

The Emperor's Birthday Reception



Ambassador Fujio Samukawa and Mrs. Terue Samukawa welcoming the Guest of Honour, Hon. Dr. Ken Lipenga- Minister of Finance



A cross section of guests listening to the speeches



Ambassador Samukawa delivering his remarks

On December 11, 2012 the Embassy hosted a reception to mark the 79th birthday of His Majesty Emperor Akihito at Capital Hotel, Viphya Room.

Although His Majesty the Emperor's Birthday falls on December 23, the reception was held earlier so as not to coincide with the busy period of the festive season.

The reception was held from 18:00 hours and the guest of honour was Hon. Dr. Ken Lipenga, Minister of Finance.

Around 157 guests including cabinet ministers; government officials; members of the diplomatic corps; representatives of international organisations; business persons; and Japanese nationals attended the reception.

The ceremony started off with speeches by H.E. Ambassador Fujio Samukawa and Hon. Dr. Ken Lipenga respectively.

In his remarks, Ambassador Fujio Samukawa expressed gratitude for the support rendered to Japan by the international community including the Republic of Malawi on the occasion of the March 11, 2011 earthquake and tsunamis.

The Ambassador also commended the Joyce Banda administration for striving to address the many challenges facing Malawi including the prevailing economic situation.

He also implored President Banda to attend the forthcoming Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V). The Ambassador concluded his remarks by reaffirming Japan's commitment to supporting Malawi for its development.

Hon Dr. Ken Lipenga, on the other hand, began by conveying a congratulatory message from President Joyce Banda to His Majesty Emperor Akihito and the people of Japan.



The Guest of Honour, Hon. Dr. Ken Lipenga delivering his remarks

Hon. Lipenga also pledged continued support to Japan in international fora. He ended his remarks by toasting to the continued success and health of His Majesty the Emperor and also to the further consolidation of the Japan-Malawi ties.

After the speeches, guests were treated to a variety of finger snacks and Japanese delicacies such as vegetable and prawn tempura, and sushi as they mingled around.



Ambassador and Mrs. Samukawa interacting with Hon. Abel Kayembe, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs (centre); Mr. Charles Kambauwa, Acting Director of International Economic Cooperation in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (left); and Mr. Gamaliel Bandawe, Tobacco Control Commission Board Chairperson (right)

He then commended Japan for demonstrating remarkable resilience even after the March 11, 2011 disaster. He also thanked the Government of Japan for contributing to Malawi's development even when faced with challenges.

The Minister also commended the TICAD process for accelerating Development in Africa and expressed Malawi's high regard for the process. He also conveyed assurances of Malawi's participation at TICAD V.



A cross section of guests mingling as they enjoy Japanese delicacies