

STATEMENT BY
THE GOVERNOR FOR MALAWI

It is an honour for me to address this assembly.
Honourable Chairperson,
Honourable Ministers and ADB Governors
Distinguished Guests,
All protocol duly observed,

First of all, allow me to speak in French to congratulate and thank the President, Government and people of Cote d'Ivoire for the warm welcome given me and my delegation since our arrival in the country. Your hospitality has been outstanding. I would also like to congratulate Cote d'Ivoire for the peace reigning in the country. The return of the ADB to Abidjan is therefore a desirable option. Let me also commend Donald Kaberuka, President of the Bank Group and the entire ADB staff for all the work accomplished in the build-up to this meeting.

My delegation and I bring you greetings and friendship from President Bingu Wa Mutharika who was recently awarded the honorary certificate of Professor Of Economic Sciences.

As Chairman of the African Union, he sent us a message of hope and success for the African Development Bank and all delegates here present.

With your permission, I would like to read the rest of my message in English.

We are gathered here to reflect on the work of the African Development Bank Group in the past year. I would like to commend the AfDB for their excellent performance in the year. Since its creation, more than four decades ago, the Bank has continued to play a prominent role in the development of Africa. Malawi, as a member of the Bank, has benefitted a lot from the support of the Bank.

I am aware that the Bank has focused its resources on five key areas – infrastructure development, regional integration, private sector development, human capacity building, energy development and agriculture.

These strategic areas are very critical for Africa's economic and social development. They are key in the poverty reduction and job creation agenda of the continent. They also rhyme very well with our national development priorities as outlined in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy.

Just like other member countries, the Government of Malawi is focusing on energy generation, human development, agriculture and food security, infrastructure development, including roads and the development of the Shire Zambezi Water Way among others. You may be aware that Malawi has received all the accolades for attaining food security.

I am glad that the Bank is supporting the Malawi Government in achieving these objectives and goals. In fact, throughout this week the Bank has been exhibiting some of the key projects from Malawi that have made a big difference in the lives of many Malawians, particularly in roads infrastructure, health care and irrigation and food security.

As a country our needs are still many, therefore we will continue to call on the Bank for support.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank all cooperating partners who have pledged resources for the replenishment of the next ADF12 and urge them to live up to their commitments despite the many challenges that they are facing in light of the global financial and economic crisis. I hope that Africa will not be forgotten as the Euro Area deals with the problems in Greece. It is also in this context that we welcome and support the 6th General Capital increase.

Malawi further welcomes the decision to increase constituencies in Southern Africa to three. This will increase Constituencies in Southern Africa to three. This will increase the voice and participation of these member States of the Bank.

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

I thank you.