



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

**“TAKING OUR DEVELOPMENT FORWARD
TO CONTINUE THE PROGRESS
WE HAVE DELIVERED”**

BY HIS EXCELLENCY

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

**DURING THE OPENING OF
THE 2025/2026 BUDGET MEETING
AT THE FOURTH MEETING IN THE 51ST SESSION
OF PARLIAMENT**

LILONGWE, MALAWI

14TH FEBRUARY 2024

- **RIGHT HONOURABLE DR MICHAEL BIZWICK USI, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI;**
- **RIGHT HONOURABLE CATHERINE GOTANI HARA, M.P., SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY;**
- **YOUR LORDSHIP HONOURABLE RIZINE MZIKAMANDA, SC, CHIEF JUSTICE;**
- **HONOURABLE DEPUTY SPEAKERS;**
- **HONOURABLE LEADER OF THE HOUSE;**
- **HONOURABLE CABINET MINISTERS AND DEPUTY MINISTERS;**
- **HONOURABLE JUSTICES OF APPEAL AND JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT;**
- **HONOURABLE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION;**
- **LEADERS OF POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT;**
- **HONOURABLE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT;**

- **MS. COLLEEN ZAMBA, SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET;**
- **HER EXCELLENCY DR. NANCY SAUNGWEME, DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND HEADS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS;**
- **DISTINGUISHED INVITED GUESTS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**

Madam Speaker,

One Thousand! Six Hundred! Eighty-Four!

That is the number of days that have passed since that crisp July morning on which I was inaugurated as the 6th President of the Republic of Malawi on our Motherland's fifty-sixth birthday. On that historic day, I told the Malawian people that despite our victory over the dark forces that had stolen an election from them, the task they had given me as President to correct the decades-long mismanagement of our natural and national treasures and institutions, would require all of us to endure what I called "*the pain of systemic surgery if we ever want to enjoy wholeness as a nation.*" Today, it is clear that the systemic surgery we have undergone in the past four years has indeed been painful.

In 2020, it was painful to some in the trucking business, when I declared that I would focus on bringing Malawi's dead railway system back to life. That same year, it was also painful to some, **Madam Speaker**, when I declared that my Administration would

open a diplomatic mission in Israel to restore our lost friendship with a great friend of our people.

And again in 2021, it was painful to some when my Administration gazetted and enforced an SME order to reserve some Government contracts for local and Malawian-owned businesses, thus drying up the profits of those who had been profiting from giving most of those contracts to a few Asian businesses. That same period, it was painful to some when I decided to take a huge sum of money meant for healthy Malawians in some sectors and used it to save many thousands of Malawians sick from Covid, which had already killed over a thousand people in a single month, including members of this House and senior members of my Cabinet. And later that year, it was painful to some when I signed and enforced a new Employment Act to ensure that those who treat Malawian labourers like property would face consequences, just as it has been painful to many employers that I have twice raised the minimum wage so that it is now triple what it was when I took office. And before that first year ended, there was another wave of pain to some when senior members of the Democratic Progressive Party were arrested because an independent audit I had ordered of the Reserve Bank of Malawi had revealed that before I took office, the books there had been doctored to prevent

Malawians and the International Monetary Fund from seeing that hundreds of millions of dollars in foreign loans were being taken to hide the country's depleted forex, but also revealed that just hours before the Malawi Electoral Commission declared me the winner of the court-ordered Fresh Presidential Election, the leaders of the Bank effected a transfer of over 4 billion Kwacha to a private bank.

And then in 2022, there was a lot of pain for our farmers, for that's when Russia invaded Ukraine and caused the price of the fertilizers, we import from there to go up three times in six months, forcing us to accept that the global fertilizer prices by which we had promised that a 50kg bag would cost less than 5,000 Kwacha was no longer realistic, thus requiring us to raise the price. You may recall, **Madam Speaker**, that 2022 is also the year I signed and enforced a new NGO Act, which ended the practice of allowing NGOs to operate in our country without registration or audits, and that also caused so much pain that some were lobbying to remove me.

But even in the public service, **Madam Speaker**, it caused great pain to some when I signed and enforced a new Public Finance Management Act, resulting in the arrest of dozens of civil servants caught trying to steal public funds and preventing all

political parties from taking and using public funds for political rallies. Similarly, I know it was painful to some, **Madam Speaker**, when I decided to give the Anti-Corruption Bureau more money, staff, and autonomy than ever, thus empowering the Bureau to confront the corruption of a few members of my own party and Government, or when I decided to suspend or dismiss them from public office so that as I stand here today, it is the Opposition party seated on my left, not my party or Cabinet seated on my right, that is keeping individuals in its top leadership who are answering corruption charges.

And I have no doubt that it was painful to some, **Madam Speaker**, that in that same year, I decided to channel huge sums of money away from their favourite programmes, to go towards vulnerable Malawians who had been devastated by Tropical Storms Ana and Gombe, as well as towards the rehabilitation of the storm-damaged Kapichira Power Station to end the 12-hour blackouts Malawians were experiencing. I am also sure it was painful to some, **Madam Speaker**, that in the middle of that year, my name did not appear in the United Kingdom's court documents listing Malawian officials suspected of corrupt dealings in public procurement.

As for 2023, **Madam Speaker**, you will remember how painful it was to some that I cut funding to many beneficial programs in order to invest in saving millions of lives from the worst scourge of cholera in our nation's history and to provide emergency humanitarian support to over two million Malawians devastated by the worst Cyclone on record. And who can forget, **Madam Speaker**, the pain that was felt by all Malawians, when 2023 ended with my decision to effect a 44 percent devaluation of the Kwacha and a four-month suspension of international travel for all public servants in order to fix the Kwacha's misalignment that had been in place for over a decade without anyone doing anything to fix it.

And then came this past year, **Madam Speaker**, which came with the pain that was caused by my tough decision to cut spending in some areas in order to provide emergency maize to hungry families after forty-four percent of our national food crop in 23 districts was destroyed by drought. And before the year had ended, there came the pain caused by my decision to change Malawi's procurement laws and policies towards a Government-to-Government arrangement that now disadvantages those who have been benefiting from fuel and fertilizer procurements in the Open Tender System, just as there are many who are not happy with my recent Executive Order requiring those who receive

forex from abroad to pass it through the Reserve Bank where it can no longer be traded on the criminal black market.

But worst of all, **Madam Speaker**, it has been excruciatingly painful to feel our hearts breaking from the shocking and tragic death of late Vice President Chilima and eight others; painful to feel our society being torn apart by political witch hunts and conspiracy theories about the accident; painful to read the Commission of Inquiry's report detailing how they got on that plane, how they died, how various agencies responded when they lost contact with them, and how they were found; painful to see the bereaved families, whom I have personally spent time with, caught in a spiral of grief compounded by political exploitation and feelings of despair; and just two nights ago, we were powerfully reminded by Mrs. Mary Chilima herself about how painful it is to feel stuck with questions for which only our Heavenly Father has answers about what happened on that plane before it went down.

Madam Speaker, as you can see, pain has been our portion these past four years. And while the pain of losing loved ones has been caused by tragedies beyond our control, there is no question in my mind that the pain of losing opportunities has largely come from the systemic surgery I promised to do to

prevent the use of Government as an instrument for the personal enrichment of a few and promote the use of Government as an instrument for the collective development of many. So today, **Madam Speaker**, after four years of allowing me to do this painful surgery on Malawi, after four years of endurance from Malawians of the pain they have gone through because of this surgical shift from personal interest to national development, I stand before you to report the good news that has come from this surgery. I stand before you, **Madam Speaker**, to report the Food Security Development, the Economic Development, the Governance Development, the Human Capital Development, and the Infrastructure Development I have delivered in each district as a result of the patience and endurance of Malawians who allowed me to serve them. In fact, **Madam Speaker**, I stand before you to present a good report of good developments that I believe the good people of Malawi will want us to take forward. For this reason, **Madam Speaker**, the title of my address today is:

**“Taking Our Development Forward
to Continue the Progress
We Have Delivered.”**

So, **Madam Speaker**, allow me to begin my submission of the progress that the sacrifice of Malawians over the past four years has enabled me to deliver nationwide with a report on what we have done for the good people of Chitipa, who are represented in this House by Honourables Msukwa, Chilenga, Mwenesongole, Masebo, and Ng'ambi.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN CHITIPA

In the area of Chitipa's Food Security Development over the past four years, my Administration has done the following:

- Through the Programme for Rural Irrigation Development (PRIDE), we have invested 6.1 billion Kwacha in food production through Mafinga and Marko Irrigation schemes in Senior Chiefs Mwenewenya and Mwabulambya, both of which were launched in May 2022 using funds from the people of Malawi and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
- Through the Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP), we supported 59,637 farmers with low-cost fertilizer in the 2020/2021 growing season, followed by 48,052 in 2021/2022; 29,056 in 2022/2023; 18,990 in 2023/2024; and 13,722 in 2024/2025, showing a steady graduation from the programme.

- Through the National Economic Empowerment Fund (NEEF), we have provided 949 million Kwacha worth of loans for fertilizer to another 1,205 farmers in this growing season.
- Through the MEGA Farm Unit, we have supported 6 Mega Farmers with a total of 640 bags of fertilizer, 2,000kgs of maize seed and 640kgs of herbicides to produce maize.
- For those with food shortages, we distributed 579 metric tonnes of maize, reaching 5,791 households, apart from the school feeding programmes we are running in 183 of Chitipa's primary schools.

In the area of Chitipa's Economic Development, what we have done over the past four years to create economic opportunities is as follows:

- We have installed a communication tower at Mughese to ensure people have access to information and can communicate for business.
- We have brought electricity to 171 centres and connected 2,054 houses to electricity through MAREP 9 and MEAP projects respectively.

- We have installed home-solar facilities in 4,333 homes to ensure households have access to light, charge their phones and communicate for business off the grid.
- We have extended free water connection to 89 houses.
- We have provided loans amounting to 2.6 billion Kwacha disbursed to 4,477 beneficiaries who have started their own business ventures.
- We have made social cash transfers to 5,555 households and given access to incomes to an additional 13,763 households under the Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works.

And in terms of Chitipa's Governance Development, **Madam Speaker**, we have also delivered so much progress in the past four years. For example, to manage land administration issues fairly, we have established a District Land Tribunal, recruited a District Land Registrar, devolved land functions and redeployed 7 staff members to the District Council. Similarly, in matters of Gender justice we have worked with the Chitipa Magistrate Court, Misuku Third Grade Magistrate Court, and Nthalire Third Grade Magistrate Court to increase people's understanding of how to interpret and implement Gender laws at the District Council.

Madam Speaker, the same collaborative approach has helped us make great strides in advancing Chitipa's Human Capital Development in the past four years. Specifically, we have collaborated with 5 communities in Chitipa to build them each a community day secondary school, which can now be found at Chuba, Namapasa, Namasasa, Karopa and Ngoya, which are in addition to the 7 primary school blocks and 26 secondary school blocks we have built to improve enrolment figures in the district. Collaboration has also been our approach to the usage of the Constituency Development Fund that my Administration provides every member of this House, which has had a great impact in Chitipa, producing 4 Administration blocks and 28 Houses for Teachers. Correspondingly, we have recruited 630 primary school and 1,560 secondary school teachers to ensure that we reduced teacher-pupil ratio. So that's the capacity building side. But there is also a health promotion side to human capital development, which is why we have given the people of Chitipa four new Health Posts, namely Muzimero, Sokola, Titi, and Kavomelo, while at the same time rehabilitating two old ones, namely Ifumbo, Kameme and Chitipa District Hospital. Beyond this, **Madam Speaker**, we have given the people of Chitipa other Infrastructure Development, including the Meru Garison where we have constructed 100 housing units. Then there is the Chitipa-Ilomba Road, whose construction is at 18

percent, while the 260km Rumphu – Nyika – Chitipa Road, whose construction I found stagnated when I visited, is now back on track.

