



***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE,***

***04<sup>th</sup> February 2020***

***APPEAL FOR CONTINUED PEACE***

The National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Public Trust wishes to thank all Malawians for the peace that has prevailed in Malawi after the long awaited court ruling of the 21<sup>st</sup> May presidential election's case was delivered on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020, Malawians from all walks of life listened to the judgement and its outcome in a peaceful and orderly manner. NICE wishes to appeal to all Malawians to keep maintaining peace and order, and think of Malawi first. Malawi is known for being a peaceful nation and this status needs to be maintained at all cost.

NICE wishes to further appeal to all Malawians to remain calm and peaceful. Just like the Trust had been saying in its peace building campaign, the winners should celebrate their victory in the most peaceful manner and shun away from inciting violence at all costs. The same goes to the losers, NICE is appealing to the losers to use legal means of seeking redress if they are not happy with the ruling that was delivered, instead of taking the law in their hands.

**THE JUDICIARY**

The Trust also wishes to commend the judges for making the ruling within the stipulated time. Malawians had been waiting anxiously for the ruling and the Constitutional Court kept its word by working professionally to give the nation the long-awaited judgement in time. This is commendable. NICE further applauds the Constitutional Judges for rejecting the attempted bribe as reported to the Anti-Corruption Bureau.

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

NICE, as an institutions that has been involved in awareness campaigns on the need for the electoral law reforms, applauds the Constitutional Court's order to have the national assembly look at 50 plus 1 for the enactment into law as one of the proposed reform area by the Special Law Reform. In line with this, we call

upon the National Assembly to seize this opportunity to have the 50 plus one passed together with the other long awaited electoral reforms package as recommended by the Special Law Commission on the subject matter. NICE has in the past engaged various sections of society as well as conducted public debates on the same in order to appeal to the public so that parliament should pass the electoral reforms.

### **THE MEDIA**

NICE wishes to also commend the media in Malawi for reporting objectively and for being professional in making sure that all Malawians follow the case since it started, and, eventually the ruling on the judgement day. We call upon the media to continue undertaking their task in a responsible and professional manner.

### **SECURITY**

The Trust further commends the Malawi Police Services and the Malawi Defense Force for being very professional in making sure that there was enough security at the court and also in Lilongwe and the entire Malawi during the judgement.

### **RELIGIOUS LEADERS**

NICE commends religious leaders for the role they played in preaching peace to their congregants when Malawians were eagerly waiting for the court outcome. NICE recognizes the critical role which religious institutions played in preaching peace during this period. The Trust continues to further appeal to religious leaders continue preaching peace in their different spaces of worship like churches and mosques congregants in the days to come as Malawi awaits the elections in 150 days.

### **POLITICAL LEADERS**

NICE also commends all major political party leaders for encouraging their party followers to maintain peace during and after the ruling. The Trust hopes that this will be maintained and that peace will continue to prevail until the next elections.



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