



TO: The President of the Republic of Malawi, His Excellency Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, Head of State and Government.

CC: The Vice President of the Republic of Malawi
The Speaker of the National Assembly
The Chief Justice
The Leader of the House
The Leader of Opposition in Parliament
All Political Parties in Malawi
The Council for Non-Government Organization
The Attorney General
The Chief Secretary to the Government
The Malawi Human Rights Commission
All Development Partners
All Faith Based Organizations
All Media Houses

DATE: 9th January, 2019

Your Excellency Sir,

RE: FINAL FOLLOW UP LETTER ON THE CIVIL SOCIETY AND CITIZENS' PETITIONS.

On behalf of all patriotic citizens and Malawians of good will, we once again write to follow up on our petition presented and delivered to the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) on 21st September, 2018 by Malawians through Civil society organizations (CSOs) under the banner of the Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC). We make this follow up due to lack of response to both our 21st September, 2018 Citizens' Petition and a follow up letter on the same that we sent to your office on 14th October 2018.

We are surprised and dismayed by your lack of response to our correspondence with your office. We wonder why it has taken almost three months-and still counting for your office to respond and address issues contained the citizens' petitions.

We reiterate that the demands as contained in the citizens' petitions remain as pertinent and, therefore, demand your immediate intervention and leadership. Actually most of the concerns and issues raised in the petitions have since deteriorated into full blown-out crisis such as organized corruption, fraud and theft and human rights abuses as demonstrated by the continued killing of people with albinism.

Your Excellency Sir, we still demand tangible answers to the numerous issues that were raised in the citizens' petitions. Below are some of the concerns;

1. Bringing to book all those involved in 4.2million litres theft of fuel at Escom and address the blackout challenges,
2. Expedite the prosecution of suspects in the Police Ration Food Scam, bring to book Issa Njaunju and Robert Chasowa murderers,
3. End nepotism in government and all parastatal organizations,
4. Stop the abuse and biases at the Malawi Broadcasting Corporation and the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority especially now that we are heading towards the May 2019 tripartite elections.
5. We demand an end to political violence and hate speech.
6. Address health and education woes
7. Address the gender equality gaps at all levels including at cabinet.

8. We need the MK145 million that was deposited in the DPP bank account to which you are the sole signatory
9. Address the youth unemployment
10. We demand an end to impunity.

Your Excellency, among the concerns that we have been raising time without numbers is the issue of killings of people with albinism. It is disheartening to note that your government has miserably failed to safeguard their right to life. While we acknowledge your government's efforts in putting in place a national action plan and some committee that is supposed to champion rights of people with albinism, to our dismay, your government remains uncommitted to neither operationalize nor fund the National Action Plan on Persons with Albinism.

Your Excellency it is also disheartening to note that while your government is still grappling with numerous unresolved cases bordering on corruption, fraud, and theft of public funds, another audit report reveals that over MK50 billion of public funds has not been accounted for; all this under your watch.

Your Excellency, as citizens, we wish to further reiterate the importance of taking our petition and the demands therein seriously as there has been a tendency by your government to undermine the content of numerous petitions which have been forwarded to your office. Lack of seriousness on the matters raised in the petition shows your unwillingness to be held accountable by the citizens. We wish to remind Your Excellency that you hold this **Office** based on **OUR TRUST** and that such must not be abrogated.

We call upon Your Excellency to respond and address the issues as raised in our petition at your earliest convenience within a **space of 20 days**. This must include a clear action plan on the way forward as an assurance that our demands are not being ignored.

In the event that your office will not act on the petition, we will be left with no option but go ahead with our plans for a **national demonstration slated for March 2019**. We would

like to bring to your Excellency's attention that we are already on the ground mobilizing Malawians in each and every district in readiness for a series of national wide demonstrations should you not respond to our petition. Actually we have already established structures in all the districts across the country in readiness for mass action.

With the assurances of Your Excellency's highest regards.

Timothy Mtambo

HRDC National Chairperson

Gift Trapence

HRDC National Vice Chairperson

Happy Mhango- Regional Chair North

Madalitso Banda - Regional Chair East

Masauko Thawe - Regional Chair South

Billy Mayaya - Regional Chair Centre