

REPORT ON OUR MEETING WITH MRS HANNAH MAHAMBA OF LILONGWE AND HER COMPENSATION FOR THE LAMP'S USE OF HER PHOTO IN ISSUE NO 207 OF JULY 2022

15 October 2022

1. On Tuesday, 20 September 2022, we received a call from Hannah Mahamba, a businesswoman of Kawale 1 Township in Lilongwe who complained that her picture was used in The Lamp No 207 of July 2022 without her consent.
2. Hannah Mahamba alleged that we took the photo without seeking permission and went on to publish it. She told us that she contacted the police and rights organizations (HRDC and COSOMA), which told her that this was a serious offence hence her calling us.
3. After consultations with management, Montfort Media, Human Resources Manager, Mr C Ndema contacted Hannah Mahamba to get her side of the story. He also informed her our side of the story and how we got the picture. She was told that the picture was already in public domain when we sourced it from the Internet. We did not take the picture. Actually, the picture was taken by Melissa Cooperman of International Food Research Institute (IFPRI) and has been published by IFPRI on its website and *solotourguides.com* and other websites as well.
4. A meeting was set up to meet Hannah Mahamba on Thursday, 22 September 2022 at 2:30 pm at Mitundu Trading Centre in Lilongwe. She plies her trade at Mitundu Trading Centre. On the trip to Lilongwe Mr Ndema was accompanied with Mr Joseph Kayira, Editor of The Lamp magazine and Supervisor of the Communications Department at Montfort Media.
5. Upon meeting Hannah Mahamba, she explained that she felt her picture was wrongly used as she was portrayed as someone languishing in poverty. She therefore was asking The Lamp magazine to compensate her in monetary form. At first, Hannah Mahamba said she wanted one million kwacha (K1,000,000 million); then she came to down to five hundred (K500,000 thousand); then further down to four hundred thousand kwacha (K400,000 thousand). After reasoning with her she settled for three hundred and fifty thousand kwacha (K350,000).
6. Ms Hannah Mahamba was also told that if disagreements would arise at this level, the next stage would be arbitration at Media Council of

Malawi; and that if the matter would come to nothing at Media Council of Malawi, then she was free to go to the courts. She was advised that if the matter goes to court, it would take longer to get to conclusion and that such a process is mostly long, a waste of time and resources. She agreed on resolving the matter amicably with us.

7. Ms Hannah Mahamba was informed that the matter would be brought to Montfort Media management for consideration and that she would be informed in due course about management's decision.
8. Montfort Media Management opted to settle the matter with Hannah Mahamba immediately.
9. On Thursday 29 September 2022, Montfort Media handed over to Hannah Mahamba, in the company of her husband, Mr Joseph Kalonga, a sum of K350,000 cash at Bishop Nervi Media Centre in Lilongwe. At the ceremony, Montfort Media was represented by Mr C Ndema, the Human Resources Manager and Mr Joseph Kayira, editor of The Lamp magazine and Communications Supervisor.
10. Both parties signed a Media Council of Malawi waiver [not to institute legal proceedings] and a Montfort Media form accepting and acknowledging receipt of the money (K350,000) and closure of the case.

Regards.



Joseph Kayira
Editor | Supervisor
Communications Department
Montfort Media