

OPENING REMARKS BY THE PS AT THE 2ND MALAWI LAND SYMPOSIUM

- **The Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Atupele Muluzi, MP,**
- **The Principal Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Mrs. Erica Maganga**
- **Our Distinguished Chiefs**
- **Senior Government Officials**
- **Chief of Party for New Alliance Policy Acceleration Support Project (NAPAS – Malawi)**
- **Senior Officials from Development Partners**
- **Senior Officials from Civil Society Partners**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Let me welcome you, Honourable Minister, and all the delegates to this second Malawi Land Symposium being held under the theme **“Initial Steps in the Implementation of the Malawi Land Acts: Implications on Commercial Agriculture.**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, My humble duty this morning is to request you Sir, to deliver a statement, and of course officially

open the second Land Symposium. But before doing so allow me, Honourable Minister, to make a few remarks.

Honourable Minister, our Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water development organized a similar event in April last year, though on a different theme. This was a period when the land laws were before the National Assembly

This second land symposium Honourable Minister, distinguished participants therefore comes at an opportune time when all the ten land related laws have been passed and assented to. This event will provide a platform to deliberate on how best the new land laws should be implemented both in the short and long term.

Honourable Minister, having the new land laws in place in itself is not a panacea to the numerous challenges in the land sector. We need therefore to join hands to ensure that the implementation process is successful. Our continued collaboration is very vital now and beyond.

Let it be mentioned that before implementation of the land reform programme starts, there are a number of make ready activities that have to be executed. The activities require both technical and

financial support and I call upon all the stakeholders present here to continue the support that you give to the land reform process.

Distinguished, Ladies and Gentlemen, as a way of preparing for the implementation process, our Ministry with support from FAO has already developed the communication Strategy for the new Land Laws. Soon the officers will start developing key messages that will reinforce the sensitization efforts of the laws. Again, we have a roadmap in place with which to pilot the implementation of the laws and it will be shared with all the stakeholders soon.

Another important aspect of the new land laws is access to land by women and the youth. In this regard, our Ministry will this month start the process of developing the Gender Strategy.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the African Union (AU) Land Policy Initiative (LPI) is implementing a pilot project to mainstream land governance issues in the agriculture development framework for our country within the framework of Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). This project is being piloted in six countries in Africa where Malawi is one of the beneficiaries. The project aims at advancing the 2009 African Union (AU) Declaration on Land by systematically mainstreaming land issues in agriculture in line with the CAADP framework.

Honourable Minister, as I said earlier on my duty is to invite you to open this Symposium. At this juncture allow me to request you Sir, to address us.

Honourable Minister, the floor is now Yours.

I thank you very much.