



BLANTYRE CITY COUNCIL

SPEECH BY

HIS WORSHIP CLLR WILD NDIPO

MAYOR

**AT THE LAUNCH OF 2018 MISSION RABIES MASS
VACCINATION CAMPAIGN FOR BLANTYRE URBAN**

THURSDAY, 12TH APRIL 2018

- **DR PATRICK CHIKUNGWA, DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT;**
- **DR DAGMAR MAYER, COUNTRY MANAGER, MISSION RABIES MALAWI;**
- **DR EMMANUEL KANJUNJUNJU, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FOR BLANTYRE URBAN;**
- **MRS EVELYN MJIMA, DISTRICT EDUCATION MANAGER BLANTYRE URBAN;**
- **THE DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICER FOR BLANTYRE;**
- **THE PROGRAMME MANAGER FOR BLANTYRE ADD;**
- **ALL NGO REPRESENTATIVES;**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS;**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN;**

It gives me great pleasure this morning to officiate at this year's launch of "**Mission Rabies Malawi**" Dogs Vaccination campaign here at Victoria Hotel in Blantyre.

On behalf of the entire Council, I would like to welcome you all to the launch of the very important campaign.

Why am I describing this campaign as very important?

Ladies and Gentlemen, Rabies is indeed a very fatal disease which has been known and feared since longtime ago and is usually transmitted by the bite of an infected animal.

According to experts, more than 99% of all human rabies deaths are caused by bite(s) of rabid dogs.

The disease is very common in our Country and indeed it has not spared our City of Blantyre. It is therefore our duty and responsibility to protect the Malawi populace in general and the City residents in particular. In order to achieve this we really need to join hands to fight this deadly disease.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are all aware that rabies poses a big threat to human health and according to World Health Organization it kills more than 150 people every day approximately 40% of bite victims are children. The psychological impact following bite by a rabid animal can be traumatic.

The high costs of life-saving human anti-rabies vaccines, cost of hospitalization and loss of animals have large public health and economic impacts especially on our poor communities.

Let me therefore commend "Mission Rabies Malawi" for being a good partner in the fight against this deadly disease within our City Blantyre including the rural areas as well.

I am reliably informed that since the launch of their programme in this Country in 2015, commendable achievement has been made by reducing the incidents of rabies particularly within the City of Blantyre

and indeed also in other surrounding district of Chiradzulu and Zomba.

It is my sincere hope that such momentum will be maintained until we eradicate this disease I would therefore urge all the residents to bring their dogs during this period at designated places for free Vaccination.

However, as the Council, and indeed as per our *Motto* of **“taking the city back to the people”** we will continue working with our partners the “Mission Rabies Malawi” to make sure that all our dogs are free from rabies and the residents are well protected from contacting the disease.

Reaching this far, let me take this opportunity to thank all key stakeholders who are taking part in the prevention and control of rabies in our City and the Country as a whole.

I would like to specifically thank “Mission Rabies Malawi” in liaison with the department of Animal Health and Livestock Development, the Blantyre District Health Office, the Blantyre District Education Office and others who are working tirelessly in the fight against rabies within our City.

With these remarks, it is now my singular honor and privilege to declare the 2018 “Mission Rabies mass Dog Vaccination Campaign” for Blantyre urban officially launched.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION AND MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!!