



Declaration of 10 Commitments for Children and Youth in Malawi

Dear children and youth of Malawi,

I recognise that more than 9 million people in Malawi are below the age of 24. This makes children and youth the majority, representing 60% of the population. I also recognise that you are the hub of Malawi's socio-economic and political development, thereby making you the agents of change. Nevertheless, you are a group that has been overlooked in resource allocation and marginalised in the decision making process.

Despite the above, Malawi signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1991 and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child in 1999, obligating the state to ensure the full enjoyment of all your rights. As children and youth, you deserve leaders that will prioritize your needs, aspirations and listen to your voices. I therefore, accept the responsibility of fulfilling all rights for all children and youth, thereby making you, my priority.

It is against this background that, I commit to implement and fulfil the targets as set by the children and youth of this country when I assume office as the President of the Republic of Malawi in May 2014. I solemnly swear to fulfil these commitments by end of my term of office in 2019.

I therefore commit to prioritise the areas related to children and youth as stated below:

Priority: Survival of Children to 5 Years-

1. To reduce neonatal mortality from 31 deaths per 1000 live births to 25 deaths per 1000 live births,
2. To reduce the chronic malnutrition rate (stunting) from 47% to 20%;

Priority: High quality education for all children-

3. To reduce the student/classroom ratio in all primary schools from 107 pupils per classroom to 60 pupils per classroom,
4. To increase Primary school enrollment rate among children with disabilities from 19% to 30%;

Priority: Realising the potential of girls-

5. To keep girls in school to Standard 8, increasing primary school completion rate from 35% to 80%,
6. To reduce all forms of violence against girls (aged 15-19) from 33% to 15%,
7. To reduce early marriage among girls (aged 15-19) from 28% to 23%,
8. To pass and assent the Marriage Act (with a minimum marriage age of 18 years);

Priority: Youth empowerment-

9. To create jobs and reduce youth unemployment from 24% to 10%; and

Priority: Reporting on Children and Youth Commitments-

10. To report progress on the above commitments in the State of the Nation Address at the beginning of each fiscal year.

With these commitments, I LAZARUS MCCARTHY CHAKWERA
make the children and youth who are Malawi's Majority, My Priority.

Sincerely,


Dr. Lazarus Chakwera

April 3, 2014
Date

2014 Presidential Aspirant, Malawi Congress Party (MCP)