



PRESS RELEASE

MEC materials recovered by police in Lilongwe

The Malawi Electoral Commission has been informed by the Malawi Police Service that on 14th February 2019 a man by the name of Mr Manase Jossam was found with materials belonging to the National Registration Bureau (NRB) and the MEC.

The facts of the matter are that on the material day, Kanengo Police mounted a snap roadblock along Lilongwe Teachers Training College Area. At around 7PM, Mr Jossam failed to stop at the road block and Police Officers followed him and caught up with him in Area 25. His vehicle was searched and they found bulk transparent packets which he could not explain the purpose.

The Police Officers took him to his house in the same Area where upon searching they found two NRB backpacks containing the following materials belonging to the MEC:

- Twenty monitor IDs;
- Two marked empty envelopes;

- Two Voter Registration Application Book Tracking Forms;
- Two Handbooks for Security Forces;
- Two Handbooks for Monitors;
- Completed Accreditation forms of Party and local Monitors; and;
- Two registration booths.

Mr Jossam told Kanengo Police he bought the backpacks in Nkhotakota for personal use and was not aware of their contents until that time the officers searched him.

The Police are further interrogating him to establish how he got the items and the intention of keeping them. On its part, the MEC is also doing internal investigations using the information from some of the documents to establish the staff that might have used the backpacks during voter registration period.

Note that no voting materials were found among the recovered items as reported by the media. The MEC is assuring stakeholders that these are non-sensitive materials that cannot be used to obtain voter registration or access polling by fraud.

The Malawi Electoral Commission will update the nation on progress made by the Police in their investigations and actions that will be taken.

Should there be any need for clarification or further information, contact our Director of Media and Public Relations, Mr Sangwani Mwafulirwa on 0 999 274 304 or email sangwa79@yahoo.com .

Signed this 18th day of February, 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Alfandika', written in a cursive style.

Sam Alfandika

Chief Elections Officer