



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI
PRESS STATEMENT**

COVID-19 SITUATION UPDATE AS OF 4TH NOVEMBER 2021

In the past 24 hours, Malawi has registered no new COVID-19 cases, 6 new recoveries and no new death.

Cumulatively, Malawi has recorded 61,803 cases including 2,302 deaths (Case Fatality Rate is at 3.72%). Of these cases, 2,675 are imported infections and 59,128 are locally transmitted. Cumulatively, 57,752 cases have now recovered (recovery rate of 93.5%) and 232 were lost to follow-up. This brings the total number of active cases to 1,517. In the past 24 hours, there was no new admissions and one new discharge from the treatment units. Currently, a total of five active cases are currently hospitalised: Three in Lilongwe, and one each in Mzimba North, and Zomba districts.

On testing, in the past 24 hours, 399 COVID-19 tests were conducted. Of these, 246 tests were through RT-PCR while the rest were through SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Rapid Diagnostic test. The positive cases out of the total number tested (past 24 hours) translates to a positivity rate of 0% and the weekly positivity rate (seven days moving average) is at 0.6%. Cumulatively, 427,802 tests have been conducted in the country so far. On COVID-19 vaccination, a total of 1,255,245 vaccine doses have been administered in the country so far. Cumulatively 694,801 and 297,524 people have received the first dose and second dose of AstraZeneca vaccine respectively. Over the past 24 hours, 3,447 and 933 people have received first dose and second of AstraZeneca vaccine respectively. Cumulatively, 560,444 people are fully vaccinated.

I have noted with great concern the general relaxation that is happening in our country since some of the COVID-19 restrictions were eased. It is sad to observe that there is minimal adherence to the COVID-19 preventive and containment measures in most events that are happening in our country including physical corporate meetings and conferences, weddings, festivals, group sports, mobile markets, political party gatherings and this is putting the country at risk of resurgence of a new wave of the disease. Let me appeal to the event planners to strictly ensure that all the preventive measures are put in place and are being strictly followed by all those attending the scheduled events. Let me emphasize that our behaviours in the COVID-19 fight are key as we have observed that changes in people's activities contribute to the rise of infections – such as travel, failure to mask properly and non-adherence to physical distancing policies. And this is true for the past three waves of the pandemic in our country, in which we have observed that as more people relax in adhering to the preventive and containment measures, rapid is the spread of the disease,