

Malawi – Israel: Joint Statement on an Official Visit to Israel by Honourable Eisenhower Mkaka, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi.

November 3, 2020

1. Minister of Foreign Affairs of Israel, Gabi Ashkenazi hosted today in Jerusalem, Hon. Eisenhower Mkaka, M.P., Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Malawi. The visit of Minister Mkaka in Israel, November 3-5, 2020, reflects the special bonds between the two countries.
2. Both ministers reaffirmed that Malawi and Israel are close friends, with shared values of prosperity and peace. Both ministers agreed that the growing partnership and cooperation between the two countries is at the heart of a bond of mutual support, which they both praised.
3. Minister Ashkenazi expressed the gratitude of the people of Israel for the friendship of the people of Malawi and stated that Israel has fond memories of Malawi's steadfast support during challenging times for Israel. He recalled that Malawi was one of the very few countries in Africa that did not sever their diplomatic relations with Israel ,thus exemplifying the true spirit of genuine friendship and trust of the people of Malawi. Minister Ashkenazi reiterated that Israel continues to be a true friend, and can always be relied upon to support the people and Government of Malawi.
4. Minister Ashkenazi further welcomed the decision of His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, President of the Republic of Malawi, to open an Embassy in Jerusalem and expressed the gratitude of the people of Israel for this bold and significant step. Honorable Mkaka reiterated the intent of the Republic of Malawi to open a fully-fledged Embassy in Jerusalem (by summer of 2021). This important statement testifies to the depth of relations between Israel and Malawi, and will lead to their continued strengthening of the cordial relations between the two nations.
5. Minister Mkaka congratulated Minister Ashkenazi on the historic peace agreements between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, known as the “Abraham Accords”, which is integral in the peaceful transformation in the Middle East. Both ministers were in agreement that these developments are timely in creating a conducive environment for further agreements in the Middle East, and will also have a beneficial effect on Israel’s relations with countries in Africa.

6. Foreign Minister Ashkenazi expressed his appreciation for the steadfast support that Israel has received from Malawi and reiterated Israel's commitment to strengthen this partnership through collaboration in: development cooperation, including the posting of an Israeli expert in Lilongwe and the introduction of specially designated MASHAV courses for Malawi as well as increasing the number of Malawian students in Israel's agricultural internships program. Both ministers look forward to vibrant promotion of cooperation in sectors such as tourism, investment, technology, agriculture, education, and trade.

7. Honorable Mkaka expressed gratitude to Foreign Minister Ashkenazi for Israel's ongoing support through MASHAV (Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation) programs, the agricultural training program for Malawian students in Israel; and the upgrading of the Israel-Malawi Agricultural Centre of Excellence at the Natural Resource College in Lilongwe. Honorable Mkaka noted that these initiatives will contribute towards the country's food security strategy and accelerated and sustained socio-economic development of the people of Malawi.

8. Minister Ashkenazi reiterated the open invitation for His Excellency Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera to visit Israel, at his earliest convenience, which will be a further milestone in the consolidation and enhancement of the excellent relations between the two countries.