



**Embassy of Iceland**  
Lilongwe

**Text of the Formal Speech of Her Excellency Mrs. Unnur Orradóttir Ramette, Ambassador Designate of the Republic of Iceland on the Occasion of Presenting Letters of Credence to His Excellency Prof. Arthur Peter Mutharika, President of the Republic of Malawi.**

**9 January 2020**

**Your Excellency,**

**I have the honour to present to your Excellency the Letter of Recall of my predecessor, Her Excellency, Mrs María Erla Marelsdóttir and that by which His Excellency Dr. Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson, President of the Republic of Iceland, has accredited me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Malawi.**

**The President of the Republic of Iceland has asked me on this occasion to convey to Your Excellency his personal greetings and sincere wishes of the Icelandic people for the prosperity and well-being of the people of Malawi.**

**Your Excellency,**

**For over 30 years, Malawi has been at the heart of Iceland's international development cooperation. Ensuring better livelihood and well-being of people who are the most in need, is a common task of humanity. No country is too small to contribute to building resilient, just and peaceful communities, and no woman or man, child or vulnerable group should be left behind.**

**In recent years, Iceland has focussed on providing financial and technical assistance to social infrastructure development in Mangochi District, targeting women and youth for improved health, education, sanitation and access to safe water. Through the Mangochi Basic Services Programme, the District Council has invested in the construction of schools, maternity wings, access to safe water and in human capital development that has led to reduced maternal and infant mortality, increased access to safe water, reduction in water borne diseases, higher enrolment in primary schools and improved capacity at district level to deliver basic services. All activities are selected with the aim to reach the objectives of**

the District's Growth and Development Plan in a sustainable manner and is being implemented by the District Council, following stakeholder consultations. Since 2012, Iceland has supported and strengthened accountability processes of the District Council with 23 million USD to deliver basic social services for the people of Mangochi. This Programme has been complemented with additional funding from Iceland to various international agencies and NGOs working in Malawi to strengthen its outcomes in the District.

The current International Development Policy of Iceland 2019-2023 was adopted by Althingi, the Icelandic Parliament, in May 2019. The policy is based on respect for human rights and anchored in the Sustainable Development Goals. We believe in the universality of human rights, that we are all equal, no matter the race or religion, sexual orientation or gender identity, class or disability. Iceland will continue to emphasise gender equality in all its international collaboration and actively supports Your Excellency's efforts in promoting active engagement of men in reaching that objective in Malawi. To that effect, Iceland is funding a three-year project on advancing adolescent girls' and women's sexual and reproductive health and rights, implemented by the UN Population Fund in Malawi in close collaboration with the Mangochi District Council. Iceland is also committed to continue supporting the realisation of Malawi's first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, based on the UN Security Council Resolution no. 1325, coordinated by UN Women but led by a Task Force based at the Office of the President and Cabinet.

Your Excellency,

The Government of Iceland aims to continue supporting the Government of Malawi in combatting poverty and enhancing sustainable development for the benefit of all Malawians, in line with Iceland's International Development Policy and reiterated by Hon. Mr. Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson, Minister for Foreign Affairs during his official visit to Malawi in January 2019. I also take note of your Government's concerns regarding the adverse impact of climate change and the need for more trade and investment in Malawi.

I am honoured to have been appointed by my Government to the post of Ambassador to the Republic of Malawi. I would like to assure Your Excellency that I shall devote my humble efforts to further promote the friendly relations existing between our countries.

Finally, allow me to express my deep respect to Your Excellency and my most sincere wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Malawi.