

Foreword

done". The work that Deputy President refers to does not only involve women, other than ourselves. One of the women featured in the CEO, Dr Carita McCallum also says: "Women empowerment is a two-edged sword: There have been admittedly many gains but a burning question remains: are these professionals truly empowered as women?"

Dr McCallum also says that "these professional women construct their sense of empowerment according to a binary dualism, namely, of difference and sameness." She explains that "successful" women tend to suppress their inner diversity as a feminine quality in favour of being more like men. Unfortunately the concept of equality as a human right is completely distorted and misunderstood. Societies are made to believe that unless women are like men, there will never be equality. Providing women same opportunities as men, should not turn the womenfolk into men. However, because societies value the masculine qualities over the emotional feminine qualities, women always mimic men at the expense of denying the feminine selves.

I wish to conclude by congratulating all the women of Malawi for their resilience and further encourage them to remember that empowerment of women will succeed if those who have made it can mentor others true to the words of Kwame Nkrumah when he said: "Educate a man you educate an individual;" "Educate a woman you educate a nation."



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