



MALAWI LEGAL AID BUREAU

LEGAL AID BUREAU'S STATEMENT ON THE DECLARATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY AS UNCONSTITUTIONAL IN MALAWI

Management of Malawi Legal Aid Bureau is pleased that the Malawi Supreme Court of Appeal has declared the death penalty unconstitutional.

With this decision, the Supreme Court of Appeal has recognized that the death penalty is no longer consistent with the values we hold in Malawian society. We can achieve justice for all without capital punishment, which does not deter crime and eliminates any hope of redemption.

The position advanced by the Supreme Court of Appeal is what we, as Legal Aid Bureau, have always taken to be the correct position when the Malawi Constitution is interpreted as a whole.

Over 90 percent of people sentenced or who potentially can be sentenced to death penalty are indigent hence are represented by the Legal Aid Bureau. Consequently, this is good news to Legal Aid Bureau and all its clients.

If taking away of life by a private citizen is wrong, it should equally be wrong if life is taken away by the State. This is a very big victory for humankind.

Just like Legal Aid Bureau was party to this landmark case, it pledges to continue being party to all initiatives that shall ensure full enjoyment of human rights by everyone including the indigent.

Masauko Edwin Chamkakala, Esq
Director – Malawi Legal Aid Bureau