

MALAWI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



STATEMENT ON THE SIGNING OF THE PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS ON RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

The Malawi Human Rights Commission (the Commission) would like to congratulate His Excellency the President of the Republic of Malawi Dr. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera for signing the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa (Disability Protocol) on 6th February 2022 in Ethiopia.

This is an important milestone to the people of Malawi in general, and specifically to the disability fraternity. The step made by His Excellency the President is clear testimony of government's commitment to ensuring equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

Notwithstanding, the Commission would like to urge government to take further steps towards speedy ratification of the Disability Protocol. The ratification process binds government to domesticate the Disability protocol and its reporting obligations. Therefore, signing of the Disability Protocol is not the end in itself, but the beginning thereof.

In the same vein, the Commission would like to request government to expedite the enactment of the reviewed Disability Act which has been sitting in the Ministry of Justice since 2020.

Once again, the Commission congratulates His excellency the President and looks forward to a Malawi that is inclusive and leaves no one behind.

Ms. Scader Louis
CHAIRPERSON
7th February, 2022