

# A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

ON

1965 HAILE SELASSIE'S VISIT TO MALAWI

BY:

**PALIANI GOMANI CHINGUWO.**

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# **HAILE SELASSIE`S HISTORIC VISIT TO MALAWI<sup>1</sup>.**

*By: Paliani Gomani Chinguwo<sup>2</sup>.*

According to the vast history of Abyssinia now called Ethiopia, Emperor Haile Selassie I is the 225<sup>th</sup> successor in the lineage of Ebna Hakim (Menelik I), the first emperor of Ethiopia arising from the Solomonic dynasty and the first born son of biblical king Solomon and Queen of Sheba. Thus, Haile Selassie's royal family descends directly from King David and Bathsheba and besides that from Kush (6500B.C). Since the restitution of the Solomonic dynasty from another called Zagwe in the 13<sup>th</sup> century by Emperor Yekuno Amlak, Emperor Haile Selassie I is recorded to be the 66<sup>th</sup> king in succession. Haile Selassie I was born Tafari Mekonnen on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1892. At a tender age of 14, he was appointed a Provincial Governor of Harar. In 1916, Tafari Mekonnen was proclaimed Prince Regent and Heir-Apparent to the throne. He became king (negus) in 1928 before finally being crowned His Imperial Majesty, Emperor Haile Selassie I two years later on November 2 at St. George's Cathedral in Addis-Ababa.

Since the Duke of Edinburgh's visit in July 1964 to represent the British monarch on Independence Day celebrations, Malawi welcomed its most distinguished guest of honour, Emperor Haile Selassie who jetted in the country on Monday, 2nd August 1965 for a three-day state visit. The Emperor entered into the annals of Post Independent Malawian History as the first head of government/state to pay a state visit to Malawi upon invitation.

His arrival at Chileka Airport in Blantyre from Zambia was scheduled at 10am. where he was welcomed by Dr Banda the Prime Minister and Sir Glyn Jones the Governor General. Speaking to the press after inspecting a military parade by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Malawi Rifles, the Emperor said "We are extremely pleased to be here in Malawi for the first time because it really signifies that African Unity is not merely a matter of words but of deeds."

There after the Emperor was taken on a state drive to Blantyre City enroute to the Government House in the then Capital City, Zomba.

One eye witness, late Mrs. Delby Mbwana who was amongst those who lined up along the streets to welcome The Emperor in Blantyre City, told this writer in 1998 that she vividly remembered to have been filled with awe after catching a glimpse of the Emperor majestically waving and smiling while holding a lion-cub with the other hand.

About the arrival of the Emperor, The Times of Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1965 reported "*There were scenes of wild enthusiasm at Chileka Airport when thousands of cheering and ululating Africans greeted the Emperor...The route was lined with cheering Malawians including hundreds of school children who provided a brave 'reception committee' of their own as they shouted their greetings...*"

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<sup>1</sup> By courtesy of management and staff of Malawi National Archives and University of Malawi's Chancellor College Library that it has been possible to come up with this work.

<sup>2</sup> The writer is currently a sociology student at Chancellor College and dedicates this work to his late aunt, Derby Mbwana who in 1998 was the very first source of information regarding the Emperor's visit to Malawi.

In honour of the Emperor's visit to the City of Blantyre, the street that stretches from a round-about near E.S.C.O.M. House to a cross-junction (at Blantyre Magistrate Court), formerly called Sclaters Road was renamed "Haile Selassie" Road which literally means "Power Of The Holy Trinity".

In the after-noon of the same day, accompanied by the prime minister, governor general, cabinet ministers and his entourage, the Emperor was driven up the Zomba Plateau to a spot 6000 feet above sea level where they viewed a panoramic model of Phalombe plain and the Shire Highlands. This is the very same spot which up to this day is called "The Emperor View" in honour of the Emperor's visit to the capital city (Zomba).

A brainstorming discussion between the two leaders in private and a state banquet were scheduled in the evening of the same day at the government house in Zomba.

The following day, Tuesday 3 August 1965 was officially declared a public holiday as a special honour to the Emperor's state visit at large. One can simply single out this past event as a cogent counter example to prove all the proponents of the school of thought which holds that Brother-Leader Muamar Ghadafi broke the world record in July 2002 by becoming the only head of state whose state visit to Malawi has ever been accorded with a public holiday.

In the morning of 3rd August 1965, in company of the prime minister, the Emperor visited Amalika Young Pioneers' Training Base in Thyolo where the prime minister was presented with eggs and a hen while the Emperor was given a basket of vegetables which he said would be delivered to the military hospital in Zomba.

From Amalika, the two leaders proceeded to Naming'omba Tea Estate before driving to Ryalls Hotel in Blantyre for a civic luncheon hosted by the mayor of the city, Clr. Sattar Sacranie who pointed out this in his welcoming speech before proposing a toast to the Emperor, "This is a great and historic occasion which will be remembered with joy and pride by us and the generations to come because today we are welcoming our greatest soldier in the cause of human liberty."

