



CCAP GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PASTORAL LETTER

TO BE READ ON

13TH JULY 2025

IN ALL CCAP CONGREGATIONS

IN MALAWI

CCAP GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASTORAL LETTER

“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD” (MATTHEW 5:14)

Preamble

The General Assembly of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) is a grouping of Presbyterian Synods of Livingstonia, Nkhoma, Blantyre, Zambia and Harare. The General Assembly is the highest court of administration for the Synods on matters of policy and governance. It was established in 1924.

Last year (2024), we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the CCAP General Assembly ministry. The CCAP is the largest Protestant Church in Malawi and has contributed a lot to this country in the areas of human resources, education, health, agriculture and other sectors. A good number of those in top leadership in Malawi, both in the public and private sectors, are members of the CCAP. All political parties have a higher percentage of their members belonging to the CCAP. Therefore, we believe that CCAP members have the potential to contribute either positively to the transformation of this country—if they fully apply Christian values in all aspects of life—or negatively, if they neglect those values.

We, the leadership of the CCAP General Assembly, have written this letter to our members with two main objectives: first, to discourage them from contributing to the problems Malawi is currently facing; and second, to encourage them to become part of the solution to the problems facing Malawi. This letter is divided into four sections: Spiritual, Social-Economic, Governance, and Politics.

1. SPIRITUAL

As a church rooted in the Word of God, we recognise that spiritual growth is the foundation for all meaningful transformation in individuals, families, communities, and the nation at large. The following points outline our spiritual counsel to all CCAP members:

- 1.1. While we believe and encourage a prayer life for all CCAP members, we also encourage you to work hard to find the resources you need for your daily bread. Let us learn from Paul, one of the great apostles, who was a prayerful and committed servant of God; on the other hand, he was working with his own hands to earn a living. The Word of God testifies about this saying, **“You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companion”** (Acts 20:34)
- 1.2. We encourage all CCAP members to be the light to our nation, all the time, at all places and in every situation in accordance with what the Scriptures say that **“In the same way, let your light shine before others,**

that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"
(Matthew 6:16)

- 1.3. We warn all CCAP members against false teaching and false prophecy. Remember what Jesus Christ said, ***"And many false prophets will rise and deceive many"*** (Matthew 24:11) and what He also said through the apostle Peter, saying ***"In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories"*** (2Peter 2:3)
- 1.4. We encourage all CCAP members not only to preach love and unity, but to live by them. Although we come from different regions, districts and tribes, we are one in Christ, and we have the God-given mandate to unite our nation. Jesus Christ prayed for us to be united (John 17:11)
- 1.5. While we acknowledge the importance of the internet and social media, we encourage all CCAP members to keep on physically fellowshiping with others, instead of cultivating a culture of worshipping through social media. The Scriptures encourage us, saying, ***"Let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near"*** (Hebrews 10:25)
- 1.6. We encourage all CCAP members who are in leadership positions in the government and private sector to take advantage of their positions to promote biblical values. We appeal especially to those who are in the three branches of government: Executive, Judiciary and Legislative to be good examples. Because of your presence in those leadership positions, Malawians should rejoice and not groan because of your behaviour. The Scriptures clearly state that ***"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice, but when a wicked person rules, people groan"*** (Proverbs 29:2).

2. SOCIAL-ECONOMIC

In light of the ongoing social and economic challenges facing our nation, it is important to acknowledge both the progress made and the work that remains. The following points highlight key reflections and call to action for the CCAP and its members as we engage with these critical issues.

- 2.1. When we had centenary celebrations last year (2024), we diagnosed our contribution towards the fight against the three enemies that we, as a nation, identified in the year we gained independence: hunger, diseases and envy. These three enemies have formed part of our national anthem since 1964. Unfortunately, these remain enemies of Malawi to this very day. We urge all the CCAP members and other Christian bodies to rise and be the change agents. We should not depend on politicians to end hunger, envy and diseases.
- 2.2. We commend the Government for the positive contribution to the welfare of Malawians, such as the distribution of food to the needy, the construction of good roads, the distribution of NEEF loans and social

cash transfers, and many other developments. We implore all CCAP members who are part of the leadership in these departments and agencies to work with integrity. As the leadership of the General Assembly, we do not expect:

- a) Sub-standard works where CCAP members are part of the implementing officers
- b) Corruption and theft where CCAP members are part of the leadership
- c) Nepotism, where CCAP members are part of the decision makers
- d) Denial or delay of justice where CCAP members are part of the leadership

2.3. Selling of expired goods by some traders. We have noted with great concern that some other traders are selling expired goods. It is not a secret that some traders have been found removing expiry dates and putting new dates. This behaviour is evil and must not be tolerated in Malawi. Unfortunately, these traders are using Malawians to do these malpractices. We urge all CCAP members and Malawians of goodwill to report to the authorities when such things happen

2.4. Effects of Climate change are contributing a lot to the problems that we are facing globally and as a nation. Lately, drought and cyclones have affected Malawi negatively. However, some of the effects of climate change we are experiencing are manmade. As the CCAP General Assembly leadership, we discourage all CCAP members from:

- a) Cutting the remaining trees. Instead, they should participate in planting trees or protecting shrubs, allowing them to grow.
- b) Constructing homes along the rivers and dambos, instead, they should use the land along the rivers to cultivate crops. Constructing homes and cultivating beside or on the mountains to avoid loss of property and life during landslides.
- c) Selling the little they have harvested.
- d) Selling land. You cannot end poverty by selling an asset, land.
- e) Depending on the government and politicians to end our poverty and hunger.
- f) We discourage all CCAP politicians, both in government and opposition, from using poverty and hunger as a campaign tool.

