



A Call for Law, Order, and Political Tolerance: YAS Condemns Violence and Intimidation by Alleged MCP Functionaries at Msundwe

Youth and Society (YAS) expresses deep shock, anger, and condemnation over the violent and unlawful actions reportedly carried out by individuals affiliated with the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) in Msundwe yesterday.

According to eyewitness accounts and media reports, a group of alleged MCP functionaries took the law into their own hands, unlawfully blocking roads, setting up makeshift checkpoints, searching vehicles, and harassing attendees at a Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) rally. Such acts not only undermine the rule of law but also strike at the very heart of democracy and the freedoms Malawians hold dear.

The events at Msundwe amount to sheer lawlessness and a gross disregard for civil order. In any democratic society, the right to free movement, political association, and expression is sacrosanct, protected by both domestic and international law. By obstructing roads, interrogating citizens, and disrupting lawful gatherings, the alleged perpetrators have shown a troubling contempt for these rights. Such actions demonstrate an alarming descent into chaos, which, if left unchecked, poses a severe threat to national stability and peace.

The Malawi Police Service has a duty to investigate these incidents without bias and to bring the perpetrators to justice. This was a clear breach of both criminal and civil law, as only authorized security personnel are legally permitted to mount roadblocks. The fact that civilians took it upon themselves to stop, search, and terrorize individuals reveals a dangerous trend of self-styled vigilante behavior that should not be tolerated in a lawful society. YAS therefore calls on the police to immediately launch a thorough investigation into this incident and to hold accountable anyone found responsible for inciting or committing acts of violence and intimidation.

Equally concerning is the apparent absence of timely intervention by the Police, who should have been present to prevent such unlawful activities. The lack of response from law enforcement is not only worrisome but sends a disturbing message of passivity in the face of political violence. It is troubling that, in the face of open criminality, law enforcement appears either unwilling or unable to act swiftly and impartially.

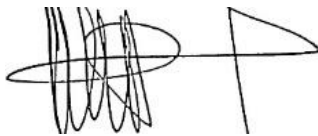
YAS demands answers as to why the Malawi Police Service failed to prevent or halt this lawlessness, and we call for stronger assurances that law enforcement will play an active, neutral role in maintaining peace and upholding citizens' rights, particularly as we

approach an election year. The police's impartiality, integrity, and commitment to public safety are essential if Malawians are to have confidence in a free and fair election process.

YAS also calls on the Malawi Congress Party to take immediate action to curb rogue elements within its ranks. We urge the MCP leadership to publicly condemn this violent act and to discipline any members found to have been involved in these unlawful activities. Political parties bear the responsibility of setting a standard for conduct among their supporters, particularly in times of heightened political tensions. Failure to do so not only erodes the party's moral authority but also fuels fear and division among the public. YAS urges the MCP to demonstrate leadership by taking decisive action against individuals who would use intimidation and violence in the party's name.

Violence has no place in a democratic society. At its core, democracy is a system built on mutual respect, tolerance, and the free exchange of ideas. These tenets are not just ideals; they are fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution of Malawi. All Malawians, regardless of their political affiliations, must be able to engage in the democratic process without fear. The right to freely express political opinions and to support any political party of one's choice is the cornerstone of our democracy. Intimidation, violence, and suppression of opposing views have no place in a free Malawi. YAS reminds all political actors that democracy is strongest when it embraces and respects diverse opinions and that any attempt to stifle these principles is a betrayal of the values that underpin our nation.

As we approach the 2025 general elections, YAS calls on all political parties, government agencies, and citizens to uphold the rule of law, promote tolerance, and denounce any form of violence. We urge the Malawi Congress Party to publicly declare its commitment to non-violence and to act swiftly in disciplining members who fail to uphold this standard. Similarly, we call on the Malawi Police Service to actively protect citizens' rights, prevent unlawful acts, and ensure that justice is served when these rights are violated. Lastly, we encourage all Malawians to reject and condemn political violence and to stand together in defense of our democratic values.

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Charles Kajoloweka
Executive Director

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