On the same day, the Emperor went to attend a youth rally and military display at central (Chichiri) stadium in Blantyre. Before presenting his eloquent speech with prophetic remarks of inspiration on some Malawi Youths "upon whose eager shoulders rest the future of not only Malawi but the entire continent", a coronation ceremony was conducted by three paramount chiefs representing the three regions of Malawi to crown the Emperor as "The Great Chief Of Malawi." The three chiefs were: Inkosi M'Mbelwa (North); Fumu Mwase (Centre) and Fumu Mponda (South).

Leading the ceremony amidst unrestrained acclamation and ululations from the crowd was Inkosi M'Mbelwa who presented the newly crowned Malawi's Great Chief with a spear, shield, knobkerrie, leopard skin hat and draped him with a reddish kingly gown.

Before departure on Wednesday 4 August 1965, His Imperial Majesty Emperor Haile Selassie I accorded special honours to 31 individuals who collectively played commendable tasks to make his state visit a reality. Amongst the others, the special honours were as follows:

- Grand Cordon Of The Order Of Trinity was accorded to Sir Glyn Jones (Governor General.)

- Collar Of The Order Of The Queen Of Sheba was accorded to Dr. Banda (Prime Minister.)
- Commander Of The Order Of Menelik II was accorded to: Inkosi M`Mbelwa, Commander of Malawi Army, Commissioner Of Police and Secretary of External Affairs.
- Grand Cordon Of The Star Of Honour Of Ethiopia was accorded to: Chief Justice, Speaker Of Parliament, M.C.P. Secretary General, Cabinet Ministers and Malawi's ambassador to Ethiopia.  
Amongst those who received this particular Order were: honourable Aleke Banda, honourable Gwanda Chakuamba and honourable J.Z.U.Tembo.

A handbook published by the Malawi Government entitled "This Is Malawi 1965" did not even mince words to summarise the Emperor's State Visit with the following words "*...It will be a visit that will long stay in the memories of many Malawians...*" Back in Addis Ababa, referring to his visits to Zambia, Malawi and Kenya the Emperor remarked, "*We have learnt during the course of these visits that the Charter Of African Unity is more than a signed document...the discussions we have held have cemented the relations between our countries and served as fora for the exchange of ideas affecting Africa.*"

On the other hand, throughout his reign the Emperor made several tours in Asia, Europe, America and Africa where some of the most outstanding universities bestowed him with a number of doctorate degrees in law and philosophy. These include universities of Montreal (1954); Oxford (1954); Columbia (1959); Banares (1956); Cambridge (1958); Howard (1959); Moscow (1959); Portugal (1959); Greece (1954) and Liberia (1960).

## **SPEECHES<sup>3</sup> DURING HAILE SELASSIE`S VISIT TO MALAWI.**

**On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1965, a Civic Luncheon at Ryalls Hotel.**

### **MR. ALLAN THE TOWN CLERK**

Your Imperial Majesty, in the name of the public of Blantyre-Limbe, the Mayor and municipal council humbly beg to tender Your Majesty greetings and extend a sincere and heartfelt welcome to our municipality.

We are deeply conscious of the signal honour you have bestowed upon us by your presence here in this oldest municipality in central Africa. Your Majesty's continued devotion to public duty is a source of profound admiration and inspiration not only to the people of this municipality but to all the peoples of Malawi. And it is our unanimous prayer that you may live long and enjoy peace, health and happiness. We hope that Your

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<sup>3</sup> The speeches were put in written form from the verbal speeches (as recorded in audio tapes), as such to a greater extent the errors which may be found are mine.

Majesty will enjoy this short visit and that you will always cherish pleasing recollections of this term. We further sincere trust that you may return to Ethiopia in comfort and safety always in the knowledge that although divided by distance, we are united by ties of good will. In conclusion, we respectfully beg Your Majesty to convey to your people an assurance of our good will and our prayer that your reign may be more prosperous and blessed with peace and happiness.

**COUNCILLOR A.SATTAR SACRANIE J.P. MAYOR OF**  
**BLANTYRE-LIMBE.**

Your Imperior Majesty, Hon. Prime Minister, Your Highnesses, My Lord, Your Excellencies, Councillors, distinguished guests, the citizens of Blantyre-Limbe. We the councilors and citizens of Blantyre-Limbe feel justly proud and gratified for this great honor that has been accorded to us of extending our humble and joyous welcome to Your Imperior Majesty and the distinguished members of your entourage to our municipality. This is a great and historic occasion which will be remembered with joy and pride by us and the generations to come because today we are welcoming a great son of Africa, a greatest soldier in the cause of human liberty. His struggles in the cause of the integrity and ancient sovereignty of his great country are inepic. Those of us who heard or read about the brutal and wanton aggression of the fascists will never forget the indomitable courage, the unshakable determination of the Ethiopian Monarch and his people to continue the fight until the enemy was routed. We will never forget Your Imperior Majesty's bitter frustrations during the years of exile.

We also cannot forget the moving plea before the League of Nations who were asked by Your Imperior Majesty to examine their consciences and not to sacrifice the liberty of millions at the feet of unscrupulous gangster.

