

## **Malawi Human Rights Commission**



### **CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE ELECTION OF THE FIRST FEMALE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT, RIGHT HONOURABLE CATHERINE GOTANI HARA, FEMALE SECOND DEPUTY SPEAKER, HONOURABLE AISHA ADAMS AND ALL FEMALE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FOLLOWING THE 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 2019 ELECTIONS**

The Malawi Human Rights Commission (the Commission), an institution mandated to enforce the provisions of the Gender Equality Act , wishes to congratulate Rt. Honourable Catherine Gotani Hara on her election as the first female Speaker of Parliament in Malawi. The Commission also wishes to congratulate another woman, Honourable Aisha Adams on her election as Second Deputy Speaker of Parliament. Finally, the Commission congratulates all the 44 women elected as Members of Parliament (MPs).

Meanwhile, the Commission commends all the women who contested the various positions but did not make it this time for the good fight. The Commission wishes to advise all those that made it and those that did not to work together in sodality in the promotion of gender equality. Further, the Commission is particularly calling upon all men and women in and outside Parliament to support the two female speakers and all other female MPs in their various roles.

The Commission further applauds the leaderships of the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), Malawi Congress Party (MCP) and United Democratic Front (UDF) for identifying and supporting female candidates for the positions of Speaker and Deputy Speakers and all

political parties that fielded women in the parliamentary and local government elections. This has demonstrated their commitment to the promotion of gender.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David V.K. Nungu', with a horizontal line underneath.

David V.K Nungu

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

**20<sup>th</sup> June, 2019**