

His Excellency, The President Ngwazi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika's Speech, made at the UN Assembly

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His Excellency, President Ngwazi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, addressing the UN Assembly

In September, 2009, world leaders who gathered at the sixty-fourth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, took turns on the podium to have their say on issues of international significance.

On Thursday, 24th September 2009, His Excellency Ngwazi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, delivered his speech to the Assembly, entitled, "One World Same Destiny". The speech centered on many challenges the world is facing today, ranging from climate change; the financial and economic crisis; food and energy crises; armed conflict; terrorism and poverty reduction.

I have the honour to append below the President's Speech delivered at the UN Assembly.

"Mr. President,

Secretary General,

Excellencies,

I wish to add my voice to those who have spoken before me on the need for "Effective Responses on Global Crises: Strengthening Multi-lateralism and Dialogue among Civilizations for International Peace, Security and Development".

I believe there is no longer an excuse for reluctance of world leaders to move closer together and to stimulate the debate on how multi-lateralism and dialogue could be strengthened. We need to strengthen collaboration so that the international community responds effectively to global challenges such as climate change, the financial and economic crisis, food and energy crises, armed conflicts, terrorism and above all poverty reduction.

Mr. President

The first agenda in multi-lateralism is to reach a global consensus on reforming the multilateral institutions including the United Nations, to ensure equitable and geographical representation of both developed and developing countries.

It is imperative that developing nations have an

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effective voice on matters that concern them. Therefore, the United Nations should promote dialogue that ensures inclusiveness, transparency and accountability that are needed to attain genuine global peace, security and development.

The Security Council must be made flexible to allow Africa, Asia, Latin America and Middle East countries to have fair representation in this world body. The continued monopoly of this body by the Super Powers is no longer justifiable.

Developing nations cannot continue to be silent spectators in matters that affect them. Every sovereign nation is an integral part of the global village. Gone are the days when conflicts, wars and economic crises in Africa, South East Asia, Middle East and Latin America were the concerns of only the peoples and governments in these areas.

Mr. President

The second agenda for multilateral dialogue is to attain world food security. Food shortages threaten the foundations of democracy and good governance.

The United Nations cannot sustain a world system where huge populations permanently live with hunger and starvation. This world body must find a formula whereby the world can produce enough food for all at affordable prices. I believe that it is possible under the auspices of the United Nations to achieve global food security.

Malawi has a well organized agricultural development

strategy and can contribute to the UN efforts in this matter. Malawi has within a short period of time transformed from being a food deficit and hungry nation to a food surplus nation. Malawi now produces enough food for all its people and we are able to export to the neighbouring countries.

The factor behind the success story is that Malawi allocated large budgetary resources and heavy investment in the agricultural sector. We also successfully introduced Agricultural Input Subsidy Programme that enables the poor and low income households to buy fertilizer, seeds and chemicals at a heavily subsidized cost. As a result poor smallholder farmers became more productive. At the same time there are visible signs of improvements in the standard of living of the rural poor.

Mr. President

The third agenda for multilateral dialogue is to manage climate change. Malawi is happy that this matter will be fully discussed at the Copenhagen conference later this year.

At the national level Malawi is responding to the challenge of climate change through intensive irrigation farming and moving away from heavy dependence on rain fed agricultural system.

The Government has introduced the "GREEN BELT" programme that will irrigate up to one million hectares of land for small, medium and large scale farming by harnessing water sources from the rivers and lakes to provide extensive irrigation.

We shall grow a large range of food crops such as rice, wheat, maize, beans and lentils as our way to contribute

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towards the solution to world food shortages.

Mr. President

The threat of climate change is real. I believe that the price for complacency will be much higher if we fail to act today.

For Africa and other developing countries we need to adequately address the issue of deforestation, environmental degradation and agriculture productivity.

We need to act now.

Mr. President

What is the future of multilateralism and trade under the DOHA framework? This is another important agenda for the United Nations. But the question is why are the industrialized nations continuing to marginalize Africa and inhibiting the continent's capacity to play its role as a true partner in multilateral trade?

Malawi is concerned that under the DOHA arrangements, industrialized nations continue to protect their industries against processed and manufactured goods from Africa while insisting that the poor nations completely liberalize their economies.