We cannot forget Your Imperior Majesty, the triumphant entry once more into Your Own capital with a voice and counsel of mercy for all. If I may be forgiven to recall Your Imperior Majesty's own words on that great day. The words, which Your Imperior Majesty addressed to the victorious Armies Of Ethiopia. And these were Your Imperior Majesty's words, "I reason with you to receive with love and to care for those Italians who fall into the hands of Ethiopian warriors. Whether they come armed or unarmed, do not meet out them according to the wrongs, which they have committed against our people. Show that you are soldiers of honor with human hearts. Do not forget that because the soldiers of Adowa brought to their Emperor the Italian prisoner that has been to the honour and good name of Ethiopia. Especially do I ask you to guard and respect the lives of children women, and the aged."

Today The Negus Negaste is the symbol of African Unity. The ancient land of Ethiopia is now the source of inspiration, enlightenment and learning for the people of Africa. The Emperor of Ethiopia is a universally acclaimed arbiter in the disputes and differences not only between African states but if there is more in BBC broadcasts anything to go by, it seems that His Imperior Majesty may well be called upon to arbitrate in Tunisia.

It is said that Ethiopia has a recorded history of almost 3000 years. We believe that when the history of another 3000 years comes to be written, the era of Haile Selassie I will be

written, rightly written in letters of gold. And men will say that when Rastafari Makonnen Haile Selassie I served Ethiopia, he served Africa (applause). We admire you Sir for your great efforts to carry out far reaching reforms in Your country while at the same time preserving her ancient wisdom that made certain sizeable contribution to the birth of human civilization in the Nile Valley. Our hearts went out to you at the time of the great and bitter struggle for the sanctity of your country's independence. We rejoiced when the aggressor was finally defeated and routed from the sacred soil of Ethiopia. We believe that God smiled upon the people of this ancient land of Ethiopia when He gave them Rastafari Mekonnen as has smiled upon us by giving us Kamuzu Banda whose struggles (applause) in the cause of our liberty are also inepic. We believe sir that with Haile Selassie I and Ngwazi Kamuzu Banda Africa can with justice and confidence look forward to an era of dynamism and human progress unparalleled in the history of this continent. Your Imperior Majesty, we the citizens of Blantyre-Limbe, sincerely looks forward to close ties between our towns and the citizens of Addis Ababa. We are told that there are so many similarities between this town and the city of Addis Ababa in regards as climate, scenery and pattern of development.

We humbly submit the art feelings of good will, friendship and brotherhood be conveyed through Your Imperior Majesty to the citizens of Addis Ababa. This Your Imperior Majesty are our innermost thoughts and sincere feelings. In making references to what has happened in the past, Your Imperior Majesty are referred to facts and not gratitudes. And because we sincerely believe that this is a great and momentous occasion in the history of our country we feel that the most satisfactory way in which we can give the expression to the joy and happiness in our hearts is to name a road in Blantyre-Limbe hither to known as Scletter's Road and up main town of Blantyre to name it from now, from this minute Haile Selassie Road (applause). I now request the distinguished Assembly Chair, to please rise with me and drink to hail the long life of His Imperior Majesty The Emperor Of Ethiopia Haile Selassie The First, The Finest Son Of Africa. To His Imperior Majesty! Your Imperior Majesty on behalf of the councilors, citizens of Blantyre-Limbe, have very great pleasure to present this illuminated scroll of welcome to our municipality (applause). Your Imperior Majesty, words have been spoken I can make many long speeches, I made them in the past but this Your Imperior Majesty is an occasion when our hearts are stepped, they are stepped with love and affection. This is a moment when we humbly seek to establish a feeling of oneness with Your Imperior Majesty. And as a talker, as a symbol of our feelings on this great occasion I have the great honour to present to Your Imperior Majesty with a key to the municipality of Blantyre-Limbe.

### **HIS IMPERIOR MAJESTY EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE 1.**

...African people should bind together to share with one another the knowledge, which they have so far acquired through hard experience. The numbers of the technically kind, the means for application of the knowledge remain inadequate to satisfy our requirements and the high aspirations of our peoples. Educational and social development projects are of the highest priority everywhere and we personally have already taken steps to provide resources for cooperation among Africans in meeting this priority. Similarly the necessity for economic development should mould possibilities for

interdependence as a means to the most rapid achievement of their prosperity, which lies ahead. Some African states are rich in mineral resources, others in skilled labor and technical expertise. And still others possess rich Agricultural or Hydroelectric potential. To utilize all these resources to the fullest requires a large measure of mutual support and assistance among us.

The achievement of this support and assistance entails much further discussion and contact among African leaders at all levels with the view to agreement on concrete proposals. It further requires vigorous implementation and supervision of these proposals in a fashion adequately removed from political interests and concerns. To achieve this, mass education for our peoples would be an effective instrument. One indispensable element in such a scheme of massive cooperation has already been created, it may well be a crucial element. We speak of the Organization Of Africa Unity (OAU) born only a little more than two years ago at Addis Ababa in the spirit of understanding and devotion to reason and the principles which must continue to prevail among Africans If we are to accomplish what we seek.

