



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

SPEECH DELIVERED

by

**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT
DR. BINGU WA MUTHARIKA, MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY**

on the occasion of

**THE 2007 GRADUATION CEREMONY OF
THE NATURAL RESOURCES COLLEGE
LILONGWE**

28th April, 2007

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- **The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food Security, Honourable Bintony Kutsaira, M.P.;**
- **The Chairperson of the NRC Board of Trustees, Dr. Beatrice Mtimuni and Members of the Board;**
- **All Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers;**
- **The Chief Secretary, Mr. Bright Msaka;**
- **Member of Parliament for Lilongwe West, Honourable Jean Sendeza;**
- **The Executive Director and Members of Staff of the Natural Resources College;**
- **Gogo Chalo T.A. Malili, Senior Group Village Headman Maziro, Chiefs and Traditional Leaders present here;**
- **Parents, Guardians and Sponsors of the Graduating Students;**
- **Graduating Students;**
- **Distinguished Guests;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am very pleased to be here this morning to award diplomas to students who have successfully completed their two-year training programmes in Agriculture and Natural Resources Management and in Irrigation Technology here at the Natural Resources College.

I am here in my capacity as Head of State as well as Minister of Agriculture and Food Security.

This is indeed a great day for the students, the college and the whole of Malawi.

I am delighted to see that the Natural Resources College is excelling in building the much needed human resource capacity.

The theme of this year's graduation: **“QUALITY TRAINING IN AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”** is indeed germane to the development of our nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen

When I took over the realms of this country, I promised the people of Malawi to turn our country into a “hunger-free nation”. Indeed, two years down the lane, I have achieved that. Malawi now has enough food for all and at affordable prices. We will sustain this achievement in the coming years.

We are also witnessing better harvests in other food items including cash crops such as tobacco and cotton.

With regard to cotton, we have this year fixed the price at MK40 per kilogram in order to benefit our cotton growing farmers. This will encourage Malawi to grow more cotton.

Dear Graduating Students

I wish to emphasize that our country is endowed with a variety of natural resources such as forestry, fish, minerals, gold, uranium, bauxite and other precious stones, water and fertile lands. This is why I have always emphasized that “Malawi is not a poor country” but we the people of Malawi are poor. Our challenge is to create new wealth by transforming our natural resources into finished products.

This is where you, the graduating students come in. I want you to aggressively apply the knowledge you have acquired during the past two years of your studies here, towards the development of our beloved country. Your primary responsibility is to assist the farming community, especially those in rural areas, to produce more from the same unit of land.

You should also take it as your challenge to change people’s attitudes to take farming as a business. Do not be afraid or shy to come up with new ideas. I want you to dream in colour!

In this regard, I commend the Natural Resources College for redesigning its curricula in a manner that responds to my government’s vision of turning Malawi from a predominantly importing and consuming country into a producing and exporting nation. We can achieve this together.

I also urge all of you to work hard in everything you do. Do not expect “hand-outs” or a free meal from anyone. You have to work hard for anything you want to achieve. Therefore, I implore you to work hard, to work harder and to work hardest. This will be your gateway to success in life.

Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Honourable Ministers and Deputy Ministers
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen

I would like to end my address to you this morning by extending my congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2007. You have embarked on a road to success and upon the beginning of a long professional career. Always remember, “*there is no way to the end of a journey but to travel the road that leads to it*”.

The lecturers here have done their part, your future professional success is now dependent on your conduct in the tough professional world. The Malawi nation is waiting to benefit from your training and expertise in various aspects of agriculture.

Once again, warm congratulations.

God Bless you all.

Kassim Nkalapa

Yusufu Nkalapa

Nhsukulani Nkalapa

Kassim Nkalapa

Yusufu Nkalapa

Nhsukulani Nkalapa

Kassim Nkalapa

Yusufu Nkalapa

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