



## PRESS RELEASE

The Tilitonse Foundation and CBOs Coalition for Human Rights and Good Governance (CBOs-CHRGG) are delighted to inform the general public and interested parties that the two entities held a meeting on 3 December, 2020 at Human Development Services offices in Chirimba, Blantyre. The meeting was in response to a Petition the CBOs Coalition presented to the Tilitonse Foundation calling for a cancellation of the CBO Call Window released in July, 2020 based on issues of mutual interest raised regarding the Call Window. The issues raised in the Petition were as follows:

- Inclusion of organizations that do not fall under the definition of CBOs in the National NGO Policy as potential beneficiaries of the grants from the CBO Call.
- The due diligence requirements in the CBO Call that disadvantage CBOs because of the capacity requirements that are beyond the scope of CBOs.
- Advertisement of the CBO Call that used mainstream media that is not user friendly to CBOs and cannot easily be accessed.

Following discussions during the meeting, the Foundation and CBOs Coalition would like to bring to the attention of the general public and interested parties that the issues of concern were discussed amicably and a consensus has been reached. Both parties noted their common interests in relation to CBO support, and agreed to work together in pursuit of a common agenda of supporting CBOs, and facilitating good governance in Malawi.

In recognition of the importance of partnership in addressing the interests of both the CBOs represented by the Coalition and the Tilitonse Foundation, the meeting came up with the following resolutions:

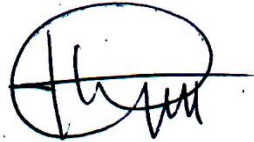
1. The Tilitonse Foundation will revisit its grants manual and take into consideration the definition of CBOs as provided for in the National NGO Policy to guide its future Calls. It was noted that the current description of eligibility of organisations for the CBO Call in the Tilitonse Foundation Grants Manual is broad and not in tandem with the National NGO Policy definition.
2. The Tilitonse Foundation and the CBOs Coalition will explore ways of working together, promoting partnership in future Calls, facilitating coordination between CBOs and the Foundation and provision of capacity development support.
3. The Tilitonse Foundation will review its due diligence requirements for the CBO Call to ensure that it focuses on identification of capacity gaps and support needed to address the identified gaps instead of this being a criterion for qualification for the Call.
4. The Foundation will in future make thorough consultations with the CBOs Coalition and other CBOs on the minimum grant amounts for the CBO Call to ensure that funds benefit more organisations without compromising on quality and the expected results, and taking into consideration capacity challenges that may emerge from management of many small grants.
5. The call for cancellation of the CBO Call by the CBOs Coalition is rescinded. The Tilitonse Foundation will proceed with the current CBO Call and give out grants to successful

applicants. The Foundation will review the list of successful applicants to ascertain the issues raised especially in terms of organizations that have qualified but are not CBOs.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Desmond Kaunda', written in a cursive style.

Desmond Kaunda  
**Board Chairperson – Tilitonse Foundation**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Wilford Wyson', written in a cursive style.

Ernest Wilford Wyson  
**National Chairperson – CBOs Coalition**