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**MALAWI POLICE SERVICE**  
**PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE**

NATIONAL POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
PRIVATE BAG 305  
LILONGWE.  
6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2023.

**PUBLIC STATEMENT**

**UPDATE ON THE ONGOING FORCE-OPENING AND SEARCH EXERCISE OF  
CONTAINERS CONFISCATED DURING RELOCATION OF REFUGEES**

Malawi Police Service (MPS), in conjunction with independent observers appointed by a court of law to oversee the ongoing exercise of force-opening and search of containers confiscated during the relocation of refugees back to Dzaleka Camp would like to update the nation on the following developments in relation to the exercise:

- ❖ This court-supervised exercise is progressing well, having entered its second week on Monday, September 4, 2023.
- ❖ The team has opened and searched 17 containers that were at Mgoni Market in Lilongwe and will proceed with those being kept at National Police Headquarters (Area 30) from Wednesday, September 6, 2023.
- ❖ Three suspects (Two Congolese and one Rwandan) have since been arrested for operating businesses without licenses and other immigration-related charges. They have all been released on police bail as investigations continue.
- ❖ As per the court order guiding the exercise, all containers (with owners present or not) are being opened and searched in the presence of independent stakeholders. MPS and Immigration officers are picking up criminal related matters after which all perishable goods are being disposed of through auction by a duly identified Auctioneer.

MPS assures Malawians, owners of the containers, all concerned individuals and interested parties that the exercise is being done in an open and transparent manner in the presence of independent observers while upholding rights of the refugees.

Senior Superintendent Peter Kalaya  
**(Service Public Relations Officer)**