



SPEECH BY

**HONOURABLE JOSEPH
MWANAMVEKHA M.P.,**

MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE

AT

**THE 50 YEARS ANNIVESSARY
CELEBRATIONS FOR**

TOYOTA MALAWI LIMITED

CAPITAL HOTEL MARQUEE,

FRIDAY, 31ST OCTOBER 2014

- **Your Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi;**
- **Your Honour Right Honourable Saulosi Klaus Chilima, Vice President of the Republic of Malawi;**
- **Mr. Hisashi Nakatomi, Deputy Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of Malawi;**
- **Mr. Norihiko Manago, Representing Toyota Tsusho Corporation**
- **Mrs Rosemary Mkandawire, Chairperson of Toyota Malawi;**

- **Mr. Arvinder Reel, Managing Director of Toyota Malawi;**
- **Cabinet Ministers here present**
- **Members of Parliament here present**
- **Government Officials here present**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Invited Guests**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

My humble duty this morning is to ask Your Excellency to address the gathering that has come to celebrate with Toyota Malawi the 50 years that they have been operating in Malawi. But before doing so, allow me **Your Excellency** to say a few remarks on Toyota Malawi's presence in Malawi.

To start with **Your Excellency**, I wish to register how deeply honoured I am to be part of this auspicious occasion to celebrate Toyota Malawi's 50 years of existence in Malawi. The theme of this celebration, as alluded to by speakers before me, is **"Celebrating 50 years of Partnership in Malawi"**. The theme is befitting the

occasion as Toyota has indeed been a partner to Malawi.

I am pleased to inform **Your Excellency** that Toyota Malawi has played a crucial role in contributing to the growth of our economy over the 50 years of its existence in this country. This is particularly in the areas of trade and transport facilitation, job creation, technology and innovation skills development and payment of taxes to Government among many others. Actually I am aware that Toyota Malawi is classified as one of the largest and compliant tax payers contributing significant amounts to tax revenue for Government. **Your Excellency,** Toyota Malawi provides products and services that ease the

movement of people and goods for various activities. The company provides large Trucks for movement of large cargo within Malawi and across our borders on top of the traditional passenger and commercial vehicles.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

Toyota Malawi is the market leader in the motor industry in Malawi with a 50% market share in new vehicle sales and the only recognized official distributor of Toyota vehicles and Hino Trucks in Malawi, with facilities in Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu. Toyota Malawi's commitment to quality,

durability and reliability can therefore never be doubted.

I am also reliably informed, **Your Excellency**, that Toyota Malawi Limited will be making one of their largest infrastructure investments ever made in Malawi by building state of the art facilities right here in Lilongwe that will cost about US\$7 million. Toyota Malawi also provides about 200 direct jobs and over 500 indirect jobs across the country. In addition, Toyota Malawi provides business opportunities to various suppliers and service providers like clearing agents, parts dealers, suppliers of fuel, oils, lubricants and various body and paint workshops. These service providers in turn provide jobs to the young people of

this country. It is quite encouraging to see that the efforts of Toyota Malawi are complementing those of the Government of Malawi in addressing employment challenges facing this country. Government expects such new investment to create employment, generate additional tax revenues and improve linkages with domestic firms and SMEs. This must be commended and is in line with **Your Excellency's** vision which is emphasizing on trade and investment as a means of achieving economic growth and development in line with the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II).

As **Your Excellency** is aware, my Ministry is working with other regional blocs like

SADC, COMESA and the East African Community (EAC) to facilitate regional integration and harmonization of trade taxes across the borders. Among the positive outcomes of those efforts is that there is a tax reduction of 15% on vehicles manufactured within the SADC region. I hope Toyota Malawi has fully passed on the 15% reduction to its customers. Government and the private sector's efforts to develop the country are mutually inter-dependent and re-enforcing. Government on its part will continue to provide the necessary support, encouragement and enabling business environment for businesses to thrive. As you are aware, Government has taken many policy initiatives to create and consolidate an

enabling macro-economic environment for the growth and expansion of the private sector, knowing fully well that this is the engine of our economic growth. Your Excellency has time and again stressed the need for Government to create a conducive environment for the private sector. This is why Your Excellency has championed the implementation of reforms to make the public sector an efficient deliverer of services to the private sector and the general public at large. Your Excellency has also demonstrated commitment to preserve and uphold the country's long history of peace and political stability so that the private sector operates in a secure and stable social and political environment.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

Let me take this opportunity to thank Toyota Malawi for demonstrating its good corporate citizenship by providing support to various areas of need through corporate social responsibility projects. Toyota Malawi has made significant contributions to education, health, environment and safety.

I therefore would like to encourage Toyota Malawi to continue investing and promoting trade in Malawi and also enhance its corporate social responsibility by investing in our social sector as it has done before. As a leading company involved in motor vehicle business in Malawi, Toyota Malawi may

consider establishing or sponsoring establishment of a vocational training centre to train motor vehicle mechanics. This will be in line with Your Excellency's vision to establish community colleges whose objective would be to train and provide skills to our young people who are not able to proceed with tertiary education

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen

Government through my Ministry is putting in place all the necessary laws, infrastructure and incentives to encourage the business community to invest in many sectors of the economy. This is why Your Excellency directed my Ministry to compile a

list of bankable projects from which investors can choose from. I am pleased to report that we are making good progress and we should be able to produce the compendium within schedule.

Furthermore, Your Excellency's presence at this function is a clear testimony of your Government's commitment to see more investment in the country. We know that there are some areas that need improvement and, in this regard, we are working with stakeholders such as the private sector, cooperating partners and the civil society to improve the investment climate so that the private sector can thrive. It is my hope that, with these concerted efforts, Malawi will be the best place to

conduct business in this region. With regard to potential domestic and foreign investors, I would like to assure them that Malawi is the best destination for their investment. I therefore, appeal to would-be investors to emulate the rational investment decisions taken by Toyota Malawi.

Finally, let me, once again, applaud and congratulate Toyota Malawi for the remarkable achievements they have made in the 50 years they have operated in Malawi. The journey might have been tough and rough but you persisted and triumphed. Toyota might have started with humble beginnings with small showrooms but now you are moving into mega showrooms. We would like to encourage other investors to

emulate this hardworking and “never-give-up” spirit that has seen Toyota Malawi persist for the last 50 years. I wish Toyota Malawi and its customers a happy 50 years anniversary.

At this juncture, it is my singular honour and humble duty to request **Your Excellency** to address this gathering.

I thank you all for your attention.