



ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, PROFESSOR SAMSON SAJIDU, DURING THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI GRADUATION CEREMONY HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 30th APRIL, 2025 AT 2 PM IN THE GREAT HALL, ZOMBA

Salutations

1. Honourable Dr Jessie Kabwila, Minister of Higher Education
2. The Secretary for Higher Education, Dr Levis Eneya
3. The Chairman of Council Dr Christopher Guta and all Council members of the University of Malawi;
4. Chairpersons of other University Councils and all other councilors;
5. All senior Malawi and Mozambique government officials here present;
6. Vice Chancellors of MUBAS (Dr Nancy Chitera), KUHES (Prof Mac Mallewa), MUST (Prof Address Malata),

- LUANAR (Prof Emmanuel Kaunda), and all other vice chancellors present here;
7. Deputy Vice Chancellor of the University of Malawi, Dr Sunduzwayo Madise
 8. Mr. Martin Matululu, Registrar, University of Malawi;
 9. Senior members of Management from other universities;
 10. Professors, Deans, Directors and Heads of Departments;
 11. All members of staff of the University of Malawi;
 12. Dr Nthara, the officiating Clergy;
 13. Honourable Bester Awali, Member of Parliament for Zomba Central Constituency;
 14. His Worship Councilor Christopher Jana Mayor for Zomba City;
 15. Mr Archangel Bakolo Acting Chief Executive Officer for Zomba City Council;
 16. Mrs Regnhard Chavula, District Commissioner for Zomba;
 17. All captains of the public and private sectors present;
 18. Chief Mwambo, Chief Chikowi and GVH Chikanda and all other chiefs present;
 19. President of the University of Malawi Students Representative Council;
 20. Distinguished Invited Guests;
 21. Members of the media, and
 22. Ladies and Gentlemen.
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It is a great honour and privilege to stand before you on this momentous occasion as we celebrate the academic achievements of our graduating class. Today marks the culmination of years of hard work, discipline, and resilience.

This ceremony, is one of the four ceremonies that we started this morning until tomorrow.

In total, we have **2643** graduands who are receiving their certificates. Out of these, **8** graduands are graduating with PhDs, **218** with Masters degrees, **12** with Postgraduate diplomas, **329** with Bachelors degrees (Honours), **1998** with Bachelors degrees **53** with Diplomas and **25** with certificates. **1260** of the graduands are female and **1383** are male (approximately **48%** female). We are making steady progress in closing the gender disparity. This graduation has recorded **26** distinctions (**14** females and **12** males). In this congregation we have 730 graduands.

As we celebrate the remarkable achievements of our graduating students today, I would like to take this moment and join the Chairman of Council in sincerely thanking all those who have walked with them on this journey.

Honourable Minister, we are deeply grateful to the Govrenment for the continued support to the University and to the education sector at large. Your commitment to higher education remains a cornerstone of national development.

To the parents, guardians, and spouses — thank you for your unwavering sacrifices, encouragement, and patience. Your belief

in these graduates has carried them through the most challenging of times.

To the boyfriends and girlfriends — yes, we acknowledge you too! Thank you for the emotional support, the long chats during study breaks, and for being there in ways that often go unnoticed.

To our dedicated lecturers and staff — your hard work, mentorship, and guidance have helped shape these graduates into the professionals they are becoming. We do not take your commitment for granted.

And to everyone who has played a part — whether big or small — thank you. Today's success is not just that of the graduates, but of a whole community that believed, supported, and invested in them.

To our graduating students—this is your day. You are the heartbeat of the future. You represent hope and the promise of progress. We know many of you belong to Generation Z—curious, connected, creative, and deeply conscious of your values. As you step out into the world, I urge you to carry with you not only your degrees but also the values of service, excellence, and integrity.

Be bold, but be ethical. Be confident, but stay grounded. And remember, success is not only about what you gain, but what you give back.

The degrees you receive today are not just certificates — they are launchpads for global impact."

"You studied through disruptions such as Covid 19, cyclone Freddy (Feb to March 2023), Cyclone Chido (Dec 2024), Cyclone Jude (last month, March 2025) and and you are graduating in uncertainty — that makes you not just qualified, but unstoppable. You are a proof that resilience is not just a buzzword — it's a way of life. Carry that forward as you go into the world.

As a reminder this University does not offer a module in corruption. There is no course in our curriculum that teaches bribery, dishonesty, or abuse of office. On the contrary, we strive to nurture ethical, responsible, and accountable graduates — individuals who will contribute positively to society and uphold the highest standards of integrity.

You are ambassadors of this institution. Carry yourselves with honour. Resist the temptation to take shortcuts or compromise your values for temporary gain. Be part of the generation that says no to corruption — not in words, but in action.

Please go and work hard.

As Arnold Schwarzenegger said and I quote

'Just remember, you can't climb the ladder of success with your hands in your pockets' end of quote. This signifies the importance of being humble but also practically working hard.

Congratulations, once again, on becoming alumni of this exceptional institution. May your journey ahead be filled with purpose, passion, and boundless opportunities. And may you continue to make your alma mater proud. God Bless UNIMA, God Bless Our Mother Malawi

Thank you for your attention