



Government of Malawi

DECLARATION OF STATE OF DISASTER OVER DISTRICTS AFFECTED BY FLOODS AND HEAVY RAINS, JANUARY, 2022

My fellow Malawians, as you may be aware, over the past few days, the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS) had issued a warning in the wake of Tropical Storm ANA which eventually passed over Malawi on Tuesday, 25th January, 2022. As a result of the Tropical Storm ANA, some parts of the country, especially in the Southern Region, have experienced a lot of heavy rainfall and strong winds since Monday this week. This rainfall has resulted in heavy flooding in a number of districts. A lot of infrastructure, houses and household property have been damaged rendering the affected households displaced. Some people have also lost their lives as a result of the floods.

I mourn with those that have lost relatives as a result of these floods and heavy rains. I also pray for the souls of our departed brothers and sisters to rest in peace and wish the injured persons a quick recovery.

The floods and heavy rains have affected Nsanje, Chikwawa, Phalombe, Zomba, Blantyre, Chiradzulu, Thyolo, Mulanje, Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi, Neno, Mwanza, Mchinji, and Dedza Districts. So far, it is estimated that over **48,216 households (216,972 people)** have been affected and some displaced by the floods and heavy rains. **Ten (10) people** have lost their lives while **107** have sustained injuries. The floods have also damaged a lot of hectares of crops, washed away livestock and damaged infrastructure such as roads and bridges. Assessment of the impact of the floods is ongoing. However, assessment and response efforts are being hampered by inaccessibility of most of the affected areas. The Malawi Defence Force, Malawi Police Service, Malawi Red Cross

Society and other partner agencies have already been deployed to undertake search and rescue operations.

Government through the Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) and humanitarian partners have already started providing relief assistance to the affected households. However, due to the increasing number of affected people, the relief requirements are also increasing.

In the circumstances, it is clear that we have a flooding problem in the country which has affected a considerable number of our fellow citizens. Since most of the areas are inaccessible and considering the large number of displaced households, additional resources are required to provide assistance to all the affected people.

Accordingly, and in accordance with powers conferred upon me by Section 32(1) of the Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act (1991), I declare all the districts that have been affected by the floods, Disaster Areas, with effect from today, 26th January, 2022. I fully appreciate all previous assistance Malawi has received when affected by disasters. However, I appeal for humanitarian assistance from the International donor community, relevant United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, the local private sector as well as all fellow citizens of goodwill so that, together, we can contribute in alleviating suffering on the part of people affected by the floods. Tents for shelter, food and non –food items are urgently required. Rescue operations are also a priority. Donations in cash or in-kind should be sent to the **Commissioner for Disaster Management Affairs, P/Bag 336, Lilongwe 3.**

I would like to assure you that Government will see to it that relief assistance is provided to all the affected people in the affected districts. May I also take this opportunity to appeal to the religious community to put our nation in prayer as we face this challenge.

My fellow Malawians, I thank you for your attention. May the Almighty God Bless you all and our nation.