



## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF MALAWI (ISAMA)

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

With reference to the Ministry of Health Circular released on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2023, we at ISAMA would like to express our serious concern on the matter and therefore respond as follows without undermining the seriousness of the Cholera Outbreak

1. Whilst the reason for the closure is appreciated as to protect teachers and learners, the communication to defer opening of schools was ill - timed
2. We observe that as it has happened in the past, effort was not made to engage the independent schools due to monetary implication of the position taken
3. The deferment of opening has not been made alongside consideration of examination classes and the fact that both districts have not performed well in previous exams.
4. We believe it should have been possible for the ministry to engage all parties and come up with an all-inclusive communication.
5. We observe that whilst schools in Blantyre and Lilongwe have not been opened, learners from the same cities schooling in other districts have been allowed to proceed. Is that not a risk as well, that needed a similar action?
6. The closure has not considered education district boundaries but health district boundaries.
7. ISAMA observes that the ministry has not put in place mitigating factors to counter the spread of cholera which was a similar issue during COVID Pandemic. We demand that the Ministry should with immediate effect accelerate the control measures against the spread of cholera.
8. ISAMA observes that the problem is being compounded by serious neglect of the sanitation of the cities by the responsible officials which has made the site thereof very appalling.

ISAMA therefore demands the following

- That the decision be rescinded and schools should open on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.
- That prevention materials be provided by the ministry to both public and private schools

WYCLIFFE CHIMWENDO  
PRESIDENT