



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

REMARKS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY

DR LAZARUS MCCARTHY CHAKWERA

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

DELIVERED

AT THE BRENTHURST FOUNDATION'S

LAUNCH OF "THE ASIAN ASPIRATION"

AT

BINGU INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER

31ST MARCH 2021

- **Your Excellency President Olusegun Obasanjo, Former Head of State for the Republic of Nigeria**
- **Your Excellency Prime Minister Hailemariam Delasegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia**
- **Your Excellency President Joyce Banda, Former Head of State of the Republic of Malawi**
- **Ministers of Government and All Government Officials here present**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

The Asian Aspiration is a great resource for anyone who is serious about nation-building. It is based on an intelligent and researched analysis and understanding of the place that history, culture, demographics, geopolitics, economics, and governance have in the matrix of economic and developmental transformation.

The African continent can no longer be asked to wait for the socioeconomic transformation of its countries, nor can Africans be expected to follow the prescriptions of countries that preach to them what they themselves do not practice. We as Africans have clarity about what we want to make of

our countries. We as Africans have clarity about whose prescriptions over the past 50 years have helped us and whose prescriptions have failed us. We as Africans have clarity about what activities are being done in our nations to take our wealth from us and what activities are being done to create wealth for us. We as Africans have clarity about what foreign powers are here to fight their turf wars on African soil in a new scramble for Africa that pits West against East and what foreign powers are here as true partners in development. For example, when we engage the United States as a partner at various levels of government, we do so because we count America among our friends, and when we engage China as a partner at various levels of government, it is for the same reason, and the same applies to all our development partners.

What my Administration wants to see done better is ending the culture of engaging our development partners in isolation, because working in developmental silos is a policy that has failed our country for decades, for it fosters an air of suspicion and leaves us vulnerable to exploitation. What we desire is a new approach to development and economic transformation, one that is based on mutual respect and

multilateral partners working together with us and with each other. If we are all for the people of Malawi, then we are all on the same team, must shoot the ball in the same goal, and must have the same idea of what winning looks like.

For us as Malawians, winning looks the same as it does in North America, South America, Asia, and Europe, for we want the same things for our people that the governments on those continents want for theirs: freedom, opportunity, self-determination, prosperity, and development. We want to live in a country that is so developed that it is not at the mercy of the charity of other nations. We want to live in a country that does all the basic things like education, food production, healthcare, security, law enforcement, justice, human rights, democracy, and public works for itself, so that we can have the dignity of taking pride in ourselves.

To build such a country, we do not have the luxury of time or an endless supply of resources to turn our economy around. What we must leverage is the power of global partnerships with those of you who share our values, respect our vision, think outside the box, and understand the urgency of our situation. What we must leverage is the power

of good developmental examples, and this book does that in ways that are practical and measurable. I congratulate and thank the authors for this resource, and I for one intend to put it to good use.

Thank you for your attention!