



**SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. FUJIO SAMUKAWA
AMBASSADOR OF JAPAN TO MALAWI**

**ON THE OCCASION
OF AMBASSADOR SAMUKAWA'S FAREWELL RECEPTION
AT SUNBIRD CAPITAL HOTEL (MULANJE ROOM),
LILONGWE**

ON 1ST OCTOBER, 2013.

**❖ Hon. Ephraim Mganda Chiume, Minister of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation,**

❖ Honourable Cabinet Ministers and Ministers,

❖ Members of Parliament,

**❖ The Dean and Members of the Diplomatic Corps and
International Organizations,**

❖ Senior Government Officials,

❖ Members of the Press,

❖ Distinguished Guests,

❖ Ladies and Gentlemen.

My wife and I feel greatly honoured and privileged to be here tonight. We are extremely grateful to the Government of the Republic of Malawi for hosting this farewell reception for us.

Our heartfelt gratitude is also extended to each one of you for your kind presence tonight. It is because of the support of colleagues and friends like you as well as the support from Her Excellency President Joyce Banda and the Government of Malawi that I was able to successfully complete my nearly-three-year term of duty. I therefore wish to extend my deepest appreciation for all the support and guidance throughout my tour of duty.

Honourable Minister, allow me to also make use of this occasion to commend the Government of Malawi for its enormous strides in enhancing Malawi's socio-economic development in the past few years. Although much progress has been made, you will agree that there still remains much to be done. It is therefore pleasing to note that the Malawi Government under the leadership of President Joyce Banda is making utmost efforts to spearhead development.

Honourable Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, during my tenure, I have repeatedly stressed the importance of prioritizing 'Human Resource Development' and "Infrastructure Development," which I strongly feel are fundamental to Malawi's development. As I leave Malawi, I wish to once again stress the importance of these two factors.

Honourable Minister, in terms of 'Human Resource Development,' it is a well known fact, that appropriate development can not take place in the country in the absence of creative; skillful; and competent persons. Actually, one of the reasons why Japan achieved rapid economic growth after the Second World War is that emphasis was placed on human resource development with equitable access to education as the starting point. Honourable Minister, without a doubt, education is a sure investment for a bright future. And although tangible results may not be clearly evident in the short term, worthwhile results are definitely guaranteed for the future. I am therefore happy that I had an opportunity to discuss the need for

promoting education with Her Excellency President Joyce Banda and that she happened to hold the same view.

Honourable Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, it is certainly encouraging to note that the Government of Malawi recognized the need for promoting basic education and consequently introduced free primary education in 1994, which led to high enrolment. It is also encouraging to note that President Joyce Banda's administration allocated a substantial amount of the national budget to the education sector. It is further uplifting to note that the Malawi Government has placed emphasis on maths and science as essential subjects in secondary education.

However, the education sector is still faced with various challenges such as the lack of proper facilities and qualified teachers. Your Honourable Minister will therefore be pleased to know that our Government is fully aware of such challenges and has strived to address the challenges by implementing various projects such as the rehabilitation and expansion of primary schools and secondary schools; the construction of a teacher training college; the Strengthening of Mathematics and Science in Secondary Education (SMASSE) program; and the dispatch of Japanese volunteers to educational institutions.

Honourable Minister, in terms of infrastructure development; the role of infrastructure including agricultural infrastructure in enhancing development can not be undermined. Furthermore, the importance of infrastructure development in attracting foreign investors can not be over emphasized. Most of the Asian countries are well on their way to attaining development because of the presence of proper infrastructure, which in turn has attracted a lot of foreign investment in the region.

Honourable Minister, it is for this reason that Japan has prioritized assistance for infrastructural development in Africa. Your Honourable Minister will therefore be pleased to recall that during the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced an assistance

package to Africa worth Japanese Yen 650 billion (approximately US\$6.5 billion) for infrastructure development over the next five years.

In this connection, I would like to inform Your Honourable Minister that our Government is planning to cooperate with Malawi on the Construction of Tedzani Hydro Power Station and the Expansion of the facilities at Kamuzu International Airport in the near future.

Honourable Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, before I conclude my remarks, I would also like to stress the importance of frequent high-level exchanges in consolidating the Japan-Malawi close and cordial relations. Promoting high-level exchanges was one of my priority areas during my tenure. I am therefore most proud to note that TICAD V provided a good opportunity for high-level talks between dignitaries from our two countries including Her Excellency President Joyce Banda and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

It is my earnest hope that President Joyce Banda and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe have established a personal relationship following their bilateral talks during TICADV and also following their participation in the recently held Japan-Africa Regional Economic Communities Roundtable Summit on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. All in all, it is my sincere hope that high-level exchanges between our two countries shall continue.

Honourable Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, as I conclude my remarks allow me to express my joy and happiness for the wonderful experience my wife and I have had in the warm heart of Africa. It was a joy to interact with the peace loving Malawians. I will surely cherish my stay in Malawi.

As I leave Malawi, I would like to toast to the good health and happiness of Her Excellency President Joyce Banda and the continued peace and prosperity of the people of Malawi.

Cheers and Kanpai!

Thank you very much!