Madam Speaker, because of these developments that we have either delivered or are making progress on in Chitipa, we want to stay focused on completing them going forward, especially because my plan is to see Chitipa become a major corridor for trade between Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia, and to see Chitipa become home to a major city that facilitates that tri-nation trade. After all, **Madam Speaker,** if we have delivered so much to the people of Chitipa in their season of sacrificial pain, imagine what we will deliver to them by 2030. So, to the 86,000 registered voters in Chitipa, I say this: Be ready to hear other parties this year offering to take Chitipa backward, but remember that the reason I am here is to continue taking your development forward.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN KARONGA

Madam Speaker, let me now present a report on what my Administration has been able to deliver for the people of Karonga, who are represented here by Honourables Kaira, Mwambande, Mwalwanda, Ndovie, and Mkandawire. Because of

Karonga's willingness to endure the pain of sacrificing personal gain for collective development over the past four years, we have delivered so much progress in very difficult conditions.

In terms of Food Security Development, Karonga suffered serious dry spells in 2023, which destroyed over 10,500 hectares of rice and over 8,500 hectares of maize. For those of you who watch football, that is equivalent to 26,610 football fields of rice and maize, leaving over 38,500 families in Karonga without food overnight. So, what we have done in four years is to ensure Karonga has a back-up plan for growing food in and out of season, even when it does not rain. We have done this by rehabilitating four previously neglected irrigation schemes, namely Wovwe, Hara, Chonanga and Ukanga for both maize and rice production, which should benefit from the Nthola-Ilola Rice Scheme where we have installed a rice-milling plant that is fully operational.

Madam Speaker, as for the Affordable Inputs Programme (AIP), we provided fertilizers and seeds to 54,850 farmers in the 2020 growing season, followed by 31,232 in 2021, then 27,849 farmers in 2022, then 13,870 farmers in 2023, and now 8,327 in the current season, reflecting a steady graduation to other programmes like the fertilizer loans through NEEF, which has

so far provided 298 million Kwacha to over 250 farmers. Other farmers have been accessing fertilizers for Mega Farm rice production through our Mega Farm Unit. **Madam Speaker**, but even with such interventions, there has still been a cross-section of households who simply need relief food, and so we have spent 1.5 billion Kwacha in Karonga alone to provide food assistance to 13,803 households, as well as to run school feeding programmes in 180 primary schools.

Meanwhile, in the area of Karonga's Economic Development, **Madam Speaker**, our NEEF programme has been key, for we have disbursed 5.4 billion Kwacha in loans to over 6,500 people to start businesses. We have also installed solar electricity in 6,531 houses, while at the same time we have brought electricity to 201 trading centres and an additional 5,062 houses through the MAREP and MEAP projects. Then we also installed a communication tower around Chikutu Centre to connect the people there to the internet through the Last Mile Connectivity project, all while bringing free water connection to 435 houses. To ensure economic security for the most vulnerable, we have made social cash transfers to 8,062 households and provided incomes to 15,967 households under the Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works.

As for Governance Development, **Madam Speaker**, as in Chitipa, so too in Karonga we have established a District Land Tribunal and recruited a District Land Registrar. Additionally, we have worked on facilities for the delivery of justice by rehabilitating and refurbishing Uliwa Magistrate Court so that cases can be heard there. Similarly, in the area of Karonga's Human Capital Development, there is no question that the future for the youth of Karonga is tied to their access to education, which is why we have constructed three community day secondary schools there, namely Nyanje, Bundi, and Mayoka. This quest for more access to education is also why we have built 8 primary school classrooms and 24 secondary school classrooms, and recruited 342 primary school teachers and 1,440 secondary school teachers for the education of Karonga's youth alone. And since the education of the mind must go hand in hand with the health of the body, we have now built a total of 6 health posts in Karonga, namely Humbo, Mlonda, Urac, Chitende, Thukutu and Mtekera.

But these health posts, **Madam Speaker**, are just a scratch on the surface of the Infrastructure Development we have delivered to Karonga. The 26.7-million-dollar Karonga Town Water Supply Project, for example, is now nearly done at 98 percent, and so there are 184,000 people about to have clean water in Karonga

Town and the surrounding areas of Pusi, Mpata, and Nyungwe, all thanks to OFID and BADEA for partnering with us to get the project done. I must also thank the Honourable Members of Parliament from Karonga for the proper use of the Constituency Development Fund that I provided, for that has so far produced over 600 boreholes, 10 water systems, 55.5 km of paved rural roads, 10 bridges, 8 Administration blocks, and 36 teachers' houses.

Madam Speaker, because of what we have delivered in Karonga, we can look ahead beyond 2025 to more prosperous times, for I see Karonga truly becoming the bread basket of Malawi, starting with the construction of the 600-hectare Mwenilondo irrigation scheme. I see Karonga taking its place as one of Malawi's premier tourist destinations, starting with the upgrade of its airport, where we have already made the required extensions to the runway so that international flights have already started landing there. I see Karonga rising to its potential as a mining powerhouse that finances its development, starting with the correction of past errors and acts of fraud that robbed Karonga of the benefits of the Kayerekera Uranium Mine. This is the direction in which I will take the development of Karonga. So, to the 149,138 registered voters in Karonga, I say this: **Be ready to hear other parties this year offering to take Karonga**

backwards, but remember that the reason I am here is to continue taking your development forward.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN RUMPHI

Madam Speaker, and now I wish to report to the good people of Rumphu, whom I have the honour of having as my in-laws and who are represented here by Honourables Kalua, Mhango, Chidumba Mkandawire, and Adadawiza Mkandawire, whose constituents have shown great endurance in this season of painful personal sacrifices, which has enabled us to deliver the following collective developments to the whole district:

In Food Security Development, Madam Speaker

- We have distributed food to 5,764 households that were identified by last year's vulnerability assessment as being insecure, which accounts for one person in twenty.
- We are providing AIP support to 15,255 beneficiaries in the district.
- We have been providing Social Cash transfers to 5,061 families, and Climate Smart Cash to another 10,416 households.

Madam Speaker, in Economic Development

- We have disbursed 1 billion kwacha in NEEF Agricultural Loans to 2,708 farmers and disbursed another 5.2 billion Kwacha to 6,300 people to start their own businesses.
- We have disbursed MAIIC loans to 20 farmers for the creation of Mega Farms on estates that had remained unused for 30 years.
- Through Agriculture Commercialisation (AGCOM) we have disbursed 726 million Kwacha to eight cooperatives involved in production, and they have built warehouses, purchased livestock, and procured processing equipment, and we will support them in the coming year with the procurement of tractors.
- We have given support to 1,905 MSMEs through the Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Scaling (FInES) project to boost their business revenues.
- We have safeguarded Rumphi's tourism potential by constructing 80km of fencing around Vwaza Marsh Wildlife Reserve to reduce human-wildlife conflict.
- We have increased officers to the Rumphi District Council to address issues with land that is critical to the economic security of locals.

Madam Speaker, in Human Capital Development

- We have constructed the Kamphenda Health Centre and the Mphompha maternity wing.
- We have constructed a new mortuary at Bolero Community Hospital.
- We have recruited and deployed 191 medical personnel.
- We have provided University student loans to 1,002 students.
- We have recruited and deployed 22 permanent teachers and 96 auxiliary teachers.
- We have distributed 2,248 tablets to 25 schools under the BEFIT Programme.
- We have constructed 16 new classroom blocks in 15 primary schools, six of which are already complete.
- We have constructed Bale and Matunkha Community Day Secondary Schools with support from the US-funded SEED Project, and we have expanded Old Salawe and Katowo Community Day Secondary Schools under the EQUALS Project.
- We have constructed an ICT laboratory at Jalawe Community Day Secondary School and commissioned the Rumphi Teachers Training College.

- We have launched Jalira National Girls School for the advancement of girls' education, and we have rehabilitated 50 classroom blocks, 4 hostels for girls, 30 teachers' houses, and 6 administration blocks across the district.

And In Infrastructure Development for Rumphi, Madam Speaker

- We have constructed 20 bridges and graveled 50 km of local roads.
- Under Governance to Enable service Delivery (GESD) we have constructed two new schools, a maternity wing at Mphompa, and Kanyebele health centres.
- We are constructing the Chikwawa to Bembe via Bolero Road, of which 18 km has already been tarred.
- We are also constructing the M1 road between Lumbadzi and Chiweta, 66.5 km of which runs through Rumphi.
- We have connected 203 households to electricity under MAREP, plus an additional 9,143 under the Solar Household initiative, as well as another 2,117 under MEAP.
- We have connected 125 households to piped water under the Free Water Connections initiative.

- With generous support from the Peace Parks Foundation, we are implementing the 4.4-million-dollar Thazima Gravity Piped Water Supply Scheme, designed to serve over 18,000 people, in addition to the 6 water supply schemes built with the Constituency Development Funds we have been providing.
- We have constructed 90 housing units for the security agencies in the district, thus improving public safety.

And **Madam Speaker**, there is plenty more that is in the pipeline for the people of Rumphu in the coming season when it comes to infrastructure development, including:

- The construction of the Chikwawa - Euthini road.
- The completion of the Chikwawa - Bembe road.
- The extension of the Bembe - Nyika - Nthalire road.
- The rehabilitation of the Bwengu - Njakwa road.
- The rehabilitation of the Chiweta - Mlowe road.
- The construction of new health centres at Kanyenjere, Phoka, Uzumala, and health posts at Nkhozho, Zombe, and Bowe.
- The installation of street lights at Rumphu Boma;
- The completion of the Chitimba gravity-fed water scheme.
- Completion of the Uzumala gravity-fed water scheme.

- And the rehabilitation of Mlowe Dyke.

Madam Speaker, because of the patience of the people of Rumphi in enduring a season of painful personal sacrifices, these are the collective developments that are coming to Rumphi to build on the many that we have already delivered. So, my message to the 94,747 registered voters in Rumphi is this: **Be ready to hear other parties offering to take you backwards, but I ask you to remember that the reason I am here is to take your development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN MZIMBA

Madam Speaker, next is my report on what my Administration has delivered for the people of Mzimba, who are represented here by Honourables Kalaile Banda, Chihana, Chirwa, Chiuluntha-Ngwira, Hara, Chambulanyina-Jere, Kaunda, Mwamlima, Chatima Nkhata, Phiri, Shaba, and you yourself, **Madam Speaker.**

What you will find is that when it comes to Food Security Development, M'mbelwa District is another council with the potential to feed itself and other districts. And in the past four

years, we have invested in irrigation schemes such as Kasangazi in Inkosi Kampingo Sibande, which covers a total area of 100 hectares belonging to 145 farmers. **Madam Speaker**, we have also supported Mzimba farmers with farm inputs, 176,455 in 2020, then 182,148 in 2021, then 173,009 in 2022, then 102,280 in 2023 and 58,932 in 2024. As farmers have been transitioning from AIP, the Mega Farm Unit has stepped in to provide loans to 102 farmers to buy fertilizer and seed for growing maize on a total of 5,890 hectares of land. Similarly, we have given NEEF over 3 billion Kwacha in loans to 628 farmers in Ekwendeni, 1,001 farmers in Mzimba West, 917 farmers in Mzimba South, and 706 farmers at Jenda. And then for the 22,966 families who did not have enough food, my office distributed 2,296 metric tonnes of maize worth 2.5 billion Kwacha.

