



President Mutharika's Corruption Scandal:

A Call for PAC to immediately act on the matter.

We, at Human Rights Defenders Coalition (HRDC) are sickened with more disturbing media reports of President Professor Peter Mutharika's implication in the corruption involving Pioneer Investments and Malawi Police Service (MPS).

According to recent media reports, President Mutharika accepted five vehicles worth MK85 million from Zameer Karim of Pioneer Investments, a year after the dubious food rations deal. This is despite the fact the President vehemently denied personally benefiting from the fishy deal.

The recent reports that substantively implicate the President come right after Mutharika benefitted an amount of MK145 million deposited in the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) where he is the sole signatory.

HRDC commends the independent media in the country for their remarkable level of zeal, courage and patriotism in laying bare the matter for public's attention and action-taking. The media couldn't have done a better job on the matter.

However, what is painfully disillusioning is the level of impunity with which such a serious matter has been treated by the country's graft-busting body, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB).

It is an understatement to say ACB is toothless on the matter; the HRDC now believes ACB is an accomplice in corruption involving the President and the ruling party zealots in the country.

For umpteenth, HRDC has been impressing upon the ACB to rise to their mandate act crack on the high-level corruption in the country. But the ACB has either dragged its feet, or only managed to conduct window-dressing investigations that ended up exonerating culprits. What a shame!

Actually, since the MPS and Pioneer Investments corruption emerged, the ACB and friends of corruption in the country have aggressively invested their energy and resources in normalizing the matter. The country still remembers that the ACB cleared Mutharika in the food deal, on the pretext that he did not personally benefit from K145 million deposited in the DPP's bank account. Is this the kind of Malawi we want? Is this the spirit of constitutionalism the country's duty bearers swore to defend?

Cognizant of the foregoing, HRDC would like to submit the following demands:

- i. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament should immediately institute further probe on the matter to get to the bottom of everything, as per its mandate. If the findings incriminate the President, then Parliament will have to institute impeachment proceeding against the President Professor Peter Mutharika. Now is the time for Parliament to live up to its promise and save this country from unacceptable and unprecedented impunity and executive thieving.
- ii. We reaffirm our demand that the ACB Director, Mr. Reyneck Matemba should resign because he is compromised. HRDC believes the ACB boss has dismally failed to inspire confidence in the tax payers in the manner the ACB is shielding the President a case study of 145 Million saga. The lukewarm approach to cases involving the president, is disappointing, unacceptable, unbelievable and betrayal to Malawians. It's foolhardy for Malawians to continue paying a betrayal in the fight against corruption in the country.
- iii. We maintain our previous demand that Mr Karim of pioneer investments should be brought to book, the recent revelations including his involvement in the police-gate clearly indicates his huge appetite to dupe and steal from Malawians. This is a clear case of state capture.
- iv. We call upon the donor community, development partners and international governance institutions to put Malawi on the spotlight and influence radical reforms in structure and operation of governance institutions including ACB in the country.
- v. We re-new our call upon Malawians to reject corrupt leaders, be it at local government, parliament or presidential level. Malawians of legal age should ensure they get registered vote out all corrupt leaders in the country. Most importantly, we ask Malawian citizens to start holding their duty bearers accountable, by among others, tracking the expenditure of public resources in their locality.

The HRDC is open to working with any Malawian of goodwill to help fight against corruption, human rights violations and bad governance in the country. For details, contact the undersigned:

Signed by

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