

**Speech by Chief of Party, New Alliance Policy Acceleration
Support Malawi Project (NAPAS: Malawi),**

**Dr. Flora Janet Nankhuni, Associate Professor, Department of
Agriculture, Food and Resource Economics at
Michigan State University.**

- The Honourable Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Honourable Atupele Muluzi, MP;
- The Secretary for Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Mr Charles Msosa
- The Chief Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development, Mr Bright Kumwembe.
- The Acting Vice Chancellor of LUANAR, Professor Emmanuel Kaunda,
- Honourable Members of Parliament present,
- Honourable Traditional Authority, Chief Mbeje,
- All government officials present
- Representatives of the Development Partners;
- The Chief Executive, Farmers Union of Malawi
- The Chief Executive Officer of NASFAM
- National Director of CISANET
- The National Director of LANDNET
- The Chief Executive Officer of MCCCCI
- Business captains and private sector investors
- Representatives of academia and the research community
- The Press and the Media

- Distinguished Stakeholders, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is a great honour to have you Hon Minister to accept to open the second Malawi Land Symposium. Allow me to give a brief history of the land symposium for the benefit of those who did not attend last year's symposium. Five presentations were made which provided the following messages about land issues in Malawi:

- There has been a rising share of agricultural land under medium-scale farms (10-100 ha of land)
 - Driven by “emergent investor” farmers. Most of these are urban-based therefore
 - Urban-based households own a rising share of national arable land
- Prices of agricultural land have been rising

2. Two important policy implications being:

- How is the rise of Medium Scale farms affecting national policy objectives? (e.g., food security, ag productivity, employment growth)
- How is changing farm structure affecting the potential for land expansion within the small-scale farm sector?

3. Malawi is relatively better off than other countries in the region on ownership of land by women (sole or joint). However data is not readily available to measure other dimensions of gender such as control, use, management, decision making.

4. Despite most Malawian households owning less than 1 ha of land, there are several idle estates in Malawi some of which have expired leases and are not being used for the intended purposes (according to the lease stipulations)
5. Department of Land Resources Conservation in MoAIWD collected land profiling data in 1988-92 that was used to produce crop suitability maps that can be used for designing an agricultural zonation scheme for Malawi.
6. Some of the presentations this year are updating last year's presentations while others are describing the new land acts and initiatives in the land and agriculture sectors. Most of this year's presentations are also more practical (describing what is happening on the ground).
7. The symposium was organised by many actors, including the staff of the Ministry of Lands, the Ministry of Agriculture, the NAPAS staff, Landnet, the European Union, FAO, the panellists, and the presenters. I would like to thank all the people that were involved and hope that the day will end up successful.

(Ask people that were involved in organization of the symposium to please stand up for recognition).

8. Honorable Minister, The PS of Lands, the Chief Director, the Acting Vice Chancellor, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, thank you so much for your coming and I look forward to your fruitful participation.