Therefore, Malawi would like to see an international trading system that is fair and can enhance sustainable growth and development in Africa and other developing countries. This is possible if the G8 countries are willing to engage in genuine dialogue to solve the problems.

Mr. President

Secretary General

Excellencies

Let me conclude by stating that we also need a global dialogue on democracy, good governance, human rights, the rule of law and the fight against terrorism in all its manifestations.

We also need new understanding on how developing nations can cope with the shocks of the global financial crises and escalating fuel prices.

I believe that working together, all nations of the world, rich or poor, powerful and powerless, we can strengthen multilateralism and dialogue for lasting international peace, security and development.

We live in one world. We have the same destiny.

Thank you.



H. E. Mr. Brian G. Bowler, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Malawi, New Delhi

On behalf of the Malawi High Commission in Delhi and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to whole-heartedly congratulate His Excellency, the President, Ngwazi Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika for delivering such an inspiring speech.

**Brian G. Bowler
HIGH COMMISSIONER**

PHARMACEUTICALS



Shri K. Rosaiah, Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and Shri Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry inaugurating the Indo-Africa Pharmaceutical Conference in Hyderabad

The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council, a body set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in India, organized the Indo –Africa Pharmaceutical Conference, which was held from 25th to 27th September, 2009 at Hotel Marriott in Hyderabad. Considering the importance of Pharmaceuticals in Malawi, Malawi High Commission participated in the Conference. Other African delegates to the conference came from: South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Benin, Libya, Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia.

The main objective of the conference was to provide a unique opportunity for Indian pharmacists to interact with their African counterparts with a view to exchanging information on drugs and strengthening relationship in the field of Pharmaceutical between the two continents. The Conference was inaugurated by Shri Anand Sharma, Honourable Minister of Commerce and Industry in India and the guest of honour was Shri K. Rosaiah, Honourable Chief Minister of Government of Andhra

Pradesh (AP).



A cross-section of delegates to the Conference

The Conference was characterized by presentations in plenary sessions and one-on-one business sessions. The organizers also mounted pharmaceutical exhibitions and arranged industrial visits for the participants.

In the Conference a number of key speakers from India and Africa made presentations. Professor Peter A. Nyango, Minister for Medical Services in Kenya was one of speakers at the Conference. He commended the organizers for meticulous organization of the Conference.

The Malawi delegation at the Conference comprised Mr. Alfred Vilili, Counsellor, Mr. Mc Donald Mizati, First Secretary and Mr. Subodh Bhatt, Secretary in the Malawi High Commission. The Malawi delegates had the opportunity to discuss with various drugs suppliers present at the Conference. Of great interest to Malawi were Pharmaceutical companies that manufacture Antiretroviral drugs, Tuberculosis, Malaria and Snake Venom Antiserum. It was interesting to note that quite a number of Pharmaceutical

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companies present at the Conference were already supplying drugs to Malawi.

The Conference also discussed some of the emerging challenges affecting the Industry. There was general concern about the serious problem of counterfeit medicines. The Conference resolved that there was need to find a lasting solution to the challenge.



Mr. Alfred Vilili and Mr. McDonald Mizati from the Malawi High Commission during their visit to one of the exhibition stall at the Indo-African Pharmaceutical Conference.

Another challenge discussed at the Conference was the allegations by rich countries that India was monopolizing manufacturing and supply of generic medicines, thereby undercutting producers of patented drugs. The Conference was, however, unanimous that India was doing a commendable job as most poor countries could not afford patented drugs, especially for TB, Malaria and ARVs for HIV/AIDS.

In order to appreciate the manufacturing processes of some of the drugs, the Malawi delegation visited two pharmaceutical companies in Hyderabad. These were Aurobindo Pharma and VINS Bioproduct Limited,

companies that manufacture, ARVs and snake venom antiserum, respectively.



Malawi delegation during their visit to Aurobindo Pharmaceuticals in Hyderabad.

Aurobindo Pharma is one of the leading companies in the world, which has been manufacturing and marketing generic medicines including Anti-Retrovirals (ARVs) for many years. During the visit to Aurobindo Company the Malawi delegation had the opportunity to see manufacturing process of Lamivudine, Zidovudine, Nevirapine, Stavudine and Efavirenz. One striking thing noted during the visit was the cleanliness of the factory, which gave us the assurance that the company has stringent quality assurance procedures approved by WHO, USFDA, Health Canada and MCC-South Africa. Aurobindo Pharma is indeed a world class pharmaceutical company.

