



Republic of Malawi

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Department of Disaster Management Affairs

PRESS RELEASE

OCCURRENCE OF FIRE ACCIDENT AT MANGOCHI DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND UPDATE ON FLOODS ALONG LAKESHORE DISTRICTS

The Department of Disaster Management Affairs (DoDMA) in the Office of the Vice President would like to inform the general public that fire has gutted some facilities at Mangochi District Hospital on Sunday, 15th April, 2018 from around 10:25hrs.

The department would further like to assure the general public that it is treating the accident as a disaster and is handling the situation with the urgent response it deserves.

Meanwhile, officials from the Ministry of Health, DoDMA and the district council are on the ground assessing the impact. The public will be updated in due course but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

The Department further assures the general public that it will provide necessary assistance to the hospital within this week. DoDMA would also like to commend hospital staff and well-wishers who moved in and managed to put the fire off and evacuate patients to safer places.

Meanwhile, DoDMA would also like to inform the general public about flood disasters in Karonga, Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota and Salima. Currently, district teams are on the ground assessing the extent of damage caused by the disasters. Preliminary reports indicate that 300 households have been affected in Karonga, whereas over 130 households have been affected in Nkhotakota.

For further information, kindly contact DoDMA's Public Relations Officer, Chipiliro Khamula on +265 (0) 884 572 844 or Chief Relief and Rehabilitation officer Fyawupi Mwafongo on +265 (0) 991 005 681.

Signed on the 15th day of April, 2018.

Paul K. Kalilombe

For: **SECRETARY TO THE VICE PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONER FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT AFFAIRS**