Madam Speaker, beyond Food Security Development, we have invested heavily in Mzimba's Economic Development. Through NEEF, we have disbursed loans totalling 18.7 billion Kwacha to 22,064 people to start businesses. But to households we identified as being ultra vulnerable, we disbursed Social Cash Transfers to 21,678 households and provided incomes to another 15,624 households in exchange for work through the Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works.

Madam Speaker, we have also expanded economic opportunities by connecting 440 centres to electricity under MAREP and 9,093 homes under MEAP, which is in addition to the 19,253 houses we have connected to solar power and the connection to the internet and digital transactions we have made possible by installing communication towers at Vuvumwe and Chamaliwa.

Meanwhile, in the area of Governance Development, **Madam Speaker,** we have completed the construction of Inkosi Ya Makhosi M'mbelwa's house at his Headquarters in Edingeni, for beyond being a home, it is a critical piece of the proper governing of the realm. Additionally, through the GESD project, we have empowered Area Development Committees such as Mzukuzuku to monitor usage of Constituency Development Funds, for I increased the CDF allocation to serve the people, not the politicians. But part of serving the people is investing in their Human Capital Development, and in Mzimba we have done this by building a total of 9 health posts at Tofutofu, Chasamba, Chivwamba, Kayombo, Chimbongondo, Kapoli, Chizani, Kambwiri and Chamala in fulfilment of my promise to reduce the distance our people walk to a health facility. We have also rehabilitated the OPD and Maternity Block and its associated

external works at Mbalachanda and Choma Health Centres, as well as Madede, Kabwafu, Bwengu, Luzi, Kafukule health centres.

Madam Speaker, as for human capital development through the education of Mzimba's youth, we have built 7 Community Day Secondary Schools at Chithimila, Malokotera, Chiseng'ezi, Machelechete, Vibangalala, Mjinge and Msiki; 40 primary school classrooms and 53 secondary school classrooms; and we have recruited 767 school teachers.

Madam Speaker, for higher education, I must express my regrets to the people of Mzimba for earlier delays in the progress of Inkosi Ya Makhosi M'mbelwa University due to misunderstandings with the financiers about design, but I am pleased to report that this has since been resolved and the design should be done by the end of this month, while two contractors are already on the ground constructing the perimeter fence, and another contractor has already begun mobilizing equipment, materials, and other resources to begin construction of the main facilities in the second quarter of 2025. Beyond this major University construction project, other Infrastructure Developments we have delivered in Mzimba district include the construction of Chakazi Bridge, the

construction of Mnjiri Bridge near Mzimba Boma, the construction of the Mzimba-Mtangatanga road, the construction of the Jenda-Embangweni road, the construction of District Council offices, the construction of Mzimba Stadium, the construction of Ekwendeni Water supply facility with funds from the European Investment Bank, which is benefiting over 55,000 people in Ekwendeni.

Madam Speaker, because the people of Mzimba were patient in enduring this past season of personal sacrificial pain, these are the collective developments we have been able to deliver to them. And now they can look forward to a season of prosperity ahead, for with our plans to construct a livestock centre at Njuyu in Mzimba North, as well as both the 60km Mtangatanga - Eswazini-Mzarangwe Road and the 67km Euthini – Chikwawa Road, I see Mzimba district becoming a bustling market of agricultural products, value addition, and cultural activities that will attract the attention of the world. So to the 371,379 registered voters in Mzimba, I say this: **Be ready to hear other parties this year offering to take Mzimba backwards, but remember that the reason I am here is to continue taking your development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN NKHATABAY

Next on my list are the good people of Nkhata Bay, **Madam Speaker**, who are represented in this House by Honourables Chimpeni, Kanyasho, Kaunda, Mphande, Mwase, and Ng'oma. In the area of Food Security Development, what we have done for the food security of Nkhata Bay in the past four years includes construction of the 450 hectares Linga Irrigation Scheme, which is one of sixteen new irrigation schemes covering 2,215 hectares. Under the Greenbelt Authority, we have also started rehabilitating Lweya Irrigation scheme where 100 hectares have been restored and water intake works completed. Meanwhile, our Affordable Inputs Programme provided fertilizer and seeds to 46,120 farmers in 2020, 30,835 farmers in 2021; 20,926 in 2022; 16,810 in 2023; and 9,904 farmers in 2024. But as people have been graduating from the program, the Mega Farm Unit has stepped in to support 11 Mega farmers and 425 regular farmers with loans for fertilizer and seed. And then for as many as 10,494 families without enough to eat, we have provided 2,296 metric tonnes of maize worth 1.1 billion Kwacha.

Madam Speaker, but anyone visiting Nkhata Bay will see immediately that the people are entrepreneurial, and so we have

delivered enormous investments in their Economic Development as follows:

- 3.1 billion Kwacha in NEEF loans for starting businesses has been disbursed to 4,506 people.
- 6,470 vulnerable households have been receiving Social Cash Transfers and an additional 14,176 people who can work have been served by our Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works.
- To expand economic opportunities that come with having electricity, we have connected Kangoyi 1 to electricity, together with Kangoyi 2, Mzgora, Gonedka, Chizi, Chitungulu and Kachenga, turning these trading centres into economic engines, but we have also connected 2,475 houses through MEAP and another 4,849 houses through solar installations.
- And now **Madam Speaker**, for the first time ever, we have raised a communication tower and Chitheka to open up the world to the wonders of Nkhatabay.

Madam Speaker, Nkhata Bay is a tourist's dream, and we want the world to come and enjoy it. This is why we have also focused on its Governance Development by increasing the participation of locals in the tourism sector there, including a phased tourism functions devolution programme that will encourage locals to

create local products and activities for tomorrow's tourists. I have no doubt that a wave of tourists is coming to Nkhata Bay in response to our policy interventions in the sector, but we are also making sure that Nkhata Bay is ready. That readiness includes the investments we have made in Human Capital Development, such as the 5 health posts we have built at Chisi, Kawoyozi, Chimbere, Kavuzi, and Banda, as well as the Community Day Secondary Schools we have built to prepare the youth of Nkhata Bay, located at Bula, Kanyazuka and Makumbo.

Madam Speaker, in Infrastructure Development, the CDF resources we have been providing for four years have now produced a hostel for girls, 4 Administration blocks, 10 teachers' houses, 109 wells of water, 5 water systems, 370km of rural roads, 23 bridges, and 3 markets. But we have added to these by constructing the Nkhata-Bay Town Water Supply and Sanitation facility, which is now bringing safe water to 105,000 people, not counting the many more who will be served by the Chintheche water project currently at 86 percent completion.

Madam Speaker, because of the patience of the people of Nkhata Bay in enduring the season of painful sacrifices that we have all been going through these past four years, we have been

able to deliver all these collective developments in the district. That is why my message to the good people of Nkhata Bay is this: **Be ready to hear other parties this year offering to take you backwards, but remember that the reason I am here is to continue taking you forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN LIKOMA

Madam Speaker, from Nkhata Bay we go 79km east to find the good people of Likoma, and there too we have spent the last four years delivering collective development as a dividend for the painful personal sacrifices the people there have made to make that collective development possible, for even though they are only represented in this House by Honourable Ashems Songwe, under the Constitution of Malawi they have as much of a right to development as any other district, which is why I made sure that I visited the island while in office to end the long history of the island being neglected by sitting Heads of State.

Madam Speaker, In Food Security Development

- We have reached a cumulative 3,731 households with fertilizers between 2020 and 2025.

- We have put 323 households on Social Cash Transfer and an additional 2,584 on Climate Smart Cash to give income security to the most vulnerable.
- We have supplemented this with a disbursement of 86 million Kwacha worth of food to 543 households that have each received two 50kg bags of maize to sustain them through the lean season.

Madam Speaker, In Economic Development

- We have extended NEEF business loans amounting to 1 billion Kwacha to 1,696 people to boost their businesses.
- We have given an additional 8 SMEs on the Island financial support from the FInES Project to enhance their liquidity and scale up their businesses.
- We have stopped a dubious and fraudulent attempt by some unpatriotic people in our country to sell the island to foreigners for a song, thus protecting the island's economic future.
- We have cancelled the two unprofitable shipping concessions that the Democratic Progressive Party had given to a foreign company for thirty-five years, and we are now on course to capacitate the Malawi Lake Services Limited to make money and create jobs for Malawians that depend on the lake.

- We have made it clear to two different and successive Presidents across the border that every inch of the Lake belongs to the realm and people of Malawi for their development and enjoyment, and that this will always remain the case, but because we are a peaceful country and a good neighbor, we will always advocate for contact and dialogue whenever misunderstandings about the lake arise.

Madam Speaker, In Human Capital Development

- A total of 107 teachers in Likoma have been recruited to improve the quality of the education the youth there receive.
- We have added 549 children with nutritional needs to the school feeding programme on the island.

In Infrastructure Development, Madam Speaker

We are constructing a health post on the island that is making good progress, as well as 24 housing units for the security agencies on Likoma and Chizumulu islands.

As we are pursuing the development of new vessels for our lake, **Madam Speaker**, I plan to see that the investors we have engaged in Germany and the Middle-East about building new vessels for the lake are fully incentivized to deliver on this promising venture, for that is how we need to prepare for the

economic activities that will one day make Likoma Island a get-away paradise that the rich and famous of the world escape to, fully equipped with a city brimming with tax-exempt resorts, hotels, casinos, and banks with reserves of our own precious metals like gold to support a booming crypto Stablecoin market linked to USDC and USDT cryptocurrency markets around the world to provide and enhance US Dollar liquidity in Malawi.

Madam Speaker, while this is a long-term vision, the time to start preparing for a Likoma Island that stands on the frontline of securing Malawi's stake in the digital economy of the future is now, and so I will be engaging this House to do its part in creating the regulatory framework for that in the next two years. But considering the bright and exciting future that is in store for the people of Likoma Island, my message to them is this: **You may hear other parties this year offering to take you backwards, but remember that the reason I am here is to take your development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN NSANJE

Madam Speaker, allow me to take you from the great north and its beautiful mountains and forests to the great south and its valley of meandering rivers, because what my Administration

has done there in four years is also a credit to the endurance of the people, I have had the honour of serving there. To start with, I will report on the state of the developments we have delivered to the good people of Nsanje district, who are represented here by Honourables Chizuzu, Ganda, Mahomed, Mandevana, and Valeta.

Madam Speaker, In Food Security Development

- We have reached 5,028 beneficiaries with AIP subsidy redemptions.
- We have disbursed 195 million Kwacha worth of NEEF fertilizer loans.
- We have disbursed 3.9 billion Kwacha worth of food to 36,904 households.
- We have disbursed Social Cash Transfers to another 7,074 households.
- We have disbursed Climate Smart Cash to another 20,423 beneficiaries.
- We have also disbursed cash transfers to families affected by the Cyclone Freddy, reaching another 51,588 beneficiaries.
- We have rehabilitated Masenjere and Muona Irrigation Schemes to grow food on 1,000 hectares of land there.

