



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI
PRESS STATEMENT**

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE AS OF 10TH JULY 2020

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has **registered 83 new COVID-19 cases, six new recoveries, and two new deaths**. One of the deaths is from Blantyre and the other is from Nkhata Bay (died on 7 July 2020). May I extend my heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families. May their souls rest in peace.

Of the new cases, 78 are contacts of confirmed cases and five are imported infections. Of the locally transmitted infections, seven are healthcare workers (five from Mzuzu, and one each from Mzimba and Lilongwe), 15 were reported from Mzuzu, 14 from Lilongwe, 14 from Blantyre, seven from Mzimba, five from Balaka, four from Mangochi, three from Kasungu, two each from Karonga, Mulanje, and Zomba, and one each from Mwanza and Nkhatakota. Of the imported cases, two are from Machinga, and one each from Balaka, Blantyre, and Lilongwe.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 2069 cases including 31 deaths. Of these cases, 722 are imported infections and 1347 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 379 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1659. The average age of the cases is 34 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 82 years and 67% are male. So far, the country has conducted 192976 COVID-19 tests in 39 COVID-19 test centres.

Today is another worrisome day in our fight against COVID-19. The total number of cases has passed 2000 and sadly, the number we have lost to untimely death has passed 30. Therefore, on behalf of the Government, I am announcing strategies that will enhance our fight against this pandemic.

Government notes that due to the escalation of infections and deaths due to Covid-19, there is need to implement stricter measures to contain the spread of corona virus in cities, towns, districts, municipalities and communities throughout Malawi.

Government adopted and published measures contained in the Public Health (Corona Virus Containment, Prevention and Management) Rules, 2020 in order to ensure that Local Councils are empowered to enforce the measures under the Rules.

Government, therefore, through the Ministries responsible for Health and Local Government wish to advise that the following measures shall be implemented by Councils with immediate effect:

1. Markets and Shops:

- (a) Suspension or regulation of mobile markets.
- (b) Banning street vending in all trading centers to avoid overcrowding of places.
- (c) Conduct massive clean-up campaign every week and fumigate the markets weekly.

2. Entertainment, Public Events and Works:

- (a) Suspension of drinking and entertainment places. All bottle stores, pubs, bars and clubs shall be open from 14:00hrs to 19:00hrs for the purpose of buying only and drinking should be at home. The suspension, includes in all hospitality facilities.
- (b) Weddings, engagement ceremonies, bridal showers, send offs and all gatherings of public and social nature are suspended.
- (c) Suspension of all live games and band shows within the Councils.
- (d) All cultural events and activities including traditional dances are suspended.

3. Religious gatherings

All mass religious gatherings should be suspended except where they adhere to the following measures:

- (a) Usage of masks for everyone attending prayers services.
- (b) Suspension of prayers and other religious activities in confined spaces.
- (c) Increase number of services at church and meet on an open ground.
- (d) Sanitization of rooms, surfaces and equipment.

4. Funerals:

All funeral ceremonies shall be conducted in observation of COVID-19 sanitary and health measures.

5. Transport Services

- (a) Reduction of sitting capacity in public service vehicles as advised by the Department of Road Traffic and Safety Services.

(b) Open ventilation in all public service vehicles.

(c) Observance of hygiene and sanitary measures.

6. Meetings and Workshops

(a) All persons entering workplace premises are screened at the points of entry.

(b) All meetings and workshops are suspended except for COVID-19 related measures.

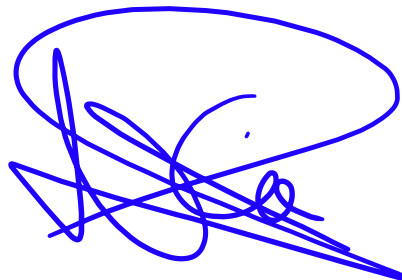
(c) All other meetings shall seek approval from the District Commissioner or Chief Executive Officers.

All measures for the prevention, containment and management of the COVID-19 pandemic shall be enforced by Local Councils and relevant law enforcement agencies.

Government wishes to emphasize that all persons are encouraged to stay at home, observe good sanitary and hygiene practices and ensure that there is social distancing at all times. Government wishes to encourage the general citizenry to use face mask at all times.

Government counts on the co-operation of everyone in order to effectively fight this pandemic.

Stay safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned above the name Dr John Phuka.

Dr John Phuka

Co-Chairperson – Presidential Taskforce