



Brief on the MwAPATA Institute Launch

MwAPATA Institute was successfully launched by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Lobin Lowe, M.P. on 1st October 2020. The Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Hon Nkusankhoma, M.P, the Principal Secretary, Ms. Erica Maganga, and more than three Directors from the Ministry. The event was attended by a range of participants both physically and virtually via zoom.

The event comprised speeches, technical presentations, and panel discussion. The guests were entertained by music and comedy by local artists with key messages related to MwAPATA.

MwAPATA Institute was led by Prof. Richard Mkandawire, Board Chair, Prof. Thomas Jayne, MSU/Lead PI, and Mr. William Chadza, Acting Executive Director. The ATI was led by Dr. Candida Nakhumwa. Prof. Kanyama Phiri, Vice Chancellor, represented LUANAR while Dr Joseph Nagoli represented the Director General of National Planning Commission.

Key Takeaways:

1. The Ministry of Agriculture and other stakeholders all welcomed the establishment of MwAPATA and are keen to engage with the Institute;
2. MwAPATA should forge close working relationship with the Ministry of Agriculture through PolSAT;
3. MwAPATA invited to work more closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, by conducting regular seminars on research outputs focusing on key actions and recommendations;
4. Need to explore funding diversification for MwAPATA Institute.
5. Need to create appetite for evidence-based policy making in the political leadership of the country.
6. MwAPATA needs to be doing research that is relevant to stakeholders and be consultative in defining its research agenda.
7. MwAPATA needs to consider doing work to support facilitation of doing the business of agriculture.