



CLOSING SPEECH

BY

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DURING

**THE NATIONAL DRM SYMPOSIUM
MOUNT SOCHE HOTEL, BLANTYRE,**

11th December, 2024

Salutation:

- Co-Chair of PTC, Mr. Peter Chimangeni, The Director of Resilience and Recovery,
- Directors and all Government Officials Present;
- Chief Executive Officers and District Commissioners Present;
- The Task Team Leaders for MRDRMP, Ms. Arati Belle & Mr. Francis Nkoka
- All delegates from the Government of Nigeria
- All delegates from the Government of Mozambique
- All delegates from the Government of Sierra Leon
- All delegates from the UN Agencies
- All delegates from the Development Partners

- All delegates from the Academia
- Members of the Civil Society and the Faith Community;
- Project Coordinator for MRDRMP/MWASIP
- Members of the Press;
- The Director of Ceremonies;
- Distinguished invited guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Good afternoon, everyone
2. First of all, allow me to thank our Master of Ceremonies – Mr. Thomas Chafunya for ably facilitating the symposium over the three days. He has done a marvelous job indeed.
 - *Let us give him a round of applause!*
3. Special thanks to all the presenters, panelist, and Chairs of the sessions for helping us understand the various topics and products

from the studies on DRM issues. You made everything look easy for the participants and delegates such that we have had very interactive sessions throughout the 3 days.

- *A big hand for our presenters, panelists, and Chairs of the Sessions!*

4. Special appreciation to our beloved delegates from Mozambique, Sierra Leon and Nigeria for sharing your experiences on DRM and what you have learnt from the symposium.

- *It was inspiring and we are encouraged to learn from you all!*
- *A big hand to our brothers and sisters*

5. And to you, the participants, you have been very active throughout the sessions, asking questions and sharing your thoughts and experiences. The presentations indeed triggered a lot of interests, questions and

comments which the Master of Ceremony had to regulate and curtail as we had limited time.

6. *Ladies and gentlemen*, I would want this dialogue and interaction not to die down once we come out of this symposium but rather be amplified and intensified so that we take DRM issues to another level. Let us continue networking and we would also love to come for DRM symposium in Nigeria, Sierra Leon and Mozambique.
7. *Ladies and Gentlemen*, our rapporteurs have also done a wonderful job by summarizing and bringing out clearly the take-home messages and recommendations from this symposium. What remains of us is to translate these into actions which will bring the much needed change in DRM issues.

8. Although MRDRMP is expected to come close on 31st January 2025, Government through the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, and DoDMA will endeavor to follow up with all respective institutions to ensure that symposium recommendations are fully utilized.
9. I wish to specifically request that the RCRP team takes up these low hanging fruits realized from MRDRMP to help strategize and influence the delivery of the RCRP.
10. To all the development partners, academia, NGOs and all practitioners on DRM issues, the symposium has upheld and highlighted the need to join hands with government to make sure that the country registers good progress on DRM issues. We still need your support.

11. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, allow me to extend my appreciation to the PMU and the organizing team, and also the World Bank for working tirelessly to organize this symposium. Despite a few technical challenges, I am satisfied that we have met the objectives of the symposium. The turn up was beyond expectations. We have learnt lessons from this event, and we will improve going forward.

12. Lastly, let me wish you all “safe travels” as you return to your respective destinations.

13. With these few remarks, it is my honor to declare the symposium under the theme ***“Resilient Malawi: Charting a path for Enhanced Disaster Risk Management”***, officially closed.

I thank you for your attention, May God Bless Us all!