



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

PRESS STATEMENT

MISREPRESENTATION OF FACTS ON LAKE MALAWI

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation appeared before the Parliamentary Public Accounts Committee on 31st August, 2017, to respond to financial management issues relating to the financial year 2012/2013. Parliament wanted to know what the Ministry is doing to ensure that no documents get lost again as it happened with the 2012/2013 financial documents. In response, the Ministry informed Parliament that it is improving its archiving system as a matter of necessity because the Ministry keeps important documents. The Ministry cited documents on Lake Malawi only as one example of the important documents it keeps.

Curiously however, *The Daily Times* understood this explanation to mean that documents on Lake Malawi dispute have been lost and they proceeded to make that a front page story on 1st September 2017. Therefore, their article on lost documents on Lake Malawi was imagined outside the substance of the meeting between the Public Accounts Committee and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The Ministry wishes to inform the public that the Government of Malawi has in safe custody all relevant documentation and records

pertaining to all its boundaries, including the Lake Malawi Boundary Treaties as submitted to the Mediation Team.

Therefore the Ministry wishes to assure the public that any fears created by the fictional article on the custody of Lake Malawi documents should not arise. We acknowledge that Times Group has since withdrawn its story.