Reports. Below the sidebar is an 'Attendance' section with a notification icon. The main content area is titled 'Payroll Drafting' and contains several input fields and buttons. At the bottom of the main content area are three buttons: 'Bulk Edit Hours', 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions', and 'Generate Payroll'. The status bar at the bottom of the browser shows various system icons and the date/time: 9:01 am, 28/05/2025.

Page Header

At the top of the page, you'll find the "Bulky Emailing" title, clearly indicating your current location within the system. The header area may also include options for creating new email campaigns or accessing email templates.

Recipient Selection

A primary feature of the Bulk Emailing module is the ability to select recipients based on various criteria:

The screenshot shows a web-based HR payroll system. On the left, there's a sidebar with icons for PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, Generate Payroll (which is selected), Payrun, Drafts, History, Reports, and Attendance. The main area is titled 'Payroll Drafting' and contains several input fields and buttons. At the top are dropdown menus for 'Select Branch' (set to 500000), 'Select Department', and 'Select Gender'. Below these are two input fields: 'Max Salary' and 'Additions'. The main content area displays various payroll components: Gross Pay (MWK 0.00), Net Pay (MWK 0.00), PAYE (MWK 0.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 0.00), Deductions (MWK 0.00), Welfare Fund (MWK 0.00), Weekend OT (MWK 0.00), Weekday OT (MWK 0.00), and Total OT (MWK 0.00). At the bottom are buttons for 'Bulk Edit Hours', 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions', and 'Generate Payroll'. The taskbar at the bottom shows various application icons and the date/time (9:02 am, 28/05/2025).

- 1. All Employees:** Option to select the entire workforce for company-wide communications
- 2. Department-Based Selection:** Filter recipients by specific departments
- 3. Branch-Based Selection:** Target employees at particular branch locations
- 4. Custom Selection:** Manually select individual employees from a list

These selection options allow for precise targeting of communications, ensuring that messages reach the appropriate audience.

Email Composition Area

The central part of the interface is dedicated to composing your email message:

The screenshot shows the Hallmark Payroll system's Payroll Drafting interface. On the left, a sidebar titled 'HR Dashboard' includes links for PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, and 'Generate Payroll' (which is currently selected). Below these are buttons for Payrun, Drafts, History, and Reports. At the bottom of the sidebar is an 'Attendance' section with a checkmark and a date of 28/05/2025. The main area is titled 'Payroll Drafting' and features three dropdown menus: 'Select Branch' (set to 500000), 'Select Department' (set to 900000), and 'Select Gender'. Below these are several boxes representing payroll components: Gross Pay (MWK 0.00), Net Pay (MWK 0.00), PAYE (MWK 0.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 0.00), Additions (MWK 0.00), Deductions (MWK 0.00), Welfare Fund (MWK 0.00), Weekend OT (MWK 0.00), Weekday OT (MWK 0.00), and Total OT (MWK 0.00). At the bottom are buttons for 'Bulk Edit Hours', 'Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions', and 'Generate Payroll'. The taskbar at the bottom of the screen shows various application icons and the date/time.

- 1. Subject Line:** Field for entering the email subject, which should be clear and descriptive
- 2. Message Body:** Rich text editor for composing the main content of your email
- 3. Formatting Tools:** Options for text formatting, including bold, italic, bullet points, and possibly font selection
- 4. Attachment Option:** Functionality to attach files such as PDFs, spreadsheets, or images

The composition area typically supports basic HTML formatting, allowing you to create professional and visually appealing messages.

Template Selection

For frequently sent communications, the system may offer email templates:

- 1. Standard Templates:** Pre-designed formats for common communications like payslip distribution or tax document notifications
- 2. Custom Templates:** User-created templates for organization-specific communications
- 3. Template Preview:** Option to view how a template will appear before selecting it

Templates help maintain consistency in communications and save time when sending recurring messages.

