



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI



THE AFRICAN UNION

AFRICA DAY SPEECH

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY
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ON THE OCCASION OF

THE AFRICAN UNION DAY

**LILONGWE
MALAWI
25TH MAY 2010**

MY FELLOW AFRICANS

As we celebrate the forty seventh anniversary of the establishment of the African Union, I greet you in the name of peace, security and stability.

The gist of my message to you, my fellow Africans is to remind us of the agenda before us as we strive to attain reasonable rates of growth that will enable us liberate our people from the bondage of abject poverty.

But before doing so, I wish to recall some historical events that make African Day relevant.

On 25th May 1963, Pan-Africanism became a reality when thirty African leaders gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at a meeting that led to the formation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which later became the African Union.

In commemorating Africa Day, we are reminded of the vision of the Founding Fathers of the OAU to stand together to fight for political independence until every inch of the African soil was liberated. That dream became a reality. Today African is politically free.

However, the challenge of achieving sustainable growth and development and of fighting extreme poverty among our people is still facing us today. This challenge makes the African Union relevant.

MY FELLOW AFRICANS

Let me start by reiterating that one of the challenges facing us today is how to consolidate democratic governance, rule of law and human rights. In varying degrees, our governments are committed to ensure that

people are free to pursue economic and business ventures free from hindrance. At the same time, we are all committed to ensure that ordinary people, especially the poor in urban and rural areas, get basic needs such as food, shelter, clothing, and primary health care.

We want to reduce maternal and infant mortality; we want to reduce incidences of death from malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS; and we want to produce enough food to feed all our people.

But to achieve these things, we need to have rapid growth of our economics and to sustain such growth.

MY FELLOW AFRICANS

On this memorable Africa Day while we take stock of our past achievements and to celebrate our successes on the political liberation of our continent, we also need to reflect on the great challenges that we now face. We need to find ways to grow enough food to feed all our people. We need to find ways for Africa to effectively combat diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS. We need to find ways to reduce maternal and infant mortality. We also need to find ways to end wars and conflicts on the African continent and to have lasting peace and stability. We need to promote greater unity, understanding and solidarity among us both at the national and continental levels.

These, my fellow Africans, are the challenges of our times. But I am confident that working together, we can overcome them. I therefore take this opportunity to call upon all my fellow leaders and all our people, to seek unity and not adversity, to look for harmony and not diversity.

If we can agree to move in one direction, we shall conquer any and all obstacles lying ahead of us. In doing so, we shall promote the dream of the founding fathers of our continental organisation.

MY FELLOW AFRICANS

Let me kindly remind you that when I was elected Chairman of the African Union, for this year, I obtained a commitment from you my fellow Heads of State and Government that within the next five years, Africa should be able to produce enough food to feed ourselves.

In that regard, we all committed ourselves to make Africa the food basket of the world. We also agree that after five years, no child in Africa should die of hunger, or malnutrition, or go to bed on an empty stomach.

We made that commitment on the realization that Africa is not a poor continent. We all agreed that Africa has all the resources to turn things around and to develop fast. But we can achieve this faster if we can unite.

MY FELLOW AFRICANS

In the years ahead, we must resolve to build strong and viable institutions to promote growth and development; to engage ourselves actively and decisively into the social and economic transformation of our societies; and for Africa to become a major player in shaping the new global order, based on justice equality and mutually beneficial international relations.

In this regard, Africa calls for a genuine transformation of the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund, to accommodate the changes that have

taken place in the developing world during the past five decades.

That new world order must also ensure that the international community creates global environment in which Africa can interact with the rest of the world with pride and dignity recognizing that the African people have a role to play in advancing humanity.

MY FELLOW AFRICANS

On peace and security my belief is that we must achieve these at whatever cost. We must create all opportunities available to ensure lasting peace on the continent.

It is in this context that I congratulate the Government and people of the Republic of the Sudan for holding successful multiparty general elections under the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that was signed in 2005. The people of Africa hail these elections as a step in the right direction for the people of Sudan.

These elections have laid down new hopes for that country. What Sudan now needs is to achieve fast rates of economic and social growth and transformation and distribute the benefits of prosperity to all people in the Sudan.

Let us use these elections as the end of an era of war and usher in the era of peace and stability in the Sudan.

MY FELLOW AFRICANS

I equally appeal to the people and leadership in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Niger, Guinea, Madagascar and other countries to take every opportunity to build on consensus and agreements already reached to

forge national unity and to strengthen democracy, human rights and rule of law.

Africa cannot permanently live in wars and conflicts. We cannot continue to live in the past. We must emerge from the past and move on to create new opportunities for lasting peace and harmony. In so doing all stakeholders in these countries should avoid taking actions or making statements that provoke further conflicts.

MY FELLOW AFRICANS

I end my greetings to you, on this anniversary of Africa Day, with the reminder that the future of Africa is now brighter than ever before. We have got the support of the international community for us to move forward. Let us agree to move forward together in the spirit of African unity and solidarity.

LONG LIVE THE AFRICAN UNION

GOD BLESS AFRICA.