



NON-GOVERNMENTAL GENDER ORGANISATIONS' COORDINATING COUNCIL

"Building Solidarity For Women's Empowerment"

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PRESS STATEMENT For Immediate Release

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GRANTING OF BAIL FOR THE FORMER KATETE DISTRICT COMMISSIONER A SETBACK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) is dismayed by the Magistrate Court's decision to grant bail to former Katete District Commissioner, Raphael Phiri, who stands charged with four counts of incest. Mr. Raphael Phiri is alleged to have had carnal knowledge of his granddaughter on an unknown date between July 4th and August 19th, 2025.

The nation is at a breaking point, grappling with ever-rising cases of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including defilement and incest, which sadly continue to negatively impact more women and girls. Now is the time when most women and girls need to be protected the most by all institutions of justice. Therefore, it is quite disheartening to note that a suspect who allegedly committed a crime of incest has been allowed back into society, in the same environment where he is alleged to have committed the crime.

Cases such as these should be used to demonstrate the court's discretion and commitment to fight sexual offences by ensuring that great effort is made to separate the victims from the suspects to eliminate any opportunity of interference against witnesses and the victim herself. Given the stature of the suspect and the power he could still wield, we shudder to think that justice will be served in this matter.

We also take this opportunity to reiterate our call to the lawmakers to seriously categorise sexual offences such as defilement, incest and rape as serious offences which should be non-bailable. This is because these offences have become rife in our society and are destroying the lives of women and girls every day. Our lawmakers should demonstrate commitment to the fight against GBV by ensuring stiffer punishment for the perpetrators.

**ISSUED:
for/NGOCC**

**Ms. Anne Mbewe-Anamela
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

NGOCC