2.5. The leadership of the CCAP General Assembly reminds all members of CCAP to hold hands in ending child marriages and any other forms of child abuse. All the CCAP Clergy are reminded not to officiate marriages of people under the age of 18. Parents are reminded of their God-given responsibility to love and take care of their children. Do not allow or force your children to marry before the age of 18.

- 2.6. Gender-based violence has no room in the homes of all CCAP members. Gender-based violence is evil; report to your church leaders and the police.
- 2.7. All CCAP members are discouraged from spending hours and hours on social media. Let us use time wisely and productively. Furthermore, do not use social media to spread gossip and destroy reputations of others as the Scriptures warn us that **"Do not spread false rumors, and do not help a guilty person by giving false testimony. Do not follow the majority when they do wrong or when they give testimony that perverts justice"** (Exodus 23:1-2)

3. GOVERNANCE

Good governance is foundational to national peace, stability, and development. As Christians, we are called to uphold and promote integrity and professionalism in key institutions such as the security agencies and the judiciary, which are crucial for ensuring justice and national order. The following points outline our position on matters of governance.

- 3.1. **Security.** The security agencies were instituted to serve Malawians fairly. Unfortunately, many people who are working in security agencies are not working professionally as expected by Malawians. We urge all CCAP members working in various security services to execute their duties professionally, while having in mind that ultimately, they are accountable to God. Those in power should not use the security agencies to suffocate and suppress others. All Malawians must be served equally and fairly.
- 3.2. **Judiciary.** While we thank the State President for increasing the number of people working in the Judiciary, there are delays in handling the cases that need urgent justice. Lately, there have been cases of corruption in the Judiciary, a worrisome thing. We request all CCAP members who are in the Judiciary to resist corruption of all kinds. The Scriptures warn us, saying: **"Do not accept a bribe, for a bribe blinds those who see and twists the words of the innocent."** (Exodus 23:8); and that **"You must never twist justice or show partiality. Never accept a bribe, for bribes blind the eyes of the wise and corrupt the decisions of the godly"** (Deuteronomy 16:19).
- 3.3. **Corruption.** When the current government came into power, there was a promise to end corruption in Malawi. It is not a secret that corruption continues to grow in our country. We say that:
 - a) Corruption is involved in the selling and buying of goods, in offices, among leaders across all levels.
 - b) We are disappointed that some members of CCAP are actively involved in corruption through their workplaces and business places.

- c) We urge all CCAP members who are working in different offices, running different businesses, holding different positions of influence, to desist from any form of corruption.
- 3.4. **Transparency and accountability.** Transparency is communicating openly and honestly, while accountability is about taking responsibility for your actions. Unfortunately, there is little or no transparency among those who are in leadership positions today. As the CCAP General Assembly, we say that:
- a) There must be transparency and accountability among all people in leadership in the way they use both taxpayers' funds as well as the church's money.
 - b) Malawians are interested in knowing how public funds are being used. For example, there is little or no transparency and accountability in the way CDF is being managed.
 - c) We urge Members of Parliament and all people who are members of CCAP and are involved in the usage of public funds to be people of integrity. Remember that we are first accountable to God before we are accountable to people.
 - d) In the same spirit, we further remind leaders in all CCAP congregations and departments that transparency and accountability must be followed religiously.
- 3.5. **Forex:** It is not a secret that the Malawi economy has been compromised due to forex challenges. This has led to the uncontrolled escalation of prices of everything and the scarcity of some essential commodities. Malawians are groaning, and life has become tough. While we appreciate that there is an economic outcry worldwide, there are some issues that need to be addressed in the way our government runs its economy. The government must find ways to increase forex in this nation. We urge all members of CCAP to desist from illegal forex business.
- 3.6. **Mining:** Minerals of high value have been found almost all over Malawi. This is indeed a game changer for Malawi's economy. However, the CCAP General Assembly leadership's worry is on the high levels of corruption that have taken centre stage in Malawi. On this, we have the following to say:
- a) The delay in starting to mine the minerals is a great worry because there are individuals who are doing mining, and the government is aware. We are told that the Reserve Bank of Malawi is buying those minerals. We do not know if they are buying all or some of these minerals.

