

3rd December, 2022

To: All Media Outlets

Civil Society Organizations

The General Public.

HARASSMENT OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS IN MZIMBA

I, together with the entire Mmbelwa Chiefs' Council in Mzimba are deeply shocked with the incident which occurred during the funeral at a village in the area of Inkosi Kampingo Sibande. A video clip circulating on social media shows two elderly women being forced to fill the grave on their own to bury the dead.

Deeply saddening above everything is the fact that one of the elderly women after being badly beaten fell into the grave. It is reportedly said that our two senior citizens had such humiliation heartlessly imposed on them on accusation that they practice witchcraft. Usually, such allegations are propelled by the acts of witch doctors (Zing'anga) whose practices should be critically checked and entirely condemned in our society.

Beliefs and theories obtained from these witch doctors have created tension and threats especially on the elderly who are often accused of practicing witchcraft. We wish to strongly condemn this barbaric attitude towards the elderly. It must always be remembered that the elderly are the fountain of wisdom and that at all times they should be treated with respect and dignity.

Also, let us remember that accusing a person of practicing witchcraft is an offence under the Laws of Malawi. We have been assured by the Malawi Police Service, through the Officer –In-Charge Mzimba that the law enforcers are vigorously tackling the matter and that they will soon bring the culprits to book. On this, we would like to commend the Police and we pledge our full co-operation for justice to prevail.



INKOSI YA MAKHOSI MMBELWA V

King of the Ngoni Nation-Mzimba



