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Profile of Proposed Awardee His Excellency, Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika

ABOUT THE NOMINATOR

Name: This nomination was endorsed by 12 FANRPAN member countries: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe

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ABOUT THE NOMINEE

Name: Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika

Position: President of the Republic of Malawi

Address: The New State House,
P.O Box 807,
Lilongwe, Malawi

Biographical details

Date and place of birth: 24 February 1934, Thyolo, Malawi

Nationality: Malawian

Education:

- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree in Development Economics, Pacific Western University, Los Angeles, USA (1984)
- Master's (MA) Degree in Economics, University of Delhi, India (1961)
- Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com) Degree (With Honors), University of Delhi, India

Past and present positions:

- President, Republic of Malawi, 2004 to date
- Government of Malawi (1963-1964), Ministry of Finance (Administrative officer)
- Government of Zambia (1965-1966), Ministry of Finance (Principal Administrative Officer)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (1966-1975)
- The World Bank (1975-1978): Secretary's Department; Loan Officer (Kenya and Tanzania)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (1978-1990): Chief, Transnational Corporations Unit; and Director, for Trade and Finance Division.
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA): (1991-1997) Secretary- General.
- Reserve Bank of Malawi (2001-2003): Deputy Governor
- Government of Malawi (2003-2004): Senior Minister of Economic Planning and Development.

Past and present professional affiliations

- Fellow of the Royal African Society, London
- Member of International Economic Association
- Member of the Society for International Development
- Founder and Chairman of the Bineth Trust
- Founder and Chairman of the Bineth Trust Education Fund
- Founder of the Bingu Silvergrey Foundation for the Elderly
- Founder and President of the University of Southern Malawi

Honors and awards

- The nation's award for 2007 National Achiever-Malawi Print Media Institution
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree (Honoris Causa), Strathclyde University, Scotland 2005
- Honorary Member of the Malawi's Golf Club Society, Blantyre, Malawi, 2007
- Honorary Member of the Lions Club, District 412, Lilongwe Malawi, 2007
- Honorary Member of the Farmer's Union of Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi, 2008
- Honour of the Grand Order, Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan), 2005

KEY ARGUMENTS FOR NOMINATION

His Excellency Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika deserves the FANRPAN AWARD because of the way he has brought about a unique green revolution for Malawi, a country that was characterized by chronic hunger, starvation and absolute poverty for a long time. When Dr. Mutharika came into office in 2004, he declared his intention to turn Malawi into a “hunger free nation”. He then went on to overhaul the country’s development policies and programmes and utilized policies to transform Malawi’s economy based on the following steps:

- a) Prioritization of agriculture and food security so as to ensure the country becomes self sufficient
- b) Prioritization of irrigation and water development so as to reduce dependence on rain-fed agriculture. This includes development of viable small, medium and large scale irrigation schemes; use of treadle and motorized pumps and use of watering canes for winter cropping.
- c) Expansion and improvement of transport and communications infrastructure that would ease movement of goods, services and people within the country and provide easy access to international services such as markets, industries etc.
- d) Development of energy to cater for expanded industrialization of raw materials for value addition.
- e) Integrated rural development to bring development closer to the people in the rural areas of the country, which would in turn reduce migration from rural to urban areas.
- f) The prevention and management of HIV/AIDS as a medical, economic, political, social and cultural problem that challenges economic transformation and capacity building.

Within a period of two years of implementing these priorities, Malawi’s image has changed. The country has moved from a food beggar to a self-reliant nation. It has achieved a high rate of agricultural production and food security not just at national level but also at household levels. During the 2005/2006 crop season, Malawi realized a food surplus of over 500, 000 metric tons. In 2006/2007, the food surplus amounted to 1.3 million metric tons over and above the national food requirement. Malawi is now able to export to countries in southern Africa. Incidences of hunger, starvation, malnutrition and hunger-related diseases and deaths are now history in Malawi.

Through the dynamic leadership of His Excellency Dr. Bingu wa Mutharika, Malawi has seen itself transforming economically from a growth rate of less than one percent in 2003 to a phenomenal growth rate of 8.5 percent in 2006. Donor confidence in Malawi has been restored as a result of good macroeconomic policies that included unwavering stance on curbing corruption and good governance. Consequently more development partners resumed links with the country and aid began to flow back into the country. The International Monetary Fund cancelled all the debts for the country and other donors followed suit.

