



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI
PRESS STATEMENT**

**COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE AS OF 26TH APRIL 2021 AND EFFORTS TO GUARD
AGAINST THREAT OF IMPORTED COVID-19 CASES FROM SOUTH EAST ASIAN
COUNTRIES**

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered five new COVID-19 cases, 13 new recoveries and no new deaths. All new cases are locally transmitted: two each from Blantyre and Zomba, and one from Lilongwe Districts. No new deaths were registered in the past 24 hours.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 34,021 cases including 1,147 deaths (Case Fatality Rate is at 3.37%). Of these cases, 2,139 are imported infections and 31,882 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 31,921 cases have now recovered (recovery rate of 93.8%) and 134 were lost to follow-up. This brings the total number of active cases to 819. In the past 24 hours, there was one new admission in the treatment units while one case was discharged. Currently, a total of six active cases are hospitalised: five in Blantyre, and one in Mzimba North Districts. On testing, in the past 24 hours, 154 COVID-19 tests were conducted. Of these, 39 tests were through SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic test while the rest were through RT-PCR. The positive cases out of the total (past 24 hours) translates to a positivity rate of 3.3% while a weekly positivity rate (seven days moving average) is at 2.2%. Cumulatively, 230,668 tests have been conducted in the country so far. **On COVID-19 vaccination, cumulatively 277,442 doses have been administered in the country with 785 being administered in the past 24 hours.**

The Presidential Task Force on COVID-19 met this morning to review the situation of COVID-19 epidemic in the country and noted with cautious satisfaction that the number of cases and deaths, admissions to hospitals and positivity rates have declined and remained stable over the past four weeks, thanks to preventive measures that have been put in place and are being reasonably observed by all members of society.

The taskforce also noted with concern the threat of importation of new variants of the virus from other Regions and Countries of the World, notably from Bangladesh, Brazil, India, and Pakistan, where a new wave of the pandemic is currently spreading with severe morbidity and mortality impact. The taskforce further noted the particular heavy traffic of travellers to and from the Indian sub-continent and neighbouring Countries of Bangladesh and Pakistan; and evidence of a COVID-19 positive case that arrived in the country from India in the past week.

To guard against the threat of importation and spread of the new variant from the Indian sub-continent in the country, the Taskforce has therefore resolved to ban with immediate effect,

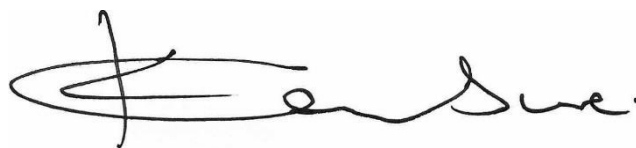
all but essential arrivals and travel, such as Diplomatic and Medical Travel, of Nationals or Non-Nationals from these three South Eastern Asian Countries, namely, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, that have resided in these countries for at least the previous seven days. The same restriction is also extended to Brazil.

Those undertaking essential travel to and from these countries, shall be required to undergo mandatory institutional quarantine at designated hotel accommodation at their own cost on arrival into the country. In addition, the following conditions will apply for such travellers:

- a) They must be in possession of a negative PCR-based COVID-19 test result or certificate for a test conducted no more than 72 hours before arrival in Malawi

The taskforce will periodically review the situation of the epidemic in South East Asia and advise accordingly.

No one is safe until everyone else is safe. Get Vaccinated. Protect yourself. Protect your loved ones. Protect everyone. Call toll free 929.



Hon. Khumbize Kandodo Chiponda, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH
CO-CHAIRPERSON – PRESIDENTIAL TASKFORCE