The OAU is a symbol of an ideal but it can and should be more than that. It can be a practical instrument whereby the great possibilities of African cooperation are fully realized. We know that the Malawians and the Ethiopians cooperate in this line. We urge you to consider well the potential which the organization represents and to join with us and with the Ethiopian people in the efforts which must be continued of spreading throughout Africa the full realization of the great strength which lies in unity. The ties that bring us together are many.

If we reinforce them well and share the experience and attainments then we will grow and prosper together and so bring to our peoples the full measure of the dignity, the prosperity, and individual happiness, which they truly merit. If we believe in trusting one another, if we do not feel to toil together with faith in our united accomplishments, we shall then turn words to deeds and in God's good time the African future of which we dream will come to be. We should remember that the world has its eyes fixed on us.

Finally we thank you Mr. Mayor for the kind words that you addressed in our regard. Of course as we all know man is only an instrument. In whatever achievement he does, the credit should go to the Almighty God. And at this occasion it gives us a great pleasure to present a souvenir present of Ethiopian made carpet to the municipality of Blantyre-Limbe. Now we trust to the growth and prosperity of the municipality of Blantyre-Limbe and to the long friendship between residents of Addis Ababa and Blantyre-Limbe.

### **THE PRIME MINISTER NGWAZI DR.KAMUZU BANDA.**

His Imperior Majesty, my lord, ministers, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I did not come here to speak. Infact I did not even know that I was going to be asked to speak. But just a few minutes ago after His Imperior Majesty had spoken, or just when He was about to finish, His worship the mayor said that he was making a request that I should say just a few words. This being the case, I cannot escape. I have to say something.

It is no exaggeration for me to say that this week, these three days that His Imperior Majesty Haile Selassie I Of Ethiopia has honoured us with His presence in our country,



in our city, marks the greatest day of my life, of my country, and of my people. Why do I say this? For more reasons than one.

And the most important of these reasons is that His Imperial Majesty represents one of the oldest ruling houses not only in our own continent but all over this world (applause). Read your books, your bibles, your history books where do you find any country mentioned in this continent or on the continent of Europe. Go anywhere in the Bible...coming to only Ethiopia, yes I read Ethiopia again in Sunday School. The Queen of Sheba you know and King Solomon. Yes the Queen Of Sheba and King Solomon, here is the direct descendant of Queen Of Sheba and King Solomon. Ethiopia represents on our continent something that means so much to the people in my position.

That is why in 1935 when Mussolini's fascist raped Ethiopia, because rape is the word, it was not even invasion! but a rape on innocent women, children old men and women simply because they were defenseless, they had no airplanes, no machine guns, no mustard gas. And all these things, airplanes, machineguns, mustard gas Mussolin had. He abused his power. I was a student then at Meharry Medical College in America. I am not going to narrate the whole story. But I can tell Your Imperial Majesty, all of you distinguished guests that I read everything!

And if I may say so, the Ethiopian invasion by Italy marked what is now the coming more even open to everyone the beginning of African Unity because! The invasion of Ethiopia by Italy aroused people of African descendants, blacks! Not only here on the continent when you had the Zulus of South Africa offering their men to go and fight Mussolini in Ethiopia but also in USA, in West Indies, Jamaica, Trinidad, everywhere!

Where as before that time, before 1935! my cousins in America used to say I lost nothing In Africa. Yes! And I can tell every American Negro and challenge him turn to his faith that is what they used to say! I lost nothing in Africa! And I used to say to them. Yes! There In Africa! You have lost everything! Your honour! Your dignity! Your respectability! Until Africa is free! You American Negro here, you may be rich, you may have universities, and nobody will think anything about you! (Applause).

I was right when in 1951; Kwame Nkrumah established not even self-government and Independence, not just a measure of self-government as a leader of government business. The whole Negro world in America, West Indies, began to look to Africa. Yes we are very very happy, you're Imperial Majesty, very very happy, proud to have you here. We are only sorry that your stay is so short, very very sorry!

I would have liked my people. When I say my people, I mean the people in this country, not just the Africans who are my people by blood and flesh, but all the people in this country, so that they could get to know you, you could get to know them. The mayor has referred to your work in the OAU. Yes I helped echo his words.

Those of you here ladies and gentlemen who do not know what is the meaning of African Unity. Perhaps a few words will give the essence of what it is all about. About three or four years ago when a number of African countries became Independent states, there were two groups later on three. One group was called the Casablanca group and it was composed chiefly of Ghana, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco. Another group was called the Monrovia group. It was composed of Liberia, Nigeria and a number of former French speaking countries and these former French-speaking countries formed another group called the Afro-Malagasy group.