Creating and Sending Bulk Emails

Selecting Recipients

To select the recipients for your bulk email:

1. Navigate to the recipient selection area of the interface
2. Choose whether to send to all employees or a specific subset
3. If sending to a subset, use the available filters (department, branch, etc.) to narrow down the recipient list
4. Review the selected recipients to ensure the message will reach the intended audience
5. The system may display the number of selected recipients to help you confirm your selection

Composing the Email

To compose your bulk email message:

1. Enter a clear, concise subject line that accurately reflects the content of the message
2. Compose the body of the email in the message editor
3. Use formatting tools as needed to enhance readability and emphasize important points
4. Consider using personalization fields if available (e.g., {Employee_Name}) to customize the message for each recipient
5. Review the message for clarity, tone, and correctness

Adding Attachments

If your message requires attachments:

1. Locate the attachment function, typically represented by a paperclip icon
2. Select the file(s) you wish to attach from your computer
3. Confirm that the attachments have been successfully uploaded
4. Be mindful of attachment size limitations that may apply

Previewing the Email

Before sending, it's advisable to preview your message:

1. Look for a "Preview" button or similar function
2. Review how the message will appear to recipients

3. Check that formatting appears as intended
4. Verify that any personalization fields are properly formatted

Sending the Email

To send your bulk email:

1. After confirming that the recipient list and message content are correct, locate the "Send" button
2. Click "Send" to distribute the email to all selected recipients
3. The system may display a confirmation dialog asking you to verify the action before proceeding
4. Once confirmed, the system will process the email distribution

Scheduling Emails

Some implementations of the Bulk Emailing module may offer scheduling functionality:

1. Instead of sending immediately, look for a "Schedule" option
2. Select the date and time when you want the email to be sent
3. Confirm the scheduled time
4. The system will automatically send the email at the specified time

Email Tracking and History

The Bulk Emailing module may include features for tracking email status and maintaining a history of communications:

1. **Delivery Status:** Information on whether emails were successfully delivered
2. **Open Rates:** Data on how many recipients opened the email
3. **Communication History:** Record of past bulk emails, including date, subject, and recipient groups
4. **Template Usage:** Information on which templates are most frequently used

This tracking information can help you assess the effectiveness of your communications and make improvements to future messages.

Best Practices for Bulk Emailing

To ensure effective use of the Bulk Emailing module:

1. **Clear Subject Lines:** Use concise, descriptive subject lines that encourage recipients to open the email
2. **Targeted Communication:** Send messages only to relevant employees rather than always defaulting to company-wide distribution
3. **Consistent Formatting:** Maintain a consistent visual style in your communications to build recognition and professionalism
4. **Appropriate Timing:** Consider the timing of your emails to ensure they are read and not overlooked during busy periods
5. **Message Testing:** When possible, test important messages with a small group before sending to the entire workforce
6. **Respect Privacy:** Use BCC (Blind Carbon Copy) functionality when appropriate to protect employee email privacy
7. **Follow-Up:** For critical communications, consider implementing a follow-up mechanism to ensure important messages are received and understood

The Bulk Emailing module is an essential tool for efficient organizational communication, particularly in larger companies with geographically dispersed workforces. By mastering this feature, HR and payroll administrators can ensure that important information reaches employees promptly and consistently, enhancing overall organizational communication effectiveness.

