

# The Presidential Candidates' Debate

## 1<sup>st</sup> Debate

### **PREAMBLE**

Good Evening, I am Patrick Semphere and welcome to Bingu International Conference Centre where we are tonight. Thanks for joining us as history records an event we've been waiting for—the 2014 Presidential Debate. Our count-down today hits 27 days before we go to the polls. I met a guy a few weeks ago who said to me...“No price is good enough to buy my voter registration card. And I will never tell you where I hide it”...What more evidence do we need that Malawians can't wait to usher in leaders of their choice.

This debate is being followed with keen interest by Malawians...on radio, Television and social media across the country, across the borders and over the continents. As such, we would like to ask the live audience to ensure that no clapping, cheering or jeering occurs while the debate is running. You can only clap when we introduce the candidate and at the end of the debate.

In a moment we will unveil our candidates after that, we will ask you to stand for the national anthem.

**Please get seated (as I proceed to my seat)**

Good Evening distinguished candidates and thanks for taking time off the campaign trail to join us. The rules of the debate are as follows:-

- I will pose all questions to you during the debate.
- Each of you will be asked the same question in turn in the order of you ballot appearance.
- You will have 2 minutes to respond. If need be, I'll raise a follow-up question and you have 30 seconds to respond. Please note that the limited time only allows you to stick to relevant issues. Castigation of fellow candidates or parties is discouraged as it derails the purpose of this debate.
- At the end of each question, we will have a brief moment to discuss any pertinent issue that may have cropped up in your responses.
- Should you feel that a particular candidate misrepresented your party in their presentation, this will also give you an opportunity to set the record right.
- At the conclusion of the debate, each of you will have TWO minutes to make a closing statement.
- The debate will combine Chichewa and English and questions will alternate between the two languages. When responding to questions you will be required to observe and adhere to the language in which a question has been asked.
- There is a digital timer on small screens readily visible to help you adhere to time limits.

- Apart from the note pad and pen which we have provided for you at the podium, you are not permitted to have prepared notes, audio visual aids or props.

## **(INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES)**

We now meet our candidates...and to the live audience in this auditorium...you can only clap at this point and at the end of the debate but not during the debate.

From my extreme right....

- From Malawi Congress Party (MCP), please welcome...Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera
- People's Transformation Party (PETRA) – Mr Kamuzu Walter Chibambo
- Umodzi Party – Professor John Chisi
- New Labour Party (NLP) – Mr Friday Anderson Jumbe
- Chipani Cha Pfuko (CCP) – Mr Aaron Davies Chester Katsonga
- Peoples Progressive Movement (PPM) – Mr Mark Katsonga Phiri
- United Democratic Front (UDF) – Mr Atupele Muluzi
- Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) – Prof. Peter Arthur Mutharika
- National Salvation Front (NASAF) – Mr James Mbowe Nyondo
- Malawi Forum for Unity and Development (MAFUNDE) – Mr George
- Nnesa

- United Independence Party (UIP) – Abusa Helen Singh

<b>QUESTION No. 1</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
Malawi turns FIFTY this year, with little to show for a 50-year old. What gives you, as a person, the confidence that you have what it takes to turn Malawi around once elected into power?	<b>Dr Lazarus Chakwera  (MCP)</b>

<b>QUESTION No.2</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
<p data-bbox="186 352 836 394">Funso lachiwiri tiyamba ndi a .....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="186 457 1144 934">• Dziko la Malawi lakhala likukumana ndi bvuto la njala yosasimbika ngakhale kuti ndondomeko zosiyanasiyana zopititsira mtsogolo ulimi zakhala zikukhazikitsidwa. Mukadzatenga boma, ndi njira ziti zomwe mudzakhazikitse ncholinga chofuna kuti chakudya chizipezeka m'maanja komanso mdziko lonse lino?</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="284 1003 308 1035">○</p>	<p data-bbox="1230 352 1518 567">Mr Kamuzu Chibambo,  PETRA</p>

<b>QUESTION No. 3</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
<p><b>Our Third Question is on education and it goes to .....</b></p> <p>Access to quality education at all levels remains a huge challenge in our country. Can you share with us your strategy to improve the education sector at all levels?</p> <p>○</p>	
<p><b>NOTES</b></p> <p>Access to quality education at all levels remains a huge challenge. While enrolment rate is at 91%, completion rate at primary school stands at 35%, shortage of 30000 classrooms, teacher pupil ratio is 1:88. In addition disabled children are usually left out of the education system due to poor infrastructure and lack of qualified teachers to cater to their needs. In addition, access to tertiary education is a problem as we have few public universities as compared to the number of students who are eligible to study at these universities.</p>	

<b>QUESTION No.4</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
<p>A Malawi, tidakhazikitsa malamulo ndi ndondomeko zoyendetsera dziko lathu ndipo <u>manthu</u> wa malamulo amenewa ndi ija timati constitution. Koma vuto lathu lina a Malawi nkuti nthawi zina constitution imeneyi tikumangoidoda ngati mpira, kumangoiphwanya mmene tingafuniremo. Mutitsimikizira bwanji kuti mukatenga boma, mudzalemekeza constitution yathu?</p>	<p><b>NLP</b></p> <p><b>Friday</b></p> <p><b>Jumbe</b></p>

<b>QUESTION No.5</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
<p>Our health sector is gasping for life. Essential health services are collapsing. What specific policies and strategies will your administration adopt to improve delivery of health services?</p>	<p>CCP  Mr Aaron Katsonga</p>



<b>QUESTION No.6</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
<p>Pa Chichewa pali mwambi wakuti “Ukafuna kutchuka, idya galu”. A Malawi tatchuka ndi mchitidwe woyipa wa katangale ndi ziphuphu. Cashgate ndi yomwe iri mkamwamkamwayi. Ndi mfundo zanzi zomwe chipani chanu chakhazikitsa zothana ndi mchitidwe wa katangale ndi ziphuphu?</p>	<p>UDF  Mr Atupele Muluzi</p>

## **MY CLOSING STATEMENTS**

That was...making his/her closing statement, marking the end of round one of the 2014 presidential debates. Many thanks to all the candidates for coming and sharing with Malawians your policies regarding your presidential aspirations.

The last round of our presidential debates will take place at this same venue next Tuesday.

Our candidates will now come forward and display an act of solidarity and then our national anthem to conclude our debate. I am Patrick Semphere and it was such a delight to be your host in this debate.

**Candidates hold hands**

**National anthem**

**MC takes over while PS and candidates exit.**