



Press Release

UPDATE ON INVESTIGATIONS AT KALIBU ACADEMY ON ALLEGED CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AT THE INSTITUTION.

On 14th September 2021, the Malawi Human Rights Commission (Commission) was served with an order granted to Kalibu Academy which was two-fold; granting leave to the Academy to apply for judicial review and for an injunction as an interim relief. The injunction order restrains the Commission from continuing with its investigation and subsequent release of a report on the allegations of child sexual abuse and corporal punishment at the school.

Section 129 of the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi mandates the Commission to investigate violations of human rights, while section 12 of the Human Rights Commission Act, empowers the Commission to investigate violations of human rights on its own motion or upon complaints received from any person, class of persons or body.

The Commission has reviewed the Court order and intends to challenge both the injunction order as well as the order granting leave to Kalibu Academy to apply for judicial review. While Kalibu Academy enjoys the right to seek temporary relief from the courts, the Commission is equally entitled to defend its mandate of promoting and protecting human rights in Malawi in the broadest sense possible. The Commission will update the public on any developments on this matter.

The Commission is however, committed to ensuring that all human rights violations are investigated and reported in a transparent manner. The Commission shall endeavor to promote and protect the rights of all Malawians, particularly, children and other vulnerable persons. More importantly, the Commission shall consider the best interest of the child in all its interventions.

Scader Louis

Chairperson
21st September 2021