



THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

**STATEMENT BY HONOURABLE DR. EMMANUEL FABIANO,
M.P., MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI,**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE COMMEMORATION
OF THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC
DAY OF INDIA**

**TO BE HELD AT BINGU INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE CENTRE (MAIN FOYER),**

ON FRIDAY, 26TH JANUARY, 2018

FROM 18:30HRS

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation,
January, 2018**

- **Your Excellency, Suresh Kumar Menon, High Commissioner of the Republic of India to Malawi;**
- **Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers present here;**
- **Your Excellency Thandiwe Dumbusthena, Ambassador of the Republic of Zimbabwe to Malawi and Dean of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Your Excellencies and Members of the Diplomatic Corps;**
- **Senior Government Officials;**
- **Members of the Indian Community in Malawi;**
- **Members of the Press;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good Evening,

It gives me great honour and pleasure to represent His Excellency Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, as we join you in commemorating the 69th Anniversary of the Republic Day of India.

Let me begin by conveying a message of best wishes and goodwill from His Excellency Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, the Government and people of Malawi to His Excellency Shri Ram Nath Kovind, President of the Republic of India, the Government and people of India, as you celebrate on this auspicious occasion.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malawi remains India's long standing bilateral partner since we became independent in 1964. Over the years, the bonds of friendship and cooperation have continued to grow from strength to strength as the

peoples of our two countries have cooperated in various fields.

It is, therefore, pleasing to note that the commemoration of the National Republic Day of India is taking place when the cooperation and partnership between our two brotherly countries continue to grow to greater heights for mutual benefit.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We would like to acknowledge India for the leadership role it has demonstrated within the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). The cooperation between Malawi and India is holistic, covering many aspects of human endeavour.

As you know, India is one of the world's fastest growing economies, accelerated through economic and regulatory reforms, thereby promoting significant trade and investment inflows into the country.

Malawi and India are, therefore, collaborating in the area of trade and investment through participation in the Malawi Investment Forum (MIF), Malawi-India Business Forum and the Annual Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-Export-Import (EXIM) Bank Conclave on Africa-India Project Partnership.

These forums do provide the Government of Malawi with an opportunity to market its investments in various sectors to the Indian private sector and the EXIM Bank of India for joint ventures, co-financing and concessionary lines of credit, among others.

As such, the Government of Malawi has been attending the Annual CII-EXIM Bank Conclave, including the first-ever Regional CII-EXIM Bank Conclave, which took place in Kampala, Uganda, in November, 2017.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Malawi continues to benefit from concessionary lines of credit from the Government of

India since 2008. The areas which have benefited from financial support include cotton ginneries, petroleum storage tanks, sugar processing plant, agricultural equipment and machinery, and one village one product project.

Currently, the Government of Malawi is implementing the Likhubula River-Blantyre Water Supply Project with a line of credit of US\$23.5million. This is expected to significantly improve the availability of water supply in Blantyre and some parts of the Southern region.

The Government of Malawi has also recently submitted new project proposals that are receiving due consideration at the EXIM Bank of India in the areas of energy, water supply and conference tourism.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On health and medical cooperation, the Government of Malawi continues to send its patients to India for specialist medical attention. The Government of India consistently supports the Government of Malawi with

experts' assistance, medical equipment, pharmaceuticals and drugs, among others.

In the area of capacity building, Malawian students and professionals in different sectors such as agriculture, medicine, energy and mining continue to benefit from the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The Indian Government has also transferred technology to Malawi, through the ITEC programme.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is gratifying to note that there have been a number of high level exchange visits in a variety of fields, since the establishment of our diplomatic relations. The former Indian Prime Minister, Her Excellency Indira Gandhi, visited Malawi in 1964 to participate in the first independence celebrations. His Excellency Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the first President of the Republic of Malawi, also visited India in 1983 to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

It is also pleasing to note that the former Indian Vice-President Hamid Ansari visited Malawi in January 2010. During the Vice-President's visit, the two countries signed agreements on cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors and development of small scale enterprises in Malawi. Later in the same year, Former President His Excellency Prof. Bingu wa Mutharika, visited India in November 2010, where during the visit, the two sides signed the general co-operation agreement between our two countries and other agreements and MoUs.

Your Excellency, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me conclude by reaffirming the Government of Malawi's commitment to the continued strong bonds of friendship and sustainability of cooperation between the people of Malawi and India.

I would also like to express Malawi Government's commitment to continue cooperating with the

Government of India at bilateral, regional and international levels.

We have supported each other in various bodies of the United Nations and other international organizations. This cooperation has helped our two nations to achieve national priorities and development aspirations.

With these few remarks, may we all raise our glasses in a toast to the continued good health of His Excellency, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, prosperity of the Government, wellbeing of the people of India and enhanced cooperation between Malawi and India.

I thank you for your kind attention.

May God Bless Us All