



MALAWI GOVERNMENT

**INTERVENTION POINTS TO BE DELIVERED BY  
HIS HONOUR, DR. SAULOS KLAUS CHILIMA, VICE PRESIDENT  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI  
DURING SESSION THREE OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL REVIEW  
MEETING ON THE THEME: *“RETHINKING STRUCTURAL  
TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICAN LDCs IN THE ERA OF  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT AND INNOVATION”*  
23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY, 2021**

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
LILONGWE  
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**Honourable Ministers;**

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Malawi and other African LDC's and Haiti should forget meaningful development if we ignore structural transformation in this era of technological advancement and innovation. Looking critically at our economies, you will discover that one defining characteristic is dependence on limited export bases dominated by primary products. If it is not agriculture, it is mineral products which are mostly sold in unprocessed form and normally fetch low prices on the international market.

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

In pursuit of the structural transformation agenda, Malawi launched a new vision (Malawi 2063) in January 2021. The Malawi 2063 has strategies that will position the country on a structural transformation path.

The traditional basis for structural transformation has been the manufacturing sector which is expected to be a major contributor to Malawi's economic growth and development and will be re-invigorated to ensure strong and forward looking linkages with sectors like agriculture and mining by promoting value addition.

This notwithstanding, the Malawi 2063, vision focuses on other sources of sustainable development including technological advancement and greening the country's growth. In this regard, as

the country marches towards achieving SDGs by 2030, structural transformation will be a catch phrase for our development strategies both short and medium term.

### **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Malawi is aware that the COVID-19 pandemic has exerted extra pressure on our economies. Surely, there is need for resilient policies if we are to build back better after the scourge of Corona virus. The pandemic has proved that, technology and innovation, in all sectors will be critical if African LDCs and Haiti are to generate the required decent employment for our population, particularly among women, youth and other marginalized groups.

Malawi's long term development strategy is underpinned by an '*Inclusive Democratic Developmental State*' philosophy which will prioritize long-term growth and structural change; with the state playing an active role while having strong alliances with the private sector in addressing market failures. This includes having development trailblazer parastatals that run on business principles in strategic green-field investments.

We envision a country with world-class digital economy that is globally competitive with, among other things, sound E-commerce, E-learning, E-health and E-governance systems. Investment in technology and innovation infrastructure shall be promoted to increase digital access and technological absorption. Technology shall be embraced in a way that promotes inclusive development and

financial systems. Financial services and products will be offered through diverse and modern digital platforms that are convenient, available and accessible to everyone especially those in remote areas.

### **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

I would like to encourage all of us to seriously think about structural transformation as we pursue the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals. Building back better after COVID-19 is of paramount importance. Malawi is more determined in pursuing clean growth and sustainable development while incorporating technology and innovation policies so that we increase our productive capacity and achieve structural transformation.

**I thank you all for your attention.**