



SPEECH BY

CHIEF DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,
IRRIGATION AND WATER DEVELOPMENT,

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DURING THE SECOND MALAWI LAND SYMPOSIUM
AT SOGEOA GOLDEN PEACOCK HOTEL,
LILONGWE

ON 10TH MAY, 2017

- The Honourable Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Atupele Muluzi, MP;
- Secretary for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Mr Charles Msosa
- Honourable Members of Parliament present,
- Honourable Traditional Authorities
- All government officials present
- Representatives of the Development Partners;
- Chief of Party of the New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support Project
- Representative of the Farmers Union of Malawi

- Chief Executive Officer of NASFAM
- National Director of CISANET
- The National Director of LANDNET
- The Chief Executive Officer of MCCCCI
- Business captains and private sector investors
- Representatives of academia and the research community
- The Press and the Media
- Distinguished Stakeholders, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure and honour to be with you today at this auspicious occasion where we have gathered this morning for the Second Malawi Land Symposium. Indeed, this is a very important event as it gives us a platform to deliberate important matters concerning our Land as a nation and the implications for agriculture. In particular, this Symposium gives us an opportunity to learn about and understand in more detail the recent Land Laws that have been assented to by His Excellency, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika.

Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen;

allow me to humbly say a few remarks and share the perspective of the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development concerning land and agriculture in Malawi. As a Ministry, our view concerning the new Land Laws and the forthcoming development of our land regulations is that they are crucial for the effective implementation of the National Agriculture Policy, which was also signed and launched by His Excellency, the State President, last year in November.

Let me emphasize the point, that without land and proper administration thereof

there can be no agriculture let alone agricultural transformation; and without agricultural transformation we can never attain the economic prosperity and wellbeing that we so aspire to achieve as a nation. Therefore, this Land Symposium and deliberations there from are very important in agricultural transformation to the benefit of all Malawians.

Distinguished Stakeholders, Ladies and Gentlemen; let me also report to you today, that the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development is currently in the process of developing the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP), which is

the second phase of the ASWAp. As part of developing this NAIP we have taken into account land governance issues and incorporated the principles of responsible land and agricultural investment, including issues of equitable land acquisition for agricultural development. In fact, we are glad that the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development convened an inception workshop on mainstreaming land governance in the NAIP framework on March 10th this year and officials were involved to ensure close coordination between our two Ministries.

Distinguished Stakeholders, Ladies and Gentlemen; I also want to inform the audience that the Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation and Water Development is also conducting two important studies through the Department of Land Resources Conservation: one on soil and nutrient loss, which is kindly funded by the FAO, UNDP and UNEP; and another on land profiling work, supported by the European Union delegation. These will help us produce crop suitability maps using new collected information. These studies will form an important part of the evidence that will inform some of the investments and interventions that will be implemented under the NAIP. As a country, we cannot overstate

the importance of implementing our policies and laws in an evidence-based manner.

Under improved crop nutrient management, my Ministry has also produced soil maps for 23 out of the 28 districts, through the Department of Agricultural Research Services. The emerging results show that many parts of Malawi are acidic to strongly acidic, and soil organic matter has gradually reduced, over time.

Distinguished stakeholders, Ladies and Gentlemen; As you may know, Malawi ascribes to several regional agreements and declarations. Examples include the African

Union-level Malabo declaration (2014), the COMESA protocols in agriculture and the SADC Agriculture Policy (2013) among others. My Ministry embraces these regional commitments and as part of recognizing these commitments I want to recognize and appreciate the presence of the African Union's Land Policy Initiative team and the coordination that has been demonstrated by the AU and national level team on the critical issues of land governance which will enable agriculture in Malawi to deliver on some of the aspirations articulated in the African Union 2063 Agenda.

As you engage in your technical discussions today, I challenge you to think innovatively

about how we can align our National-level efforts to the regional and AU-level commitments, so that we can effectively administer our land to catalyse agricultural transformation in Malawi.

Distinguished Stakeholders, Ladies and Gentlemen; Let me conclude by expressing the Ministry's appreciation and thanks to you all for sparing your precious time to be part of this Second Malawi Land Symposium, especially some of our guests who have travelled from abroad to be with us. We do not take your participation for granted for we know that you are busy people. The fact that you made it to this gathering testifies to

your commitment towards the development of our beloved country, Malawi.

I also wish to thank the development partners, particularly the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Union (EU) for the financial support that has enabled us to hold this Land Symposium. Gratitude is also accorded to the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development for collaborating with the New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support project (NAPAS) in leading the organization of this Land Symposium.

As we move forward with implementation of the NAP, through the NAIP, and the rolling out of the Land Laws, I implore us all to work together and maintain the right attitude and close coordination on land governance issues to enable us to effectively implement the new Land Laws and achieve the agricultural transformation and prosperity that we all seek.