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10th October, 2023

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE ASSAULT OF A HEALTHCARE WORKER AT THYOLO DISTRICT HOSPITAL

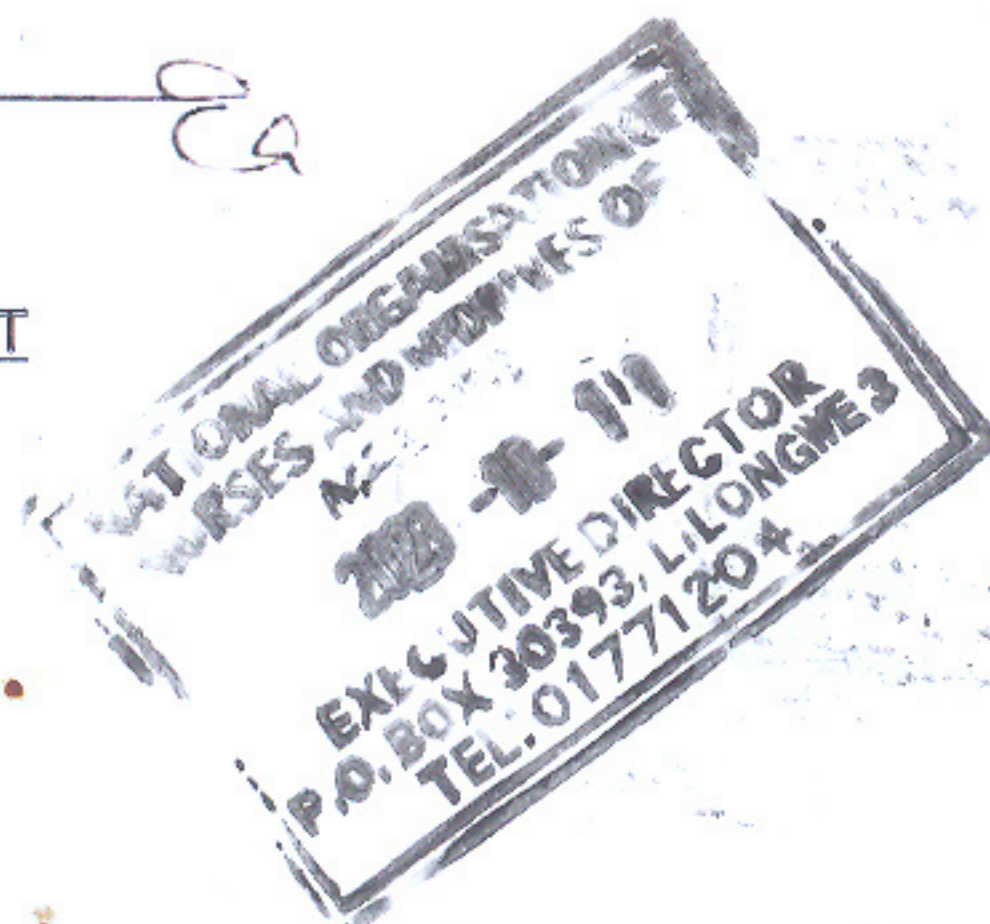
The National Organization of Nurses and Midwives of Malawi (NONM), a duly registered trade union for the nurses and midwives in Malawi, has learnt with dismay the assault of a healthcare worker while on duty the night of **8th October, 2023**, at Thyolo district Hospital.

Undeniably, health workers in Malawi serve the general population under very arduous environment in which they even risk their own lives. As an organisation, the least we expect from the general public and all people seeking healthcare services is respect, recognition and mutual understanding during all interactions with healthcare workers, including nurses and midwives whose presence at all the levels of healthcare delivery system is a blessing to the nation. We are however saddened that such presence and availability of nurses and midwives to public has unfortunately turned them into preys and victims of such inhumane, uncivilised and barbaric behaviour. We therefore strongly condemn the culprits, a grouping of Five (5) Mulakho Wa Alomwe men that degenerated and descended heartlessly upon the nurse while on their way from the Mulakho Wa Alomwe Cultural Festival.

NONM as an organisation commends the law enforcement agents for moving in swiftly and apprehending the culprits. NONM is following up this issue with the relevant law enforcement agents to see to it that justice is served to the nurse and the entire nursing and midwifery profession. It is our hope that the process so far started by the police will be taken to its logical conclusion, we will hence not relent until we see to it that the perpetrators of this evil act face the long arm of the law. We, finally appeal to the general public to desist from such barbaric conduct, and instead, channel their grievances to the appropriate authorities (i.e., hospital Ombud's persons, the Nurses and Midwives Council of Malawi and the Medical Council of Malawi).

Signed,

Shouts Simeza
NONM PRESIDENT



Peter Mvuma
NONM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR