



P.O. Box 2340, Lilongwe, Malawi

**CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE RESIGNATION OR FIRING OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AND OTHER CIVIL SERVANTS IN PARTISAN POLITICS**

We at the Human Rights Defenders Forum and indeed all well-meaning Malawians call upon the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) led government to immediately fire Attorney General, Charles Mhango, Chimwemwe Chipungu and Hebrews Misomali of Safe Motherhood Initiative, Mary Mainja the Public Events Manager and Ken Msonda the Board Chair of NFRA and any civil servant actively participating in politics regardless of their political or social affiliations for contravening Section 198 of the Republican Constitution and Malawi Government Circular letter Ref. NO.CS/S/001. We contend that the aforementioned have also contravened the Republican Constitution just like the United Transformation Movement linked Calista Mutharika, George Saonda and Chiza Mbekeani who have since been sacked by the government.

We refuse to be hood-wicked into buying the cheap and clearly partisan stunt the Democratic Progressive Party led government is trying to play in selectively firing its fierce critics from the public service on the pretext that they are contravening civil service regulation while shamelessly sparing and shielding some DPP members who are also clearly contravening the same regulations.

While we commend government for firing civil servants that are practicing partisan politics, it is very clear that is more of witch-hunting-using the law and regulations selectively just to silence, punish and get back at those that hold a contrary view and opinion to the of the Democratic Progress Party. We would like to pass a strong message to government that government laws and policies should never be applied selectively. Government laws, policies and systems should never operate at the mercy of someone. We are concerned that it has taken government over 3 months to act on this ever since we wrote them a letter to fire all the civil servants participating in active and partisan politics. Wrong practices are wrong practices regardless of a person involved. We have painfully noted with serious concern that the DPP led government has been applying the same philosophy of selective justice even in the fight against

corruption, enforcement of taxation laws and application of regulation laws by institutions like MACRA and the NGO board. This must stop and we expect government to act on this professionally and as a matter of urgency.

The Human Rights Defender Forum submits that government is spineless and timid to fire those from its rank and file. Just as we submitted our earlier petition to government, we at Human Rights Defenders will stop at nothing in calling upon government to make sure that regulations are applied across the board, regardless of which political divide one belongs to.

We are worried but not surprised that despite government issuing a statement on June 26, 2018, requesting all public servants to resign from their positions should they express interest to run for political positions, public servants especially those that are DPP sympathizers and supporters continue to discharge their duties without due regards to the circular nor to Republican the constitution.

All indications point to the fact that DPP government want to make Malawians believe it is enforcing the regulations to the latter but in real sense this noble initiative has, sadly, just been reduced to tit-for-tat vendetta settling scheme aimed at gagging government critics.

We, the human rights defenders would therefore like to call upon the DPP led government to fire all public servants who are actively involved in partisan politics including those that are in DPP within seven days as failure to heed to our call will leave us with no any other option but to proceed with seek legal redress. We will not let anyone go enjoy immunity just because they support the DPP. There is no room whatsoever sacred cows.

In strongest terms possible we would like to remind the DPP led government that we will not be intimidated nor tire in holding government accountable and no amount of harassment and intimidation trained us will break nor silence us. We remain very steadfast in jealously safeguarding our hard earned democracy. Laws must be uniformly applied. We stand by the truth and we will remain vibrant in advocating for a better political environment.

SIGNED BY

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