

Atupele demands clarity on reforms

Written by BY MACDONALD THOM
Thursday, 14 February 2013 09:03

President of the United Democratic Front (UDF) Atupele Muluzi has said there is need for clear indications on efforts the government is making to recover the country's economy.



The Machinga North East legislator made the call on Tuesday in his response to State of the Nation Address President Joyce Banda delivered in Parliament on Friday.

"Mr. Speaker sir, it will be important to see clear indications on the following: A clear articulation of key short, medium and long term priorities within the 2012/13 annual budget on measures and priorities to both stabilise and recover our economy. This must include better use of revenues," Muluzi said.

He also added that there should be clearer linkages between prioritised short term stabilisation

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action with medium and long term investment actions.

"[There should be] an articulation of 'partnership spaces' that the government will grant non-state actors. Her Excellency highlighted that unity of purpose will be the delivery ethos of these reforms. As the House is aware, partnerships are not just a good thing in themselves. They make good economic sense. Partnership will allow government to maximise the use of its limited resources, learn from others and draw synergies wherever possible," Muluzi said.

He added that although there have been some notable and positive outcomes from the reforms, there is need for the government to look into many factors, including transparency and accountability.

He urged his fellow politicians to put political ambitions aside and think of long term solutions to the country's problems.

"We have no option but respond to domestic political imperatives which beg us to really listen to what Malawians want and need. We as politicians have no choice but to shift our focus from short term imperatives which are largely driven by the need to secure another term in office to a long term approach which is about leaving behind a legacy of having delivered public goods which are at the heart of the transformation of this.