



**REPUBLIC OF MALAWI**

**SPEECH**

**BY HIS EXCELLENCY**

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

**AT THE SWEARING-IN CEREMONY OF  
JUSTICE LOVEMORE CHIKOPA, S.C.  
AS DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE OF MALAWI**

**KAMUZU PALACE, LILONGWE, MALAWI  
THURSDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**This morning we have borne witness to history, for this is no ordinary swearing-in ceremony. It would already be a remarkable occasion were it a ceremony to swear in a Judge of the High Court, but for the man we are honouring today, that distinguished honour is a fait accomplis. Similarly, it would doubtless be a remarkable occasion were it a ceremony to swear in a Justice of the Supreme Court, but for the man we are honouring today, that distinguished honour has been his body of work for no less than 11 years under no less than three Administrations.**

**Today is a great day because we see the rise of the Lord Justice Lovemore Paul Chikopa to the office of Deputy Chief Justice, becoming the first person in the history of Malawi to hold this position newly established in the Constitution Amendment bill that I signed into law three years ago. I must thank the Judiciary, under the enlightened guide of my Lord the Chief Justice Mzikamanda, for successfully completing the functional review that resulted in Justice Chikopa's commendation to me for this appointment.**

**Being somewhat of a student of judicial history, I dare say that you could not have recommended a more worthy candidate for this post. His career as a jurist and expert in matters of jurisprudence is as stellar and distinguished as the luminosity of his mind, the integrity of his character, the gravitas of his disposition, and the incandescence of his patriotism. Not only am I honoured to see him crowned with this well-deserved accolade, but I call on all Malawians to wish him well, to support him, and to accord his office as Deputy Chief Justice all the submission and regard thereto appertaining.**

**In the past, it has been my practice to offer candidates who are being sworn into office a word of counsel, but I beg your pardon for my restraint from doing so on this occasion. I am so overwhelmed by the presence of all the Justices of the Supreme Court here and impressed by the substance of the man taking up the office of Deputy Chief Justice that it seems to me that a word of counsel from me on this occasion would be an attempt to teach those from whom I have everything to learn. As such, I feel that having discharged my constitutional duty of presiding over this ceremony,**

**congratulations are in order to you my Lord Deputy Chief Justice, and may the name Lovemore Paul Chikopa be forever a fortress and a shield for Malawi in the defence and advancement of justice and may his work never cease to be threat to all enemies of Malawi's peace.**

**God bless you and God bless Malawi.**