



DPP RESPONSE ON PRESIDENT CHAKWERA'S END OF YEAR NATIONAL ADDRESS

The nation waited with great optimism when it was announced that the Head of State, His Excellency Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, would address the nation. The nation had the belief that the speech would usher in the dawn of a new era – the era of economic progression, the era of rooting out corruption that has permeated the membrane of even the state house, the era of cleaning the mess in public service delivery, the era of removing deadwood in the cabinet, the era of infrastructure development. Alas, a lost opportunity again. No sense of direction from the man at the helm of the state. The continued litany of rhetoric of promises was all the nation got. We will do this. We will do that. No direction. Absolutely senseless. In simple terms, the speech was, as usual, empty and a total reflection of the disregard of the suffering that Malawians are enduring due to governance failure by the incumbent regime.

The Democratic Progressive Party, just as the entire nation at large, is appalled by this lack of decisive action at the time this country needs action. The nation is appalled by the lack of direction at the time when the health sector is in a crisis. The nation is appalled by lack of decisive action when the much touted AIP keeps on eluding the intended beneficiaries. The nation is standing face to face with hunger and in the midst of such a threat, the man at the steering wheel of the country, Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, can at best continue his usual mediocre leadership style of talking.

We are compelled by the words of wisdom of the great Dr. Bingu Wa Mutharika who said: “Let the works of my hands speaks for me.” Mr. President, a humble reminder from the DPP and the nation is that you have spoken for too long. We no longer have an insatiable appetite for words in a country that needs action. We humbly plea that your administration takes action on addressing the skyrocketing prices of goods and services. Our

people, day by day, are drenching deep into the quandary of poverty. The continued mental instabilities leading to suicides are but a symptom of how people are becoming hopeless in a country and a regime that offered them hope only on paper and through speeches.

Mr. President, civil servants and teachers are disillusioned and it is no secret that they will embark on a nationwide strike from 9th January 2023. We see no action being taken to avert this forth coming crisis. Mr. President, our hospitals are in deplorable state as there is hardly no medication. Our people are heading to hospitals hopelessly. We see no action being taken to address the matter. Even the cholera pandemic has showcased the unreadiness of this regime to deal with matters of priority. In the midst of all these pains and challenges, we have, in the state house, a president who prides in speeches, extensive local and international travels and continued blame games.

It is imperative to remind the president that we are not at the beginning of his regime; we are at the half time of his regime. We have seen no progress. We have seen the economy nosediving. We have seen public service delivery surviving at the mercy of the patriotism of public servants who are least funded and underpaid. We have seen the dominance of nepotism. We have seen the absolute disregard of the words of wisdom. We have seen the continued establishment of commissions and other presidential guiding bodies which are but a replication of other bodies already on the ground. All we have seen, is that we have seen nothing in as much the fulfilment of the campaign promises is concerned.

This is the DPP's position in respect of moving the country forward:

One. Cabinet be reduced to a maximum of 20 and this must be the total compliment including the president, the Vice President and Ministers.

Two. All deputy ministerial positions be abolished. We have to live by the measures of austerity. These ministerial positions are useless and a duplication of what other technocrats in the ministries do.

Three. The ballooning contingent of presidential advisors be removed. They perfume no function whatsoever. In respect of the constitution of the Republic of Malawi, cabinet ministers are de facto advisors to the President.

Four. Total number of personnel on foreign missions be reduced to no more than five at each embassy. The DPP regime did that for five years and it worked. Further beyond, no more new foreign missions should be

established. Our bicycle economy has no luxury of taking up Lamborghini lifestyles.

Five. No need for the establishment of the Presidential Private Sector Council. The National Planning Council is already in existence and in it looks at private sector dynamism. We have no appetite to provide a leeway whereby people pocket allowances thus further draining the coffers of the country on tasks already being done by established entities. Infact, the ministry of trade and industry is also at the heart of liaising with the private sector.

Six. Stop the looting and plunder of public resources. Investigate and prosecute all looters of public money without fear or favor. Embark on total and complete reform of the Civil service delivery systems. Digitize all revenue collection systems.

We have spoken and so too are many Malawians. But we know you, Mr President, you will not listen and do anything. When it gets too hot in the ring, the best is to throw in the towel; Resign and Malawians will be saved from further suffering.

Signed



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