



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Ndizotheka Eminent Speaker Series motivates people to engage in Science, Technology and Development**

Professor Paul Tiyambe Zeleza, Vice Chancellor of United States International University (USIU)- Africa shared his thoughts through zoom at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ndizotheka Eminent Speaker Series event which took place on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Prof. Zeleza hinted on 5 key elements in his presentation titled, **“The Role of Science, Technology, and Innovation in African Development: The Role of Universities.”** The presenter discussed 5 key areas which included: (1) the conundrum of development, (2) Africa’s standing in the global STI landscape, (3) Engineering African STI future, (4) Ways in which Universities can contribute towards STI and (5) Lessons for Malawi. “We need to prepare our students for the next forty years of their lives, not the last forty of ours,” said Prof. Zeleza as he shared more on the ways in which Universities can contribute towards Science, Technology, and Innovations. Among other things that Malawi could begin to learn, the presentation looked at education to be a lifelong learning process that needs to transcend narrow disciplinary silos. He further highlighted that Education must be inclusive, innovative, intersectional, and interdisciplinary. Professor Zeleza summarized that, the economies, societies, politics, and worlds of the twenty-first century will require lifelong and life wide learning skills, which entails continuous reskilling and upskilling.

Supporting the presentation as a discussant, Professor Address Malata who is the Vice Chancellor of Malawi Science and Technology (MUST) in Malawi mentioned that science, technology, and innovation in Africa is still as struggle. It is important that African countries including Malawi gains political will to make progress in this area. Responding to some key issues raised by the audience, Prof. Malata tackled on: lessons which Malawi can be learned from neighboring countries specifically by capitalizing on the drivers for success in the other countries and the need to have structures that are necessary for the development of Science, Technology and Innovation in Malawi. Her discussion also looked at empowering girls from a tender age to have interest in Science and Technology hence promoting gender equality.

After the two key presentations, the floor was open for discussion and questions where key issues were raised. These issues ranged from What Malawi can learn from other African Countries, how the sector can begin to create opportunities for graduates of Science and Technology to be effective in the field and not shun the sector as well as becoming entrepreneurs in the field among others. Concerns were also raised where it was seen that Countries have not put in much interest in promoting the sector despite the gaps identified.

In responding to some of the questions all the panelist which included LUANAR and National Planning Commission of Malawi, it was seen that there is a high need to involve all the sectors to ensure that progress in made and everyone is included in the development agenda.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Eminent Speaker Series which attracted over 90 people online was organized by MwAPATA Institute in collaboration with the National Planning Commission and the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The aim of The Eminent Speaker Series is to promote a positive mindset on Malawi's development possibilities. It welcomes speakers from a diverse range of disciplines and backgrounds seeking to impact and transform Malawi's development landscape. The events are promoting candid and honest public interaction/dialogue with distinguished thinkers both within Malawi and beyond to generate implementable solutions for accelerating Malawi's socio- economic transformation.