



SPEECH

BY

THE GOVERNOR OF THE RESERVE BANK OF MALAWI

Mr DALITSO KABAMBE, PhD

ON THE

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF TIP-OFFS ANONYMOUS
PROGRAMME**

11 JULY 2017

Statement by the Reserve Bank of Malawi Governor, Dalitso Kabambe, PhD on the Official Launch of the RBM Tip-offs Anonymous Scheme

- The Director, of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Mr Lucas Kondowe;
- The Director, Financial Intelligence Authority, Mrs Atuweni Juwayeyi-Agbermodji;
- The Representative From Deloitte Tip-Offs Anonymous, Mrs Vanda Phekani;
- The Deputy Governor, Corporate Services, Ms Meg Kajiyanike;
- The Deputy Governor, Economics and Regulation, Dr Grant P. Kabango;
- Members of Staff in the Reserve Bank;
- Members of the Press here present;
- Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Cashgate is the worst tragedy this nation has witnessed in modern times. Our nation has been taken backwards many years while our sister countries from within the region and beyond have progressed. We have learnt bitter lessons and bounce back as an economy, we need to move with renewed commitment and zeal to fight corruption in all its forms in all our places.

This is the reason why, among the core principles, His Excellency Prof Arthur Peter Mutharika, the President of the Republic of Malawi, is advocating that we must be a nation

not only of hard working and patriotism but also of high integrity.

When I got appointed on 21st April, this year, when I was asked about priorities, I included one where the Reserve Bank of Malawi plays a central role in ensuring that no public money under any circumstances to be pilfered through theft.

I am delighted therefore today that I am joined by the Director of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, Mr Lucas Kondowe, the Director of the Financial Intelligence Authority, Mrs Atuwani Juwayeyi-Agbermodji and the Deloitte's representative Mrs Vanda Phekani, as we launch the first scheme towards the fight against corruption in the RBM and on public resources.

In a few days' time from today, the RBM will also be launching another scheme, whereby for any payment above a particular threshold, say K5 million, from Government resources, an alert in form of a text message will be sent to the Minister of Finance, the Secretary to the Treasury, the Accountant General and the Budget Director and the respective Minister from which the transaction is being charged, the Principle Secretary in that Ministry, the Head of Finance and all those who need to know about the transaction will be informed by way of their mobile phones so that where the transaction is dubious, immediate corrective measures can be taken.

We live in a changing world. In the past, we were worried with people standing by the roadside at night to steal from us, today thieves have become sophisticated and are in white collar, robbing us in broad day light and often these acts are perpetrated by those we trust and in position. We need to remain vigilant and we need to raise our sophistication even

more, so that they do not beat us. This is why the RBM is leading the way in complementing Government efforts and those of the Anti-Corruption Bureau, the Financial Intelligence Authority and others to ensure that the RBM is free of corruption in all its staff, premises, processes and systems.

We stand here to declare total war on corruption. It is therefore my absolute delight that I can preside over this function.

The Board of the Reserve Bank of Malawi also recently approved our Fraud and Anti-corruption Policy, which defines the stance of the Bank on fraud and corruption. The Policy reinforces existing systems, policies and procedures, rules and regulations of the Bank towards the fight against fraud and corruption. It aims at deterring, preventing, detecting, reacting to and reducing the likelihood of fraud and corruption. The Policy confirms the Bank's commitment to a culture of zero tolerance to fraud and corruption in all its forms within and outside the Bank. Our Motto speaks for itself, **“Not in the Reserve Bank of Malawi”**.

The Tip-Offs Anonymous is one of the measures of curbing corruption within the Bank. With the Tip-Offs Anonymous, you can report malpractices and still remain anonymous which has proven a success with other public institutions. I am sure that this whistle-blower hotline creates a better alternative for members of staff and the general public to report any unethical behaviours.

I am aware that misguided persons may want to misuse the system to the detriment of others. Let me be clear here that

each and every reported item would be thoroughly investigated and scrutinised before arriving at a conclusion.

Ladies and gentlemen, some of you might wonder why the public launch and not just issue an internal communication to members of staff. This programme has to be used by all stakeholders who deal with the Bank including the general public if we are to win the war against fraud and corruption. We would like the general public to report on many issues including;

- a. Production of counterfeit currency;
- b. Illegal externalisation of currency;
- c. Operation of unlicensed financial institutions;
- d. Fraud and mismanagement;
- e. Corrupt practices;
- f. Abuse of office and office facilities;
- g. Procurement related malpractices.

It is therefore, against this background, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen that the Bank decided to subscribe to Tip-Offs Anonymous as a mechanism for early detection and a deterrent against fraud, corruption and any unethical concerns the Bank may encounter.

I am particularly pleased, therefore, to note that the programme has already started producing fruits and it is expected that with this launch, more reports will be received. It is imperative that we should, indeed, be adequately familiar with the reporting procedures like the Toll Free hotline, the

postal address, emails and the website as they have to become part of our daily operations in reporting any malpractices observed.

Ladies and gentlemen, this programme will only work if people use it. I therefore, urge you to take this programme seriously as it is the safe way to report any malpractices and remain anonymous and also get rewarded for the good tip made. Please inform as many as you can so that together we can root out the evil among us. I need to reiterate that we are serious as our motto states “**Not in the Reserve Bank of Malawi**”.

With these few remarks, I now declare the RBM Tip-Offs Anonymous Programme officially launched. Let’s Join Hands in the fight against unethical behaviour.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

RESERVE BANK OF MALAWI

11 July 2017