



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

REMARKS

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

**DR. LAZARUS McCARTHY CHAKWERA,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**DURING THE SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR
THE MALAWI PEACE AND UNITY COMMISSIONERS**

**KAMUZU PALACE,
LILONGWE, MALAWI
18TH DECEMBER 2023**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today, we are witnessing history, because before us are the very first ever Commissioners for the Malawi Peace and Unity Commission, the apex of my Administration's efforts to establish the National Peace Architecture. Since 2012, various efforts to get this done have been frustrated by lack of political will, but I am happy that we are finally getting it done.

Mind you, I do not believe that the lack of political will to do this in the past was occasioned by malicious intent. Instead, I believe that it is just a reflection of the general lack of awareness in our midst of the importance of active engagement in peace-building processes. In fact, to some extent, I believe that it is a reflection of the fact that we are a nation that has always been at peace and never known armed conflict, which has induced us to take our nation's state of peace for granted, and to also grow complacent in our consideration of what our role is in being God's answer to the prayer we make to him whenever we recite our National Anthem, petitioning him to bless this land of Malawi and keep it a land of peace.

But today we turn the corner by taking our peace-building duties as citizens seriously. In that quest, the establishment of this Commission is key, as it will provide a strong institutional framework within which peace-building initiatives will be coordinated with consistency, thus nipping any threats to our nation's peace and unity in the bud in collaboration with all stakeholders. Events in recent memory and at various points in our history should give us sufficient cause and pause to see the importance of having this safety net. We may not have had any armed conflict here, but as we all know, there have been many occasions on which our people's religious, regional, tribal, political, and moral sensibilities have either been intentionally or inadvertently stoked and provoked to destabilize the country. So if we are going to safeguard our nation's peace long-term, not only to facilitate the enjoyment of our freedoms, but also to create the conditions necessary for sustaining development and attracting investments in pursuit of achieving the Malawi 2063 Vision, then we must become methodical and intentional in our active construction of the pillars of peace. As such, since the objective of building peace is to safeguard the enjoyment of civil liberties and economic rights of all Malawians, it is imperative that we have this Peace and Unity Commission

to identify the structural factors in the socioeconomic fabric of our nation that need to be confronted to neutralize their capacity to perpetuate inequalities that often form the basis of violence, injustice, and a breakdown in the public's observance and respect of the rule of law.

And I believe we could not have selected a more formidable or respected cohort of Malawians to serve as our nation's first ever Peace and Unity Commissioners, and I congratulate every single one of you for this milestone. May yours be the Messianic blessing of being called the Children of God on every occasion you succeed in equitable and fairly discharging your duties as peace-makers.

God bless you and God bless Malawi.