



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

REMARKS

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

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

**DURING THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY
FOR THE EXPANDED NACALA PORT**

NACALA, MOZAMBIQUE

7TH OCTOBER 2023

Ladies and Gentlemen,

When His Excellency PresidentmNyusi hosted me for an historic State Visit last year, he had me take a tour of this facility. At that time, he pledged to see to it that the expansion and rehabilitation of this port was completed with speed, because he had looked favourably on my request for the port to be modernized in order for Malawi to maximize its use going forward. Not only was my brother ready to do so, but he told me that whenever people say that Malawi does not have any port by the sea, we should tell them that Malawi's port by the sea is Nacala. And Today, I am pleased to be here for the inauguration of this port in fulfilment of President Nyusi's promise to strengthen the economic connections between our two countries.

When we speak of regional economic integration, we must understand that it cannot be done without regional cooperation and collaboration. And when we speak of regional collaboration, we must understand that it cannot be done without building trust between our nations to enhance our bilateral relations. Without building trust, the

work of facilitating the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) will simply be too difficult to achieve, as will its intended objective of improving logistical effectiveness reducing logistical costs of conduct business between our nation. I would therefore like to congratulate Your Excellency President Nyusi and the Government of the Republic of Mozambique for this milestone and for this remarkable gesture of partnership and generosity towards Malawi. It is so rare in Africa to see a nation treat the prosperity of another nation as being inextricably linked to its own, and yet President Nyusi treats Malawi's prosperity in this manner again and again. Just three weeks ago, His Excellency accepted my invitation to join me in co-hosting the Africa Business Summit on the sidelines of the 78th United Nations General Assembly, where he helped our two nations court investors from the African American community in partnership with the National Forum for Black Public Administrators. So for being a true Pan Africanist and for demonstrating true brotherhood that seeks to see Malawi and Mozambique prospering together, I say Muito Obrigado to you my dear brother.

Infrastructure without supporting institutions may also fail to bring about the desired results. In the spirit of stronger cooperation and coordination in the management of the Nacala Development Corridor, it is just perfect that today, the three nations, have also signed the revised Nacala Development Corridor Agreement (NDC-Agreement). Alongside the NDC Agreement, two other agreements have also been signed on Rail and Road Transport modes, respectively. Through the execution of these agreements, I look forward to a vibrant Nacala Corridor that is attractive to both local and international investors. We will have to use these agreements to ensure that we continue to improve transport and trade facilitation through the removal of non-trade barriers to trade, including physical and non-physical ones.

As we celebrate and jubilate on the inauguration of the expanded-modern Port of Nacala, I have in mind mega projects that we continue to implement in addressing production inadequacies in our countries. Indeed, as we strengthen our cooperation on trade and transport, we also have to maintain cooperation on energy supply and distribution in order to enhance production of

manufactured goods and productivity along our cherished Nacala Development Corridor. Let me urge our officials to work steadfastly on implementing energy projects between the three countries. One case in point is the Malawi-Mozambique Power Interconnector Project which was launched in April, 2022. Implementation of that project has to be speeded up. Similarly, while Malawi has been tapping power from Zambia through a line from Chipata to Mchinji since 2018, I urge officials on both sides to speed up the on-going feasibility studies on the Malawi-Zambia interconnector. This is important because we urgently need power for industrialization, which is critical for the economic growth and development we all long to see.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of good connectivity in our region for reliable power supply. The Climate Change induced-cyclones which have been repeatedly bashing our countries and causing damage to critical infrastructure in recent years should teach us hard lessons. Last year, Malawi lost almost a third of her energy production capacity from the national grid due to cyclones Ana and Gombe. This seriously affected power supply for industrial and domestic use and the country's economy, as

a whole. Had it been that our countries were well-connected in terms of power supply, rail, road and air transport systems, the impact of such events in disrupting economic activity would have been kept to a minimum. The development of the Nacala Corridor should therefore focus on these areas.

When all is said and done, we expect a boost in inclusive growth for various industries in our countries, especially in the energy, agriculture and manufacturing sectors. We also expect more employment and increased consumer demand, thus further strengthening our economies. I, therefore, call upon the private sector to take full advantage of the opportunities availed by the Nacala Development Corridor which has now been resourced by a well-equipped modernised port.

It is pleasing to note, Your Excellency, that Mozambique has accepted to host the Secretariat of the Nacala Development Corridor Management Committee, as an institution that will be following up on development and operational effectiveness of the corridor and that space will be made

available in Tete for this purpose. In view of this, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of Mozambique for this generous gesture, which will not only facilitate our close collaboration in this area of corridor management and development, but will also ensure its efficiency and lead to our peoples' future prosperity.

Zikomo Kwambiri

Muito Obrigado