Some of us did not like that. And I am very very happy to say that one of those men who did not like that was His Imperial Majesty. I say some of us because I was one of those. In 1962 in July to be exact, I went to Ghana and told my good friend Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, always Kwame to me. But here I must say Dr. Nkrumah. I said to Kwame "I did not like this business that you should have a group called Casablanca group and Tubman should have a group called Monrovia. So far as I am concerned, there is no such a thing as Monrovia group and Casablanca group. There is only one thing, Independent African states. I am going to Liberia and talk to Tubman about this as I am talking to you. I do not like the things as they are now." "And he said oh! Thank you very much Dr. You go there and tell the president that I feel as you do." So I went to Liberia, but he was not there at that time, he had gone to Israel. But I saw his foreign secretary, his deputy president. And I asked them, "I must see President Tubman." They arranged a meeting between him and me in Zurich, Switzerland where he was to be. So I went there and told him everything just as I had told Kwame "I do not want this, I do not like it! You know Kwame we must get together and kill this Casablanca group to see that something better and bigger than that."

It was a pleasure to me to learn later on that His Imperial Majesty was thinking exactly along these lines. Exactly in the same terms. But he was in a much better position than I was. He was a ruler of an Independent country, ancient country. What I could not do, he did. I could only express my sentiments to Kwame, Tubman and others like that. I could not invite African statesmen to meet in my country because I had no country then. Other people were in Zomba and some other people were in Salisbury. So in 1963, His Imperial Majesty feeling strongly against these divisions of African states, called a conference in Addis Ababa. Between His Imperial Majesty and my friend Kwame Nkrumah, they had to reconcile the differences of the Monrovia group ideals on one hand and Casablanca group and see what could be made out of this conference to give birth to one organisation, one Africa.

Somehow despite all the gloomy prediction by many newspapers who were using that, something was agreed upon and it was given a name of African Unity, Organisation Of African Unity (OAU). I did not like division of African states into two cuts (groups). Almost opposing groups, one at least accusing the other of looking to West and the other accusing the other of looking to the East. To put it mildly, I did not like it not only because of that but also because it gave food to our enemies, newspapers. "Oh Yes! We told you so! These African people cannot work together, look! They become Independent, what do they do? Do they work together? No! There you have Casablanca, there you have Monrovia. Casablanca---Russia, china. Monrovia---America!" You see.

I am happy that we had a great man, a great statesman of ancient lineage. Because he alone, His Imperial Majesty alone! Could have brought these two almost opposing and quarrelling groups together. The fact that he ruled an ancient kingdom, ancient empire. The fact that the whole world respected because of what he had done for his country, because of his stand against Mussolini because of his stand for freedom, peace and justice, the whole world admires respects; the whole of Africa reveres him. Therefore when he told other people in one group and the other come together, they were bound to listen. This is why I feel greatly honoured. We are supposed to be a small country, a poor country, and a country with a puny economy. Many people do not want to come here. In

the old days they did not even know that there was a country like this one. But now to have His Imperial Majesty, a ruler of an ancient kingdom, a ruler honoured and respected by the whole world, by all races, black, yellow, white to come here is beyond description. I cannot find an adjective good enough either in English language, in my own Chichewa, Chizulu or any other language that I can speak. All I can say is that I am very very happy Your Imperial Majesty. I am happy for many reasons. You see those faces here, yellow, white, black or brown. These faces before I came here and before I came from Gweru did not meet. Now they are meeting.

The mayor has quoted what you said when your soldiers were fighting the Italians. You and I think alike. You did not want to revenge, you did not want racialism, you did not want bitterness. Is the same? I do not want revenge, I do not want racialism, am not bitter.

Again we have something in common, you spoke about the necessity of economic development for our people. I speak the same language. Ever since I came on the political scene here, I have told my people that Independence does not mean loafing, does not mean that money will rain on our heads, on our shoulders like manna from Heaven, No! It means we have to work hard with our own hands. In this country we do not have mines or factories. The soil is our mine. The land is our mine. Therefore I have said to my people, you have to work hard with your hoes and axes We say “Khasu ndi Nkhwangwa” in my own language. (Applause)

...There is also a third thing that he and I have in common. He does not drink, and if he drinks at all, very very little (applause). He does not smoke, not at all just as I. So ladies and gentlemen, I am truly greatly honoured, I as an Individual, but my government, my party the MCP, my people, my country. Therefore before I sit down, will you all please rise and join me in drinking a toast to the fortunate people of Ethiopia and their great ruler. (Applause)

### **On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1965 at Chichiri Stadium**

#### **PRIME MINISTER NGWAZI DR.KAMUZU BANDA.**

Your Imperial Majesty, your excellencies, highness, worship, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, It is with a feeling of pride mingled with humility that I rise this evening, here on this occasion, to extend on my own behalf and on behalf of my colleagues in the government and all my people in Malawi a most sincere and heartfelt welcome to Your Imperial Majesty and the noble and distinguished members of your suite.

This is an historic occasion, one unique so far in the history of Malawi, not only because it is the first occasion on which we have had the honour of welcoming to our country on the occasion of a state visit, a most noble and distinguished head of state. But also because at the same time we have had the privilege of welcoming and entertaining in our midst the one leader in all Africa who has been responsible for more than anyone else for the birth of true spirit amongst Africans of African Unity and for the coming into being of the Organization Of African Unity.

