



**STATEMENT
TO BE DELIVERED
BY**

**HONOURABLE PETER MUKHITO,
MINISTER OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

**ON THE OCCASION
OF THE
OFFICIAL HANDOVER CEREMONY OF
BIRTH, DEATH AND MARRIAGE
CERTIFICATE PRINTERS**

**ON 9TH OCTOBER, 2026,
AT THE MINISTRY OF HOMELAND SECURITY CONFERENCE ROOM
LILONGWE**

***Ministry of Homeland Security
National Registration Bureau
Lilongwe***

SALUTATION

HONOURABLE MADALITSO CHIDUMU BALOYI, MP,
MINISTER OF HEALTH AND SANITATION;

YOUR EXCELLENCY MS. ADDAH DONTOH, UNITED
NATIONS RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE IN MALAWI,

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DANIEL ARISTI-GAZTELUMENDI, EU
AMBASSADOR TO MALAWI

YOUR EXCELLENCY, KATY BRADY, IRISH AMBASSADOR
TO MALAWI

YOUR EXCELLENCY ANNE SOFIE BJELLAND, NORWAY
AMBASSADOR TO MALAWI

YOUR EXCELLENCY, DR. PENELOPE CAMPBELL, UNICEF
COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE TO MALAWI.

YOUR EXCELLENCIES, MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS;

MRS. LINDA PACHARO MOYO, SECRETARY FOR
HOMELAND SECURITY,

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OUR
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS;

MR. PATRICK MACHIKA, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY FOR
THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION BEAUREA

PRINCIPAL SECRETARIES AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS;

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

It is a great honour and privilege to join you today as we take another important step towards bringing essential Government services closer to the people of Malawi.

At first sight, today's event may appear to be about the handover of printers. But it is about something much bigger.

It is about identity. It is about dignity. It is about inclusion. And, ultimately, it is about people.

Behind every birth certificate is a child whose existence has been formally recognised by the State.

Behind every death certificate is a family able to complete important legal and administrative processes with dignity.

Behind every marriage certificate is a legal record that protects families and strengthens the integrity of our civil registration system.

That is why today's ceremony matters.

Today, we are receiving 52 printers for health facilities and 100 printers for National Registration Bureau offices at Traditional Authority level.

On behalf of the Government of Malawi, I express our sincere gratitude to the United Nations Development Programme, through the Inclusive Digital Transformation for Malawi Project, with financial support from the European Union, Norway and Ireland.

This partnership demonstrates what can be achieved when Government and development partners unite behind one purpose: improving the lives of our people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Government's policy commitment is clear: every Malawian must be able to obtain and use a secure legal identity, regardless of where they live.

For many years, citizens have travelled long distances simply to obtain certificates essential to everyday life. Printing services were once highly centralised and were later extended to District Registration Offices.

We are now taking the next step: bringing civil registration services deeper into communities and closer to the places where vital events occur.

Already, 180 health facilities have been digitalised, and the printers being handed over today will expand the number of facilities able to print birth and death certificates.

At the same time, registration services are being extended through Traditional and Sub-Traditional Authorities, with implementation already underway in several districts.

This is not decentralisation for its own sake. It is about reducing the cost, distance and inconvenience citizens face when accessing Government services.

Our policy objective is simple: register people where they live, connect the information securely, and deliver the document where it is needed.

This approach forms part of Government's broader modernisation of public-service delivery.

Through the National Registration Bureau, Government is advancing interconnected services including the Digital ID, Digital Wallet, electronic payment platforms and digital marriage registration.

These are not isolated projects. They are part of a single public-service architecture built around secure and reliable legal identity.

In his 2026 State of the Nation Address, **His Excellency the President, Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika**, directed Government to modernise and connect public-service systems to improve efficiency and service delivery.

Today's handover gives practical effect to that direction.

Our objective is therefore not simply to digitise existing processes, but to build a more connected, efficient and citizen-centred Government in which identity can be verified reliably and services delivered more effectively.

But technology alone does not deliver services.

A printer without toner does not serve a citizen.

A system without trained officers does not serve a citizen.

And equipment that is not properly maintained soon becomes an unused asset.

That is why our focus must now move from acquisition to implementation, and from implementation to measurable service delivery.

The true value of these printers will not be measured by today's handover ceremony. It will be measured by whether citizens receive accurate certificates quickly, reliably and without unnecessary travel, repeated visits or avoidable administrative difficulties.

I therefore call upon the National Registration Bureau, the Ministry of Health and Sanitation, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, District Councils and health authorities to ensure that this equipment is properly deployed, maintained, monitored and fully utilised.

Every institution must understand its responsibility in the service-delivery chain.

The NRB must safeguard the integrity of the registration system.

Health facilities must ensure timely registration of births and deaths.

Local authorities and traditional leaders must help communities understand the importance of registration.

And Government must ensure that systems, equipment, connectivity and personnel remain functional.

That is how policy becomes service.

That is how investment becomes impact.

And that is how citizens experience Government.

I also urge District Commissioners, Councillors, Traditional Authorities, village headpersons and health workers to strengthen the registration of vital events in their communities, particularly deaths, which remain under-registered in many areas.

Civil registration is not solely the responsibility of the NRB.

It is a shared national responsibility.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A birth certificate is not merely a piece of paper.

It establishes legal identity and opens the way to education, a National ID, a passport, employment, inheritance and proof of citizenship.

That is why civil registration is not simply administration.

It is the foundation of legal identity, rights, dignity and belonging.

As I conclude, allow me to express our profound appreciation to UNDP, the IDT4M Project, the European Union, Norway and Ireland for their continued support to Malawi's civil registration and legal identity systems.

We also recognise the work of local authorities, registration personnel, health workers and community structures whose daily efforts keep these services functioning.

Let the printers we receive today become more than equipment.

Let them shorten distances.

Let them reduce waiting time.

Let them restore dignity.

Let them bring Government closer to the people.

And let them help us build a Malawi where every person is recognised, every identity is protected, and no citizen is left behind.

I thank you for your attention.