

GOVERNMENT'S POSITION ON ITS FIGHT AGAINST THEFT, FRAUD AND CORRUPTION

The fight against theft, fraud and corruption that Government has waged recently has effectively shown the efficacy of Government's deliberate effort in becoming its own whistle blower to expose and fight theft, fraud and corruption and therefore ensuring that the problem is dealt with decisively and comprehensively.

Government strongly condemns any acts of theft, fraud and corruption in its Ministries, Departments and Agencies, and has waged the deliberate clean up fight against these evils, and ensure that the system is cleansed and strengthened to avert any future recurrence of the problems.

The current fight against theft, fraud and corruption offers Malawians a golden opportunity to cleanse and heal the nation for prosperity. Government has embraced the current efforts to fight theft, fraud and corruption as a great opportunity to comprehensively root out the problem using the prevailing strong political will to address this menace.

As President Dr. Joyce Banda has underscored, any person that is involved in defrauding Government and corruption will not be shielded, and that all arms of Government mandated to handle theft, fraud and corruption matters will get full support from Government without any interference to achieve substantial results.

Government is working hard to ensure that everyone implicated and involved in theft, fraud and corruption is brought to book without fear or favour and the resources stolen and lost are recovered where possible.

Government is determined and committed to conclusively root out theft, fraud and corruption in all its institutions, and it is fully aware of the challenges to achieve desired results considering that these evils were entrenched in the Government system for the past decades but were covered up.

The magnitude of theft, fraud and corruption in government first came to light in 2001, when the then Director of Public Prosecutions raised concerns over corrupt and fraudulent activities taking place in government and disclosed that about 30 percent of Government resources were lost through corruption.

The problems were further evidenced in 2010/11 when it started with about K400 million missing at the Malawi Police Service through IFMIS, and now it has grown to about K1 billion, and when the 2011/2012 Interim Audit Report of the Integrated Financial Management Information System (IFMIS) supported the assertions that Government resources were being plundered through IFMIS over the years. Unfortunately the report was not finalised and was not pursued further. If this incident was comprehensively pursued and addressed, as it is being done right now, Malawi would not be talking of another incident in 2013/2014.

For the first time, therefore, Government is not covering up the problem as it has been in the past but has opened up to clean up its systems and root out theft, fraud and corruption in the Malawi Public Service, that has led to loss of Government resources required for delivery of quality essential public services to the people of Malawi.

As a demonstration of commitment by Government to address this problem, a systematic Government Action Plan has been developed, that focuses on ensuring that investigations and prosecutions of the cases brought forward are successful, accounting systems are strengthened, accountability is pursued, and necessary legal reforms are taken. Government has also instituted technical, legal and administrative reforms to comprehensively put in place corrective measures to avert any future attempts to defraud the Government.

It is therefore imperative that Principal Secretaries, Chief Executives of Parastatals, Directors and all Public Servants in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies join in the fight against theft, fraud and corruption and support the clean-up efforts that Government has instituted so that the war against these evils is fought and won jointly.

Members of the general public are also encouraged to support the Government in all its efforts to fight theft, fraud and corruption and ensure that Malawi is cleansed and prospers.

Development Partners are equally invited to support the clean-up process and it is Government's hope that their efforts will encourage and not discourage African leaders to fight theft, fraud and corruption.

This is a tough fight that requires very strong political will, tough, fearless, focused and God fearing leadership. Let us all join and support this fight to cleanse our nation, of this evil, and enable our nation to prosper like never before.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CABINET

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