



## **Press Release**

### **Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti & Gujarat Day**

The High Commission of India, Lilongwe hosted a function on 01st October 2017 to celebrate Gandhi Jayanti and the celebration was presided over by Hon'ble Bright Msaka, SC, Minister of Education, Science & Technology, Government of Malawi as Guest of Honour.

2. Mahatma Gandhi was the main architect of India's independence movement against British Rule through non-violent means that left an indelible mark on the entire humanity. Whether in India or Africa, Mahatma Gandhi stood up against the policy of apartheid and for the rights of Blacks and Indians alike.
3. The occasion was also celebrated as Gujarat Day recognizing the contributions of the prominent sons of Gujarat i.e. Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and the Gujarati community in general to India and the country of their residence (Malawi).
4. The event was also dedicated to celebrating the birth centenary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya who was born on September 25, 1916. He was a leader of India who is recognized as a philosopher, selfless social worker, who maintained the highest standards of personal integrity, known for his organisational skills and he has been the source of ideological guidance and moral inspiration for the BJP. He wrote a treatise on Integral Humanism, which is a critique of both communism and capitalism and was widely acclaimed.
5. During the event, the winners of Painting Competition organized by the High Commission on 24 September 2017 were handed over prizes by the Guest of Honour. The prize winners also included children from Njewa Primary School and Chilamnula School. All Malawi school children were presented hampers for their participation in the Painting Competition.
6. The ladies from the High Commission as well other Indian community organizations sang the favourite prayers of Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion. An African dance performance called "Freedom" was also presented by International Youth Forum consisting of Malawi and Korean children coinciding with the theme of Mahatma Gandhi.
7. The event was attended by more than 200 people of Indian and Malawian communities. Besides, Heads of Missions from the diplomatic Missions, representatives from the Government of Malawi, prominent Indians and members of Gujarati community participated in the event. The event generated lot of enthusiasm and positive response from everyone. The media also carried a positive story in the newspapers and MBC TV on the event.

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Lilongwe

Dated: 01st October 2017