



STUDENT CHRISTIAN ORGANISATION OF MALAWI

Communications should be addressed to:

The General Secretary
SCOM Secretariat
P.O Box 657
Lilongwe
Cell: (+265) 0887 208 016
Email: scommalawi@gmail.com

25th March, 2026

To: **All SCOM Members**
Secondary School Section

Through: **The SCOM Patrons/ Matrons**

Dear Beloved SCOM Members,

COMMUNICATION FROM THE SCOM NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Greetings in the name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. We trust that this letter finds you in good health despite the challenges which you might be facing as students. We are aware of the various challenges that our country is facing which continue to affect all of us in one way or the other, whether as individuals, institutions, or communities. Despite these challenges, we want to assure you that there is God in heaven who knows and sees everything, you only need to seek him and he will be found (Acts 17: 26 – 27). You can be assured that we always pray for you and it is our hope that God will keep watching over your lives until you fulfill your destiny. Please, pray for us as we pray for you.

There are a few things that we would like to remind and inform you about:

1. SCOM Annual Theme

Take note that the theme for 2025/2026 SCOM year is ***Finishing Strong*** taken from 2 Timothy 4: 7 - 7. The theme aims at encouraging SCOM members all Christians to follow through the right processes and keep our faith to the end as we pursue our goals. In order for us to finish strong, we are focusing on the following key areas for this academic year: **adherence to organizational objectives and processes, effective evangelism and discipleship, cultivation of the right disciplines, and anticipation of Christ's return.** We therefore encourage you to carry out activities in your branches which will contribute to your growth in these areas both at personal and branch level. A Bible Study guide was developed and circulated to help members get the most out of the theme, make sure you study the bible regularly

2. Branch and membership subscription

SCOM is a membership organization, as such it relies on the subscription fees and contributions from its members to carry out basic operations. You are hereby reminded that the subscription fees were revised by the National General Council (NGC) in 2024 and the revised fees are as follows:

Branch registration fee: K2, 000 per branch per year.
Membership fee: K300 per student per year.

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Regional offices:

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We encourage you to support and take ownership of SCOM by paying your annual subscription fees before 31 July, 2026. You can ask your Associate or zone leadership for guidance on how you can pay your subscription or you can pay during the conference. You can also send your contributions directly to the following account details:

National Bank: SCOM Irish, Capital City Branch, Account # 1470318
Mpamba: 0887208016, SCOM Secretariat

Please remember to indicate the name of your branch on reference or description. Proof of payment should be sent to **Ms. Tamiwagha Ngulu on 0881 02 14 98** for recording purposes and issuing of receipts. Make sure you notify your zone leadership or regional office after you have paid your subscription.

3. SCOM Development Centre Project

SCOM is currently mobilizing resources towards the construction of the Youth Development Center and National Head Quarters in Lilongwe. We appeal to you to take part in this project by contributing a small amount as individuals and branches. More details on the amounts and how to send your contributions will be communicated to you once the plans have been finalized.

4. SCOM and other Church-Based Organizations conducting services together

It has come to our attention that in some schools, SCOM and other Church-Based Organizations hold their fellowship meetings together. In some schools, the arrangement is initiated by the school management due to lack of adequate space or time for different Christian organizations to meet separately, while in others, it is the students themselves who decide to be meeting together for various reasons. While we appreciate the reasons behind this arrangement, we would want our members to understand that different organizations have different values and approaches and should therefore be treated as different. SCOM is interdenominational in nature and accepts students from different religious backgrounds. Holding meetings together with Church-Based Organizations may confuse other SCOM members or prevent other students who belong to different denominations from joining SCOM. SCOM exists to complement the work of the Church. However, we would want to maintain the interdenominational nature of SCOM by ensuring that our services are not leaning towards any particular denomination.

If the school system does not allow separate meeting times for Christian organizations, students are encouraged to choose which meeting they want to attend at any given time, or find better ways of belonging to both SCOM and Church-Based Organizations on campus without necessarily conducting the services together. It should be noted, however, that SCOM is not in any way discouraging its members from belonging to any Church-Based Student Organization that operates in the campuses. In fact, SCOM encourages its members to be responsible members of their churches and one way of doing

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that is by attending all gatherings of the Church whether on campus or outside the campus.