His Imperial Majesty's long and distinguished career began a very long time ago, 59 years ago to be exact, when at the age of only 14, he was first appointed Governor of a place called Garar Mullerta in the Harar province of Ethiopia. So far as I know, so far as I have read or heard anywhere, I have never heard of anyone being appointed a Governor at the age of 14. I am saying this to emphasise the type of man His Imperial Majesty is. A governor at the age of 14. Most people are at least 45, 50 or 60 when they come to rule other people. But His Imperial Majesty was a governor at 14, when most of us are not even in secondary school. When we are still in primary school, our distinguished guest was a Governor. Since that time, he has never ceased to work untiringly for the advancement and prosperity of the people of Ethiopia. Not only that but for the good of all the people of Africa. All over Africa, we feel the effect of his work. I shall have quite a lot to say later on about all that His Imperial Majesty has achieved for his own people in Ethiopia. For those achievements are ones of such distinction but I cannot let this occasion pass without paying tribute to them.

At this moment however, I feel that it is more appropriate first of all to tell you something of what His Imperial Majesty has achieved in the struggle to bring about true African Unity amongst the states of Africa. For it is that aspect of his achievements which means most to us here in Malawi. As many of you will know, there emerged a few years ago a tendency on the part of Independent states of Africa to form themselves into cliques or separate groups with different ideologies, outlook upon the problems of Africa as a whole. These groups became known as the Monrovia group and Casablanca group of states and at one time there was a great danger of rivalry between these two groups of countries being allowed to obscure the true needs of a united Africa. It was however His Imperial Majesty who first foresaw the dangers in these trends and the urgent need to bring these groups together and unify Africa as whole. We in Africa are indeed fortunate that before it was too late, His Imperial Majesty took the initiative and in an endeavor to bring about greater unity between the states of Africa His Imperial Majesty in June 1960 invited the then Independent states of Africa to hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference in Addis Ababa.

In opening that conference, His Imperial Majesty stressed the need for closer collaboration amongst African states. And it was from those beginnings that there sprung the O.A.U. as we know it today. It was therefore a fitting culmination to His Imperial Majesty's efforts to bring the people of Africa together under a common bond with a common objective that on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1963, in His Imperial City, Addis Ababa O.A.U. came into being and that its ideals and its aims and objectives should be enshrined to all time in a document which has come to be known throughout the world as the Addis Ababa Charter. His Imperial Majesty, I want you my people to know is the oldest and most distinguished champion of the African people, of African ideals and of all that Africa stands for. And it is first and foremost in that capacity that we first of all welcome His Imperial Majesty here amongst us in our country, Malawi.

From His Imperial Majesty as one of the greatest leaders in Africa, I hope to be privileged to draw my inspiration from many years to come just as I have for many years past for I want you my people to know we owe a great deal to His Imperial Majesty. We should never forget the moral and spiritual support which he gave us in the dark days when I was in prison, Gweru Prison, in Southern Rhodesia. Yes even in those days when I was in Prison, when all seemed lost, His Imperial Majesty was behind us and our aspirations.

He encouraged us in our struggle for the freedom of Malawi and I am very, very glad that perhaps in some small measure during His Imperial Majesty's brief visit to Malawi, we shall be able to demonstrate our deep thanks for the support and encouragement which he gave us in time when we were less happy. As for myself, I shall always remember with gratitude and affection the warmth of welcome which His Imperial Majesty extended to me in 1962 when I had the privilege of visiting Addis Ababa.

I ask you my people to join with me in thanking His Imperial Majesty all that he has done for me personally, for our country, for you my people, and for Africa as a whole.

But there are many other things too, for which he is particularly loved, honoured and respected by his people in Ethiopia and by other people outside of Ethiopia. A bly administrator, wise lawgiver, champion of constitutional advancement and government, militant educationalist and sympathetic instigator of social reform. All of these are to be found in the person of His Imperial Majesty. Even before His Imperial Majesty came to this throne in Ethiopia he had carried out for himself a reputation as a man of energy, foresight and had created for himself a position of great authority, influence, and power. That power he did not use for his selfish ends as so many lesser men might have done or have been tempted to do. But to promote the welfare, prosperity of his people. Perhaps the greatest interest and his most spectacular achievement in his own country has been in the fields of education and public health. It is to the wisdom, foresight and drive of His Imperial Majesty that the people of Ethiopia today, owe their magnificent education system and their large and well-equipped hospitals and medical services.

As long ago as 1920, His Imperial Majesty as then Rastafari Mekonnen led a movement of building more schools and more hospitals. And it was he who first saw to it that opportunities were given for young and promising Ethiopians to be educated overseas where there existed opportunities for further education, which at that time despite his advanced outlook he was unable to provide within the bounds of Ethiopia.

Further more in 1923, His Imperial Majesty was largely responsible for the admission of Ethiopia to the League Of Nations. And in 1924, for the abolition of the slave trade.