Settings

Overview

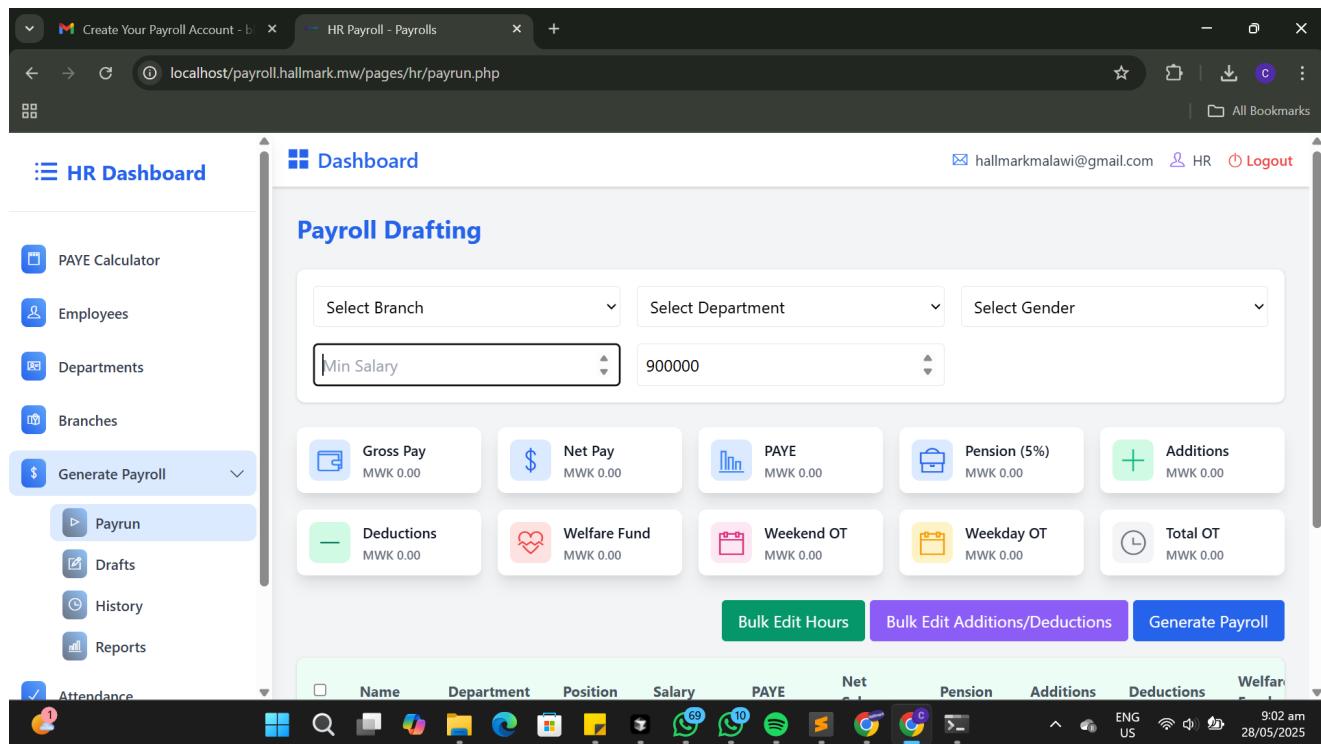
The Settings module is an essential component of the payroll system that allows users to manage their account preferences and security settings. While more limited in scope compared to other modules, the Settings section plays a crucial role in maintaining the security and personalization of your payroll system experience. This module primarily focuses on account password management, ensuring that users can maintain secure access to the sensitive payroll information contained within the system.

Accessing the Settings Module

To access the Settings module, click on the "Settings" option located at the bottom of the left navigation panel. The icon typically resembles a gear or cog, which is the universal symbol for system settings. Upon clicking, you will be directed to the main Settings page where you can manage your account preferences.

Settings Interface

The Settings page presents a straightforward interface focused on account security management:



Page Header

At the top of the page, you'll find the "Settings" title, clearly indicating your current location within the system. The header maintains consistency with other sections of the payroll system, providing a familiar navigation experience.

Password Management Section

The primary function of the Settings module is password management. This section typically includes:

- 1. Current Password Field:** A secure input field where you must enter your existing password for verification purposes
- 2. New Password Field:** An input field for entering your desired new password

- 3. Confirm Password Field:** A verification field where you must re-enter the new password to ensure accuracy
- 4. Password Requirements:** Information about the system's password security requirements, such as minimum length, character types, and complexity

Action Buttons

Below the password fields, you'll find action buttons that allow you to:

- 1. Save Changes:** Apply the new password to your account
- 2. Cancel:** Discard any changes and retain your current password

Changing Your Password

To change your account password:

1. Navigate to the Settings page by clicking the "Settings" option in the left navigation panel.
2. In the password management section, enter your current password in the "Current Password" field. This step verifies your identity before allowing any security changes.
3. Enter your desired new password in the "New Password" field. As you type, the system may provide feedback on password strength or compliance with security requirements.
4. Re-enter the same new password in the "Confirm Password" field to ensure you haven't made any typing errors.

