

**REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, PROF JOHN D. KALENGA SAKA DURING THE NICO INSURANCE PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP TO NEEDY STUDENTS ON FRIDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER, 2018,**

**UNIVERSITY OFFICE**

**SALUTATION**

1. The Director of Ceremonies;
2. Mr. Vizenge Kumwenda, Group Managing Director, NICO Holdings
3. Mr. Eric Chapola, Chief Executive Officer of the NICO Insurance,
4. University Registrar and Principals of Constituent Colleges of the University of Malawi;
5. Senior Managers of NICO Holdings and Insurance Company;
6. Deans of Students;
7. Student Recipients of the NICO Insurance Scholarships;
8. Staff and Students of the University of Malawi;
9. Members of the Press, and
10. Invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure this morning to join the Director of Ceremonies in welcoming the Group Managing Director of NICO Holdings and your Management Team to the University of Malawi. This is your home because you are fellow members of the Alumni Community. Further, you bring good news to the University of Malawi during the festive time- Christmas. Secondly, I wish to welcome and thank you all for your presence in this important function:- scholarship awards to the needy students in the University.

I am very delighted that this day has come when we conclude our partnership with NICO Holdings towards supporting the education of the Malawian Youth at the University of Malawi. This is the culmination of our engagement since the Thought Leadership Dialogue held in September, 2015 during which we agreed to strengthen our partnership to benefit our two institutions. To this end, I wish to thank NICO Holdings for coming forward to support the education of the Malawian Youth through provision of scholarships. The beneficiaries and we in the University Leadership are joyous. Let me assure NICO Holdings that the beneficiaries will make good use of this investment.

One of the key outputs of the partnership concerns industrial placement of the good students over the holidays, this would be dependent on the performance of the students. Further, as employment opportunities arise in the industry, some could be engaged on long-term basis.

To the Beneficiaries I would like to encourage you to:

1. Please pursue excellence throughout your life. Aristotle said: "***Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we have virtue or excellence, but we rather have those because we have acted rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit***". Ensure that diligence/hardwork, commitment, patriotism, integrity and professionalism characterize whatever you do. You should be able to support your families and the loved ones back home after successful completion of studies- there are huge expectations in that village, and
2. Consider this investment valuable and special; there remains some of your friends who are needy and wish they benefitted from this investment at this time.

Let me conclude by thanking

1. The Board of Directors of NICO Holdings for the timely investment towards the education of the Malawian Youth. **The University appreciates this investment towards the education of the students in our University. You support Government efforts through the Loans and Grants Board; there are more needy students that the Loans Board cannot cover/reach**;
2. The University Office and Colleges for identifying the needy students who are benefiting from this facility;
3. The recipients for being shortlisted on the basis of excellent and/or promising performance;
4. Colleagues in the University for providing the academic and administrative support and mentorship to the students;
5. My colleagues at the University Office and Colleges for co-organizing, and
6. All for coming, patronizing this event and your attention.

***IT IS THEREFORE A GREAT PLEASURE TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO INSTITUTIONS TODAY, THE 14TH OF DECEMBER, 2018***

**LET ME WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!**

**I THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR ATTENTION, LET YS ALL ENJOY THE FUNCTION. MAY GOD BLESS US ALL**

**MAY GOD BLESS UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, NICO HOLDINGS AND MOTHER, MALAWI**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**