Madam Speaker, In Economic Development

- We have disbursed 2 billion Kwacha in NEEF loans to 2,438 people in Nsanje for starting businesses.
- We have improved access to finance for 608 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Under MAREP-9, we have connected 100 households to electricity.

In Human Capital Development Madam Speaker,

- We have built 1 school, added 29 new classrooms and recruited 231 primary school teachers on permanent basis.
- We have finished the Tengani Community College which is now operational to give the youth of Nsanje skills that are marketable.

Madam Speaker, In Infrastructure Development:

- We have built 28 houses for security agencies in the district to improve its security as an important border district.
- We have completed the 31 km Nsanje-Marka Road, which is now fully operational and being enjoyed by everyone in the district.
- We have delivered free water connections to 500 households.

- And we have revived the railway system in Nsanje, bringing cargo from Mozambique for the first time in 41 years.

Going forward, **Madam Speaker**, the import and export corridor that we will create through Nsanje will make prices of goods go down in the long term, as well as bring in forex through the export of our own products through the railway track into Mozambique there. For this reason, Nsanje will become a major player in our economy over the next ten years, bringing everything from fuel to fertilizers, thus requiring the construction of proper storage facilities of international standard, among other support services. We have already done so much in Nsanje under difficult circumstances, and I will stand with the people there until all our dreams for their development are done. So, my message to the people of Nsanje is this: **You may hear other parties this year offering to take you backwards, but remember that the reason I am here is to take your development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN CHIKWAWA

Madam Speaker, I now take you up towards Chikwawa district, whose constituents are represented here by Honourables Bagus, Chomanika, Dossi, Abdul Karim, Khumbanyiwa, and Mia. And

while the people of Chikwawa were enduring the pain of sacrificing personal gains because of climate change impacts that hit them year after year, I must thank them for still enabling me to deliver the following developments in their district:

In Food Security Development, Madam Speaker

- We have delivered AIP subsidies to 8,627 beneficiaries.
- We have disbursed 338.8 million Kwacha in NEEF loans for fertilizer to those not on AIP.
- We have spent 9 billion Kwacha on food support, which my office has distributed to 85,441 households.
- We have supported another 14,263 households with Social Cash Transfers, plus another 26,710 beneficiaries with Climate Smart Cash, but we have surpassed both programmes with the cash transfers we have sent to families affected by Cyclone Freddy, whose beneficiaries now stand at 106,744.
- For the long-term food security of the district, **Madam Speaker**, we are developing 43,370 hectares under the Shire Valley Transformation Programme using 45 km of canals that have achieved 70 percent progress.

Madam Speaker, for Chikwawa's Economic Development

- We have disbursed 2.6 billion Kwacha in NEEF cash loans to 4,173 beneficiaries to start their own businesses, plus another 1,020 businesses that we have supported with access to finance.
- Under MAREP-9, we have connected 222 households to electricity to expand their economic opportunities.
- Under MEAP, we have installed Solar Home Systems in 10,833 households.
- We have set up a passport service centre to improve the service that young people need to access foreign markets.

In Chikwawa's Infrastructure Development, Madam Speaker,

- We have built 107 security staff houses.
- Through my Cyclone Freddy Goodwill Ambassadors, we have built another 10 houses for Cyclone Freddy victims who lost homes.
- We have built 3 schools, added 33 new classrooms and recruited about 285 primary school teachers.
- We have built a new Teachers Training College.
- We have constructed 5 Health posts at Julayi, Mwalisa, Chizenga, Finiyasi, Kavala and Liston.

Madam Speaker, the good news for Chikwawa is that the infrastructure projects are still coming, and the impact they will have on the district's ability to expand its economic activity in the next ten years will be enormous. This is especially true of new roads we have in the pipeline, such as the 95km Thabwa – Bangula Road, the 85km Sidik Mia Highway, and the 62km Gwanda Chakuamba Highway, all of which have feasibility studies being done as we speak. Then there is the Chikwawa Surface Water Supply Project which is making good progress and which will serve 43,052 beneficiaries, although so far, we have already connected 650 homes to piped water for free as we promised. And **Madam Speaker,** I want to see these developments to their completion because it is what the people of Chikwawa deserve, but my request to the 271,031 registered voters there **is that even though you will hear other parties saying that I have done nothing in your district and you should therefore go backwards, remember that the reason I am here is to always take your development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THYOLO

Madam Speaker, I believe it is safe to say that nowhere is the false claim that I have done nothing for Malawians repeated by dishonest politicians than in Thyolo, so today I thank the Lord

for the opportunity to set the record straight. Thankfully, **Madam Speaker**, none of those dishonest politicians are here today, for present here are only such honest representatives of Thyolo district as Honourables Chipungu, Mchacha, Nayeja, Malunga Phiri, Sandram Scott, Poverty White, not to be confused with White Poverty, and my good friend Honourable Navicha, all of whom I trust to convey this report to the good people of Thyolo without distortions.

In Food Security Development, Madam Speaker

- We have responded to the extensive destruction of crops and vast farmlands in Thyolo by disbursing 238.8 million Kwacha in NEEF input loans.
- Under AGCOM 2, we have invested 411 million Kwacha in farming equipment like tractors, trucks, feed processing machines, warehousing, milk bulking facilities and dairy cows.
- Under AIP, we have provided subsidies to 469,316 beneficiaries over the past four years.
- We have spent 3.7 billion Kwacha on relief maize, which my office has distributed to over 7,500 households.
- We have rehabilitated the silos in Luchenza to ensure that no food is lost through poor storage.

- We have completed preparations for the rehabilitation of 100 hectares of land at Mphuka Irrigation Scheme.

Madam Speaker, For Thyolo's Economic Development

- We have disbursed 67.8 million Kwacha in NEEF cash loans for business.
- We are making Thyolo a safe place for business by constructing 100 houses for security agencies there.
- We have connected 9,766 homes in Thyolo to electricity through MAREP, MEAP, and SHS initiatives.
- We have connected 550 homes to water for free.
- We have rescued hundreds of labourers in the Tea Estates from years of exploitation and abuse, while supporting the tea farms to meet international standards for compliance with the law in order to resume operations that are essential for Malawi's export revenue.

For Human Capital and Infrastructure, Development Madam Speaker

- We have constructed 12 health posts at Thukuta, Namatuni, Thowera, Lomola, Mkhate, Nkhataombere, Nsabwe, Chilengo, Dzimbiri, Khwethemule, Amalika, and Chinthebe.

- We have also constructed two new secondary schools, Katole and Thangadzuwa, 19 new secondary school classrooms, and seven primary school classrooms.
- We have almost completed the 77km Thyolo-Bangula Road.

Madam Speaker, so no matter what anyone tells the people of Thyolo about me, I know they are wise enough to recognize the truth. And the truth is that even though the 253,280 of you who are registered voters there will be told by other parties that this is the year to go backwards, **I ask you to remember that the reason I am here is to continue taking your development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN MULANJE

Similarly, **Madam Speaker**, here is what we have delivered in the area of Food Security Development for the good people of Mulanje, who are represented in this House by an army of Honourables in the names of Chida, Kilekwa, Mathanda, Musowa, Nthenda, Samson Phiri, Tambala, Nankhumwa, and Chaponda, the Honourable Leader of Opposition himself. In the four years since I became President:

- We have disbursed 300 million Kwacha in loans for fertilizers.
- We have spent 519 million Kwacha on farming equipment to increase production under AGCOM 2.
- We have provided AIP subsidies to 387,512 farming households.
- We have spent 7.4 billion Kwacha of relief maize, which my office has distributed to 69,497 households in Mulanje alone.
- We are making Mulanje a secure place for business by constructing 26 security houses that are in progress.
- We have made Cyclone Freddy Cash Transfer to 55,072 households.
- We have made Climate Smart Cash to 20,140 beneficiaries.
- We have made Social Cash transfer to 17,681 beneficiaries.

Madam Speaker, In Human Capital and Infrastructure Development

- We have completed the construction of three health posts at Sukayakwe, Chimbalanga, Nankhonyo, as well

as the rehabilitation of the Laboratory at Mulanje District Hospital.

- We have invested in the youth of Mulanje by constructing 9 new secondary schools, 46 new secondary school classrooms, and 21 new primary school classrooms, and recruiting 449 new teachers.
- We have connected 11,155 homes to electricity through the World Bank-supported MAREP/SHS/MEAP initiative, and have made 650 free water connections.
- We have completed works on the Zomba-Jali-Chitakale Road.
- We are almost done with the structural works on Ruo Bridge, and a new contractor will soon be on the site of Thuchira Bridge to finish the works there.
- We have constructed 20 houses through Cyclone Freddy Goodwill Ambassadors.
- We have constructed 3 telecommunication towers at Gawani, Malota and Lichenya under the Last Mile Connectivity Project.

Madam Speaker, the people of Mulanje deserve to have the development of their district continue on this path. It is understandable that the ravages of climate change in the past four years have caused them great pain, but it is their endurance

of that pain that has made it possible for us to deliver such numerous developments to them. **As such, all I can say to the people of Mulanje is that even though you will hear other parties offering to take you backwards, I ask you to remember that what I have done in the past four years is proof that the reason I am here is to take your development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN PHALOMBE

Madam Speaker, I turn next to the account of our deliverables to the people of Phalombe, who are represented in this House by Honourables Bokosi, Million, Mpanga, Namachekecha-Phiri, and Mwina, and to whom we have delivered the following in the past four years:

- We have provided AIP subsidies to 284,393 beneficiaries over the four-year period.
- We have disbursed 427.2 million Kwacha NEEF loans for fertilizer.
- We have spent 4.7 billion Kwacha on food, which my office has distributed to 44,696 households.
- We have made Social Cash Transfers to 11,099 households.

- We have made Climate Smart cash support to another 22,542 beneficiaries.
- We have made cash transfers for those affected by Cyclone Freddy, reaching 49,678 beneficiaries.
- We have also provided El Nino Lean Season support to another 10,299 beneficiaries.
- And to stimulate economic activity for economic development, we disbursed a total of 2.3 billion Kwacha in NEEF loans to 2,851 beneficiaries, plus additional financing to another 1020 SMEs for scaling up their business operations.
- We have secured a Mining Development Agreement with Lancaster Exploration Limited, a subsidiary of Mkango Resources Limited, for the Songwe Hills Rare Earth Elements mining project in the district, and we are being vigilant to ensure that the people of Phalombe are the first beneficiaries of this national treasure.
- Under MAREP-9, we have connected 7,959 households to electricity.
- We have constructed 260km of local roads and 40 bridges including Phwelemwe.
- We have also delivered 66 houses to Cyclone Freddy victims.

- We have set up a new border post at Likangala to enhance security and revenue collection.
- We have completed the construction of 29 security staff houses to make Phalombe safe for business.
- And to advance Phalombe's Human Capital, we have built four schools, Mauzi, Carmushka ABC, Mthundu, Chigawe, added 39 new classrooms and recruited 210 teachers on permanent basis, and we have fully operationalized the John Chilembwe Hospital.
- And we have delivered free water connections to 450 households.
- We have constructed seven Health Posts, Mauzi, Waluma, Nambela, Namasolo, Malambwe, Mtemanyama, Maoni.

