

## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Unlawful Disclosure of Examination Results on Social Media**

The Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority, as the designated Data Protection Authority, would like to caution the public against publishing Malawi National Examinations Board (MANEB) results of candidates on social media platforms without their knowledge or consent.

Examination results constitute personal data under the Data Protection Act, 2024, as they relate to an identified individual and form part of their private academic record. The Act requires that processing of personal data, including disclosure and publication, be based on a lawful basis and carried out in a manner that respects the rights and freedoms of individuals.

Accordingly, publishing or sharing another person's examination results on social media without a lawful basis may constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act. This includes sharing screenshots, photographs, videos or other content containing an individual's examination results where the disclosure is not authorised or permitted by law. Such conduct may attract both civil and criminal liability, including penalties, compensation claims and prosecution, as provided under the Act.

The Authority, therefore, reminds the public that:

1. Examination results are personal data and are protected by law
2. No disclosure or publication of another individual's examination results should be made without the prior, explicit consent of the individual.
3. The unlawful disclosure of results on social media platforms constitutes a breach of the Data Protection Act, 2024, and attracts both civil and criminal liability.

The Authority urges all members of the public to desist from engaging in such unlawful practices and to respect the privacy of examination candidates. Any reported violations will be investigated and appropriate enforcement action will be taken in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

Members of the public who believe that their personal data has been unlawfully disclosed are encouraged to report the matter to the Authority for redress.

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Mayamiko Nkoloma, PhD  
**DIRECTOR GENERAL**