



Malawi Judiciary

**SPEECH**

**THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF JUSTICE**

**R.R. MZIKAMANDA, SC**

**AT**

**THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING SIGNING  
CEREMONY BETWEEN THE JUDICIARIES OF MALAWI  
AND NAMIBIA**

**AT**

**SUNBIRD LIVINGSTONIA BEACH HOTEL, SALIMA**

**10<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2025**

## **1. Salutations**

1. THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI: HIS LORDSHIP RIZINE R. MZIKAMANDA SC
2. THE HONOURABLE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA: HIS LORDSHIP PETER SHIVUTE
3. THE HONOURABLE DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI: HIS LORDSHIP LOVEMORE P. CHIKOPA, SC
4. THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE DR. CHIFUNDO KACHALE – (Representing the Judge President of High Court of Malawi)
5. THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE JOSEPH CHIGONA – CHAIRPERSON OF THE MALAWI JUDICIARY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
6. HIS HONOUR INNOCENT NEBI, THE CHIEF REGISTRAR OF THE MALAWI JUDICIARY AND ALL JUDICIAL OFFICERS PRESENT HERE
7. MR. BENHARDT KUKURI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF FROM THE JUDICIARY OF NAMIBIA
8. MRS. EDITH.W CHIKAGWA: THE CHIEF COURTS ADMINISTRATOR AND ALL MEMBERS OF STAFF FROM THE MALAWI JUDICIARY
9. REPRESENTATIVES OF MEDIA HOUSES AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS
10. DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

- 2.** Today is a historic day for the Malawi Judiciary and the Judiciary of Namibia. It is with a lot of excitement and huge sense of duty that we warmly welcome Your Lordship Chief Justice Shivute of the Republic of Namibia and your entourage to the Warm Heart of Africa for the MOU signing ceremony between our two Judiciaries. NOT only in this activity historic, but it is also ground breaking and we firmly believe that it will be highly consequential for our two Judiciaries and for the people of our two countries. The continent too will learn one or two things from what we are doing today.
- 3.** Your Lordship will recall that when we met in Your office in Windhoek earlier this year and when you brought up the idea of consolidating our collaboration through an MOU, I had no hesitation whatsoever in affirming our desire to go that route. Your leadership as Chair of the Southern and Eastern Africa Chief Justice's Forum before you handed over to my predecessor was something I admired very much and I drew a lot of inspiration from it. My trust and confidence in Your Lordship's leadership in SEACJF and my admiration of what the Namibian Judiciary has achieved under your leadership as Chief Justice made me not to hesitate on the subject.
- 4.** My Lord the Chief Justice will be familiar with the many advantages of having a Memorandum of Understanding between leading institutions like ours. We all know that a Memorandum of Understanding signifies a commitment to further and improved collaboration clarifying shared goals, roles and expectations. Some would say that a Memorandum of Understanding acts as a blueprint for cooperation, building trust and

ensuring that we remain aligned as we engage in our activities going forward. The purpose is to clarify functional aspects and objectives in a collaboration.

- 5.** My Lord the Chief Justice and my dear friend, we in the Malawi Judiciary are excited about this ceremony as we commit ourselves to doing our utmost to ensure that we mutually derive maximum benefit from our collaboration. It is the first time we are signing a Memorandum of Understanding with another Judiciary, a learning process you might say. However, we want to pledge unwavering commitment to the ideals signified by this Memorandum of Understanding. We will employ all our efforts to make this Memorandum of Understanding work, and work well, again for the mutual benefit of our two Judiciaries and the people of our two countries.
- 6.** My Lord the Chief Justice we in Malawi Judiciary have adopted a transformative trajectory covering many facets of the administration of justice. For example, we want to accelerate the digitalization of the entire court service for improved efficiency. I am aware that Namibia Judiciary is way ahead of us. We will want to tap from your wisdom on how you did it. Your Lordship have confronted the issue of backlog and delay in ways that have been effective and results are positive there for anyone to see. Your mechanism for performance assessment and management in relation to Judicial Officers and the rest of the Judiciary staff are something we can learn from. These and many other areas of collaboration are a true attraction for us to engage in business with the Namibia Judiciary through the vehicle of this MOU.

7. As you might have noticed from the few examples of areas of collaboration I have just alluded to, the MOU opens doors for all levels of our two Judiciaries, be it Judicial Officers or members of staff, to engage in exchange visits and joint trainings even by way of short-term attachments for learning of experiences. For those who might be asking why MOU with Namibia Judiciary or Malawi Judiciary, the answer is before their very eyes. Not only is justice a universal concept, not only is the rule of law a universal concept and not only is it common knowledge that peaceful and prosperous societies are anchored in justice according to law and the rule of law. We have established a lot of commonalities between the Judiciary of Namibia and the Judiciary of Malawi. We have so much in common between our systems of law and justice that there is attraction on both sides to harness the common things between us to enhance the administration of justice in our two countries. The common mandate of the two Judiciaries in countries that commit to constitutionalism, rule of law, democracy, good governance, transparency, accountability, integrity and professionalism, that common mandate drives us to rising to the occasion even through learning from each other.

8. As I conclude my remarks, I would like to express profound appreciation to you My Lord Chief Justice Shivute for coming to Malawi for the business of signing this important and historic Memorandum of Understanding. Thank you for your leadership and indeed for your humility. Flying from Windhoek Namibia to Lilongwe and driving to Salima is not an

easy undertaking. But you did it for the sake of our two Judiciaries and for our two countries. I thank you. I thank the team that worked on our drafts and I thank all those who inputted in the MOU. I thank the Deputy Chief Justice of Malawi for being available and for rendering invaluable service. Last but not least, let me thank the organisers of today's event and the media for being available to cover the event.

Thank you for your kind attention.