



## **MINISTRY OF LANDS**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **DEVOLUTION OF LAND ADMINISTRATION FUNCTIONS TO LOCAL COUNCILS**

The Ministry of Lands wishes to inform the general public that it has commenced, in earnest, the process of devolving its key functions from the central level to the local councils to improve land governance in line with its mandate of providing land and housing services to the general public, stakeholders and other parties to ensure that physical developments take place in an orderly and sustainable manner in pursuit of Malawi 2063.

The devolution of land administration services to the local councils is part of the land reforms which Government is undertaking and follows the approval of the Ministry's Devolution Plan and Function Review by the Office of the President and Cabinet and Department of Human Resources Management and Development (DHRMD) in April, 2023 respectively. Some of the key functions that are being devolved are local land use planning, land surveying, registration of land parcels, granting of leases and payment of ground rent.

The devolution of land administration means that clients will no longer travel long distances to regional offices and Ministry Headquarters to access land related services, thereby reducing travelling costs incurred in the process.

In order to strengthen the capacity of the Local Councils in land administration, the Ministry has commenced deployment of key technical staff, namely, Land Surveyors, Lands Officers, Estate Management Officers, Valuation Surveyors, Housing and Physical Planning Officers to the councils. In addition, the Ministry has facilitated the recruitment of District Land Registrars to facilitate registration of land at the council level.

Similarly, through the Ministry of Local Government, Unity and Culture, Government has recruited Land Clerks who will be deployed at the Traditional Authorities (T/As) to provide administrative assistance to Traditional Authorities and Customary Land Committees (CLCs) in the administration of Customary Land in accordance with the provisions in the Customary Land (Amendment) Act.

The Ministry of Lands is devolving key functions to the local councils to enable it to successfully implement the Land Laws which Parliament passed in 2016 and amended in 2022 which aim at promoting transparency and accountability in land administration across the country.

The general public is therefore, requested to fully support this devolution process as it is for the benefit of the nation.

Signed

Devie Chilonga

SECRETARY FOR LANDS