Dr Mutharika’s significant contribution to the Malawi green revolution and efforts to end poverty in Malawi has not only been recognized in Malawi. Many continental and global personalities have invited Dr Mutharika to share with them Malawi’s recipe for a success in this area. The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and The Alliance for Green Revolution for Africa (AGRA) chaired by Mr Kofi Annan

former United Nations Secretary General, invited Dr Mutharika to give a keynote address to their meetings in 2007. A local newspaper-“The Nation” rated Dr Mutharika as the 2007 National Achiever.

Direct achievements; the nominee’s contributions

a) Increased Productivity

From the 2005/2006 season onwards the country has continuously increased its crop production as highlighted in the table below:

CROP	2004/05 YIELD (mt/ha)	2005/06 YIELD (mt/ha)	2006/07 YIELD (mt/ha)
Maize	0.83	1.61	2.04
Rice	0.91	1.75	1.95
Groundnuts	0.57	0.83	1.02
Pulses	0.42	0.62	0.69
Cotton	0.67	0.94	1.04
Cassava	14.27	17.13	18.78
Sweet potatoes	8.08	13.51	15.32
Tobacco	0.51	0.89	0.99
Wheat	0.46	1.20	2.30
Millet	0.30	0.65	0.72
sorghum	0.28	0.77	0.86

Source of data: MoAFS (Ministry of Agriculture office)

The inputs subsidy in 2005/06 resulted in an increased maize productivity from an average of 0.8mt per hectare in 2004 to 1.6 mt per hectare in 2006 and 2 mt per hectare in 2007. Government has therefore been able to more than double the maize production within the two years. The country began realizing maize surplus to national requirements as shown in the table below:

YEAR	NATIONAL REQUIREMENTS (METRIC TONS)	PRODUCTION	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
2004	2.039.291	1.733.125	(306.166)
2005	2.115.317	1.259.332	(855,985)
2006	2.183.506	2.611.486	427.980
2007	2.255.049	3.444.655	1.189.606

A similar trend was attained for the other crops:

CROP	2004/05 PRODUCTION (Mt)	2005/06 PRODUCTION (Mt)	2006/07 PRODUCTION (Mt)
Rice	4.815	91.450	113.116
Groundnuts	141.795	203.071	273.757
Pulses	225.664	344.586	415.551
Cassava	2.192.806	2.832.141	3.285.127
Sweet potatoes	1.041.790	1.781.595	2.307.354

It is important to note that the bulk producers of the surplus food crops are not big mechanized farmers but the small scale farmers who were targeted with the farm inputs subsidy.

As a result of this farm input subsidy Malawi has become a bread basket for the southern Africa region. The country is now able to export or donate maize to other countries within the region such as Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe. The World Food Programme (WFP) is also buying food from Malawi for its humanitarian aid programmes in the southern Africa region.

b) Market Development

The main focus was the restructuring of a defunct Agriculture and Marketing Corporation (ADMARC). The President initiated a process to have this national marketing body up and running again. The institution provides easy access to farm inputs and an avenue for the small scale farmers to market their farm produce in the rural areas. The presence of ADMARC has therefore assisted in sustaining fair prices for farmers unlike in the past where unscrupulous middlemen traders could easily cheat the farmers.

c) Storage

The president has worked tirelessly to ensure that surplus food and commodities are well managed to avoid losses. The aim was that the country should always have enough food for its people during times of need. The President directed that additional grain silos be constructed in each region of the country in addition to the existing national storages. Currently one silo with a capacity of 20,000 mt has been completed in the eastern region district of Mangochi. Construction of two more silos has commenced for the northern region at Mzuzu and for the southern region at Luchenza.

There is yet another initiative that the President embarked on with support from FAO. This is allowing rural communities to construct/own small metallic silos for their own domestic use. Local artisans have been trained already and close to 600 small silos have been constructed. It is anticipated that this initiative would reduce post harvest losses currently estimated at 30%.

d) Favorable Pricing for Cash Crops

Malawi's economy is agro based and the main cash crops are tobacco, cotton, sugarcane, tea, Soya beans, groundnuts and paprika. In the last two decades multinationals have been offering poor prices to the small holder farmers especially for tobacco, cotton and tea. This had adversely affected the income earnings for growers of these crops, thereby affecting the economic wellbeing of many people.

