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**MALAWI POLICE SERVICE
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE**

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10th December, 2021

CONFIRMATION OF ARREST OF MR. BON KALINDO

The Malawi Police Service confirms the arrest of Mr. Bon Kalindo for an offence of publishing a false statement contrary to section 60 (1) of the Penal Code. On 9th December 2021, Mr. Bon Kalindo, at Mangochi Boma, whilst addressing a crowd gathered for demonstrations, published a false statement to the effect that Late Clement Chiwaya, Former Deputy Speaker, was murdered at Parliament Building in the City of Lilongwe.

Mr. Bon Kalindo deliberately published this false statement since there are credible official findings that the Late Clement Chiwaya committed suicide. A false statement alleging murder of a prominent member of the Society is likely to cause fear and alarm to members of the public especially the community to which the deceased belonged and is as such an offence under section 60 (1) of the Penal Code.

Mr. Bon Kalindo has also been arrested on the same charge of publishing a false statement in relation to a statement he recently made in Mzuzu alleging that the Government was aware of those behind the gruesome murders of Persons with Albinism. Similarly, falsely alleging that the Government is aware of those perpetrating murders of Persons with Albinism is likely to cause fear and alarm to members of the general public especially Persons with Albinism who already live in constant fear of being murdered,

The Service remains committed to respecting the right to freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstrations and the right to freedom of expression and as such this arrest is not connected to the ongoing demonstrations. At the same time, the Service is duty bound to fulfil its constitutional mandate of investigating crimes including those occurring during peaceful demonstrations.

James Kadadzera, ACP

Public Relations Officer