



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

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

**AT THE 40TH VIRTUAL SADC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF
STATE AND GOVERNMENT**

MONDAY, 17TH AUGUST, 2020

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Lilongwe 3,
August, 2020**

- **Your Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli; President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Out-going Chairperson of SADC;**
- **Your Excellency Felipe Jacinto Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique and In-coming Chairperson of SADC;**
- **Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;**
- **Your Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of SADC;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen;**

On behalf of the people of Malawi, allow me to begin by expressing our sincere and deepest condolences to Your Excellency Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli and the people of Tanzania on the passing of His Excellency Late Benjamin William Mkapa, Former President of Tanzania. May God continue to comfort you as we join you in mourning the loss of so great a son of the African soil. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

With your permission, I wish to pay a special tribute to His Excellency Late Benjamin William Mkapa because I believe his legacy is most relevant to our reflections on the theme of this summit: ***“40 Years Building Peace and Security, and Promoting Development and Resilience in the Face of Global Challenges”*** .

I believe that one of the ways we can promote development and resilience is to turn his dream of regional economic integration into reality. As you all know, this is a subject on which he often spoke with great passion and conviction without sparing our feelings. As a case in point, he once said: “The idea of African brotherhood is often just a cover-up for laziness. In terms of regional economic integration, sentimentality is not enough. We really have to be frank and honest.”

All of us as Sub-Saharan African nations feel this brotherhood that binds us very deeply, for it is a brotherhood that predates our colonial borders and transcends our individual statehood. What remains is for us to resolve once and for all to give this brotherhood its fullest expression in the areas of economics and development. I believe that the combination of strengths and shared values between us in this present moment represents a unique opportunity to achieve this within the next few years, an opportunity worth seizing. I also believe that it is a divine opportunity, for it is by the Providence of God that we are bound to one another by history, culture, and a shared journey of liberation.

For us as Malawians, we feel this undeniable bond whenever we travel beyond our borders, which is why I have never accepted that Malawi is land-locked, but rather land-linked, for we are inextricably linked to our SADC brothers on all sides, and I can assure you that we would not have it any other way. From this perspective, I humbly request you, the In-coming Chairman, my brother and neighbor, Your Excellency Felipe Nyusi, to give us all no rest during your tenure until we join hands in honoring the legacy of His Excellency Late Benjamin Mkapa by fully liberalizing trade across the SADC region and unlock the economic possibilities that our peoples dream of. Should this appeal be regarded favorably by Your Excellencies, I can promise that you will find in Malawi and my Government an eager partner ready to give of herself in service to this noble idea, whose time I believe has come.

**I thank you very much for your kind attention and may
God bless us all.**