A visit to VINS, a snake anti venom manufacturing company, offered the delegation an insight of how the sterile for poisonous snakes is manufactured. The company manufactures snake venom for most Africa



snake bites including: Cobra, Black and Green Mamba,

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Vipers and other deadly poisonous snakes. The company also produces antiserum for Rabies, which is supplied to many African countries. Upon entering the gates of the company, which is located some 25 kilometers West of Hyderabad, one is greeted by a large held of horses. Horse's blood is one of the key ingredients for making anti venom for snake bites.



A pen of horses, kept to provide white blood cells which is an ingredient in anti-venom manufacturing.

India Pharmaceutical Industry is huge and in 2008-09 the country exported Rs 38,500 Crores (approx. US\$8.45bn) worth of pharmaceutical. The exports have been growing at an average rate of 31.9% per annum. Major exports have been formulations, biotech products, veterinary drugs, Herbals Ayurvedic Homoe and Unami products. India exports to over 230 countries in the world, with Indian companies establishing themselves as reliable providers of generic medicines at affordable prices. Malawi stands to benefit from India's pharmaceuticals industry, which is quite robust .



Malawi delegation at laboratory of VINS Ltd. being briefed on the process of manufacturing of anti-venum



Snake venom antiserum



Snake venom antiserum

AGRICULTURE

In line with the nine priority areas, which the Government of Malawi recently announced, the Mission is leaving no stone unturned in a bid to find programmes that will contribute to agriculture and food security, which is one of the priority areas. Indian companies have been instrumental in manufacturing farm implements which have increased farm mechanization in India. In this regard, the Malawi High Commission has taken the initiative to identify public and private organizations and companies that can partner with Malawi to ensure increased agricultural production.



A healthy crop of rice in the green belt region of Punjab State

Recently, officials from the Malawi High Commission visited one of the largest green belts in Punjab State, with a view to appreciate the initiatives taken in the implementation of the green revolution programme in India. During the visit, officials had the opportunity to see huge green belts of rice, sugarcane, and wheat. Irrigation has played a big role in the greenbelt and no wonder that Punjab is one of the richest States in India. Coupled with farm mechanization, the entire State is regarded as the bread basket of India.

The visit to Punjab State also offered the Malawi delegation an opportunity to visit Swaraj Tractor Company. The company manufactures tractors and combined harvesters, among other farm implements. The company has a state-of-the-art production centre, where very high quality tractors are manufactured. These tractors are ideal for transport, as well as farming activities. Meanwhile, discussions are underway to get Swaraj to invest in Malawi.



A farm tractor manufactured by Swaraj Tractors on display in Chandigarh, Punjab State



A combined harvester manufactured by Swaraj Ltd. in Chandigarh, Punjab State

TRADE & OTHERS



H.E. Mr. Brian G. Bowler, the High Commissioner of Malawi receiving a recognition award at the conference organized by Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

His Excellency, Mr. Brian G. Bowler, the High Commissioner of Malawi attended a business conference organized by the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on 19th September, 2009. During the conference, His Excellency Mr. Brian Bowler was presented with an honour of recognition from the Chairman of the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



H. E. Mr. Brian G. Bowler, the High Commissioner of Malawi with the other Heads of Missions and diplomats at the conference.

Navratri Cultural Festival



A cultural performance by the dance group at the Navaratri Festival

Courtesy of the Gujarat Government, H.E. Mr. Brian G. Bowler, the High Commissioner of Malawi, accompanied by Mr. Alfred Vili, Counsellor and Mr. B. Kasandulika, First Secretary (Administration) attended the Navratri Festival in Ahmedabad Gujarat. This is an annual event which marks nine days of continuous dancing. The festival is performed to mark the victory of good over evil, according to Hindu mythology.

To mark the beginning of the festivals, the Gujarat State government invited guests that included Ambassadors, High Commissioners and other diplomats based in New Delhi.

The Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi, officially inaugurated the festival. The opening was followed by a cultural programme of dance groups from almost all the States of India.