

GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI AND UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME LAUNCH COOPERATION PROJECT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Lilongwe, 15 November 2018 - The Government of Malawi in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), with funding by the UK Government, launched a new cooperation project on trafficking in persons.

UNODC has worked closely with the government of Malawi in a variety of counter-trafficking initiatives, providing support from the Regional Office in Pretoria under the auspices of UNODC's Regional Programme with the SADC Secretariat. In 2017, the National Coordination Committee



against Trafficking in Persons, mandated to coordinate and monitor the 2015 Trafficking in Persons Act, adopted, under UNODC's guidance, a National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons and has established an Anti-Trafficking in Persons Fund, which both aim at implementing the Act. Malawi has the right legal and institutional framework to effectively address trafficking in persons.

Despite these achievements, the situation within the country remains a serious concern. Malawi is a source country, and trafficking victims are exploited within the country as well as to neighbouring countries and are predominantly subjected to forced labour. UNODC's Regional Representative for Southern Africa, Zhuldyz Akisheva, remarked that "focus on victim protection is key in the global partnership against human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, and that the launch of this cooperation project marks a watershed moment in our cooperation with the Government of Malawi. We trust that the relationship will continue to grow and that it will meaningfully contribute towards a more effective response to trafficking in persons in Malawi."



1: Ms. Zhuldyz Akisheva, UNODC Regional Representative, welcoming Honourable Nicholas Dausi, Minister of Homeland Security

With support from the UK Government, UNODC now seeks to expand its work by launching a new cooperation project, through which the organisation will be able to more strategically and effectively provide technical assistance to the Malawi Government in its counter-trafficking response, which will in turn benefit neighbouring countries as well. H.E. Holly Tett, UK High Commissioner, stated that she was "pleased to see that Malawi is one of the states benefitting from the UK's new Windsor Fund to combat TIP, and that Malawi's commitment is a strong message of political intent that the Malawi Government will not tolerate TIP domestically."

The project, "*Strengthening the implementation of a comprehensive response to trafficking in persons in Malawi*" has four specific objectives, to assist Malawi to: develop and/or strengthen and implement national strategies, plans or policies against trafficking in persons; bring its national legal frameworks in line with international standards; strengthen its criminal justice response to trafficking in persons,

including regional cooperation in criminal matters related to trafficking in persons following a victim centred-approach; and, strengthen victim protection and assistance.

Honourable Nicholas Dausi, Minister of Homeland Security stated he is “happy that Malawi is now in line with international conventions and protocols” and highlighted some recent achievements in the country. While declaring the project officially launched, Mr. Dausi passionately concluded by calling for an end to TIP and stating that trafficking is “a social evil, as it tears at our social fabric, and fuels organized crime.”



2: Honourable Nicholas Dausi, Minister of Homeland Security



3: H.E. Holly Tett, British High Commissioner