

WELCOMING REMARKS BY MAJ GEN MHONE EXERCISE DIRECTOR

- THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE HON CHIMULIRENJI MP
- THE MALAWI DEFENCE FORCE COMMANDER GEN G SPOON PHIRI
- LEADERS OF DELEGATIONS
- GENERALS
- POLICE COMMISSIONERS
- HEAD OF MISSION
- DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

IT IS AN HONOUR TO STAND BEFORE YOU ON THIS IMPORTANT OCCASION ON THE OPENING CEREMONY FOR EXERCISE UMODZI.

ALLOW ME MEMBER STATES TO WELCOME YOU TO MALAWI IN PARTICULAR MAFCO. YOU ARE VERY MUCH WELCOME TO MALAWI, FEEL AT HOME.

EXERCISE UMODZI IS A SADC STAND BY FORCE COMMAND POST EXERCISE WHICH IS AIMED AT TESTING A SADC MULTIDIMENSIONAL PEACE SUPPORT OPERATION FORCE OPERATION CAPABILITY IN PREPARATION FOR AFRICAN UNION ROSTER FROM JANUARY 2019.

THIS EXERCISE HAS BROUGHT TOGETHER OVER 600 PARTICIPANTS FROM THE MILITARY, POLICE AND CIVILIAN COMPONENTS FROM MEMBER STATES AS FOLLOWS; ANGOLA, BOTSWANA, DRC, ESWATINI, LESOTHO, MOZAMBIQUE, NAMIBIA, RSA, TANZANIA, ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE AND THE HOSTS MALAWI.

THE EXERCISE STARTED WITH COMMUNICATION AND MAP EXERCISE AND WILL PROCEED WITH THE ACTUAL COMMAND POST EXERCISE. THE EXERCISE SCENARIO WILL START WITH SCENARIO 6 WHICH IS PEACE ENFORCEMENT THEN WILL TRANSIT TO SCENARIO 5 WHICH IS A MULTI DIMENSIONAL PEACE SUPPORT OPERATION IN A FICTITIOUS COUNTRY OF KUNTA.

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE TO ALL THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS FOR DEDICATING THEIR EFFORTS AND RESOURCES TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS EXERCISE.

IT HAS BEEN A VERY LONG JOURNEY PLANNING FOR THIS IMPORTANT EXERCISE. WE STARTED WITH THE INITIAL ENGAGEMENT BETWEEN MALAWI AS THE HOST NATION AND SADC SECRETARIATE, THEN THE INITIAL PLANNING CONFERENCE, THE MAIN PLANNING CONFERENCE AND THE FINAL PLANNING CONFERENCE.

I AM PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS EXERCISE AND I HOPE THAT IT WILL BE A SUCCESS.

AT THIS JUNCTURE I WOULD LIKE TO CALL UPON THE MALAWI DEFENCE FORCE COMMANDER GEN G S PHIRI TO MAKE HIS REMARKS.

THANK YOU.