- b) The story of taking samples continues. We have heard that our minerals are of high quality and in large quantity, and yet there is little or no movement in starting the actual mining.
- c) It is an insult for Malawi to have a 10% share of the profits from the mineral sales, as the news speculates. Malawi should not be dictated to and delayed by foreign policies. The government and all players must work with speed to revive our dying economy
- d) We urge all CCAP members who are involved in the mining sector to be part of the game changers' team and never team up with those who would want to delay further or bring corruption and politics into this sector.

4. POLITICS AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Church has a responsibility to guide believers on how to conduct themselves even in political matters, especially as we approach the general elections. The leadership of the CCAP General Assembly emphasises the following principles to safeguard the integrity of the Church and promote peaceful participation.

- 4.1. We should desist from being used by politicians. CCAP is a church and not a political party.
- 4.2. Do not use political leadership aspirants as a means of doing church fundraising. There is a tendency to create a platform in the church where politicians are invited to compete in raising money for the church. This practice must be stopped. The church of God must not be desperate. Let us use biblical ways of raising funds and resources for the church
- 4.3. The CCAP General Assembly leadership reminds its church ministers and all who use the pulpit not to preach politics but the sacred Word of God. We were called by God, and we are accountable to God. Therefore, we must fear and please God alone.
- 4.4. While we acknowledge that everyone has the right to affiliate with or support a political party of his or her interest, do not use the Synods' structures and church platforms to advance a personal political agenda.
- 4.5. The CCAP General Assembly leadership condemns all forms of violence taking place in our country. We urge all CCAP members to distance themselves from all political violence. We urge all CCAP members who hold positions of influence in government security departments to use their powers to stop all forms of violence and arrest the perpetrators of violence. We expect all CCAP members to demonstrate Christian values as children of God in every aspect of their lives. The Scriptures say that **"Blessed are the peacemakers because they will be called sons of God"** (Matt. 5:9). Therefore, we condemn every form of violence in our country.

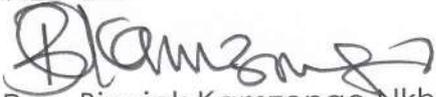
- 4.6. All players in the preparations and running of the elections must provide a fair environment to all. There should be transparency and fairness in all the processes in the administration of the elections. We urge all CCAP members who are in the Malawi Electoral Commission and other bodies that are involved in the running of the forthcoming general elections to discharge their duties faithfully, knowing that they are accountable firstly to God.
- 4.7. Lately, there has been an outcry due to foul play in different political parties in the way they conducted their conventions and primary elections. It is sad to learn that some of the people who were/are involved in masterminding these foul plays are Christians, and some are members of CCAP. The CCAP leadership condemns this behaviour. Allow people to choose leaders of their choice
- 4.8. The CCAP General Assembly leadership is following with keen interest the discussions of possible political party alliances in preparation for the forthcoming general elections. Our advice is that political parties should form alliances objectively. Malawians are not ready to be led by alliances formed by political parties whose leadership is greedy. Alliances must bring together leaders who have clean records and have the heart for Malawians and not their tribe, region or religion. We encourage all CCAP members in different political parties to play a role in bringing sanity to their parties. Let us follow the words our Lord Jesus Christ instructed us, saying, **"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven (Matt. 5:14-16)**
- 4.9. The CCAP General Assembly leadership encourages those who registered to go and cast their votes. Let us not vote based on tribe, region or religious affiliation. We need to vote for the leadership whose vision will develop the nation to the benefit of all. The Word of God advises us, saying, **"Furthermore, you shall select out of all the people able men who fear God, men of truth, those who hate dishonest gain"** (Exodus 18:21)
- 4.10. As we go for voting, therefore, let us think of leaders who are serious about improving our economy. Let us think of people who will be genuine in wanting to fulfil their promises. We should not vote for leaders who cannot keep their promises and cannot be held accountable.
- 4.11. We strongly advise all CCAP members not to vote for leaders and political parties that are using violence to silence and suppress others.

CONCLUSION

The CCAP General Assembly leadership invites all members to be united, love each other and care for each other. Let us pray for our nation in our homes and churches. Remember what God said through Jeremiah to the Israelites, "**And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive and pray to the LORD for it, for in its peace you will have peace**" (Jeremiah 29:7 KJV)

God bless you. God bless Malawi

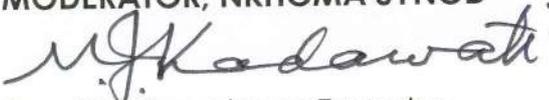
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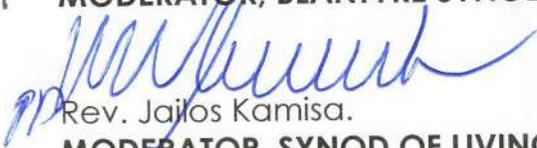
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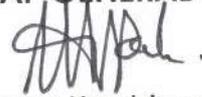
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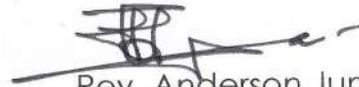
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