

MALAWI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



A CALL TO THE PROTECTION OF THE SAFETY OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (HRDs) IN MALAWI

The Malawi Human Rights Commission (the Commission) has learnt with deep concern the death threats targeted at Mr. Gift Trapence, one of the Human Rights Defender (HRD) in Malawi. It must be noted that any threat to life or safety of any HRD is an attack on civil liberties and democracy the people of Malawi fought for in early 1990s. These threats must also be seen as an attack on the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi in which the Bill of Rights sits. Consequently, the Commission wishes to condemn these threats in the strongest terms possible.

In view of the foregoing, the Commission calls upon the Police to act swiftly by investigating the matter and bring to book the source of these threats. The Commission also urges the Police to protect the safety of all HRDs in line with their Police mandate sitting in section 153 of the Constitution of the Republic. Further, the Commission appeals to members of the general public to religiously report to the Police or this Commission and/or whistle blow any source of threat to any of the HRDs in Malawi. Let us safeguard our hard-won democracy.

Meanwhile, the Commission calls upon the state to prioritise provisioning of protection to HRDs, noting that their work is in the interest of the nation. It must also be noted that there is a perfect positive correlation between human rights observance and meaningful sustainable development.



David V.K. Nungu
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

4th July, 2019