



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI
PRESS STATEMENT**

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE AS OF 1ST JULY 2020

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered **77 new COVID-19 cases, 11 new recoveries, and no new deaths**. Of the new cases, 58 are contacts of confirmed cases, 18 are under investigation and one is imported. Of the locally transmitted infections, 37 are from Lilongwe, eight from Zomba, eight from Blantyre (one healthcare worker), three from Rumphu and one each from Mangochi and Neno (both are health care workers). Sixteen of the cases under investigation are from Blantyre and one each from Lilongwe and Machinga. The imported case is from Blantyre and was identified through routine screening at Mwanza border.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 1342 cases including 16 deaths. Of these cases, 640 are imported infections and 639 are locally transmitted while 63 are still under investigation. Cumulatively, 271 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1055. The average age of the cases is 33.9 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 78 years and 69% are male. The country has so far conducted 14,683 COVID-19 tests in 39 COVID-19 testing sites.

We have seen an increase of clusters of COVID-19 identified by contact tracing within workplaces in our country. This shows that there is high local transmission within those institutions. The risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace depends how often people get within 1 metre of each other, in having frequent physical contact with people who may be infected with COVID-19, and through contact with contaminated surfaces and objects. Therefore, I would like to remind all employers and employees to strictly observe all preventive measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission at workplaces. Some of the measures include:

- frequent hand-washing with soap or disinfection with alcohol based hand sanitizer
- respiratory hygiene such as covering mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing
- physical distancing of at least 1 metre
- wearing of masks
- regular environmental cleaning and disinfection
- limiting travel
- clear policies and messages on COVID-19
- training/education for staff and managers to increase awareness of COVID-19
- requesting workers who are unwell or who develop symptoms to stay at home
- those confirmed positive to self-isolate

**Dr. John Phuka
Co-Chairperson – Presidential Taskforce**