



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

REMARKS

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

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

**DURING A BILATERAL MEETING
WITH ADVOCATE DUMA GIDEON BOKO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**KAMUZU PALACE
LILONGWE, MALAWI
SATURDAY, 5TH JULY 2025**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you, Advocate Duma Boko, President of the Republic of Botswana, to Malawi and to the People's Palace here at State House. It was already a great joy to me when I heard that you had accepted to be our Guest of Honour on the occasion of Malawi's 61st Birthday tomorrow, but now that joy is overflowing beyond measure because you also accepted our invitation to make your inaugural visit to Malawi a State Visit. I don't know how to thank you, but thank you.

What you have done by coming to be with us on this special occasion is to give the deep bilateral ties between Malawi and Botswana a timely opportunity for renewal. You have given our two countries a timely opportunity to renew our shared democratic values, our mutual respect, and our regional cooperation. You have given our two countries a timely opportunity to renew our partnership in growing and developing our economies and cultures to bravely meet the challenges of the 21st Century. It is no exaggeration to say that your visit has given our country hope that even though the bilateral ties between our countries have existed since 1966, involving cooperation in the areas of education,

tourism, and agriculture, the best days of our cooperation are yet to come. This is why I am delighted that one effect of your visit is the revitalization of the Joint Permanent Commission of Cooperation (JPCC) between our countries, which I now expect to convene soon to expand and concretize our areas of cooperation going forward. And if I am not mistaken, it is Malawi's turn to host the JPCC, so my team will know not to drop the ball or let things slide, because the time for bureaucratic red tape when opportunity comes knocking must be put behind us. I know that our teams have been negotiating some Memoranda of Understanding following their constructive engagement, but I am excited that your forward-looking and fast-moving approach to governance will add new impetus to the speed at which these negotiations move so that we can focus more on doing things than talking.

That is what I meant by opportunity, for your history-making and record-breaking election as the sixth President of Botswana 10 months ago is a great opportunity for the cooperation between our countries. I and the people of Malawi give you our happiest congratulation on your election as President, and we regard it is an historic

opportunity for the bilateral relations between our countries to be stronger than ever, because there is so much that we as a nation can learn from yours going forward, including in the manner in which you have held your most recent elections. In fact, as Malawians go to the polls in two and half months, we will be looking to the peaceful conduct of Botswana's elections as an inspiration worth emulating, because the preservation of democracy as manifested in the peaceful management of election is a value our countries have in common and a value we must continually replenish.

And that is only the beginning. My desire is to see growth in the trade between our countries. My desire is to see Malawi learn from Botswana's experience in diamond governance to structure our own mineral sector and Sovereign Wealth Fund through the Mining Company and Mining Authority we have already set up. My desire is to explore how we can work together on Malawi's ATM Strategy of boosting productivity in Agriculture, Tourism, and Mining and bringing those products to Manufacturing and value-addition. My desire is to see Malawi's famous Kilombero rice and Malawi's Chambo fish at dinner tables in Gaborone. My desire is to see exchange visits between our peoples, between our youths,

between our Universities, between our officials, for mutual learning and growth. My desire is for you, Mr. President, to always know that you can come to Malawi and find that Makhirikhiri has a home here.

So thank you for coming and welcome to Kamuzu Palace.