



## PRESS RELEASE

### MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND MINING

#### Department of Forestry

#### 2019/20 NATIONAL FORESTRY SEASON

#### **THEME: “*Trees and Forests for Transformed Landscapes and Livelihoods*”**

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining wishes to remind the general public that the **National Forestry Season** runs from 15<sup>th</sup> December to 15<sup>th</sup> April the following year. The ministry therefore would like to advise the general public to start tree planting in all those areas which have received adequate rains.

The main objective of the National Forestry Season is to build a responsible citizenry that cares for trees and forests for the sustenance of present and future generations. It is a fact that as a nation we heavily depend on forests and forest resources for our survival and sustenance.

Trees and forests support the livelihoods of the vast majority of our people through the provision of timber and poles for construction, medicines, herbs, wild fruits and other products for nourishments; additionally, trees and forests safeguard sources of water and catchments, trees replenish the vital oxygen we breathe; provide energy for cooking and heating; and, trees protect steep slopes and other marginal areas from soil erosion, thereby averting calamities such as flash floods. This is the reason why this year's theme is **“*Trees and Forests for Transformed Landscapes and Livelihoods*”**.

The Ministry, through the Department of Forestry, has set a target of planting 62 million trees. During the season, Government through the Department of Forestry will conduct various forest management practices in 88 forest reserves. In liaison with private sector, it will protect and manage 90,000 hectares in forest plantations. The youth with support from government are expected to manage 30,000 hectares of natural regeneration on customary land throughout the country during the season.

Trees and forests need to be protected and managed to yield maximum benefits from these rich natural resources. Proper management of trees and forests should improve Malawi's resilience to the effects of climate change. It is therefore expected that all Malawians of good will, young and old, male and female should participate fully in undertaking this exercise.

The Ministry would therefore like to further encourage the general public in liaison with District Forestry Officers to actively participate in tree planting and protecting natural regeneration of customary land forests, village forest areas, forest reserves, woodlots, fruity orchards, estates and plantations.

In view of the foregoing, and in an effort to sustain our forest resources, the Ministry would therefore like to earnestly appeal to the general public to take forestry activities as an integral part when implementing various development programmes.

**Signed: Patrick C.R. Matanda**

**SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES, ENERGY AND MINING.**