

# COMMEMORATION OF WORLD DAY AGAINST CHILD LABOUR– MALAWI, 17TH JUNE 2016



## Malawi commemorated World Day Against Child Labour in style

Thousands of people in Malawi on 17th June commemorated World Day Against Child Labour in a glamorous event that took place at Cross Roads Hotel. The commemorations were done under the theme End Child Labour in Supply Chains with the slogan “End Child Labour in Supply Chains, It’s Everyone’s Business”.

The president of the republic of Malawi, Prof. H.E. Arthur Peter Mutharika presided over the commemoration. In his speech the president challenged tobacco companies, business enterprises and all Malawians to join hands and take an active role in eliminating child labour. “We have gathered here to commit ourselves and show that we care for our children and treasure their humanity. We all have the duty to dignify our children and protect them from any harm. Recruitment of children for work is illegal under the laws of Malawi and those of you recruiting children you may think you are hiding but the long arm of the law will catch you,” he warned.

International labour Organization (ILO) country Director for Malawi, Zambia and Mozambique, Mr. Alexio Musindo, concurred with the president saying child labour is evil and if left unattended could derail development of a country

Secretary General of Malawi Congress of Trade Union (MCTU), Pontius Kalichero while acknowledging the presence of child labour in the country, called up on government machinery to consider ratifying some protocols and formulate law and policies that will safeguard the wellbeing of children.

He said children need proper protection and be given all the required support for their survival.

The president of the Employers Consultative of Malawi (ECAM) urged companies and suppliers to refrain from engaging children in Child labour and allow them to fully enjoy their right to education.

Other dignitaries present on the day were the Vice president of Malawi, The Mayor of Lilongwe City, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Cabinet Ministers, Diplomatic Missions in Malawi, Judiciary represented by the Chief Justice, Principle secretaries of various Government Ministries, Vice president of Japan Tobacco International (JTI), Politicians and other Government and Non Governmental Organizations.

The Commemoration was spiced up with different activities that included, a solidarity match in the streets of Lilongwe, Drama, Songs using SCREAM methodology and testimony from one ex-child labour who was withdrawn from Child Labour and trained in Vocational Skills. After Graduating from the training he got employment by one of the biggest Construction Companies in Malawi, Terastone Construction Limited. He is now able support his siblings with school fees and afford three meals a day.

Other activities that preceded the June 17 commemoration included press briefing, press releases on child labour, News paper and electronic media



*President of Malawi inspecting the ILO stand on Vocational skills*



*The Commemoration started with a solidarity walk, raising awareness on Child Labour*



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The commemoration increased visibility of Ministry of Labour, Youth and Manpower Development, Social Partners and the ILO in the fight against child Labour.

The visibility was greatly felt as the whole event was covered live on both state owned and private Radio and Television stations that included the Malawi Broadcasting Radio and Television, Zodiak broadcasting television and radio station, YONECO FM, Times Radio and Television, Pentecostal Life Radio Station, This increased awareness on child labour to the general public. After the function Media outlets were a wash with anti child labour messages through articles and repeated broadcast of speeches of the president against Child Labour.

The commemoration demonstrated the commitment of the government to fight Child Labour, this was also emphasized in both the speeches made by the President and the Minister of Labour, Youth and Manpower development.

The participation of top government officials demonstrates political will and commitment towards the elimination of Child Labour in Malawi.

## Contact Us

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## Sentiments from the general Public.

**From State House Official:** Your stand was the best out of all, this is why the president spent more time, the presenter connected well with the vision of the president on Community Technical Colleges. Well Done.

**PS for Labour:** We are happy with what you have demonstrated, you have demonstrated the strength of Skills component and all aspects of the ILO programmes which are inline with what the Government is implementing in Community Technical Colleges.

**Media reporter:** "Well done ILO, the presenter on your pavilion did a good job, he presented well and I thought he is the ILO staff. He knows what ILO is and explained well on decent Work and Child Labour. This is why your stand is in both print and electronic media.

"Child labour is present in Malawi and it is in almost all of the supply chains of the country's economy including agriculture, manufacturing and services". ILO Director Mr Musindo Said.



The ILO Director, Mr Alexio Musindo  
Delivering his Speech



David, testifying of how ILO ARISE  
Project Has transformed his Life  
form nobody to somebody



Minister of Labour, Youth & Manpower  
Development Hon. Henry Mussa  
Speaking during the commemoration



The Vice President of Malawi shaking hands  
with the ILO Director on his arrival.

Coverage by  
Some of the  
media outlets

<http://www.nyasatimes.com/malawians-urged-contribute-fight-child-labour/>

<http://www.maravipost.com/2016/06/17/mutharika-talks-tough-child-labour-crime-future-generation/>

<http://www.mbc.mw/index.php/component/k2/item/2322-stop-employing-children-in-farms-to-end-child-labour-pres-mutharika>

<http://mwntation.com/apm-calls-for-child-labour-elimination-support/>