



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

SPEECH

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

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ON THE 58TH COMMEMORATION OF

MALAWI'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

UMODZI PARK, LILONGWE

WEDNESDAY, 6TH JULY 2022

Fellow Malawians,

On this 58th Commemoration of Malawi's Independence Day, we stand at a crossroads as a nation. We stand in the valley of decision, and we must make a choice.

We must choose what our conduct towards national development will be, whether we will sit in the stands as individual spectators to point out the problems in our midst or run on the field as one team to help Malawi reach its goal of self-reliance and prosperity.

We must choose what our attitude towards our fellow citizens will be, whether to mock Malawians who keep trying to make a difference even after failing publicly or to cheer them on and ignite their faith in the success that will be theirs if they do not give up.

We must choose what our relationship with Government and public institutions will be, whether it will be one of direct engagement to offer help to public officers who operate under very challenging circumstances or one of

distant castigation to throw stones and insults at them for our own popularity and amusement.

We must choose what side of Malawi's equation we are on, whether on the side that contributes to Malawi's problems of poverty, corruption, greed, foreign exploitation, gossip, negativity, laziness, hopelessness, crime, low standards, discrimination, vandalism, tribalism, and the abuse of power and resources, or on the side that contributes to Malawi's development, reforms, investment, positivity, hard work, transparency, patriotism, freedom, security, peace, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

We must choose what Malawi's place in the global community will be, whether to be a puppet and pawn in the race between the West and the East or to be a leading and shining example in the Global South by accomplishing things other nations can admire, benefit from, and learn from.

We must choose what our priorities in public spending and public discourse will be, whether to waste the little

time and resources we have on petty matters that focus on politics, personalities, positions, and pomp to generate more and more sensational headlines, more and more jealousies, more and more hostilities, and more and more divisions, or to focus our time and resources on matters that build our country's economy, our country's industries, our country's unity, our country's pride, our country's systems, our country's infrastructure, our country's healthcare, our country's education, and our country's international standing.

And above all, we must choose what story we will tell about ourselves and our country to each other and the rest of the world, whether to say that Malawi is a nation sinking in the quicksand of Covid-19 pandemic, climate change impacts, toxic debt, corruption, and the negative effects of foreign wars, or to shout at every roof top and every opportunity that **A New Malawi Is Rising.**

Today, I am calling on all Malawians everywhere, here at home and abroad, to join hands in declaring through words and deeds that show the world that **A New Malawi Is Rising.**

I call on all our development partners to move away from the failed policy of treating Malawi as a victim that must be kept in a toxic relationship of donor-and-beggar or servant-and-supervisor, and instead to listen to us and join us in showing the world that **A New Malawi Is Rising.**

I call on all public servants in all our public institutions here at home and foreign missions abroad to give and sacrifice themselves fully to quality service delivery that shows the world that **A New Malawi Is Rising.**

And when they ask why it is that the Constitutional Court and Supreme Court was able to correct a gross constitutional error and empowered a new Electoral Commission to restore constitutional order by conducting the most credible presidential election in our nation's history, tell them it's because **A New Malawi is Rising.**

Or when the world asks you why it is that in this country, we now finally have a zero-tolerance policy

towards lawlessness and corruption, no matter who is involved, tell them it's because **A New Malawi Is Rising.**

When they ask you why it is that in this country, we now finally have roads, schools, bridges, district council offices, railway, power plants, and hospitals under construction all over the country, tell them it's because **A New Malawi Is Rising.**

When they ask you why it is that in this country, we now finally talk about development projects and programs instead of how we are going to destroy and humiliate the leader of opposition, tell them it's because **A New Malawi Is Rising.**

When they ask you why it is that in this country, we now finally have a free press with no single journalist in jail for publishing negative stories about the government and no single citizen in jail for insulting the President, tell them it's because **A New Malawi is Rising.**

When they ask you why it is that in this country, we now finally have empowered women at the helm of

Parliament, the Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Ombudsman, the Human Rights Commission, the Financial Intelligence Authority, the Malawi Gaming Board, the Office of the President and Cabinet, the Ministry of Gender and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Homeland Security, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, the Embassies of Malawi to the United States, the United Nations, Belgium, South Africa, Kenya, Zambia, and Mozambique, tell them it's because **A New Malawi is Rising.**

When they ask why it is that Malawi's relations with other nations have finally entered a new dawn of solidarity and high esteem, and why foreign direct investments have gone up by over 11%, tell them it's because **A New Malawi is Rising.**

When they ask why it is that we are resolute in our quest to become an exporting country by supporting small holder farmers with affordable inputs that boost productivity and creating mega farms that fast track our

agro-mechanization and agro-commercialization agenda to boost exports, tell them it's because **A New Malawi is Rising.**

When they ask why it is that in this country, we have kept Covid-19 pandemic from killing millions as it has done in other countries, or restored social stability after a turbulent period of mass demonstrations, tell them it's because **A New Malawi is Rising.**

And when they ask why it is that we have leaders of various political parties peacefully co-existing and celebrating this independence together despite many dark forces trying to tear us asunder, or why the sitting President has made peace with those who suffered injustices under the one party state, or why the President lives at peace with his predecessors and his Vice President and accords them the dignity they deserve, tell them it's because **A New Malawi is Rising.**

I could go on and on until the setting of the sun about Malawi's great beauty, Malawi's great strength, Malawi's great resources, Malawi's great heroes, and Malawi's

great resilience, and Malawi's great people. But the best summary of what I believe we must hold on to this Independence Day, the best summary of what I believe we must say to each other as Malawians going forward, are the words of the Prophet Isaiah in Chapter 60 of his book: Malawi, it's your time to "Rise and Shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you."

God bless you.