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**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, PROFESSOR SAMSON  
SAJIDU, DURING THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI  
GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2024 IN THE GREAT  
HALL, ZOMBA**

**CONFERMENT OF HONORIS CAUSA TO  
PRESIDENT NYUSI OF MOZAMBIQUE**

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## **Salutations**

1. Your Excellency Dr. McCarthy Lazarus Chakwera, Chancellor of the University of Malawi and President of the Republic of Malaw;
2. Your Excellency Madam Monica Chakwera, the First Lady of the Republic of Malawi;
3. Your Excellency Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique;
4. Honourable Madalitso Wirima-Kambauwa (MP), Minister of Education and all Malawi and Mozambique Cabinet Ministers present here;
5. The SPC, Madam Collen Zamba;
6. The Secretary for Education, Dr Mangani Katundu;
7. The Chairman of Council Dr Christopher Guta and all Council members of the University of Malawi;
8. Chairpersons of other University Councils and all other councilors;
9. All senior Malawi and Mozambique government officials here present;

10. Vice Chancellors of MUBAS (Dr Nancy Chitera), KUHES (Prof Mac Mallewa), MUST (Prof Address Malata), LUANAR (Prof Emmanuel Kaunda), Rovuma Universdadaded (Prof Mario do Santos), Joachim Chissano Universidade (Prof Jose Magode), University of Mozambique Pedagogical (Prof Jorge Ferrao), Pungue Universidade (Prof Emilia Nhalevilo), Zambeze Universidade (Prof Betterncourt), Eduardo Mondhlane Universidade (Prof Manuel Guilherme Junior) and all other vice chancellor present here;
11. Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi, Dr Sunduzwayo Madise
12. Mr. Martin Matululu, Registrar, University of Malawi;
13. Senior members of Management from other universities;
14. Professors, Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments;
15. All members of staff of the University of Malawi;
16. Dr Nthara, the officiating Clergy;

17. Honourable Bester Awali, Member of Parliament for Zomba Central Constituency;
18. His Worship Councilor Christopher Jana Mayor for Zomba City;
19. Mr Archangel Bakolo Acting Chief Executive Officer for Zomba City Council;
20. Mrs Regnhard Chavula, District Commissioner for Zomba;
21. All captains of the public and private sectors present;
22. Chief Mwambo, Chief Chikowi and GVH Chikanda and all other chiefs present;
23. President of the University of Malawi Students Representative Council;
24. Distinguished Invited Guests;
25. Members of the media, and
26. Ladies and Gentlemen.

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Before I proceed, **Your Excellency**, let me welcome you back in a very special way to your University, as our alumni No. 1.

I wish also to thank you, Your Excellency, for taking your time to prioritize this graduation ceremony from your tight schedule. We do not take this for granted.

### **Ladies and gentlemen**

This gathering is historic, a momentous occasion and distinguished honour for all of us to witness the Honoris Causa conferment of a PhD in International Relations and Diplomacy (Honoris Causa) to His Excellency, Filipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mozambique. What a time to live!

This ceremony, is one of the three ceremonies that we will hold today and tomorrow.

This morning and tomorrow, we have 1,292 graduands who will receive their certificates. Out of these, 1 graduand will graduate with Honoris Causa, 4 graduands will graduate with PhDs, 154 with Masters degrees, 1002 with Bachelors degrees, 8 with Postgraduate diplomas, 107 with Diplomas and 16 with certificates. 508 of the graduands are female

and 784 are male (approximately 40% female). We are making steady progress in closing the gender disparity.

I congratulate all our graduands upon reaching this milestone.

Your Excellency, our Chancellor, Sir, my brief remarks are largely on today's special session

As the Vice Chancellor of this esteemed institution, I stand before you with immense pride and a sense of responsibility, for I believe that graduation is not just about receiving a certificate but also about imparting wisdom and addressing the challenges that lie ahead.

Engraved in the annals of our esteemed institution's history, today marks a momentous occasion as we confer the prestigious Honoris Causa award upon an individual who embodies the very essence of academic excellence, diplomacy, and global citizenship.

I stand before you today to celebrate a paragon of virtue, a luminary whose tireless efforts have illuminated the path of progress, fostering a

culture of collaboration, innovation, and mutual understanding.

The Honoris Causa award is not merely a recognition of achievements but a testament to the power of dedication, perseverance, and vision. Our honoree's remarkable journey is a shining example of the transformative impact one can have on the world.

As we honor His Excellency, President Nyusi today, we also reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the bonds between our university and our partner institutions in Mozambique. Currently the University of Malawi has MoUs with Rovuma Universidade, Mpungwe Universidad and Joachim Chissano University. Among others, the MoUs concentrate on:

1. Local Government, International Relations, Governance, Public Administration, Development Studies, Business Management, International Business, Economics, International Trade and Finance, Diplomacy, English and Portuguese Languages, International Law,

International Political Economy, Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution, Computer Science, Computer Network Engineering, Information Systems, Environmental Engineering and Applied Statistics;

2. Joint research projects, conferences, workshops, short courses, symposia, seminars, training programs of mutual interest, co-supervision and external examining;
3. Pursuit of avenues for students exchange and internships. We currently have 9 students on Masters and PhDs from Rovuma Universidade
4. Sharing experiences and expertise in the development of frameworks and policies; and
5. Joint development and delivery of curricula in areas of mutual interest and sharing of programs;

Through these collaborations I have started some Portuguese lessons taught by one of the nine MSc students we have from Rovuma

Universidade. Please allow me to do a brief Portuguese proficiency test:

Excelentíssimo Senhor Presidente Filipe Nyusi e todos os ilustres/ distintos delegados de Moçambique. Como Universidade, esperamos continuar nossos esforços colaborativos em educação, pesquisa e intercâmbio cultural, sabendo que, juntos, podemos contribuir para um mundo mais pacífico e próspero.

**Excellentismo Seniyore Presidente  
Filipe Nyusi i todushi ushi illushtrishi,  
delegadushi de Mosambique. Komu  
universidade eshiperamushi  
kontinuware nosushi eshiforusush  
kolaborativushi em educasao, peshikiza  
i interekambio kulturale, sabendu ki  
juntushi, podemushi kontribuwire para  
u mundu maishi pasifiku i proshipero**

In English;

‘Your Excellency, President Filipe Nyusi and all distinguished delegates from Mozambique. As a University we look forward to continuing our collaborative efforts in education, research, and cultural exchange, knowing that together, we can contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world.’

Your Excellency Our Chancellor, former Chancellor (Her Excellency Dr Joyce Banda) and all other former Chancellors not present here, the University of Malawi you envisioned, created, and continue to support stands as a beacon of unity in diversity.

Your foresightedness and unwavering commitment have nurtured an institution that embraces all cultures, religions, tribes, political affiliations, gender, social economic backgrounds and special needs.

It is a place where every individual is valued, where differences are celebrated, and where the pursuit of knowledge transcends all boundaries. Your enduring support has made this possible, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

This is why we have gathered here today in unity. We, your children, do pray that this unity should continue.

May this award serve as a beacon of inspiration, motivating us to strive for excellence, to push the boundaries of knowledge, and to harness our collective potential to address the complex challenges facing our global community.

I therefore would like to congratulate our esteemed honoree on this well-deserved recognition. May your accomplishments, Your Excellency continue to inspire and guide us as we shape the future of our world.

At this juncture, I am duty-bound with distinguished honour to request You, Your Excellency, the University of Malawi Chancellor and the President of the Republic of Malawi to address the congregation, Mr. Chancellor, Sir.