



BLANTYRE CITY COUNCIL

STATEMENT

BY

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR COUNCILLOR WILD NDIPO

DURING

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

SUN 'N' SAND

MANGOCHI

12TH SEPTEMBER 2017

- **Cllr Joseph Makwinja, Deputy Mayor of Blantyre City;**
- **Members of Parliament present here;**
- **Fellow Councillors;**
- **Directors and all members of staff here present;**
- **Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good Morning,

It is with greatest joy that I welcome you to this Ordinary Council Meeting where we are going to reflect on the performance of the Council from the time we last met to now and look ahead as we continue to serve the residents of Blantyre City.

Council meetings present us time of stock taking. We take time to look at what we have done in a particular period, consider emerging issues and at the same time redefine the direction we are taking. All this has to be done in the interest of the people we serve.

Deputy Mayor, Council Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, a lot has happened in between our meetings. Allow me to highlight some of the developments that have taken place.

The ultimate objective of the Council is making sure that the residents of the city get the best municipal services from us and this is non-negotiable.

Among of core services that we provide, we all agree that the health living of the residents is paramount. A country or rather a city cannot develop if people are not health.

Based on this understanding, together, we launched the Clean Premises Competition on July 10 this year with an overall aim of encouraging residents to participate in the endless effort of making the city clean and free it from diseases such as cholera.

As we are all aware, the competition is targeting both individual households and business premises. It is my appeal to you fellow councilors to encourage our subjects to participate. The target should not be to get the prize but to achieve health living. Let the prize be a bonus. But the ultimate prize will be life free of diseases.

However, those that will not comply with the relevant by-laws and existing legal instruments, sanctions like closure of premises, demolition of dilapidated or illegal structures and prosecution will be imposed on them. This competition will motivate residents and business people to take care of their surroundings. This is a strong message that we should all take out there.

I am optimistic that this competition will overwhelmingly improve the outlook of our commercial city.

Deputy Mayor, Council members, Ladies and gentlemen, another milestone was the launch of Blantyre City Council Service Charter. This is an agreement between us and the residents of Blantyre City that we will both do our part as we move our city forward.

The Service Charter is a commitment that we shall deliver excellent services to the residents. Not only do we commit to excellency, the blueprint also stipulates the rights and responsibilities of the residents themselves. This is a good document which should not just end up at launching.

It is very important that people are made aware of its content so that they are able to demand from us what they are entitled to. We should not be afraid to set ambitious goals for ourselves.

Moreover, we are already rated highly among Councils in the country. Why should we lower our bar? What we need are concerted efforts to live up to the billing that we are the best Council in Malawi.

Let us all familiarize ourselves with the Service Charter and be able to offer the best standards as set out in this document. What we set in the Charter is achievable if there is unity among us. I mean unity of purpose. I am confident, with the unity we have demonstrated over the past three years, we are bound for success.

It is also pleasing to mention that the launch of the Charter is an achievement of one of the Public Sector Reform areas championed by His Excellency Prof Mutharika's government.

Deputy Mayor, Council Members, Ladies and Gentlemen, we have also done well in the area of infrastructure development.

Allow me to thank the State President Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika and his government for committing to support us in this area through financing by the Roads Fund Administration (RFA).

With funding from RFA, we have been able to lit up our city. We have connected lights along the Masauko Chipembere Highway in 2016 as one of our major roads. We have also done the same with a number of streets in the city including recently in Ndirande and Victoria Avenue all the way to CI.

These are the achievements which people who elected us are seeing and are happy with. Just last month we received a team of top management and the Board of RFA. They were very impressed with what we are doing with their money.

We have upgraded a number of roads to asphalt surfacing while others are still under construction. Definitely, they pointed out a number of areas that need improvement. The

only thank you we can give them is by working on those areas so that this confidence we have built should not be eroded.

I know all this has been achieved under the leadership and guidance of the Chief Executive Officer Dr Alfred Chanza and your management team. I would like, on behalf of Council members encourage you to continue working hard and maintain the accountability so that the 'owners' of the money get the best from it. And we all know that this is tax payers' money, so the owners are our residents.

Ladies and gentlemen, we have also taken a step to revamp relationships which the City has with other cities. We can learn a lot from our friends, especially those that have advanced in some areas of service delivery.

Apart from revamping old relationships, there is also a lot of interest from cities far and near to establish new relationships. Early this year, I visited Norfolk City in United States of America which has shown interest to establish Sister City relationship with our City.

Some pupils have already left Blantyre City to study in Norfolk. It was clear from the Mayor of Norfolk that Blantyre City stands to benefit a lot from this relationship especially in the area of tertiary education.

I have already extended an invitation to the Mayor of Norfolk to visit Blantyre city and everything being equal, we should expect him in November this year.

The Deputy Mayor led a delegation of Councillors to Quelimane City in Mozambique which has demonstrated interest to twin with Blantyre City to share experience and cultural exchanges. From the report I got, it was a historical visit and we look forward to their coming. There is an opportunity of establishing a joint Chamber of Commerce to promote trade between the two cities.

Because of this relationship, we were also invited to participate in their 75th anniversary of becoming a city. I and the Chief Executive went there accompanied by Be Forward Wanderers Football Club.

We are also looking forward to their visit to Blantyre City. I guess it is high time we also started considering the founding

of Blantyre as a City. Blantyre was declared City on Independence Day in 1966. **May I, therefore, propose that we consider holding anniversary celebrations on a day we can all agree?**

There is a lot that has happened and most of them you know but I thought I should share these developments among others this morning. As we move forward, let this piece of advice not depart from us. We should always strive to demonstrate that we are servant leaders.

Before I conclude, allow me Deputy Mayor, Council Members, ladies and Gentlemen, to highlight the procedure of calling for service committee meetings. It is expected of the Chairperson and Secretary of each service committee to agree on the agenda which is presented to the CEO.

This has to happen after the secretary (who is the Director of the relevant Department) has prepared the Minutes for the previous meeting; and those Minutes have been endorsed by the chairperson. So in brief, the responsibility to ensure that meetings are taking place as scheduled lies in the hands of the chairperson and secretary of that particular committee. I thought I could highlight that.

There is a suggestion from the Mayor's Chaplain and management to hold Interdenominational prayers 27th October 2017. This will be Blantyre City Day of Worship to thank God for everything that has happened.

This is also in line with our civic calendar of events as we are supposed to have a day of worship. **May I, therefore, propose that we hold Blantyre City Day of Worship on 27th October 2017?**

Wish these remarks, I wish all of us fruitful deliberations. Like how we have done before, let us make positive contributions for the betterment of our beautiful City.

I thank you for your attention.