5. Guarding against false teachings

In these last days, false teachings are very common even from the people we once considered to be true men and women of God. Because of the freedom of worship and freedom of association, every preacher is free to come into the schools to preach or establish a ministry. We want you to be careful of the people you associate with or invite to speak to you and pay attention to the kinds of messages you listen to. Take note that in SCOM, we emphasize that any guest speaker who comes to preach to your fellowship meetings must do so upon invitation. Always pray for guidance before inviting any speaker and makes sure you invite people you know that they will teach the truth, respect school rules and the interdenominational nature of SCOM, and observe the time allocated to them. If you are not sure about any speaker, please consult your Associate for guidance. It is your responsibility to protect yourself from false teachers.

6. Emphasis on Bible Study

One way of dealing with false teachings is to grow in your knowledge of the Word of God through regular Bible study, memorizing and meditating on the Word of God (Joshua 1: 8). However, we have noted with concern the lack of interest in personal and group Bible study by SCOM members in most of the branches. Be reminded that Bible study is an important practice in SCOM, as such it must be given priority in your programs and fellowship meetings. The Bible Study Guide for this year was already circulated in the first term. If your branch did not receive a copy, please link up with your Associate or Regional Office, to send you one. We encourage members to study the Bible in small groups to encourage participation. For this to work, we advise SCOM leaders to divide the members into smaller groups, according to classes or accommodation arrangements, who can be meeting regularly (e.g., weekly or once every two weeks) to study the Bible together during breaks or any convenient time agreed by them. You can also study the Bible together during your fellowship meetings by dividing the members into small groups to discuss a chosen topic and have someone summarize at the end.

7. People who come to visit your branch in the name of SCOM

SCOM recognizes only three groups of people who can come to your branch in the name of SCOM and these are SCOM staff, Associates, and senior friends. Make sure that you **ALWAYS VERIFY** the identity of any person who comes to visit you before you allow them to speak to you even if you are already familiar with the person. Any Associate or senior friend who comes to visit your SCOM branch must have a valid membership card or introduction letter from their respective zones, while a staff must have a valid work ID or Associates membership card. Anyone who wishes to visit or talk to you apart from these, must seek permission from the school management to address all students and not just SCOM members, unless you have verified the identity of the person and their reason for wanting to meet with SCOM members. We also encourage SCOM leaders to make sure that no visitor or speaker should be allowed to address SCOM members without the knowledge / in the absence of the patron/matron or any teacher.

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8. Dealing with challenges of life

We have noted with sadness the increasing number of students who commit suicide each year. Reports indicate that 14 students between 14 and 17 years committed suicide in 2025 alone. We know that many students are facing challenges in life, which sometimes make them feel helpless and hopeless. We want to encourage you that no matter how hopeless your situation might be, believe that God cares for you and he wants you to trust him with your burdens and experience his peace (**Phil. 4: 4 – 7, 1 Pet. 5:7**).

In case you are one of those going through situations which you find too difficult to bear, we want to appeal to you that suicide is not an option; you are better off alive than dead just as the Bible says in **Ecclesiastes 9: 4** that *“a live dog is better than a dead lion.”* This should give you hope that things can change for the better as long as there is life. We also want to encourage you to avoid engaging don't resort to sexual immorality/ prostitution, gambling/betting, drinking, smoking or even violence as a way of escaping from the realities of your problems; instead, talk to someone you trust or any Associate or staff closest to you for assistance. We are here for you, and if it is something we cannot handle, we will make sure to refer you to the right people who will be able to assist you appropriately.

9. Continue praying for the country

We want to encourage you to continue praying for our country so that we will continue to enjoy the peace and freedom of worship. Pray also for all schools across Malawi that they will be free from violence, vandalism, pandemics and natural disasters, and that the school calendar will remain stable. It is our duty to pray for our country (**2 Chronicles 7: 14, 1 Timothy 2: 1 – 4**), and God promises to answer our prayers and heal our land when we pray according to his will.

10. New contact numbers for regional offices

Take note that we have new phone numbers for all the regional offices. Should you need more information or clarification on any issues relating to SCOM, you can contact the Training Secretary in your region on the new numbers indicated below each page.

We wish you abundant blessings from God our Father and success in your studies. We pray that you will continue to love and serve Him faithfully as you pursue your goals! Remember to work hard in class, remain faithful and rely on God's grace in everything you do. To those sitting for JCE and MSCE this year, we wish you the best and pray that you will write the exams without any disturbances.

May the Lord continue to bless and guide you!

Yours in His Service,

Ellen Napala (Mrs.)

GENERAL SECRETARY

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