



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **THE CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH**

The Malawi Computer Emergency Response Team (mwCERT) which is a unit within the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA), would like to inform the public that October is a Global Cybersecurity Awareness Month. This annual initiative is a crucial reminder of the importance of cybersecurity in today's interconnected world. Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a collaboration between the government and private industry aimed at empowering all consumers of ICT services and products to ensure their safety from any form of digital crime. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Cyber Security Awareness month and is being commemorated under the theme “**Secure Our World**”.

This year's theme “Secure Our World” highlights the need for collective efforts to strengthen our defenses against evolving cyber threats. As technology continues to advance, so do the tactics employed by cybercriminals. It is therefore imperative that individuals, businesses, and organizations alike remain vigilant and proactive in safeguarding their digital assets.

Founded in 2004, Cybersecurity Awareness Month is the world’s foremost initiative aimed at promoting cybersecurity awareness and best practices. It is a collaborative effort among businesses, government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, nonprofit organizations, tribal communities, and individuals committed to educating others on online safety.

#### **Key Action Points for All**

mwCERT would like to emphasize the importance of the following four important cybersecurity behaviors. These actions, which may be straightforwardly

implemented by individuals as well as companies, serve as the foundation for cybersecurity best practices:

- **CREATE STRONG PASSWORDS AND USE A PASSWORD MANAGER**
- **TURN ON MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION**
- **RECOGNIZE AND REPORT PHISHING**
- **UPDATE YOUR SOFTWARE**

### **Critical Legislative Authority**

Over the years Malawi has made strides in adopting and adapting to technological advancements and the digital economy. In 2017, as Mandated by the Electronic Transactions and Cyber Security Act (2016) MACRA established the Malawi Computer Emergency Response Team (mwCERT) as a focal point for the coordination of cybersecurity-related issues at the national and international level. In 2019, Malawi adopted the National Cybersecurity Strategy 2019 - 2024 (NCS) with a vision of a nation with a secure, trusted, resilient, and safe cyberspace that promotes a knowledge-based society and socio-economic development.

### **The Authority's Commitment**

MACRA would like to assure all stakeholders of its continued commitment to ensuring a safe and resilient cyberspace for all digital users. The Electronic Transaction and Cybersecurity Act of 2016 recognizes and criminalizes the following offenses: mobile fraud, cyber harassment, cyberstalking, spreading of fake news, hacking, and spam.

***Stay safe online and together we can build a Cyber Secure Malawi for a vibrant digital economy.***

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023



Daud Suleman

**DIRECTOR GENERAL**