

Talking Points

Chair, MwAPATA Institute Board of Directors and
Advisory Board

Prof Richard Mkandawire

2021 Malawi Annual Agricultural Policy Conference

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

Salutations:

- Right Honorable Dr. Saulos Klaus Chilima, Vice
President of the Republic of Malawi
- Hon. Sosten Alfred Gwengwe, M.P., Minister of
Trade
- Hon. Kezzie Kasambala Msukwa, Minister of
Lands
- Hon. Werani Chilenga, Chairperson of
Parliamentary Committee on Natural Resources
- Hon. Agnes Nkusankhoma, M.P., Deputy Minister

of Agriculture

- Hon. Simplex Chithyola, Chairperson of
Parliamentary Committee on Trade
- Hon. Sameer Suleman, Chairperson of
Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture
- Mrs. Erica Maganga, Secretary for Agriculture
- Dr. Yanira Ntupanyama, Secretary for Forestry
and Natural Resources & MwAPATA Institute
Board Member
- Prof. Thomas Jayne, Michigan State University
- Prof. Ronald Mangani, Key Note Speaker,
Associate Prof of Economics, University of Malawi
and Former Secretary to the Treasury
- Mr. William Chadza, Executive Director,

MwAPATA Institute

- Dr. Thomas Munthali, Director General of
National Planning Commission
- Dr. Candida Nakhumwa, Country Director,
Foundation for Smoke Free World and Agricultural
Transformation Initiative
- Academia
- The Media
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all.

On behalf of MwAPATA Institute and its partners, I would like to welcome the Right Hon Vice President, Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima and the coalition of partners

to the 2021 Malawi Annual Agricultural Policy Conference.

Right Honorable as you may recall there are growing calls across Africa on the urgency to establish home grown policy institutions or think tanks.

MwAPATA Institute is a Malawian-led, home grown policy think tank that is already generating knowledge for evidence-based policies, debates and implementation.

Right Hon the generation of this knowledge is the beginning of our commitment to contribute to evidence-based reform processes that are in the pipeline in the country.

We see MwAPATA Institute as a key partner to the Government's drive towards agricultural transformation in Malawi.

Whilst we are committed to tapping on northern global knowledge and research institutions the ownership, character and shape of the Institute and knowledge generated is Malawian.

Your Honor, the theme for this conference is “Supporting Agriculture Transformation in Malawi: *Beyond Research to Implementation.*”

Your Honor, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the objective of this annual agricultural policy conference is to consolidate on MwAPATA's drive in the establishment of a national platform for strategic dialogue and evidence-based policy guidance and implementation.

MwAPATA is committed to defining a new agricultural narrative as embodied in Malawi2063.

This annual conference will provide a platform for disseminating new evidence to stakeholders, exploring partnerships in research, harmonizing policy messaging to stakeholders, and increasing uptake of new research findings in policy making processes.

The expected output from the conference is to advance the integration of new research findings into Malawi's current agricultural pathways as defined by stakeholders and in line with Malawi 2063, including the identification of quick wins for the Pillar on Agricultural Productivity and Commercialization in the Malawi 2063.

At this point, your Honor, allow me to thank the Hon Minister of Agriculture and the Principal Secretary who have embraced MwAPATA as a Ministries generator of evidence for stewarding process towards the renewal of agriculture in Malawi.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as MwAPATA Institute, we are so grateful that the Right Hon Vice President agreed to be with us this morning and be part of this annual agricultural policy conference. We appreciate your commitment to the generation of new knowledge and research that will shape the future of this country.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to thank our partners, the Michigan State University, the Foundation for a Smoke Free World, and the Agricultural Transformation Initiative for their untiring technical and financial support.

Your Honor, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank you all for being here and I look forward to your participation in this very important conference.

Thank you for your attention.