Madam Speaker, we have been able to do all of this because the people of Phalombe gave me the gift of their patience and endurance, and for that I must thank them. Now that we have delivered all of these things in a season of sacrifice and pain, **I ask them not to be swayed by anyone who offers to take them backwards, because I can assure them that if they want a President who will take their development forward, here I am.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN ZOMBA

Madam Speaker, the good people of Zomba are represented in this House by Honourables Awali, Susuwele Banda, Bongwe, Botomani, Gadama, Kwelepeteta, Million, Naliwa, Chijere Phiri, and Poya, and the endurance of the people of Zomba of the season of painful sacrifices we have passed through has enabled us to deliver the following milestones of development:

In Food Security Development, Madam Speaker

- We have invested 687 million Kwacha in farm equipment for better yields under AGCOM.
- We have disbursed 1 billion Kwacha in NEEF farm input loans.
- We have reached 448,270 farmers with AIP subsidies over the past four years.
- We have rehabilitated five irrigation schemes to improve yields for 2,500 farming households.
- We are cultivating 2,500 hectares at Domasi Mega Farm, which will feed many people.
- We have spent 4 billion Kwacha on buying relief maize for food insecure households, which my office has distributed to 75,344 households.

- We have made Social Cash Transfer to 19,759 beneficiaries; Climate Smart Cash to 20,040; Cyclone Transfers to 20,429. El Nino lean season 16,874 beneficiaries.
- We are providing school feeding programme in 220 school.
- We have adjudicated cases involving 58,394 parcels of land, which are critical for household food production.

Madam Speaker, In Human Capital and Infrastructure Development

- We have constructed four Police Units and 13 Units of MDF houses, with another 397 under construction.
- We have constructed 60 houses through Cyclone Freddy Good Will Ambassadors and 2 houses for people with Albinism.
- We are almost done with the construction of Zomba Central Prison's workshop to give vocational skills to inmates.
- We have completed the expansion of Domasi College of Education, with support from the Japanese Government.
- We have constructed 6 Community Day Secondary Schools namely Chitambala, Makongwa Mpalankhanga,

Mwanoka, Namitoso and One-heart and completed 36 secondary school classrooms, 23 primary school classrooms and we have recruited 382 Primary School teachers.

- We have completed construction works for Nambande, Chinguma, and Gwaza health posts, funded by GiZ, Canada Fund and CDF, respectively, while construction work is ongoing for the health posts at Maulana and Namphula.
- We have completed 1,396 free water connections
- We have completed 90 percent of construction works for Zomba Stadium Phase 2.
- We have upgraded 23 km of Zomba city roads, including Namiwawa Road dualization.
- We have completed construction of Zomba-Jali-Phalombe-Chitakale Road.
- We have connected 13,705 houses to electricity under MAREP, MEAP, and SHS.
- We have constructed 2 telecommunication towers, Chigondo and Sangala under the Last mile Connectivity Project.

Madam Speaker, when I think of everything, we have been able to do for the people of Zomba, it gives me hope of seeing Zomba

become a major city again in the next ten years, for it has so many advantages that we must put to good use. **But I want to implore the 289,000 registered voters in the district not to fall into the temptation of following parties that promise to take them backwards, because the reason I am here is to take their development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN CHIRADZULU

Madam Speaker, the good people of Chiradzulu are represented by Honourables Malowa, Ngwale, Matola, and Mwanamvekha.

Madam Speaker, in Food Security Development

- We are supporting 26,413 food-insecure households with ongoing food relief.
- We have provided agricultural inputs to 4,030 beneficiaries through AIP this year alone.
- We have provided social cash transfers to 9,902 families and Climate Smart cash transfers to another 14,117 families, plus an additional 5,686 families with cash transfers for post Cyclone Freddy response.

Madam Speaker, In Economic Development

- We have disbursed 1.7 billion Kwacha to 906 farmers for agricultural input loans.
- We have disbursed 1.6 billion Kwacha in NEEF loans for new businesses.
- We have secured 33 million dollars in funds for cash transfers to Chiradzulu from our partner GiveDirectly.

In Human Capital and Infrastructure Development, Madam Speaker

- We have constructed five Health Posts, Chimwalira, Ng'omba, Mbunda, Malaya and Maulana.
- We have recruited and deployed 220 health workers across the district.
- We have granted University student loans to 956 students from Chiradzulu.
- We have recruited and deployed 110 new teachers.
- We have constructed ICT laboratories at Chigodi CDSS and Mbulumbuzi CDSS.
- We are constructing 44 classroom blocks across 26 schools under the MERP initiative.
- We have built four Community Day Secondary Schools under the SEED project and expanded two Community

Day Secondary Schools under the Equals Project at Nguludi and Maravi.

- Through CDF resources amounting to 1 billion for the district, we have constructed houses for 5 traditional leaders: Likoswe, Ntchema, Chitera, Maoni, and Mpunga; we have maintained 167 km of local roads and constructed 47 bridges in Chiradzulu.
- We have constructed 52 houses for families affected by Cyclone Freddy, and one house for people with Albinism.
- We have connected electricity to 87 households under MAREP and 3,156 households through solar power.
- And just two weeks ago, we honoured our promise to the Providence Industrial Mission by supplying ambulance services to its hospital.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN MWANZA

Madam Speaker, the good people of Mwanza sent a son and a daughter to this House to represent them, and they are Honourables Dausi and Chitsulo, and it is my honour to present them with an account of what we have delivered to their Constituents in the past four years as follows:

- We have disbursed 157.3 million Kwacha of NEEF input loans.

- We have given AIP subsidies to 63,584 Farmers over the past four years.
- We have rehabilitated three irrigation schemes- providing water to 1,500 farming households and cultivated 2,000 hectares at Chidya Mega Farm.
- We have completed and operationalized the One-Stop-Border Post, reducing customs clearance time by 70 percent.
- We have invested 143.8 million Kwacha in farm equipment supported by World Bank through AGCOM 2.
- We have disbursed 53.7 million Kwacha in NEEF Cash loans for business.
- We have employed 500 people in graphite extraction.
- We have distributed relief maize to 13,950 households worth 1.4 billion Kwacha.
- We have fully refurbished Mwanza Magistrate Court, constructed two Police Units, and ten Police houses.
- We have completed Galafa and Kalanga Health Posts and we have upgraded Thambani Health Centre to a Rural Hospital, while another three new health centres have been completed.
- We have completed two secondary schools, Kawedza and Phete.

- We are completing works for Mwanza Stadium to open it for the youth of Mwanza in two months.
- We have connected 3,359 households to electricity.
- We have completed 550 free water connections.

Similarly, **Madam Speaker**, just next door in the district of Neno, represented in this House by Honourables Katsonga-Phiri and Matengambiri Tembo, we have served the people there by delivering the following developments:

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN NENO

- In Food Security Development, we have disbursed 192.4 million Kwacha in NEEF farm input loans.
- We have helped 80,478 farming households access AIP subsidies over the past four years.
- We have rehabilitated two irrigation schemes benefiting 1,200 farming households.
- We have cultivated Mlelemba Mega Farm.
- And in Economic Development, we have invested 200.7 million Kwacha in farm equipment through AGCOM 2.
- We have disbursed 149 million Kwacha in NEEF cash loans for business startups.

- We have spent 2.2 billion Kwacha on relief maize, which my office has distributed to 13,869 households.
- We have disbursed Social Cash Transfer to 3,493 beneficiaries; Climate Smart Transfers to 14,218; Cyclone Transfers to 5,463 and El Nino lean season transfer to 3,088 beneficiaries.
- We have constructed four new schools namely, Mbinje, Chisupa, Wambe and Mlindi.
- We have constructed four Health Posts, golden, Gonthe, Felemu and Chiwande.
- And in Infrastructure Development, we have completed one police unit and ten security houses.
- We have constructed one house for people with Albinism.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN BALAKA

Madam Speaker, going slightly north of Neno and Mwanza is Balaka district, whose people are represented here by the Honourables Makande, Mambala, Ndebele, and Ngalande, and what you will find there are signs of the progress we have made in four years to deliver developments to the people there.

Madam Speaker, In Food Security Development

- We are supporting 51,800 households with food relief, because as many as 62 percent of the entire population is deemed food insecure because of the drought.
- Through AIP we are supporting 248,694 beneficiaries with subsidized inputs over the past four years.
- We have provided social cash transfers to 10,070 families, Climate Smart Cash to 22,474 people, and Cyclone Freddy cash support to 8,153 households.

In Economic Development, Madam Speaker

- We have disbursed K355 million Kwacha in NEEF loans for agricultural input to 539 farmers.
- We have also provided another set of NEEF loans worth K2.5 billion to 4,277 individuals to support their businesses.
- Through the Mega Farm Initiative, we have extended MAIIC loans to two mega farmers to cultivate maize and cotton.
- Through AGCOM, we are supporting seven producer cooperatives to build warehouses, engage in livestock farming, and acquire processing equipment so they can open factories next.
- Through the World Bank-funded FINES project, we have assisted 2,103 MSMEs with access to financing.

- We have also provided training on mining to Tagwilizana and Chisibwiti gold cooperatives.
- I personally visited the Portland Cement Project site at Ng'onga Hill last year, which will soon start operations and provide jobs for some of Balaka's youth.
- To make Balaka safer for business, we have reduced the crime rate in the district by 4 percent, no doubt deterred by our successful prosecution of 568 cases across Balaka.

Madam Speaker, in Human Capital and Infrastructure Development

- We are constructing two health posts at Nkaya and Mulunguzi; three maternity wings at Kwitanda, Chimatiro and Chiyendausiku; and recruited 209 medical personnel.
- We have provided university student loans to 811 students from Balaka.
- We have recruited and deployed 437 teachers.
- We have distributed 4,748 tablets to Balaka schools under the BEFIT Programme.
- Under the MERP, we are constructing 30 new classrooms; we have expanded three Community Day Secondary

Schools under the EQUALS Project; and constructed ICT laboratories at St Peters CDSS and Namikombe CDSS.

- And this does not include the developments done through the funding we provide through the CDF, which has produced 13 new bridges and improved 16 old ones; 50 km of gravelled roads; and new 20 classroom blocks and hostels for girls.
- We have constructed 5 secondary schools, Makanjira, Mzimundilinde, Namichele, Njelenje and Mkasi.
- We are constructing the Balaka town loop road which had been neglected for decades.
- We connected electricity to 80 households under MAREP and 6,070 under Solar Installation (Households MEAP).
- We have connected 500 households to piped water through the Free Water Connection Initiative, constructed 484 boreholes.
- And we have constructed 40 housing units for the Malawi Police Services and 2 houses for people with albinism.
- Meanwhile, in the upcoming year, we will begin construction of the Nsipe – Liwonde road; installation of street lights on the Balaka Loop Road; and construction of Khwisa Health Centre Nambira and Magombera Health Posts.

Madam Speaker, it is unfortunate that the people of Balaka suffer from the blows of climate change year in and year out, but **I must commend them for their endurance, and it is because of their patience that we have been able to deliver so much development in the district, and I am determined to do more, because the only reason I am here is to take their development forward.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN MACHINGA

Madam Speaker, I now wish to take you further East to show you what we have done for the people of Machinga, whose representatives in this House are the Honourables Bokosi, Chikwanje, Jolobala, Kalitendere, Msaka, Magonjwa, and Ndecha, in whose district I am proud to say that we have delivered the following in four years:

- We have brought food relief to 80,368 families who were identified as being food insecure.
- We provided AIP subsidies to 409,747 beneficiaries over the past four years.
- We provided social cash transfers to 18,163 families, Climate Smart Cash to 23,469 people, post Cyclone Freddy cash transfer to 7,490 households, and El-Nino Lean Season cash support to 17,293 households.

