



PRESS RELEASE

COMMEMORATION OF THE 2022 INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

The Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare would like to inform the general public that the Government of Malawi will, again, join the international community in commemorating this year's International Literacy Day (ILD) on 8th September 2022. ILD is celebrated yearly to draw attention to improvements in world literacy rates. This is also the time for governments and its partners across the world to reflect upon the world's literacy challenges that lie before them.

To celebrate the Day, the Ministry will hold a commemoration event at Nkhonde Primary School ground, Traditional Authority Amidu in Balaka district. The Deputy Minister of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare, Honourable Agnes Nkusa Nkhoma will be the Guest of Honour at this event.

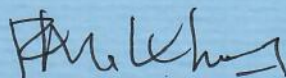
The theme for this year's commemoration is "**Transforming Literacy Learning Spaces**". This will be an opportunity for governments and its stakeholders to rethink the fundamental importance of literacy learning spaces to build resilience and ensure quality, equitable, and inclusive education for all.

Despite the numerous efforts and interventions to reduce illiteracy in the country, its impact is still minimal. This shows that there is an enormous task ahead for government and its partners to significantly invest in adult literacy programmes for the country to achieve most of the enablers as stipulated in Malawi 2063 as well as the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly target 4.6 – ensuring that all youth and adults achieve literacy and numeracy by 2030.

Literacy learning systems in Malawi face a major challenge ranging from physical learning space, teaching methodologies and inclusion of opportunities for the vulnerable people. There is, therefore, need to explore all these spaces to ensure Adult Education systems are resilient with the ability to withstand unprecedented realities ahead of us such as disasters. For instance, during the devastating period of COVID-19, the global, national, and local governments had an almost universal response to the continuation of formal education. They switched to either complete or partial digital literacy learning spaces. It will, therefore, be progressive for the country to embrace multiple types of literacy learning spaces to ensure a holistic approach by involving all the key-stakeholders to meet the learning needs of the youth and adults of different profiles and contexts.

The Ministry in partnership with its stakeholders will remind the communities about this day and issues related to the theme through radio jingles, press releases and mobile van road shows. The Honourable Deputy Minister will also will present certificates to literacy graduates from Balaka district during the commemoration function of the Day.

The Ministry is finally appealing to all Malawians who do not know how to read, write and numerate to enroll with adult literacy classes in their respective localities or ask for such services through their Village Development Committees (VDCs), where they are not available. Let us all join hands to eradicate illiteracy and contribute to the attainment of sustainable development.



Roselyn Makhumula (Mrs.)

**SECRETARY FOR GENDER, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
SOCIAL WELFARE.**