



STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF WATER AND SANITATION**

DURING A

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL DEBATE SESSION

AT THE

UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

23RD MARCH, 2023

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

- **Madam President**
- **Excellencies**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. On behalf of His Excellency Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi and the people of the Republic of Malawi, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you for making the UN Water conference a reality.
2. Water is an enabler for socio-economic development and is an anchor to achieving almost all the Sustainable Development Goals
3. It is on this understanding that Malawi prioritizes water and sanitation in her development agenda, the Malawi 2063
4. To ensure proper governance of water and sanitation issues, Malawi created a stand-alone Ministry to pay dedicated attention to water and sanitation issues
5. Excellencies, as you might agree, it is usually the women and girls who shoulder the burden of fetching water. The impact of this is that they are deprived of an opportunity to participate in other economically productive activities.

6. Malawi has taken a step to address this challenge by introducing solar powered water supply projects to bring water closer to homes.
7. We are also aware of the need to properly and sustainably manage our water resources.
8. To this end, we have operationalized National Water Resources Authority (NWRA).
9. We have also learnt the gains that come with collaborations, public private partnerships, nature-based solutions, protection of catchment areas, integrated water resource management and implementing regional transboundary water projects. Madam President, I am pleased to report that our commitment is to strengthen these gains.
10. Just a week ago, Malawi was hit by a huge disaster caused by tropical cyclone Freddy – The worst cyclone in our history.
11. As I speak, over 1,000 people have lost their lives, hundreds are still missing and over half a million people have been displaced and are in dire need of food, shelter and clothing. The cyclone has also caused huge damage.
12. Water and sanitation, roads and energy infrastructure are all badly damaged

13. Water Catchment areas too are totally eroded. As a result, the cyclone has affected access to safe water and sanitation, which will lead to increased cases of water borne diseases such as cholera
14. President Dr Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera declared a State of National Disaster and made an appeal for support. We are grateful to the UN and all partners for your timely support.
15. However, the gaps are still huge. We are therefore, appealing for more support.
16. Madam President, before the cyclone, 6 million Malawians, about 30 percent of the population did not have access to clean water. This cyclone has further pushed up the number of people without access to clean water and sanitation
17. Without doubt, this will have a huge negative impact on the people's health and socio-economic well-being.
18. This will also affect Malawi's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals of ending poverty, ending hunger, ensuring healthy lives, inclusive and equitable education, food security, ensuring access to clean water and sanitation and attaining gender equality.

19. To recover from this, Malawi will require to invest heavily in infrastructure development.

20. In particular, to rebuild water and sanitation infrastructure and rehabilitate water catchments, Malawi will require an estimated USD 75 million.

21. Your Excellencies, we have faith that we will collaborate to rebuild Malawi.

22. I thank you for your attention.