

SPEECH DELIVERED BY PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR LABOUR, MRS.  
ANDRINA F. MCHIELA AT THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE MALAWI DECENT  
WORK COUNTRY PROGRAMME HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2011, CROSS ROADS  
HOTEL, LILONGWE

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- The Minister of Labour, Hounorable Yunus Mussa, MP
- The ILO Director and Representative for Malawi, - Mozambique and Zambia based in Lusaka, Mr. Martin Clemensson
- The Principal Secretary, Mr. Wezi Kayira
- The Labour Commissioner, Mr. Elias Zirikudondo
- The Secretary General of the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions (MCTU), Mr. Robert Mkwezalamba
- The Acting Executive Director of the Employers Consultative Association of Malawi (ECAM), Mr. Beyani Munthali
- The ILO Representatives and the Representatives of all the UN organizations present here
- Senior Chiefs
- Distinguished Participants
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I feel greatly honoured to be part of the official launch of the long awaited Malawi Decent Work Country Programme.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my humble duty this Morning is to ask the Honorable Minister to address us, but before I do that, allow me to sincerely thank you Honourable Minister on behalf of my colleagues assembled here and indeed on my own behalf for accepting to come and officially launch the Decent Work Country Programme. I am fully aware that you have very many pressing commitments but you graciously consented to officiate at this function because you place great importance to issues of decent work in Malawi

Let me also take this opportunity to thank ILO for their financial and technical assistance given to the Ministry and the social partners in order to come up with the Decent Work Country Programme as well as in convening this launch.

Honourable Minister, the Decent Work Country programme that you are about to officially launch, is one of the greatest milestones in the world of work in this country.

Honourable Minister, the development of the Malawi Decent Work Country Programme has been highly consultative as evident from the kind of participation we are having today.

Honourable Minister, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Malawi Decent work Country Programme will indeed go a long way in addressing some of the decent work deficits which we are experiencing in the labour market.

Honourable Minister, ladies and gentlemen, the Decent Work Country Programme has three key priorities, in addition to the cross-cutting themes of gender equality and equity; good governance; HIV and AIDS. The priorities are:

Creating more and better employment and income generation opportunities particularly for the vulnerable groups including the youth, women and people with disabilities, as well as ensuring the elimination of the worst forms of child labour;  
Enhancing and extending the coverage of Social Protection; and  
Building the capacities of government and social partners to improve service delivery.

Honorable Minister, ladies and gentlemen, the decent work country programme therefore contributes to the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) through the promotion of sustainable enterprises and hence job creation and economic growth, and by ensuring that economic growth translates into increased decent employment.

With these few remarks, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now my honour and privilege to call on you Sir, to address this gathering and officially launch the Decent Work Country Programme.