



GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI PRESS STATEMENT

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE AS OF 2ND JULY 2020

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered **60 new COVID-19 cases, 46 new recoveries, and no new deaths.** Of the new cases, 57 are locally transmitted infections that are contacts of confirmed cases and three are under investigation. Of the locally transmitted infections, 23 are from Mzuzu (four are healthcare workers), 12 from Chitipa (two are healthcare workers), 11 from Lilongwe, four from Mchinji (three are healthcare workers), three from Blantyre and one each from Mulanje, Mzimba South (a healthcare worker), Rumphi and Zomba. Three cases under investigation are from Blantyre, Mangochi, and Mzuzu.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 1402 cases including 16 deaths. Of these cases, 640 are imported infections and 696 are locally transmitted while 67 are still under investigation. Cumulatively, 317 cases have now recovered bringing the total number of active cases to 1069. The average age of the cases is 33.9 years, the youngest case is aged 1 month, the oldest is 78 years and 68% are male. The country has so far conducted 15,176 COVID-19 tests in 39 COVID-19 testing sites.

Let me highlight three major observations from our data.

1. As we mark three months since the start of the pandemic, coincidentally today the 2nd July is the day when for the first time, the number of new cases arising from local transition has surpassed that the number of new cases that came from other countries. Local cases 696 versus 640 cases from other countries.
2. In the past 14 days (from 18th June to date), the number of new cases identified is 802 which is more than the total number of cases that occurred in the first 77 days from 2nd April to 18th June when 600 cases occurred. This means the number of total cases has more than doubled in the past two weeks.
3. Although most of the cases have occurred in major cities most districts have experienced a case of coronavirus.

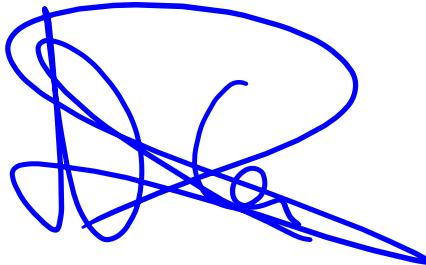
Taken together, it means the number of cases is rising extremely fast and we have community transmission. In this state, it is important to regard everyone you meet as a potential carrier of the disease. This is important as out of 10 people infected with coronavirus 8 will not feel sick at all.

Therefore, this calls for enhanced preventive and containment measures. Although there are calls for schools re-open by various stakeholders in the country, I would like to remind everyone that a review will be done next week when we will determine

whether schools can open or not. With number of cases rising at this rate it is particularly important that we strengthen the measures that

1. promote social distancing to keep ourselves safe,
2. promote frequent hand washing to keep our hands clean all the time,
3. reduce spreading of the virus by wearing face masks and coughing appropriately.

Stay safe and help prevent the spread of COVID-19!



**Dr. John Phuka
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