The screenshot shows a web-based HR payroll application. On the left, there is a sidebar titled 'HR Dashboard' with options like PAYE Calculator, Employees, Departments, Branches, and Generate Payroll (which is currently selected). The main area is titled 'Dashboard' and contains several summary boxes: Gross Pay (MWK 0.00), Net Pay (MWK 0.00), PAYE (MWK 0.00), Pension (5%) (MWK 0.00), Additions (MWK 0.00), Deductions (MWK 0.00), Welfare Fund (MWK 0.00), Weekend OT (MWK 0.00), Weekday OT (MWK 0.00), and Total OT (MWK 0.00). Below these are three buttons: Bulk Edit Hours, Bulk Edit Additions/Deductions, and Generate Payroll. At the bottom, there is a table showing payroll details for two employees: Christian and Ellen. The table includes columns for Name, Department, Position, Salary, PAYE, Net Salary, Pension, Additions, Deductions, and Welfare Fund. The table shows that both employees have a salary of MWK 500000.00, PAYE of MWK 68750.00, Net Salary of MWK 354250.00, Pension of MWK 75000.00, and Additions and Deductions of MWK 0.00. The Welfare Fund column shows MWK 200 for both. The bottom right corner of the screen shows the date and time as 9:03 am 28/05/2025.

	Name	Department	Position	Salary	PAYE	Net Salary	Pension	Additions	Deductions	We lfa r e n t f u n d
Christian	Human Resource Department	Data Engineer	MWK 500000.00	MWK 68750.00	MWK 354250.00	MWK 75000.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 200
Ellen	Human Resource Department	Human Resource Manager	MWK 500000.00	MWK 68750.00	MWK 354250.00	MWK 75000.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 0.00	MWK 200

5. Click the "Save Changes" or "Update Password" button to apply the change.

6. The system will validate your entries and, if all requirements are met, update your password. You may receive a confirmation message indicating that the password change was successful.

Password Security Guidelines

When changing your password, consider the following security best practices:

- 1. Strong Passwords:** Create passwords that are difficult to guess but easy for you to remember. A strong password typically:
 - Is at least 8-12 characters long
 - Contains a mix of uppercase and lowercase letters
 - Includes numbers and special characters
 - Avoids common words or easily guessable information like birthdays
- 2. Regular Updates:** Change your password periodically, even if not prompted by the system. A good practice is to update your password every 90 days.
- 3. Unique Passwords:** Use a different password for the payroll system than you use for other applications or websites. This prevents security breaches in one system from compromising your payroll access.
- 4. Confidentiality:** Never share your password with colleagues, even those in the same department. Each user should have their own unique login credentials.
- 5. Secure Storage:** If you need to record your password, store it in a secure password manager rather than writing it down on paper or in an unencrypted file.

Additional Settings Features

Depending on the specific implementation of your payroll system, the Settings module might also include:

- 1. Notification Preferences:** Options to configure how and when you receive system notifications
- 2. Display Preferences:** Settings to customize the visual appearance of the interface
- 3. Regional Settings:** Options for date formats, time zones, or language preferences
- 4. Two-Factor Authentication:** Enhanced security options requiring a second verification method beyond passwords

Best Practices for Settings Management

To ensure effective use of the Settings module:

1. **Regular Password Updates:** Change your password periodically to maintain security
2. **Immediate Action on Suspicion:** If you suspect your password has been compromised, change it immediately
3. **Logout After Password Change:** After changing your password, it's a good practice to log out and log back in with the new credentials
4. **Record Update Time:** Make a personal note of when you last updated your password to maintain a regular schedule
5. **Report Issues:** If you encounter any problems with the Settings module, report them to your system administrator promptly

The Settings module, while focused primarily on password management, plays a vital role in maintaining the security of the payroll system. By regularly updating your password and following security best practices, you help protect the sensitive employee and financial information contained within the system.