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**Ministry of Finance**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**UPDATE ON THE STATUS OF THE COVID 19 FUNDS UTILIZATION AUDITS**

The Ministry of Finance would like to provide an update to the general public on the status of the audits of the utilization of Covid-19 funds as follows:

1. **K6.2 Billion Disbursement**

Following issuance of the Investigative Audit Report by the National Audit Office on the usage of the K6.2 billion CoVID-19 funds in March 2021,in line with section 14 of the Public Audit Act.2008, (Amendment), the Secretary to the Treasury communicated to the Controlling Officers of the Thirty –three(33) concerned Ministries, Departments and Agencies on the audit queries that were raised in the Report and alleged malpractices and their obligation to provide management responses within a prescribed period (14 days). The thirty-three (33) Ministries, Departments and Agencies provided their responses to Treasury.

On 11th August, 2021 the Secretary to the Treasury wrote all concerned Controlling Officers to discipline all concerned officers in line with the laws.

1. **K5.3 billion andK17.5 billion Disbursements**

The National Audit Office commenced an audit exercise for the two disbursements of K5.3 billion and k17.5 billion on 30th August 2021. Further update shall be provided once the audit exercise is finalised and a report is presented to my office.

For further details, please contact **Mr. Williams Banda** on 0993377777or email pro.finance@finance.gov.mwor visit the Ministry of Finance website at **www.finance.gov.mw.**

Chauncy Simwaka

**SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY**