



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

BY

**HONOURABLE PETER MUKHITO
MINISTER OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

AT

THE OPENING CEREMONY

OF SARPCCO CHIEFS OF

POLICE SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

LILONGWE

MALAWI

THURSDAY, 11TH JUNE, 2026

SALUTATION

- YOUR EXCELLENCY, **MR. VALDECY URQUIZA**, SECRETARY GENERAL OF INTERPOL;
- THE OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF SARPCCO AND INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE MALAWI POLICE SERVICE, **MR. RICHARD CHAKUPALAZA LUHANGA**;
- THE INCOMING CHAIRPERSON OF SARPCCO AND NATIONAL COMMISSIONER OF THE ROYAL ESWATINI POLICE SERVICE, **MR. VUSI MANOMA MASANGO**;
- DISTINGUISHED SADC POLICE CHIEFS;
- SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS;
- MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA;
- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

ADDRESS

Good morning.

It is a great honour and privilege to welcome you all to Malawi, the Warm Heart of Africa, for this important SARPCCO Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee Meeting.

On behalf of His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi, the government and the people of Malawi, I extend our warmest welcome to all delegates gathered here today.

Allow me to extend a special welcome to the Secretary General of INTERPOL, Your Excellency Mr. Valdecy Urquiza. Your presence underscores the growing partnership between regional and global law enforcement institutions in addressing the complex security challenges of our time.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We meet at a time when transnational crime poses an increasing threat to the peace, security and prosperity of our region.

Drug trafficking, cybercrime, human trafficking, financial crime, wildlife crime and terrorism know no borders. Criminal networks cooperate across countries and continents. Our response must therefore be even more united, coordinated and determined.

No nation can confront these challenges alone.

The citizens of Southern Africa expect more than meetings and resolutions. They expect safety. They expect justice. They expect results.

A mother in Lilongwe, a trader in Johannesburg, a farmer in Gaborone, a

fisherman in Maputo and a miner in Lubumbashi all share the same hope: to live, work and raise their families in peace and security.

That responsibility rests upon all of us.

Distinguished Delegates,

Security remains the foundation of development. Without security, there can be no investment, no economic growth and no lasting peace.

The work before you is therefore not merely administrative. It is essential to the future of our region.

As Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Malawi remains committed to strengthening regional collaboration through intelligence sharing, joint operations, technological innovation and capacity building.

The challenges we face know no borders. Neither should our determination to defeat them.

There is an African proverb that says:

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

SARPCCO has demonstrated the power of going together. Through cooperation and partnership, our police services have made significant progress in protecting our people and combating organised crime.

The task before us now is to deepen that cooperation and build an even stronger regional security architecture.

I wish to congratulate the outgoing Chairperson, Inspector General Richard Chakupalaza Luhanga, for his exemplary leadership and dedicated service.

I also warmly congratulate the incoming Chairperson, National Commissioner Vusi Manoma Masango of the Royal Eswatini Police Service. Malawi looks forward to supporting you as you guide SARPCCO into its next chapter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The success of this meeting will not be measured by the number of documents produced, but by the impact of the decisions made, the crimes prevented and the lives protected.

Let us leave this gathering more united, more determined and more committed to securing a safer and more prosperous Southern Africa.

It is now my honour and privilege to declare the SARPCCO Chiefs of Police Sub-Committee Meeting officially open.

May God bless the Republic of Malawi.

May God bless the Southern African
Development Community.

And in the spirit of our unity and diversity, let
me say:

Zikomo kwambiri.

Asante sana.

Ngiyabonga kakhulu.

Ke a leboga.

Muito obrigado.

Merci beaucoup.

Misaotra betsaka.

Together, we are one region, one people
and one future.

I thank you.