

MALAWI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



STATEMENT ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE CABINET

The Human Rights Commission welcomes the appointment of the new Cabinet announced on 26th and 27th January, 2022 as a necessary and important step in governance and development. Of great significance, is the appointment of 12 women and 18 men into Cabinet, being 40% women and 60% men. For this, the Commission congratulates His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Malawi, Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, for complying with section 11 of the Gender Equality Act, 2013 by meeting the gender quota of not less than 40% and not more than 60% of either sex in such appointments.

The Commission also takes this opportunity to congratulate the members of the Cabinet. We look forward to working with Cabinet Ministers, Deputy Ministers and their staff as they address pertinent issues, including human rights related matters, aligned to each of their Ministries.

Also noteworthy is the fact that out of the 12 women, 6 are holding the position of Minister. We commend His Excellency, the President on this progressive move towards gender equality, since such positions can be used to ensure equal integration, influence, empowerment, dignity and equal opportunity for both men and women in all functions of society. However, it is the Commission's hope that women shall not always hold the lower spectrum of the percentage of the gender quota. Malawi has a plethora of women who have the capacity, to carry out the responsibilities required as Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

Sadly, we note the non-inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities in the Cabinet, despite Government's commitment to inclusion in the National Youth Policy and the National Policy on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. It is therefore the Commission's hope that Government will ensure that as a country we give prominence to substantive equality as espoused by our domestic, international and regional legal frameworks of which Malawi is a party to, including Sustainable Development Goal number 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

Ms. Scader Louis
CHAIRPERSON
28th January, 2022