Following his coronation as Emperor in 1930, he turned his attention to yet another problem, that of constitutional advancement. And in early 1930s, he introduced a written constitution which he introduced for the first time to the chamber of parliament. But all this was suddenly brought to a halt in 1935 when they overtook the people of Ethiopia, a disaster and intensity, which in Malawi are fortunate never to have suffered. Suddenly and without warning, Italy attacked and invaded Ethiopia using some minor border disputes as a slender excuse for such unjustifiable attack. The great powers of world were afraid to intervene. They were looking after their own interests, imperialistic interests. They stood by just looking while the people of Ethiopia suffered. But though others may have been afraid, His Imperial Majesty and the People of Ethiopia were not afraid just as we here in 1959 were not afraid of Welensky.

For a year the people of Ethiopia fought on alone with indomitable courage. His Imperial Majesty himself directing the army from the northern part of his country against the Italians. But the wars were too great and His Imperial Majesty realized that he must get help from outside Ethiopia if his country was to survive. And so in 1936, he appointed commanders to carry on the fight and left the country to seek help or assistance. But he was not a frightened man. But he left a country but a proud Emperor, a leader of brave

people, determined people, to talk to the League Of Nations and the countries of western world of the justice of his call and the injustice of the aggressors against his country. However his appeal for help had a little effect. The world already was totally at a brink of war. But His Imperial Majesty remained undaunted, unafraid in the face of adversities and determined that a day would come when he would be able to return to his country to liberate his people.

Throughout those dark days, dark years, his courage and perseverance remained the admiration of the free world. Although there was little that anyone could do to help at that time. But he had not long due to wait. And in 1940 he was back in Khartoum in Sudan organizing the liberation of his country and rallying to his side Ethiopian refugees in Sudan and Kenya. So that in January 1941 he crossed the frontiers of Ethiopia with troops under the command of now famous Col. Wingate. And 4 months later, in May 1941 he was back again in His Imperial Palace in Addis Ababa. Once more the proud and well beloved ruler of his people. His job had never stood higher for his already high reputation, he had added during those dark years in exile a further reputation of being a fighter, a man undaunted and determined in adversity.

So you see my people as you know I too, I am a fighter. And I admire those who fight with determination and courage for a just cause. But in His Imperial Majesty that quality of determination and courage is also tempered by quality, which is only found in very great men. The quality of mercy and forgiveness towards his enemies. Many of you perhaps do not know this. But not so many years ago, His Imperial Majesty also had to face a revolt from within the ranks of those whom he counted as his trusted friends and trusted followers. Just as I had to face not quite a year ago today. But fortunately just as here in Malawi, when you my people and the army, police stood behind me, so too in Ethiopia the whole people of Ethiopia and the greater part of the army, police and administration stood by His Imperial Majesty. And the revolt was quelled within a few days His Imperial Majesty once again emerged a victor triumphantly. I tell you this my people, not because of the similarity between these trends in Ethiopian history and the page in the history of Malawi which was turned last year, No!\_But because of what happened afterwards.

Did His Imperial Majesty seek widespread revenge upon his enemies? No! Not at all!

Did His Imperial Majesty seek to punish with death and imprisonment all those who had taken part in the revolt against him? No! No! Not all of them, but one or two ringleaders. But the majority of them, the greatest majority of them, he forgave them. There my people lay the real essence of greatness.

The quality of mercy, mercy is prerogative of rulers and His Imperial Majesty knows how to exercise it. I only hope that the same quality may be found in me too.

I want you my people to know this that we are greatly honoured to have in our midst today a great ruler Haile Selassie I Emperor Of Ethiopia, King Of Kings, Lion Of Judah, a Great soldier, a great fighter, a great statesman, a great man. And above all for me, for you, for our country, a great friend and lover of Malawi. Your Imperial Majesty you are truly welcomed amongst us here in Malawi. And I trust that before long it would be possible for you to return again to Malawi perhaps for a longer visit than this one has been so that we can show you more of our land more of our people and what we are trying to do here and demonstrate more fully to you the warmth of friendship and

affection which I and my people feel towards you His Imperial Majesty and Your Imperial Majesty's people in Ethiopia.

Your Imperial Majesty you have done me a great honour, you have done my government a great honour, you have done my people and you have done my country a great honour by coming here. And I want you to know that we really feel that we have been honoured.

Now I have an announcement to make. His Imperial Majesty I have told you is a great man, a descendant of the Queen Of Sheba and King Solomon. Here we have rulers we call them chiefs, Paramount Chiefs, Inkosi Ya Makosi and in other tribes "Fumu Ya Yikulu." So this evening as an indication of our warmth of feeling towards His Imperial Majesty, we are crowning him as a "Great Chief Of Malawi." And to do that we have invited three chiefs. Inkosi Ya Makosi M'Mbelwa of Mzimba, Chief Mwase of Kasungu and Chief Mponda of Fort Johnstone. Amongst all the tribes in Malawi only the Ngoni of Mzimba particularly have a system of crowning their paramount chief. Therefore I have asked Inkosi Ya Makosi M'Mbelwa to crown His Imperial Majesty with Chief Mwase and Chief Mponda as his assistants and helpers. So now Inkosi M'Mbelwa is going to crown the Emperor according to our tradition.

