



**OPENING REMARKS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR
PROFESSOR SAMSON SAJIDU
DURING THE INDIAN DIALOGUE FUNCTION HELD ON FRIDAY, 5TH
DECEMBER, 2025**

Salutations

1. Our Guest of Honour, Dr Bright Molande, Secretary for Foreign Affairs.
2. Your Excellency Amararam Guhar, High Commissioner of India to Malawi.
3. Let me also acknowledge our keynote speakers, Professor Thekiso Molokwane from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Dr Gift Kayira, Head of History, Archeology and Heritage Studies at the University of Malawi.
4. Representatives of the Government, diplomatic community members, colleagues from the Indian High Commission, Executive Deans, Heads of Departments, distinguished guests, partners, staff, students, and members of the University of Malawi community.
5. Ladies and gentlemen.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency, High Commissioner Guhar, on your appointment as High Commissioner of India to Malawi. We warmly welcome you to Malawi and to the University of Malawi, renowned for its commitment to academic freedom.

We are truly privileged that the Indian High Commission selected UNIMA to host this significant event. We thank you for your trust in our institution and for recognizing our role as a centre for intellectual exchange.

When we speak about Malawi's history and development, India naturally forms part of that story. Our friendship goes back to the pre-independence era. India inspired many nations, including Malawi, in their struggles against colonialism through its peaceful and successful independent movement. We recall with pride the visit of India's Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, who joined Malawi in celebrating independence in 1964. And just last year, in October 2024, we were pleased to welcome Her Excellency President Droupadi Murmu—another symbol of India's continued commitment to our partnership.

India has significantly contributed to the development of Malawi's human resources. Notable Malawian leaders like the late President Professor Bingu wa Mutharika and current Foreign Minister Dr. George Chaponda studied at the University of Delhi. Today, many young Malawians benefit from Indian scholarship programs like the African Scholarship Scheme, operated by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), which offers approximately twenty scholarships each year across various fields.

India's support to Malawi stretches across ICT, agriculture, health, and higher education. Many members of our academic community have been direct beneficiaries of these opportunities. This widespread cooperation underscores the depth of our bilateral relations.

Today's event further strengthens the bridge between our two countries. At the University of Malawi, we value partnerships that enhance research, broaden knowledge, and open pathways for our students and staff. As Malawi works towards achieving Vision 2063, we view India as a strategic partner—one whose advancements in technology, digital innovation, entrepreneurship, and public sector reforms offer valuable lessons for our own journey toward a prosperous, inclusive, and innovative future.

Your Excellency, the University of Malawi has enormous potential. We are committed to producing high-calibre graduates and responsible global citizens. However, like many public universities in developing countries, we face resource limitations. To enhance teaching and learning, we urgently need electronic devices such as laptops for students and staff, as well as laboratory equipment and textbooks to strengthen our academic programmes. We have land available and would greatly appreciate support in expanding our learning and teaching spaces to accommodate our growing student population.

Furthermore, India is home to some of the world's most outstanding Universities. We would be grateful if, through our collaboration, more of our staff and students could gain access to training and study opportunities in those institutions, specifically through formalized research and exchange Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs).

Finally, let me express our profound appreciation to the Embassy of India for selecting UNIMA as a key partner in this initiative. We also thank the organising committees from both sides for the hard work that has made this event possible and look forward to the fruitful discussions that lie ahead.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.