



Commonwealth Lawyers Association

Statement regarding reference by Chief Justice Andrew Nyirenda of Malawi to the Anti Corruption Bureau of allegations of attempted bribery of 5 Judges presiding over Presidential elections petitions case.

The Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA):

Recalling the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles endorsed by the Commonwealth Heads of Government at Abuja in 2003;

Noting the allegations of attempted bribery of the Malawian Constitutional Court Judges following the disputed results of the presidential election held on 21st May 2019 and the reference by the Chief Justice of Malawi to the Anti Corruption Bureau in that country:

Urges that a full and independent enquiry into the allegations of bribery of Judges takes place and notes the importance to the Rule of Law of the independence of the Judiciary and the legal profession as described in section 4 of the Latimer House Principles which noted:

“An independent impartial, honest and competent judiciary is integral to upholding the rule of law, engendering public confidence and dispensing justice” .

Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA)

14th January 2020

End of Statement

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The **Commonwealth Lawyers Association** is an international non-profit organisation which exists to promote and maintain the rule of law throughout the Commonwealth by ensuring that an independent and efficient legal profession, with the highest standards of ethics and integrity, serves the people of the Commonwealth.
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