- And to develop Machinga's economy, we have disbursed 925 million Kwacha in agriculture input loans to 1,171 farmers.
- We have disbursed 4.9 billion Kwacha to 8,781 people to support their various businesses.
- We have created four Mega Farms, cultivated maize and rice.
- We are supporting five cooperatives involved in livestock farming and processing.
- Through the World Bank-funded FInES project, we have assisted 904 MSMEs with access to financing.
- We have also provided training on mining, safety, and regulatory frameworks to Bilira Mining Cooperative-Gold.
- We have made Machinga safer than it was before by reducing the crime rate by 13 percent and prosecuting over 300 cases.
- We have constructed five health centres since 2020.
- We are upgrading Ntaja Health Centre to Ntaja Community Hospital.
- We have provided university student loans to 537 students from Machinga.

- We have recruited and deployed 178 teachers distributed 311 tablets to 145 pupils at Mwacheya school and 166 at Chilala primary school.
- Under the MERP, we have completed the construction of 7 classroom blocks, while 35 are under construction and 42 are in procurement.
- We have expanded five Community Day Secondary Schools under the EQUALS Project, Nampeya, Nankuyu, Machinga, Mbenjere and Chilimba CDSS.
- We have constructed an ICT laboratory at Mpotola CDSS in Machinga Likwenu North.
- We are also constructing a home for Paramount Kawinga to provide better facilities for governance.
- We have constructed 40 housing units for the Malawi Police Service and 2 houses for people with albinism.
- We have connected over 12,000 households to electricity.
- We have connected 600 households to piped water through our Free Water Connection Initiative.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN MANGOCHI

As for Mangochi district, **Madam Speaker**, it is represented here by Honourables Adams, Chambo, Jooma, Kalosi, Kanyama,

Kapichila, Kazembe, Kingstone, Masamba, Namalomba, Patel, and Rashid, and I am happy to inform them of the developments we have delivered to the good people of Mangochi are many, but I will highlight a few key ones to give you a picture. In the time that I have been President, what we have delivered to the people of Mangochi includes:

- AIP subsidies to 548,118 beneficiaries over the past four years.
- NEEF fertilizer loans worth 637 million Kwacha.
- Food support to 123,433 households, an investment of 6.5 billion Kwacha.
- Social Cash Transfers to 28,367 households, Climate Smart Cash Transfers to 25,502 beneficiaries, Post Cyclone Cash Transfers to 3,592 families, El Nino Lean Season cash support to 26,112 beneficiaries.
- Rehabilitation of the 300-hectare Nkopola Mega Farm.
- Cash loans for starting businesses amounting to 6.7 billion Kwacha given to 9,748 beneficiaries, plus support with access to financing for another 1,559 SMEs.
- We started negotiations for the Makanjira Heavy Mineral Sand Project.
- Under MAREP, 350 households now have electricity, 3,373 households now have electricity under MEAP and 10,697 have solar power.

- We built 15 houses for cyclone victims.
- We are constructing the Mangochi District Chamber and finance offices, now at 72 percent.
- We set up a new border post at Katuli to enhance security and revenue collection.
- We completed 90 security staff houses.
- We have built 9 schools, Chidzanja, Chimvuu, Kwisimba, Lipinda, Mandimba, Mchemba, Mkombe, Nangaponje and St Francis Xavier, added 38 new classrooms and recruited about 330 primary school teachers.
- We have built 25 health posts, Nalikoko, Luchichi, Mpinganjira, Ntalika, Jekete, Ngatali, Makoli, Misolo, Mpumbe, Namiyasi, Thumu, Mayera, Binali, Lupetere, Mnani, Kwitunji, Chinganda, Dickson, Bwanali, Chiponda, Thundu, Zambo (Mbvunguti), Wandikanga, Mkwanda, Saidi Tiputipu and Kanyenga Health Centre.
- We have rehabilitated Mangochi District Hospital EPI and Cold Rooms.
- We have secured funding for the 96km Mangochi-Makanjira road.
- We have also delivered free water connections to 9,752 households over the past four years.

As you can see, **Madam Speaker**, our concern for the people of Mangochi is genuine, for we have not left them to fend for themselves in their struggle for economic freedom. This does not mean that the journey is over, but it does mean that the journey has begun, and I believe that the people of Mangochi will want to continue that journey until we cross the finish line. **So, to the 663,000 registered voters in Mangochi and Machinga, I say this: Do not give up the fight. Let us stay on course until we cross over into our season of harvest. This is a time to take our development forward, not backwards.**

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN DEDZA

And now, **Madam Speaker**, allow me to give a synopsis of what we have done for the people of Dedza district in the past four years, though I know that the representatives of that district, namely Honourables Bandawe, Chidobvu, Chinkhondo, Gwengwe, Kafwafwa, Malango, Mlombwa, and Onani are all vigilant individuals who are fully aware of the following developmental milestones:

- From the 2020 to 2025 growing seasons, we cumulatively distributed 66,053 metric tons of fertiliser to 660,537 households in this district.
- We facilitated cash transfers to 19,600 households and the Climate Smart Cash to 21,661 beneficiaries.
- We provide 1.2 billion Kwacha in NEEF loans for fertilizer to 1,444 farmers.
- We provided cash loans amounting to 728.3 million Kwacha to 354 mega farmers working on 7,983 acres of land.
- We spent 3.3 billion Kwacha to buy maize to help food insecure families, and in Dedza we distributed this food to 31,594 households, with each household receiving two 50kg bags of maize.
- We disbursed 5.5 billion Kwacha in NEEF loans for businesses.
- We recruited a total of 324 teachers to improve the quality of education for the youth.
- We connected 2,920 households to the grid and another 6,540 to solar power.
- We have connected 188 houses to water free of charge.
- We have constructed 6 new secondary schools at Chilanga, Kalambo, Mtsogoza, Mwalawang'ombe, Nthulu

and Tiyendepamodzi Girls, 26 secondary school classrooms and 14 primary school classrooms.

- We constructed eight health posts at Msumbi Kanolo, Diamphwi, Chesa, Bema, Magomero, Madzumbi and Namitsitsi and the construction of 88 security housing units is underway Namibia scheduled for completion within a year.
- We have constructed four houses for people with Albinism.
- We have gravelled 410km of local roads and constructed 92 bridges across the district.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN DOWA

Equally, **Madam Speaker**, Dowa district, which is represented here by Honourables Chimwendo Banda, Chitatanga, Daud, Harawa, Kawale, Kayembe, and Sungitsa did not escape my development attention over the past four years. If you ask these members they will tell you of 600,602 households who have benefited from AIP since 2020. They will tell you of 19,000 families that have benefited from Social Cash Transfer, and 23,495 households that have benefited from the Climate Smart cash program. They will tell you that we provided NEEF loans

amounting to 2.2 billion Kwacha to 2,341 farmers to access farm inputs.

Madam Speaker, these Households will tell you of cash loans amounting to 1.9 billion Kwacha that 276 farmers accessed to diversify their production. They will tell you of the 3.2 billion Kwacha my office spent to buy and distribute relief food to 30,051 households, with each household receiving two 50 kg bags of maize. They will tell you of the 9.1 billion Kwacha in NEEF that we delivered to 10,362 young people wanting to go into business.

Madam Speaker, they will tell you of credit facilities that we helped 1,500 SMEs gain access to scale up their business. They will tell you of the 1.3 billion Kwacha that we used to finance 45 Cooperatives to diversify their agriculture under AGCOM. They will tell you 246 schools are being provided with school feeding. They will also tell you that a women mining cooperative has been established and trained in gypsum mining.

And under Infrastructure Development, **Madam Speaker,** they will tell you that we connected 1,962 homes to the national grid under MAREP 9 and MEAP, then 8,741 through solar home systems. If you ask them, **Madam Speaker,** they will tell you

how we have connected 288 houses to piped water free of charge. They will also tell you that we built 2 new secondary schools at Mcheza and Kafumphe and 12 secondary school classrooms, plus 9 Health Posts, while the construction of 242 housing units are under construction. If you listen to them carefully.

Madam Speaker, they will tell you that we have completed the 15.2 km Dowa – Chezi Road and they will also tell you that 259 kms of local roads have been upgraded and 20 bridges constructed.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN NTCHEU

Madam Speaker, we need to spare a thought for brave and strong people of Ntcheu, because they have suffered greatly this past year, not just in general terms, but have felt the terrible anguish of losing their beloved Impi, their beloved Biyeni, who was suddenly taken from their midst, no longer to dance with them, laugh with them, and make merry with them. I, therefore, wish to express to all the sons and daughters of Ntcheu my deepest condolences for the loss of such an icon as one Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima.

Madam Speaker, it is my prayer that as you listen to the litany of developments that have been delivered in Ntcheu these past

four years, you will take comfort in knowing that until 8 months ago, Dr. Chilima made a significant contribution to this Government's ability to deliver on all these developments, for which I pray he gets his just reward from God the Father.

So, **Madam Speaker**, to all the Members of this House who represent the district of Ntcheu, including Honourables Chaola-Mdooko, Chilikumtima, Chimalira, Chipungu, Mbawala, Salambula, and Ziphondo, I humbly present you with the developments we have delivered for the majestic people of Ntcheu over the past four years:

- We have invested 162 million Kwacha in farm equipment, processing, and warehousing through AGCOM, benefiting 1,067 farmers
- We have rehabilitated 3,000 hectares at Tsangano Mega Farm, and 1,400 hectares at Bwanje Valley Irrigation Scheme.
- We have distributed affordable inputs to 420,235 households since 2020.
- We have rehabilitated four irrigation schemes at Thava, Chitseke, Fufule and Lisungwi to boost maize and rice production for 2,000 farming households.

- We have disbursed NEEF cash loans worth 252 million Kwacha for our youth and women entrepreneurs in Ntcheu and three billion Kwacha to 4,596 businesses.
- We have distributed maize worth 3.67 billion Kwacha to 34,482 households
- We have secured employment for 700 young people through gold mining exploration taking place in the district.
- We have completed construction of three Police Units.
- We are constructing 33 houses for Police and 6 houses for Immigration officers.
- We have completed two health posts at Mchekecha and Kulanga, while site handovers are underway at Sanjani and Chagomelana.
- We have constructed five community secondary schools at Gomani Chikuse, Kalila, Mokhotho, Tambala and Bwanje, 30 secondary school classrooms, 24 primary school classrooms, and recruited new 174 school teachers.
- We have connected 8,727 households to electricity under MAREP.
- We are constructing a mini grid at Mwansambo, which is at 30 per cent

- We have made 124 free water-connections.
- We are almost done with the construction of Ntcheu Stadium.
- And the Ntcheu-Kambilongo road has now been surfaced on the Ntcheu-Tsangano-Neno-Mwanza Road.
- We have reached to 14,349 beneficiaries on Cash Transfer and 16,396 beneficiaries on Climate Smart Enhanced Cash Program.

Madam Speaker and as we face the future together carrying the wounds we feel deep inside from SKC's death, let us boldly draw inspiration from his life of courage, of passion, of humour, and of generosity towards all those he crossed paths with, and let us count ourselves fortunate to have lived in the times of Saulos Klaus Chilima, whom I believe we need to crown with a fitting honour as a nation, one that we can all pay tribute at the state memorial of his passing in June. May his soul continue resting in peace.

