

5th Ndizotheka Eminent Speaker Series Event

Wednesday, 25th August 2021

Talking Points for William Chadza, Executive Director, MwAPATA Institute

Salutations:

- Mrs Erica Maganga, Principal Secretary for Agriculture
- Prof Richard Mkandawire, Chair for MwAPATA Institute Board of Directors and Chairperson for National Planning Commission
- Dr Thomas Munthali, Director General, National Planning Commission
- Dr Candida Nankhumwa, Country Director, Agricultural Transformation Initiative
- Prof Kelvin Urama, our Guest Speaker and Senior Director, African Development Institute of the African Development Bank
- Colleagues from Michigan State University who are following virtually
- Our Panellists
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen, it is a great privilege for me to welcome you all to today's Eminent Speakers Series event. The theme of today's event is:

“Importance of Human and Institutional Capacity Enhancement in Building Resilient Agri-Food Systems in Africa”

This evening, we will discuss the need for human and institutional capacity development for building resilient agri-food systems.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, while the Eminent Speaker's speech will talk about the current African situation to set the context, most of our discussions will also focus on what needs to be done at national level to build resilient agri-food systems.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Eminent Speaker Series is aimed at promoting a positive mindset in Malawi's development possibilities. The Eminent Speaker Series welcomes speakers from a diverse range of disciplines and backgrounds seeking to impact and transform Malawi's development landscape.

As such this evening our Eminent Speaker will be Prof Kelvin Urama, Senior Director at the African Development Institute of the African Development Bank. We are very excited to have Prof Urama, whose work at the African Development Institute includes: shaping, coordinating and overseeing the African Development Bank's agenda and delivery of training and capacity development.

I would also like to welcome our Discussant, Prof Richard Mkandawire, who is the Director of the Alliance for African Partnership. Prof Richard Mkandawire, as many of you know, chairs the MwAPATA Institute Board of Directors and is also Chairperson for National Planning Commission. The discussant will bring in the local experiences and tangible arguments on how to improve the human and institutional capacity for resilient agri-food systems in Malawi.

I would also like to welcome our panelists, who have agreed to share their perspectives and experiences.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, as MwAPATA Institute, together with our partners, National Planning Commission and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, we are hopeful that we can all take forward the issues that will emerge from the presentations and discussions in contributing to the national food systems dialogue and in engaging key institutions that are involved in enhancing capacity in building resilient agri-food systems in the country.

We are grateful that the Principal Secretary for Agriculture agreed to be with us and be part of the debate and discussions on this important subject matter.

Finally, let me thank our partners, Agricultural Transformation Initiative, an affiliate of the Foundation for the Smoke Free World and Michigan State University for their untiring technical and financial support.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to thank you all for being here and I look forward to your participation in the discussions this evening.

Thank you for your attention.