



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI
PRESS STATEMENT

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE AS OF 14TH JULY 2020

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered **67 new COVID-19 cases, 48 new recoveries, and one new death**. The new death is a 48-year-old man from Mchinji. Let me convey my deepest condolences to the bereaved family. May his soul rest in peace.

Of the new cases, 52 are contacts of confirmed cases and 15 are imported. Of the locally transmitted infections, four are healthcare workers (two from Mzimba South and one each from Mulanje and Nkhotakota), 16 from Blantyre, six from Lilongwe, four each from Kasungu and Mzuzu, three each from Mchinji and Mzimba South, two each from Dowa, Mwanza, and Neno, and one each from Chitipa, Mangochi, Mulanje, Ntcheu, Thyolo, and Zomba. Of the imported cases, Mangochi, Ntcheu and Zomba have registered three cases each, two each from Thyolo and Balaka and one each from Lilongwe and Machinga

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 2497 cases including 40 deaths. Of these cases, 826 are imported infections and 1671 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 795 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1662. The average age of the cases is 35 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 87 years and 66% are male. The country has so far conducted 21532 COVID-19 tests in 39 COVID-19 testing sites.

Further to the Presidential Task Force Chairperson's Press Statement of 10th July, 2020.

I have been made aware of the challenge in the High Court of Malawi against the national lockdown and the Public Health (Corona Virus Containment, Prevention and Management) Rules, 2020 (the "Corona Virus Rules"). The challenge is recorded as *The State (on the application of Esther Cecilia Kathumba and Others) versus The President of Malawi, the Minister of Health, the Inspector General of Police, the Commander of Malawi Defence Force and the Attorney General* (Judicial Review Number 22 of 2020) (the "*Kathumba Case*"). On 17th and 28th April, 2020, the High Court of Malawi granted orders of injunction against a national lockdown and the implementation of the Corona Virus Rules.

I hereby withdraw the enforcement of the measures that I had communicated on behalf of the Government in the Press Statement of 10th July, 2020 since the injunction in the *Kathumba Case* is still in force. The rest of the statement and the worry that I expressed still holds and this is even more now when our number of cases is nearly 2500.

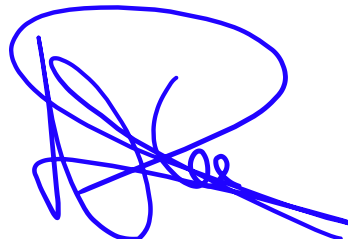
Meanwhile in the legal space, urgent consultations have been commenced with key stakeholders in Government to ensure that a proper legal framework is in place which shall enable the enforcement of public health measures to combat Covid-19.

Lastly, based on recent statistics data above, I wish to remind the public that Covid-19 cases in Malawi are rising even when our testing has reduced meaning that we could have had even more cases if our testing was normal and number dying from the disease is also increasing very fast. I therefore would like everyone to use your common sense to protect yourselves and your loved one. Some of the measure you could do to stay safe include:

- staying at home and avoiding all crowded places like bars and pubs
- advocating that meeting are not done in person but using other means like e-meetings
- wearing mask when you go out to places where you are in groups like in religious gatherings
- deferring cerebration that bring people together like wedding ceremonies
- avoiding markets places when people travel in from many distant places like mobile markets
- practicing hand hygiene by washing hands wish soap frequently and hand sanitisation in places where we stay for long time like workplaces and
- observing social distancing.

Let us work together to effectively fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

Stay safe and help prevent the spread of Covid-19.



Dr. John Phuka

Co-Chairperson – Presidential Taskforce on COVID-19