### **HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY EMPEROR HAILE SELASSIE 1.**

Your Excellency, honourable prime minister, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. In order to save time I will let only the translation of my speech to be transmitted to you so that we do not waste our time.<sup>4</sup>

We welcome this occasion to speak directly to some of those young people upon whose eager shoulders rests the future not only of Malawi but of this entire continent.

From the youth of Ethiopia we bring you greetings and assurances of brotherhood and sharp ideas. The ties, which today unite not only Ethiopia and Malawi but all the nations, are perhaps strongest among her youth. You have the opportunities for education and advancement, which were denied to so many of your fathers and mothers, have been born and raised in the era of the great African resurgences. When those great libertarian principles, which your elders for so long struggled to attain, were finally applied on this continent. Your legacy of independence and freedom is unquestioned and inevitable and inalienable heritage. Your challenge is to create a new Africa based upon the oneness of all the diverse people and the united growth and development in happiness and prosperity.

If you the young generation of today work hard and maintain a high standard of morality and discipline, then you will be proud of what you will have to pass on to the next generation. Africa's growth has began in earnest. Only a little more than two years ago, the leaders of Independent nations of Africa met together at Addis Ababa to establish an Organisation Of Africa Unity (O.A.U.) which will be dedicated to the general progress of Africa as those men themselves were. Much has already been achieved under the banner of this crucial and indispensable new institution, we look to it to chair the further cause

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<sup>4</sup> As per earlier arrangement, His Imperial Majesty's speech was supposed to be translated into English from Amharic and then finally to Chichewa.

of cooperation amongst the African peoples to find new ways for strengthening the bonds which now unite us and to forge new ties to link the diverse cultures and economies upon which we draw.

This is only a beginning. Without support, without faith, without sustenance and energy, it will come to nothing. We must not and cannot delude ourselves that each one of us can stand alone through the stresses ahead. To meet these stresses, we must band together with will and determination.

And the strengths upon which our success depends lies in our youth. The unity, the social and economic development which we seek requires a framework and operative nationally infinitely more complex than any which yet exist on this continent. Ideas are bound but there remains a great posit of the human resources necessary to investigate possibilities in depth to promote and secure the implementation to lead the architects, engineers and technicians of a great experiment in international harmony which is now taking place in Africa.

To supply these resources great strides in education are necessary. This is a fact which is recognized everywhere and remains reputable in Ethiopia expansion and improvement of the scope and depth of education at all levels, has been the foundation and the most important single element in the programme for national development upon which the Ethiopian people have embarked. We personally have supported and furthered these efforts with all the resources at our command.

We have sought to make available to students throughout Africa the use of flourishing educational plans which continued dedication and interest have now produced. The scholarship plan and there are personnel patronage have in recent years supported a number of scholars from other African countries in pursuing their studies at our university in Addis Ababa and as well as in our military academies. Among these have been young men from Malawi.

In the exchange of ideas amongst students and young people...To refer the facts and points of view which take place wherever and whenever they meet and talk, a dialogue is began and the seeds are planted for eventual agreement and potential united action.

But it is necessary that the youth who are so concerned with these great problems have fore faced of the reality and responsibility which face them. This past year a programme instituted at the university in Addis Ababa. So a number of students served as part of their education as teachers and workers throughout the empire.

This programme, partaking of a truly progressive educational philosophy seeks to bring students face to face with the actualities and frustrations of their life of responsibility, responsibility ahead of them and to focus the thoughts on the nature of real problems of national development. Problems which are essentially the same throughout all of Africa. The message in this is clear enough.

Africa desperately needs her youth. She needs skilled, courageous and adventurous and responsible young men. Young men and women in ever increasing numbers. She requires that their applied education which has bestowed upon them at great cost and the intelligence, strength and energy which are vest by the gift of God in disciplined and devoted fashion to the accomplishment of great African future which is vast for the effort but which will never come to exist without it.



To the youth of Africa has been entrusted the great task of shaping and forging a united continent. Free from oppression, committed to the principles of the individual dignity and worth of all her peoples into the preservation and propagation of the great cultures of Africa. And of the world to which these youth are the rightful heirs. It is a magnificent and awesome task. If you fail in it, we who have hoped and planned and struggled in other ways will have also failed. You have a commitment to us and to the generations which came before and which will come after us. Your path of a historical chain which is no stronger than its weaker string. We hope that you will not disappoint us and that the youth of Malawi and your young brethren throughout Africa will rise to the great task which awaits you. And will fulfill it to the utmost in the spirit of the age into which you were born. The legacy of freedom and Independence, which is yours, is also a legacy of courage and devotion. You are truly worthy of that legacy, Then from your efforts which come greater unity, greater strength, greater hope and greater accomplishments than generations passed have ever dared to dream.

Finally we hope that you young Malawians will follow the fine example set forth for you by your illustrious leader, his excellency Dr.Kamuzu Banda.Examples which are of dedication, self sacrifice, hardwork and determination for the well being of his people and the cause of African Unity.

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