



STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY

HONOURABLE DR. EMMANUEL FABIANO, M.P.

MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 2018 NATIONAL

SYMPOSIUM FOR MALAWI-SCOTLAND

PARTNERSHIP

TO BE HELD AT BICC

ON

23RD FEBRUARY, 2018

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Lilongwe, Malawi

February, 2018

- Your Excellency Ms. Holly Tett, British High Commissioner to Malawi;
- Ms. Joana Keating, Head of International Development of the Scottish Government;
- Kathy Wright, Member Service Manager for the Malawi-Scotland Partnership;
- Mrs. Vera Kamtukule, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Malawi-Scotland Partnership;
- Strand Leads under the Malawi-Scotland Cooperation;
- Senior Government Officials;
- Members of the Malawi-Scotland Partnership;

- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen;

It gives me great pleasure and honour, to grace this very important occasion of this year's National Symposium for Malawi-Scotland Partnership.

First of all, let me congratulate the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer for the Malawi-Scotland Partnership, Strand Leads, and all those involved in the implementation of various programmes under the Malawi-Scotland Partnership for successfully hosting this annual event.

I would like to welcome to Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa, the Head of the

International Development in the Scottish Government and the Member Service Manager for gracing this occasion. Your presence here confirms the strong bonds of cooperation that exist between Malawi and Scotland, and also signifies continued commitment by Scotland to our aspirations for development.

I would like to emphasize that this also reflects the historical, long time and fruitful bond of cooperation that exists between Malawi and the United Kingdom as a whole. The government of the Republic of Malawi appreciates greatly the partnership and generosity of the British Government and its people in all sectors of our economy.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Year's symposium is taking place at an opportune time when Malawi and Scotland are engaged in negotiations for a new agreement, which seeks to align the partnership programmes with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In fact, this symposium is the last major event in the Malawi-Scotland Partnership calendar of events, before the new agreement is signed.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is pleasing to recall that Malawi's links with Scotland date back to 159 years ago when Dr. David Livingstone first came to Malawi. Since then, the bond of friendship

and cooperation has continued to grow from strength to strength, in this unique people-to-people partnership, between Malawi and Scotland.

The signing of the cooperation agreement in 2005, which established the Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation (JPCC), created a framework for implementation of the commitments in a more structured way. In fact, this took our cooperation to the next higher level, as the JPCC provided mechanisms for regular consultations at the political level. Therefore, we hope that a way will be found to ensure that even our Parliamentarians are involved in the partnership, in order to ensure that they appreciate the impact of

the partnership at grass root level in their constituencies.

Let me mention also that the Malawi-Scotland JPCC is one of our most active instruments of cooperation. Therefore, we are looking forward to hosting the next session of JPCC after the signing of the Malawi-Scotland Global Goals Partnership Agreement. We believe this will allow us to map out an implementation strategy for the new agreement. We are particularly pleased that the new agreement seeks to further strengthen the existing cooperation and ensure that the partnership programmes are aligned with the Third Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III), the

African Union's Agenda 2063, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The convening of the JPCC will also be an opportunity to address some challenges which may have been obstructing success in some areas of our cooperation.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

It would be amiss for me not to acknowledge the sectors impacted most by the Malawi-Scotland Partnership. It is pleasing to note that Scotland continues to support Malawi Government's development efforts in very critical sectors such as Health, Education and Civil Governance.

In the Health Sector, through this Partnership, a Cervical Cancer Screening project, set up at Nkhoma Hospital, has helped in screening over 10,000 women. In addition to other health projects, this has improved the maternal health remarkably, by saving thousands of mothers and their babies. In addition, the partnership has provided training opportunities for medical personnel, including doctors, nurses and Health Surveillance Assistants (HSAs).

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although we are gathered here today to take stock of what the partnership has achieved so far, I wish to urge you all to use this very platform, to brainstorm on how best to

implement the programmes in order to ensure that they make optimum contribution to the attainment of the national and internationally agreed development goals.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

With these few remarks, I wish you a very successful symposium, and I thank you for your attention.

May God bless you all!