



PRESS RELEASE

CALLS FOR HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE IN THE WAKE OF CYBER ATTACKS IN THE REGION

In the exercise of its duties to provide proactive cyber-related services, including threat advisory under s.6(3) of the Electronic Transactions & Cybersecurity Act (Chapter 74:02 of the Laws of Malawi), The Malawi Computer Response Team (mwCERT), wishes to inform the public about the recent cyber-attacks that have targeted several countries in the COMESA region, resulting in severe disruptions to critical information infrastructure, across various sectors.

These online attacks have the potential to affect anyone due to the interconnections between countries and our proximity to the concerned countries. As a proactive intervention, mwCERT urges users of computer systems and cyberspace to maintain vigilance in protecting their own critical information infrastructure.

MwCERT therefore, wishes to advise everyone to take heed and consider deploying the following measures:

1. regularly update software: keep computer systems, antivirus software, and other applications up to date to benefit from the latest security patches and counter known vulnerabilities;
2. create strong and unique passwords: use strong and unique passwords for all online accounts, avoiding easily guessable information;
3. enable two-factor authentication (2FA): utilize the security enhancement provided by two-factor authentication, which adds an extra layer of protection beyond a password;
4. exercise caution online: exercise caution when clicking on links or opening attachments in emails, especially from unknown sources or suspicious emails;
5. employ strong email filtering and be aware of phishing attempts to mitigate the risk of attacks; and

6. regularly back up data: create backups of essential files and store them securely. This practice ensures that data can be recovered in the event of a cyber-attack, system failure or device loss.

There is a need for coordinated effort on any suspicious event in our critical information infrastructure and for any inquiries, the public is encouraged to contact Malawi CERT at reporting@mwcert.mw or visit www.mwcert.mw or call toll-free number 261 from any Malawian phone network for any assistance and guidance.

Dated this 28th day of July 2023

**Daud Suleman
DIRECTOR GENERAL**