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**MALAWI POLICE SERVICE  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE**

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**PRESS STATEMENT**

**POLICE CONDEMNS RISING SEXUAL VIOLENCE CASES**

The Malawi Police Service is concerned with increasing cases of Sexual Violence with rape and defilement topping the list.

A recent report from Dowa indicates that 27-year-old Wilson Mphemvu from Miliya village T/A Chakhaza allegedly defiled a 3-year old step daughter; and the audio making rounds on social media of a father from Chigumula, Blantyre, wanting to force himself on his own daughter, among other reports, are appalling to say the least.

However, police officers have been vigilant all along, and that the Dowa suspected defiler has been arrested. He will be prosecuted accordingly. Furthermore, the Chigumula suspect who is presently at large, will be traced for justice to take its course. On this note, police is appealing to all those with knowledge of the whereabouts of the suspect to give a tip off.

The police further calls upon victims of GBV and all Malawians to be reporting cases of sexual offences to police so that the suspects may face trial.

Police investigations have also revealed that, among other factors, young girls are victims of defilement mainly due to superstitious beliefs, such as that one may get rich or get cured of a chronic disease if they sleep with a girl child.

The police would like to advise men that working hard is the only means to get rich. Further to that, people are being encouraged to get medical attention for all chronic diseases other than wasting time believing in superstition, and destroying these innocent souls.

Warning also goes to traditional doctors who force their clients to defile the girl child for the traditional medicine to work, to watch out as the long arm of the law will not spare them.

The Service wishes to encourage Government departments, NGOs, various stakeholders and all Malawians to employ activities of active citizen engagement and social accountability on GBV prevention and enforcement in these 16 Days of Activism and beyond, to protect the girl child from sexual violence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kadadzera', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Senior Superintendent James Kadadzera**

**Public Relations Officer**