



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

SPEECH

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

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

DURING THE MRA SILVER JUBILEE

BICC

LILONGWE, MALAWI

FRIDAY, 1ST AUGUST 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It seems that this is a special year of divine favour for Malawi, the year in which the economic fortunes of our nation and our people will begin to manifest. Last month, I was here for the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Reserve Bank of Malawi, and today we begin the new month of August with the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Malawi Revenue Authority. To me, these are not mere celebrations, but signals of the season we are about to enter, a season of remarkable revenue for Malawi and a season of great reserves of wealth for Malawians.

I say this with confidence because as Government, we have completed the task of laying the foundations for Malawi's prosperity, and we are now only 45 days from an historic election that will allow us to build decisive actions onto that foundation. Over the past five years, we laid a foundation of tax-free income for everyone earning less than 100,000 kwacha, and now we are ready to build on that foundation with a tax cut of no less than 10% for everyone across the board over the next five years. Over the past five years, we laid a foundation of strengthening governance in the institution of the Malawi Revenue Authority, and now we are

ready to build on that foundation with broadening the tax base over the next five years. Over the past five years, we have laid the foundation of incentivizing citizens to honour their tax obligations, and now we are ready to build on that foundation with direct rewards to citizens who go above and beyond the call of duty, such as our plan to give tax discounts to those who contribute the excess food they grow to our national food reserves to support vulnerable households. Over the past five years, we have laid the foundation of strengthening systems of accountability and transparency in the manner we collect and utilize taxes and fees, and now we are ready to build on that foundation with the new policy to be adopted over the next five years where we will abolish the use of cash for the payment of taxes and all government services across the country, thus ending decades of abuse against citizens within Government premises. Over the past five years, we have laid a foundation of civic education about the importance of paying taxes, and now we are ready to build on that foundation by adopting certain policies that will reward those who do so and decentivize those who do not, such as our plan to place tax compliant agents at retail stores and service centres to check that every customer is being given a tax receipt to end years of cheating Malawians with false and arbitrary

pricing, as well as our plan to ensure that every tax-paying citizen is being furnished with an annual tax certificate which they can use to get discounts on some public services like water, electricity, and toll fees.

These are serious policy shifts that are less than two months away from being put in place, and part of my selection of Engineer Vitumbiko Mumba as the next Vice President of Malawi is to ensure that these things are being implemented with speed. But the principle underlying all these plans is simple. It is the principle of self-reliance, which is a key objective of the Malawi 2063 Vision. In this nation, we generate enough revenue to finance our own budget one hundred percent, but we need to use strong system to galvanize those resources in a common direction of nation building and public service delivery. So that is what we must do in the next five years and in the next 25 years of the Malawi Revenue Authority, but I congratulate you for reaching this milestone of a Silver Jubilee today.

God bless you and God bless Malawi.