



STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED

BY

**HONOURABLE DR. EMMANUEL FABIANO, M.P.
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

**DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE
AFRICA DAY**

ON 25TH MAY, 2018

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Lilongwe, Malawi**

May, 2018

- **Right Honourable Richard Msowoya, Speaker of National Assembly;**
- **Your Excellency, Dr. Leopold Auguste Ngomo, Head of Delegation, Africa Union Southern Africa Regional Office;**
- **Honourable Cabinet Ministers present;**
- **Mr. Lloyd Muhara, S.C., Chief Secretary to the Government, and all Senior Government Officials present;**
- **Your Excellency, Kikkan Haugen, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Your Excellencies Heads of Mission and International Organisations and all Members of the Diplomatic Corps here present;**
- **Honourable Members of Parliament here present;**
- **Members of the Press;**
- **Distinguished Invited Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is a great honour, and pleasure for me to speak, on behalf of the Malawi Government, under the leadership of the State President, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, on this great occasion, as we join the rest of the African Continent, and the world, in commemorating the 2018 Africa Day, today. I am particularly pleased to be part of this occasion because our commemoration of the Africa

Day for 2018 is very special. As most of you may be aware, in the past, the Africa Day has been organized by African Diplomatic Missions resident in Malawi, with minimal support from the Malawi Government. However, for the first time, the Malawi Government has decided to take an active role in commemorating the Africa Day. We have in this regard, worked very closely with the African Union Southern Region Office and African Diplomatic Missions resident in Malawi to organize, not just today's events, but also several other pre-event activities. We are into this together, with our focus set on Agenda 2063 and beyond.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Today's events were preceded by other activities which were equally important. We held a Debate on the 2018 African Union Theme on the fight against Corruption. This was between Mkwichi and Chinsapo Secondary Schools, on 11th May, 2018. We also organized the Africa Day 2018 Sporting event on 19th May, 2018, at the Bingu National Stadium, where we had a session of aerobics and a soccer match between Diplomats and Government

officials. I am pleased to note that both events were a success.

Congratulations to Chinsapo Secondary School for winning the debate in both the individual and school categories. Congratulations are also in order for the Diplomatic Corps Team, which won the soccer match and Trophy after a penalty shootout.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

Perhaps a question might be asked on why there is renewed interest, and why now?

The reason Malawi Government has taken a strategic decision to ensure active participation in Africa Day celebrations is that, while we have remained dedicated to the cause of the African Union, our engagement with the Malawian general public, who have a direct stake in the continental programmes has been very minimal. Therefore, Malawi, as part of the community of African States in the Union, would like to use the opportunity of the Africa Day to bring awareness to the general public

about the African Union and its flagship programme, Agenda 2063.

This is critical in view of several important practical programmes which are already under implementation on the continent, and which will benefit Malawians of all walks of life. The first is the Continental Free Trade Area. Under this arrangement, African countries are expected to boost intra-African trade which has remained as low as 13%. We want to turn around our fortunes and drive our destiny. We want to make sure that we are able to create a resilient trading system which can weather the global economic storms.

The second major programme that the African Union has undertaken is aimed at ensuring that the African Union is able to self-finance all its key operations. Under this initiative, there are several innovative proposals that Malawi and other member states are considering in order to ensure that, where it matters, we are able to finance 100% of our continental body's operations. It will be important, therefore, that the Malawi general public should have a say on the direction the continental body is taking.

**Your Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

For this year, the AU is focusing on the theme: “**Winning the Fight Against Corruption: A Sustainable path to Africa’s Transformation.**” This was the topic that the Secondary School students tackled in their debate. But beyond the School Debate, I am pleased to report that we have supported the Anti-Corruption Bureau and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions to also participate in the discussions on the fight against corruption. Africa cannot afford to have its resources diverted for personal gains at the expense of its socio-economic development.

While we should fight corruption at the remedial level, perhaps it is also time to tackle this scourge at the preventative level. This means our families, businesses, education, and all social systems should encourage transparency and accountability at every level. But more importantly, we should utilize our unity and multitude in numbers to stand up against this vice on the African continent. Allow me to quote the advice of Edmund Burke who said, and I quote, “... **all that is needed for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing...**”, end of quote. Therefore, we should aim at building a

Corruption-Free Continent by doing something, step by step, and involving everybody in our society and communities.

Your Excellencies;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

I know most of you would like me to speak for much longer. However, I wish to conclude my remarks by thanking the African Union, Southern African Regional Office, the African Diplomatic Missions resident in Malawi, and the Joint Organising Committee for this event, and for the zeal and enthusiasm that they have demonstrated in the process. Through their dedication and commitment, we have been able to lay a very solid foundation and precedent to guide our commemoration activities for Africa Day in future.

In this respect, there will be two important enduring guiding principles that we, as Malawi, would like to maintain as a permanent feature when commemorating Africa Day: socializing through celebrations in an African way; and raising public awareness about the African Union programmes. We wish, therefore, to invite all our well-wishers, institutions and organisations to consider

partnering with us in commemorating and publicizing Africa Day. Where we have done well, let us celebrate. Where we need to improve, we are open to your gracious suggestions towards a more befitting commemoration of Africa's achievements.

Happy Africa Day!

I thank you for your attention