THE STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN KASUNGU

Madam Speaker, the life of SKC was so transformational that I find his boldness in life and leadership to be a reminder of yet another icon of our nation, Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda, who

hailed from Kasungu. As such, allow me to give you my account of what we have delivered to the good people of Kasungu, who are represented in this House by Honourables Chithyola Banda, Bango, Bonongwe, Chiponda, Kambauwa, Kandodo, Kazombo, Mtonga, and Nkhoma. The following developments are the sum of our deliverables to the people of Kasungu:

- We have supported 43,208 food-insecure households through the ongoing relief food distribution.
- We have been providing AIP support to 546,615 farmers since 2020.
- We have been providing Social Cash Transfers to 19,409 families and Climate Smart Cash to 23,512 households.
- We have disbursed 4.3 billion Kwacha in agricultural loans to 2,708 farmers, and another 12.3 billion Kwacha to 9,724 people to support their businesses under NEEF.
- We have supported 252 mega farmers with MAIIC loans to cultivate food and cash crops.
- We are backing 17 cooperatives in the current season, benefiting 1,703 farmers.

Madam Speaker, I would like to make an additional point on agriculture mechanization. During one of my trips abroad, I sourced 20 durable Massey Ferguson and Case tractors from

Europe, and I am pleased that seven of these tractors were loaned to entrepreneurs in Kasungu district

- Through the World Bank-backed FInES project, we have assisted 2,547 MSMEs with financing to boost their businesses.
- We have completed 106 km of the 130 km perimeter fence at Kasungu National Park, and 263 elephants and 431 other species have been translocated from Liwonde National Park to enhance tourism.
- We have made Kasungu safer by reducing crime rates by 3.5 percent.
- We recruited and deployed 358 health workers
- We are constructing the Outpatient Department and Paying wing at Kasungu District Hospital.
- We have provided university student loans to 1,336 students in the district.
- We have recruited and deployed 3,810 teachers, constructed 32 classroom blocks, constructed two Community colleges at Pampa and Kambira.
- We are building ICT labs at five Community Day Secondary Schools including Mtunthama and Lojwa.

- We have secured over 20,000 tablets that we will give pupils to enhance their learning experience, half of which will be used by girls.
- We have provided money for constituency development, which has produced 12 houses for medical workers and teachers, 14 bridges, 3 under-five clinics, a girls' hostel and a water system.
- We constructed health centres at Mphomwa, Lodjwa and Ofesi.
- We constructed bridges at Nkhuta, Kasikidzi, and Chilodza.
- We constructed 6 staff houses for police officers at Chisinga, Kamboni and Kapelule.
- We constructed Kasungu District Council Office.
- We expanded Gogode Health Centre.
- We have constructed 296 houses for security agencies.
- We completed phase 1 of the Kasungu town loop road.
- We rehabilitated 255km of roads.
- We are constructing the M1 road between Lumbadzi and Chiweta, of which a 116km section runs through Kasungu.

- We connected 187 households to electricity under MAREP, 14,748 under the Solar Home System, and 3,125 under MEAP.
- We connected 407 households to piped water.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN SALIMA

Madam Speaker, next is my report on what my administration has delivered for the people of Salima who are represented here by Honourables Kaphamtengo Yona, Enock Phale, Gerlad Kapiseni Phiri, Christopher Manja and Mwawa Mike Ngombe

- 285,125 beneficiaries have redeemed their AIP subsidies since 2020.
- 338.8 million Kwacha in NEEF fertilizer loans have been disbursed to 1,300 people
- 37,753 households have received food support worth four billion kwacha
- We have done Social Cash Transfers to 11,814 households, but also reached another 20,041 beneficiaries through the Climate Smart cash, plus another 106,744 beneficiaries through the post Cyclone support initiative, and a final 9,960 supported through the El Nino Lean Season.

- We rehabilitated Lifidzi Irrigation Scheme.
- We disbursed 3.7 billion Kwacha in NEEF loans to 5,529 beneficiaries, plus an additional 6,994 MSMEs with financing access for scaling up operations
- Under MAREP we have connected 94 households to electricity.
- Under the Malawi Electricity Access Project (MEAP), we have connected 10,979 households.
- We have acquired 52.7 hectares of land at Traditional Authority Maganga in Salima for the development of the Salima Integrated Holiday Resort and Public Beach.
- We have built 8 schools, added 56 new classrooms and recruited about 290 primary school teachers on permanent basis leading to additional 5,020 new enrolments.
- Through the Malawi Youth Games, a national program involving both primary and secondary schools was launched by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, through which 2,000 talented athletes were identified out of 20,000 youths, and every Malawian should be proud that Salima Secondary School Football Team won gold in the African Schools Football Championship

- We commenced the Salima-Lilongwe Water Supply Project, which will benefit over 1.5 million people in Salima, Dowa, Ntchisi, and Lilongwe.
- We commenced construction of the 50 MW Nanjoka Power Plant in Salima,
- We have revamped the Salima Sugar Company Limited and is currently producing 21,000MT of sugar and employs over 4,200 people.
- We are constructing the 60 km Kaphatenga–Benga (M5) Road, having completed the Lifyozi Bridge.
- We have also delivered free water connections to 504 households.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN NKHOTA-KOTA

Similarly, Madam Speaker, the lakeshore district of Nkhota-kota must be jealously guarded and its people must be given the assurance that their Government puts the development of the district at the top of its priority list. I will therefore proceed to say how we have done that over the past four years for the district of Nkhota-kota, which is represented in this House by Honourables Chimunthu-Banda, Ibrahim, Kaise, Kondowe, and Mazizi:

- My office is supporting 19,822 food-insecure households with emergency food
- We are providing AIP to 18,179 beneficiaries.
- We are providing social cash transfers to 8,743 families, and Climate Smart cash to another 15,736.
- We have disbursed K1.7 billion Kwacha to 1,282 farmers for agriculture inputs loans.
- We have disbursed 5 billion to 4,863 people to support their various economic enterprises.
- Through the Mega Farm Initiative, we have given MAIIC loans to 15 mega farmers to cultivate 478 hectares of maize, tobacco, and ginger.
- Through AGCOM, we have supported cooperatives to build five warehouses and seven cold storage rooms, and acquire six tractors, five power tillers, five light trucks, and processing equipment.
- Through the World Bank-funded FINES project, we have assisted 907 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), primarily benefiting women and youth
- We have constructed four Health Posts at Bamba, Natiyi, Nansongole and the final at Sasani
- We have recruited and deployed 216 of health workers

- We have provided loans to 756 University students from Nkhota-Kota.
- We have recruited and deployed 438 teachers in the district to enhance the education of the youth there
- We have constructed four schools, 41 classrooms, one administration block, and five teacher houses.
- We are building three ICT laboratories at Mpondagaga, Benga, and Chipati.
- Under the BEFIT program, we have distributed 4,880 tablets across 27 schools.
- Under the MERP initiative, we have completed 98 classroom blocks out of a planned total of 196 classrooms.
- Under the SEED program, we have established four Community Day Secondary Schools: Mtosa CDSS, Mpamantha CDSS, Chilimani CDSS, and Lupachi CDSS.
- Under the Equals initiative, we have expanded five Community Day Secondary Schools: Dwasulu CDSS, Chipati CDSS, Kasamba CDSS, Mkaika CDSS, and Benga CDSS.
- Through CDF, the construction of two houses for T/As Mwadzama and Malengachanzi, one market, 1 school

administration block, 5 teacher houses have all been completed

- We have started rehabilitating the M5 Lakeshore after decades of neglect
- We have built 30 bridges.
- We have connected 117 households to electricity under MAREP, another 9,449 under the Solar Installation programme, and another 2,352 under MEAP.
- We have facilitated free water connection for 349 households

And just as I like to say that Malawi is not a landlocked country, but a land-linked country, so too some districts are important because they serve as links between different districts that surround them, and one such district is Ntchisi, which I will now tackle next, being represented in this House by Honourables Chilapondwa, Chimangeni, Chitekwe, and Kadzanja. What my Administration has done in this district by way of development, Madam Speaker, can be summarized as follows:

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN NTCHISI

- We have supported 12,564 households with food assistance.

- We have provided AIP subsidies to 249 427 beneficiaries over the past four years.
- We are providing Social Cash Transfers to 7,625 families, and Climate Smart Cash to another 18,553.
- We have disbursed 385 million Kwacha in loans for farm inputs, which have benefitted 1,400 farmers.
- We have disbursed another 3.3 billion Kwacha NEEF business loans to support various economic enterprises.
- We are supporting 44 Mega Farms through MAIIC loans that will empower the farmers to cultivate 2119 hectares of maize, soya and ginger.
- We have assisted 908 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Ntchisi, primarily benefiting women and youth, through access to financing for boost their businesses.
- We have constructed the Chafumbwa Health Centre, rehabilitated the Malomo Laboratory and constructed five houses.
- We have constructed 10 Health Posts to reduce distances to health care facility: Nthesa, Liwonde, Chinkhande, Sambakunsi, Chandawe, Malindi, Chakulanjala, Chazimbobo, Kalasankuwa, Chansolo health Posts.
- We have recruited and deployed 315 health workers.

- We have provided university student loans to 510 students from Ntchisi.
- We have recruited and deployed 278 teachers.
- We have constructed an ICT laboratory at Kayoyo CDSS.
- We have constructed 43 classroom blocks.
- Under the SEED project, we have built four Community Day Secondary Schools: Masokole, Mpheza, Kaulatsitsi, and Chibweya CDSS.
- Under the Equals Project, we have built three Community Day Secondary Schools: Mpherere CDSS, Madanjala CDSS, and Malomo CDSS.
- Through the funds we have allocated for the Constituency Development Fund, we have constructed 2 school administration blocks, 26 teacher houses, and maintained 119 km of local roads, and completed the construction of 72 bridges across Ntchisi.
- We have constructed the Ntchisi - Malomo road.
- We have connected electricity to 63 households under MAREP, 7,724 households under the Solar Installation initiative, and 1,134 households under MEAP.
- We have connected 177 households to piped water through the Free Water Connection Initiative.

- And we look forward to completing the construction of the Malomo - Ntchisi road, as well as developing roads within Ntchisi Town Centre, which will be a beautiful sight.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN MCHINJI

Madam Speaker, allow me to report to the House what we have done to improve the livelihoods of our citizens in the border district of Mchinji, which is represented here by Honourables Gumba, Kapalamula, Majaza, Mazobwe, Mwale, and Nkusa Nkhoma. Considering that Mchinji district is one of my home districts, having spent some of my childhood there and having memories of my parents living there, it has been a delight to pay tribute to this great district by giving the people of Mchinji the development they deserve. So here is what we have done there,

Madam Speaker:

- We have invested 488 million Kwacha in farming tools and equipment to help farmers modernize their farming methods.
- We have disbursed 1.4 billion Kwacha in NEEF farm input loans.
- We have delivered AIP subsidies 445,406 farming households since 2020.

