

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE DIRECTOR OF TRADE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE TIME RELEASE STUDY REPORT  
FOR MWANZA BORDER POST**

**SUNBIRD CAPITAL HOTEL, LILONGWE, 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2025**

**THE GUEST OF HONOUR, MRS CATHERINE CHILIMA, DIRECTOR OF TRADE IN SERVICES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIALISATION, BUSINESS, TRADE AND TOURISM;**

**THE HEAD OF THE SADC DELEGATION AND YOUR ENTIRE TEAM;**

**REPRESENTATIVES FROM GIZ;**

**MR. CORNELIUS KAKWESA, COMMISSIONER FOR CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, MALAWI REVENUE AUTHORITY;**

**GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PRESENT;**

**BUSINESS CAPTAINS, BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS AND PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT;**

**MEMBERS OF THE PRESS; AND**

**ALL DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS;**

**Good morning.**

1. It is with great pleasure and honor that I welcome you all to this significant occasion—the official launch of the Mwanza Time Release Study Report here in Lilongwe. Today marks a crucial step in our ongoing efforts to enhance trade procedures, streamline customs processes, and promote regional integration.
2. We gather here today as stakeholders committed to improving trade facilitation and reducing unnecessary delays at our borders. The Mwanza Time Release Study reflects our collective ambition to create efficient, transparent, and predictable trade environments that will benefit our economies and communities.
3. Mwanza Border Post plays a crucial role in regional trade connectivity as it serves as a critical gateway between Malawi and Mozambique (connecting to the Zobue border post on the Mozambique side) and is a major entry point for goods, especially from South Africa and beyond. It is one of the busiest borders in Malawi and probably tops other borders in terms of both revenue and cargo tonnage.
4. This is the reason why Government through the Ministry of Industrialisation, Business, Trade and Tourism in July 2022 during the 33<sup>rd</sup> Committee of Ministers of Trade, had expressed interest to be included in the Time Release Study exercise and be supported. We are therefore, very grateful to the SADC Secretariat for the positive response and all efforts in facilitating the study.

5. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all partners, development agencies, and teams who contributed to this important initiative. Your dedication and collaborative spirit are instrumental in achieving the objectives of this study. I also extend my appreciation to those working tirelessly to implement the recommended measures. Let us continue to collaborate towards a more prosperous and open trading environment.
6. To the SADC Secretariat, the Ministry of Industrialisation, Business, Trade and Tourism looks forward to engaging you more on implementation of trade facilitation initiatives. We have already witnessed your technical and facilitating role in the implementation of regional trade facilitation initiatives, and recently, the conclusion of negotiations for Bilateral Framework Agreement of the Simplified Trade Regime between the Government of Malawi and Government of Mozambique We do not take your dedication and untiring support for granted.
7. As we officially launch the Mwanza TRS Report, let us take this as both a celebration of progress and a call to action—to ensure that the recommendations are implemented and that the gains from this study translate into real benefits for traders, transporters, and the Malawian economy as a whole.
8. Thank you all for your presence, your commitment, and your continuous support.

**I thank you.**