



PRESS RELEASE

CONDEMNATION OF VIOLENCE AND DAMAGE OF PROPERTY AT BINGU NATIONAL STADIUM DURING AIRTEL TOP EIGHT MATCH BETWEEN SILVER STRIKERS AND MIGHTY MUKURU WANDERERS FOOTBALL CLUBS

The Ministry of Youth and Sports condemns in strongest terms the unruly scenes and destruction of property that took place at Bingu National Stadium in Lilongwe on Saturday, 21st September 2023 during the Airtel Top 8 first leg quarter final match between Silver Strikers and Mighty Mukuru Wanderers Football Clubs.

Much as the Ministry understands that football is an emotional game and fans are an integral part, the behavior displayed at the stadium is retrogressive, unacceptable and uncivilized. According to Brazilian football legend, Pele, football is a beautiful game but such barbaric behavior goes against the ethos of sports that promotes fair play and the spirit of sportsmanship. Stadia are supposed to be safe places for family entertainment. Acts of this nature puts many lives at risk and tarnishes the image of the sponsors who compliments government efforts to develop sports in this country.

The General Public, particularly fans, are reminded that Bingu National Stadium is the only CAF/FIFA approved stadium in the country and if it is vandalized and closed, or condemned by CAF/FIFA, the Malawi National Football team will be

playing all its home and away matches outside the country. This will deprive citizens of their right to football entertainment and economic development of the country that come from the sports industry.

The Ministry therefore, calls upon different stakeholders such as clubs, Football Association of Malawi, Malawi National Council of Sports, Malawi Police Service and the general public to join hands to eradicate theft and violence in sports facilities and bring the perpetrators of violence to justice. We look forward to a thorough enquiry and that those found guilty should be heavily punished and made to pay for maintenance of damaged property at the Bingu National Stadium.



Isaac Dalton Katopola
SECRETARY FOR YOUTH AND SPORTS.
25th September, 2023