- We have disbursed NEEF cash loans amounting to one billion Kwacha for starting businesses.
- We have spent 3.2 billion Kwacha on relief maize, which my office has distributed to the families that need it.
- We are constructing 64 security houses that are progressing well.
- We have completed work on 15 health posts, namely Mwase, Pitala, Chimwa, Kazira, Kavuta, Santhe, Waliranji, Gumulira, Kamera, Maliteni, Diti, Kamuwe, Kamchere, Mzama, and Mzenge.
- We have constructed six new secondary school classrooms and six new primary school classrooms; and recruited 309 new school teachers.
- We have completed and commissioned the Mchinji Teachers Training College.
- We have connected 7,508 houses to electricity.
- We have completed works on the Mkanda- Kapiri Road and Kawere-Mkanda Road.
- We have connected 236 households to new free water connections.

With that report, **Madam Speaker**, that leaves us with just two, namely Blantyre and Lilongwe, of which I would like to start with

the latter, though it deserves to be mentioned last, being the nation's capital, the seat of Government, and the place of my birth. Lilongwe is a vast area with many diverse people and all the extremities of rural life, urban life, and peri-urban life all wrapped up in one. It is geographically, economically, and politically central to our nation's development, and so it is quite sad, **Madam Speaker**, that at the time I took office in 2020, Lilongwe had been left in a state of disrepair by previous Presidents for reasons that mystify me. And so, knowing the importance of a nation's Capital to its sense of synergy and identity, I resolved to correct this anomaly by ensuring that I give Lilongwe the grooming commensurate with a Capital city, and so I give you a summary of what I have done to develop this district, which is represented here by Honourables Zulu, Tembo, Sendeza, Msungama, Mkaka, Lowe, Kutsaira, Kathumba, Kamsiyamoyo, Kajawa, Kaimapanjira, Jiya, Gwengwe, Dimba, Chipuwa, Ching'onga, Ching'oma, Chimdzeka, Chapota, Chang'anamuno, Boti-Phiri, and Belekanyama, all of whom represent a vast portion of the population for whom I have delivered the following developments in the past four years:

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN LILONGWE

Since 2020, under the AIP framework, we have distributed 159,529 metric tons of fertiliser to 1,595,287 households in Lilongwe. However, as the focus of the programme has undergone changes to make it more efficient, we have graduated some beneficiaries to other programmes that are more suitable. One such programme is the social cash transfer, through which we have provided incomes to 29,360 households, which another 29,243 households have benefited from Climate Smart cash, and still another 85,912 households have benefited from the Covid-19 Urban Cash Intervention, and then finally we have given cash to another 38,667 households through the Price Shock Urban Emergency Cash Transfer Intervention.

Madam Speaker, the people of Lilongwe also benefited from NEEF's Farm Input Loans, a total of 48,269 bags to be precise, which cost 5.2 billion Kwacha and which benefited 6,121 farmers who feed this city by growing maize, tobacco, Irish potatoes, tubers and other diversified crops. In addition, we also disbursed cash amounting to 3.9 billion to 2,097 farmers to finance diversified agricultural activities on over 70,000 acres of land.

Madam Speaker, all this notwithstanding, the responsibility of feeding a district as vast and populous as Lilongwe is enormous, so much so that we still have some families unable to grow enough food to eat. To address this in a year impacted by drought, my office has distributed two 50kg bags of maize to 103,869 families, which cost no less than 11 billion Kwacha. We also distributed the same amount of relief food to urban families with a food shortage, which amounted to 53,321 households at a budget of 5.6 billion Kwacha.

For Lilongwe's Economic Development, we have disbursed 43.3 billion kwacha in loans to 43,451 people to start their own business. One example of the impact of these loans is Dr. Martin Mwayiponya, a medical doctor who runs a medical clinic in Area 25 stands out as an archetype of how NEEF loans are enabling professionals to realise their innovative ideas and make meaningful changes to their communities. He borrowed K24 million to acquire 10 hectares of land in T.A Kabudula in Lilongwe district. He also used part of the loan to finance operations. He grows garlic, ginger, turmeric and bananas, all of which have therapeutic properties and which he gives to his patients to enhance recovery and boost immunity, which has become a game-changer for him. On top of the NEEF programme, we have helped 6,021 SMEs access credit facilities

to enhance their liquidity, scale up their businesses and build firm capabilities. Meanwhile, through the Agriculture Commercialisation (AgCom) Project, we are financing 225 Cooperatives to the tune of K5.8 billion.

In Human Capital Development, Madam Speaker, a total of 1,113 teachers were recruited to improve the quality of learning in Lilongwe's schools, for the future of this district is its youth, and it is clear the need is great, because enrolment in these schools has increased by 17,300 learners as a direct result of the new classroom space we have created.

In Infrastructure Development, Madam Speaker, under MAREP 9, a total of 305 households have been connected to the national grid in Lilongwe while under the under the Malawi Electricity Access Project, while 18,219 solar home systems (SHS) have been installed to-date to benefit off-grid rural households. The total number of beneficiaries from the above connections is 81,505. With respect to education infrastructure, **Madam Speaker,** we have built 17 new secondary schools, 144 secondary school classrooms, and 74 primary school classrooms have been constructed, thus creating room for intake of more students. We have also built nine health posts, five of which are completed and in use already, and the construction of the

remaining four is still in progress. Two of those completed were funded by Members of Parliament using CDF while the others were funded jointly by partners and the GoM. The Global Fund stands out as a major funding partner in this case.

Madam Speaker, government is constructing 645 housing units for personnel in security institutions in Lilongwe with a view to providing safe and modern housing for them. Out of these, 240 units are for the Malawi Police Service, 254 units are for the Malawi Defence Force, 126 units are for Immigration and Citizenship Services, and 25 units are for the Malawi Prison Service. All of them are still under construction and expected to be completed within the year.

Madam Speaker, besides security institutions houses, government is also constructing 11 housing units for people with albinism to ensure their safety and comfort. These are due for completion within the year too. And with respect to water infrastructure, a total of 23,248 residents of the city and 103 residents in the rural areas were connected to Lilongwe Water Board and Central Region Water Board water networks free of charge.

But I am sure that the greatest joys in infrastructure are being felt on the new roads in the city, and so there is nothing for me to say about those other than to encourage us all to use the roads wisely and responsibly. And the same applies to the National Aquatic Complex and the Griffin Saenda Indoor Sports Complex that are at 63 percent and 80 percent completion respectively, although they hosted the African Union Region 5 Youth Games in December 2022.

Madam Speaker, going forward, the following projects are in the offing:

- The Twin Towers due to be constructed at Capital Hill in Lilongwe whose designs are ready for implementation;
- Procurement for the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Compact funded 53 km Chileka-Malingunde-Likuni Road is in progress;
- Works are in progress on the 11.4 km Kaunda Road and the 4.7 km Chendawaka Road.
- Government intends to construct a new international airport in Lilongwe featuring multiple 3 kilometres runways to accommodate large cargo and passenger aircraft.
- Government signed exchange notes with the Peoples Republic of China for the Judicial Complex Project,

designs of which are completed and construction of whose perimeter fence started in June 2024 and is at 33 percent completion.

Madam Speaker, as you can see, the best days for Lilongwe are yet to come.

STATE OF DEVELOPMENT FOR BLANTYRE

And now, Madam Speaker, here is what we have delivered for the district and people of Blantyre, who are represented here in this House by Honourables Bande, Chisesele, Kachingwe, Kaneka, Lipipa, Mikaya, Mkumba, Mpinganjira, Nankhumwa, Ndalama, Phisso, Shaba, and Songwe.

- 1,037 beneficiaries have redeemed their AIP subsidies.
- Four Hundred and Two Million and Twenty Two Thousand Kwacha (MK402,022,000.00) has been disbursed as NEEF fertilizer loans to 1,018 beneficiaries covering 412 Hectares
- 95,491 households have received food support worth Seven Billion Five Hundred and Fifty Million Nine Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand Five Hundred Kwacha (MK7,550,956,500.00) through DODMA .
- Social Cash Transfers supported 11,909 households.

- The Climate Smart Enhanced Public Works supported 16,946 beneficiaries.
- COVID-19 Urban Cash Transfers supported 71,517 households.
- Price shocks Urban Interventions supported 48,444 households.
- A 200 Ha Nkawinda Irrigation scheme has been developed in in Blantyre.
- Ten Billion Nine Hundred and Sixty Four Million Five Hundred and Fifty Six Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty Kwacha (MK10,964,556,420.00) has been disbursed to 12,319 beneficiaries as NEEF cash loans.
- Under the Malawi Rural Electrification Project-9 (MAREP-9) we have connected 145 households to electricity.
- Under the Malawi Electricity Access Project (MEAP), we have connected 17,059 households.
- Construction of the Commercial Court in Blantyre is near completion, with works at 98% progress, with completion set April this year. This development will strengthen the handling of commercial disputes, boosting investor confidence and promoting economic growth.
- 195 security staff houses have been completed in Blantyre District.

- 3 house for an individual with albinism have been constructed.
- We have built 6 schools, added 71 new classrooms and recruited 859 primary school teachers on permanent basis leading to an additional 4,890 new enrolments.
- We have carried out school feeding programs at 233 primary schools.
- To enhance fuel security, the Government is expanding fuel storage capacity from 60 million to 120 million litres, with feasibility studies and procurement processes for new reserves in Blantyre, Lilongwe, and Mzuzu already underway.
- In terms of affordable housing units, Blantyre has seen the completion of two apartment blocks, each containing six flats, along with 90 additional flats and five bungalows, resulting in a total of 102 units.
- Government is advancing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) to accelerate industrialization and economic growth. For Blantyre, Matindi Special Economic Zone will catalyse industrialization, attract investment, create jobs and boost Malawi's trade and economic competitiveness.
- The rehabilitation of the Chileka terminal building is at 95% completion. The international departures terminal has been completed and operational. This will enhance service

delivery by modernising facilities to meet increasing passenger demand and improving overall efficiency, and also improve security checkpoints within the terminal and accessibility for individuals with reduced mobility which collectively enhances passenger experience.

- My government has cleared the arrears that had accrued on the construction of the Soche stadium in Blantyre. This was done to facilitate the commencement of the facility's completion process so that it provides a venue for teams to compete.
- The following roads have been upgraded in Blantyre: Newlands-Manje (2 km), Lali Lubani Road (1.7 km), Namiwawa-Sunnyside (2 km), and Ndirande-Nkolokoti (5 km). Additionally, 57 km of roads have been patched and 46 km of ward roads maintained.
- The Malawi Water Supply and Sanitation Project, spanning 2022 to 2028, is transforming water access and sanitation services for over 330,000 people and improving solid waste management for 480,000 residents in Blantyre City and surrounding areas. Key interventions include the rehabilitation and upgrade of the Mudi Dam and Water Treatment Plant, the construction of six new water storage reservoirs, and the installation of 60 smart water kiosks in low-income areas and cholera hotspots. 332 km of water

transmission and distribution pipes are being replaced, upgraded, and extended to enhance reliability and efficiency.

- We have also delivered free water connections to 5,179 households.

Madam Speaker, I have taken long deliberately because this is a House of records and I want it to be on record that this is what I have delivered for the Malawian people in the four years that I have been President, and I believe that I am at peace with God and I have enough trust in the Malawian people that they are fair minded enough to judge my performance as President by what I have done, not by what other politicians say about me or by the disasters that have befallen us as a nation, disasters that have subjected us to a season of pain and that I believe we must find the strength as a nation to stick together so that we can endure and overcome, but there is no doubt in my mind, Madam Speaker, that overcome we will.

I thank you for listening, and I yield the floor.