



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI  
PRESS STATEMENT**

**COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE AS OF 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2021**

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered 503 new COVID-19 cases, 39 new recoveries, and 10 new deaths. Of the new cases, 502 are locally transmitted infections: 502 of the new cases are locally transmitted infections: 260 from Blantyre, 48 from Lilongwe, 24 from Mzimba South, 20 from Mulanje, 18 each from Neno and Zomba, 14 each from Dowa and Karonga, 12 each from Mchinji and Nkhhotakota, nine each from Dedza and Mangochi, seven each from Kasungu and Machinga six from Chitipa, five each from Balaka and Rumphi, four from Nsanje, three from Mwanza, two each from Chikwawa and Ntcheu, and one each from Chiradzulu, Phalombe and Salima districts while one case is an imported infection and is from Zomba district. Three of the new deaths are from Blantyre, two each from Lilongwe and Rumphi, and one each from Mangochi, Mulanje, and Zomba districts. Our hearts go out to families that have lost loved ones due to COVID-19. May you find peace, hope and love during this difficult times. May the departed souls rest in peace.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 10,494 cases including 285 deaths (Case Fatality Rate is at 2.72%). Of these cases, 1,845 are imported infections and 8,649 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 5,903 cases have now recovered, 134 were lost to follow-up, and 76 are still being investigated to ascertain their outcome. This brings the total number of active cases to 4,096. **Of the active cases 135 are admitted:** 62 in Blantyre at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, 39 in Lilongwe, seven in Mzimba North, six in Karonga, four in Zomba, three each in Nkhhotakota and Dedza, two each in Dowa, Mchinji, Rumphi and Balaka, and one each Thyolo, Chitipa, and Kasungu. The average age of the cases is 35 years, the youngest case being aged two weeks, the oldest being 98 years old and 67.3% are male. On testing, in the past 24 hours, 1,654 COVID-19 tests were conducted, 686 of the new tests were through SARS-COV-2 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic test while the rest were through RT-PCR bring a positivity rate of 30.4% and cumulatively, 102,473 tests, have been conducted in the country so far.

Our data today shows that we have surpassed 10,000 mark for the total confirmed cases and 4,000 mark for the active cases. Let me remind the public that COVID-19 is caused by a corona virus named SARS-CoV-2 which spread through primarily transmitted between people via respiratory droplets and contact routes. Let me point it out clearly that as we are in the second wave of the pandemic, we are dealing with same virus, SARS-CoV-2 and there is no new virus though there are reports of mutated COVID-19 virus affecting many countries including some African countries such as South Africa and Zambia. The mutated corona virus is said to be spreading faster than the

primary variant. There are different strains of the SARS-CoV-2 virus being reported across the globe but as we are fighting this virus, let request the media houses that it is important that we should be able to communicate the critical risk to the public how they can keep themselves and others safe and let us refrain from giving out messages that may confuse the public and thereby affect the COVID-19 fight. I would like also to urge the public to desist from sharing fake news and misinformation as this is creating unnecessary tension and anxiety among the public

We have observed an increase in the positivity rate from the samples being analysed and with the current community transmission, we may have a lot of people in our communities that are infected but they don't know. This is why it is important that all people who are infected are identified by testing, be isolated, and depending on the severity of their disease, receive medical care. Even people confirmed to have COVID-19 but who do not have symptoms should be isolated to limit their contact with others. This calls for enhanced preventive and containment measures that:

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

**Watch your distance! Wash your hands! Wear your mask! Seek for care early upon development of symptoms of COVID-19.**



**Dr John Phuka**

**Co-Chairperson – Presidential Taskforce**