The President of Malawi reversed this trend by intervening with the multinationals to improve pricing of the commodities. For instance the average price of tobacco in 2006 was US\$0.98 per Kilogram of the leaf against the cost of production of US \$1.15 per Kg. This has changed to US \$2.50 per Kg in 2007. The same scenario was experienced with cotton whose average price moved from MK24 per Kg (17 cents per Kg) in 2006 to MK 42(30 cents per Kg) in 2007.

Indirect impacts; the nominee's contributions

a) Irrigation and water development

This concentrates on construction of multipurpose dams, supply of treadle and motorized pumps to small scale farmers and use of watering canes for irrigation. The land under irrigation has significantly increased from 11,187 hectares in 2004 to 33, 807 hectares to date with a total of 27, 892 treadle pumps distributed irrigating 20, 750 hectares. In addition, 773 motorized pumps are now being utilized to irrigate some 6,165 hectares of land. The government also distributed 73,083 watering cans. The gravity fed irrigation system has been rehabilitated and is now benefiting more than 200, 000 farming families in the country.

b) Transport and communication infrastructure development

In order to promote access of farmers to both local and international markets, Government continues to construct and upgrade roads, rail and air services and enhance the information telecommunication connectivity.

c) Public works programme

Coupled with the farm inputs subsidy programme, the President introduced this programme targeting the poor who could contribute towards development programmes within their areas and get paid for the work done. This safety net programme enhanced economic empowerment to the poor families to be able to access the subsidized farm input.

d) The anticorruption stance

The President's strong stance against corruption has benefited the country in that resources are directly channeled to development programmes including the farm input subsidy programme. This has also made it impossible for the country to win the confidence of international development partners to support the country's programmes for economic transformation and this is attracting more investors to Malawi.

Supporting documents on Food Security

1. Address on the occasion of the official opening of the One Village One Product (OVOP) International Seminar for African Countries, “Empowering the poor”. Capital Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi, 22nd January 2008.
2. Speech delivered at the official opening of the Farmers’ Union of Malawi fourth Annual General Meeting, “Farmers of Malawi: Unite”. Natural Resources College, Lilongwe, Malawi, 8th February, 2008.
3. Keynote address at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), chaired by Mr Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations, “Partnership for an African Green Revolution”. Lisbon, Portugal, 8th December 2007.
4. Keynote address at the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, “High level special event: Aid for trade and food security”. Rome, Italy, 21st November 2007.
5. Keynote address at Howard University, Africa in the global village: The role of science and technology”. Howard University, Washington DC, USA, 2nd October 2007.
6. Keynote address at the 2007 Global Creative Leadership Summit organized by the Louise Blouin Foundation, “Escaping from poverty: The role of science and technology in Africa”. New York, USA, 23rd September 2007.
7. Keynote address at Columbia University, “Globalization and Africa: The powerful and the powerless”. Columbia University, New York, USA, 24th September 2007.
8. Statement at the 62nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, “Malawi and the Millennium Development Goals”. New York, USA, 25th September 2007.
9. Statement at the 2007 “Taiwan- Africa Progressive Forum”. Taipei, Taiwan, 10th September 2007
10. Speech delivered on the official opening of the Steel Bin Maize Silos Complex, “Enough food for all”. Mangochi, Malawi, 5th September 2007.
11. Official address delivered at the launch of the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). Lilongwe, Malawi, 25th July 2007.
12. Speech delivered on the occasion of the 2007 Graduation ceremony of the Natural Resources College, 28th April 2007.
13. Address to the Nation, “Ndathetsa Njala (I have conquered hunger)”. Masintha Freedom Park, Lilongwe, Malawi, 25th February 2007.
14. Speech delivered at the NEPAD Food Security Summit, “Feeding Ourselves”. Abuja, Nigeria, 4-7th December 2006.
15. Statement delivered at the First National Consultative Roundtable on the future of Malawi. Capital Hotel, Lilongwe, Malawi, 18th November, 2006.
16. Statement at the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, “In search of global partnership for development”. New York, USA, 21st September 2006.

17. Statement delivered at the Official opening of the fourth Agriculture Fair, “Productivity: Key to Agricultural Growth”. Blantyre, Malawi, 10th August 2006.
18. Official address at the 2006 Opening of Tobacco Auction Sales. Lilongwe, Malawi, 27th March 2006.
19. Statement at the 2005 Commonwealth Heads of State and Government (CHOGM) Meeting. Malta, 25th -27th November 2005.