



**GOVERNMENT OF MALAWI**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CONFIRMED CASES OF MPOX IN LILONGWE DISTRICT**

The Ministry of Health through the Public Health Institute of Malawi (PHIM) wishes to inform the public that two cases of Mpox disease have been confirmed in Lilongwe District.

The first suspected case was reported by Bwaila Hospital on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2025 and the second case was reported on 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2025. Samples were collected from the suspected cases for laboratory investigations at the National Reference Laboratory in Lilongwe and results came out positive on 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.

Mpox is a zoonotic viral disease transmitted from animals to humans and from humans to humans. It is characterized by fever and rash. The Mpox virus spreads through contact with respiratory droplets, lesion material, body fluids, contaminated materials and surfaces which enter the body through the respiratory tract, mucous membranes and broken skin. Anyone can get infected with the Mpox virus. Children, pregnant women, people with underlying immune deficiencies and people with multiple sex partners have a higher risk of getting the disease. While there is no specific treatment for Mpox, treatment remains supportive and symptomatic.

The Ministry is advising the public not to panic as the situation is under control. The public is further being advised to be on alert and take preventive and control measures as the disease has the potential to affect more people. Mpox can be prevented by avoiding close or skin to skin contact with suspected or confirmed Mpox case, observing good hygiene and using condoms during sexual activity. I therefore, call upon all communities to timely report all suspected cases to the nearest health facilities. The Ministry is working closely with Lilongwe District Council, the World Health Organization, CDC USA, Africa CDC and other partners to ensure proper surveillance, response, and timely treatment of cases.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Mndolo".

Dr. Samson Mndolo

**SECRETARY FOR HEALTH**

**17<sup>th</sup> April, 2025**