



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **A Vote of Thanks to Malawians for Successful April 27 Peaceful Demonstrations**

#### **Condemning the Ruling DPP and Police for Continued Retrogression**

We, the Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC), would like to convey our sincere word of gratitude to all patriotic and peace loving Malawians who took to the streets beyond number in all the 6 districts on April 27 in exercising their constitutional right for a better Malawi. This remains the biggest and historical demonstration in the history of Malawi. We thank the demonstrators for participating peacefully against the wishes of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) and its hired mercenaries who were out spreading violence and hate messages in order to obstruct Malawians from enjoying their constitutional rights and demand accountability from the failed DPP leadership. We sincerely thank Malawians for remaining true to the struggle, for the noble cause is evident in the people themselves. It is sad that DPP and its mercenaries are still continuing with their cheap and failed propaganda instead of concentrating on addressing the peoples' "10 point demand petition". As a people, we will hold them accountable as indicated in the 27th April petition. We are a new generation moving forward for a better Malawi. In a very special way we would like to thank the youth - young people of the the great republic of Malawi who came in their large numbers and said "enough - Malawi must move forward" Congratulations Malawians!

As HRDC, we strongly condemn the behaviour of the DPP party and its agents who shamelessly and unlawfully paraded in Blantyre on 26th of April, 2018 against the April 27 patriotic Malawians peaceful demonstrations and preaching violence. This is the reason why some people have argued that DPP is a party of terror. It is sad and shocking that even a cabinet minister Mr. Dausi and other senior party official of DPP were part of this violent aiding and abating operation. To our puzzle, the DPP did all that freely under the escort of the police marching in the very same route that the police and Blantyre city assembly denied the organisers of April 27th peaceful demonstrations to use. This hypocrisy is condemned in strongest words possible and we will hold them accountable. Our memories are still fresh when the cadets of the same party violently and unlawfully paraded in the streets of Blantyre with "panga knives" in 2011 on July 19 just a day to July 20 demonstrations against bad governance, corruption and nepotism, among others. This again happened in the eyes of the police and up-to date the perpetrators have not been held accountable. What a selective justice system?

We would like to let the DPP and the police know that they have no mandate to stop people from exercising their sundry constitutional rights and freedoms (i.e. freedoms of expression, assembly, association and the right to demonstrate). HRDC will hold the DPP, Malawi Police and Blantyre City Assembly accountable on this using local and international mechanisms.

We would like to remind the DPP that Malawi is a democratic nation and that Malawians are ripe for change. We can assure the DPP leadership and its agents of terror that Malawians are tired with their politics of terror, propaganda and manipulation. It is time for change and if they insist holding to their undemocratic and barbaric politics change will change them because it is only change which is constant. We want to assure Malawians that as HRDC and patriotic Civil Society ,we are there for the best interest of Malawi and will never sacrifice this noble struggle for a better Malawi at the alter of the devil. We will never let you down because we believe that Malawians deserve better and that the people of our beloved country have suffered enough. We believe that when our forefathers fought for self-rule or independence they did not bargain for this and they did not die in vain. Therefore, we will remain committed to the movement of change and that we are going to shame the devil. We will keep on holding all such leaders accountable without fear or favour. Let them continue buying unpatriotic few but they will not stop this movement of change. We would like to assure Malawians that we will stick to our 10 Point Demand and after 90 days if they will not be addressed Malawians will speak.

Finally we would like to wish our comrades in the media who are doing a great job for our beloved country a happy press freedom day, indeed **“keeping power in check: media, justice and the rule of law”** is the way to go.

**Signed by:**

**Timothy Mtambo**  
**Chairperson HRDC**

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