



# **ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE RESULTS OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 2019**

My fellow Malawians

Today, after High Court's ruling on the injunction of results, I come before you to announce the result that you have all been waiting for. The Commission has completed the tabulation of results and the queries and complaints raised after the elections have been addressed. We now, have a winner of the presidential election held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2019. Before I declare the winner, please allow me to walk you through the process.

The journey to presidential elections started with ten candidates submitting their nomination papers. Seven candidates made it to the final contest after three were dropped from the race due to various reasons. During the nomination process the Commission learned many valuable lessons and one that is undisputable is that we need to put in place measures that ensure that only serious candidates should make it to the final contest.

I wish to commend the seven candidates for putting up a gallant fight. This election has been characterized by a campaign period full of enthusiasm and energy. Election rallies were intense and we have witnessed that the candidates turned up in their best form to present their manifestos in the quest of wooing voters.

I wish to commend all the responsible citizens that came to vote and waited patiently for results. Election is a serious business, it defines the leadership and development of the entire country, therefore, the

process cannot be rushed. The Commission is not only responsible for preparing results but also for ensuring that the results are credible and that all grievances and complaints are duly addressed. Now, after these issues have been resolved the Commission is ready to pronounce the winner.

My fellow Malawians, to ensure the credibility of the results the Commission made an undertaking to give all political parties the scanned results sheets from polling stations so that they can also cross-check with their monitors. The purpose was that if they find an anomaly they should lodge a complaint with the Commission. However, we saw the tendency that political parties rushed to the media instead of approaching the Commission. This tendency does not resolve matters. As we have witnessed, it only fuels public anxiety and heightens fear and panic among the public. The Commission had put in place several stages of crosschecking the results and had answers and justifications to almost each and every query out there. I will give you an example of the district tally for Lilongwe. It was noted that the Talled District Result of Count (MEC.POLL073b) for the Presidential Election in Lilongwe District, as compiled by the District Commissioner, had some discrepancies.

According to his compilation, the total number of votes for each candidate were:

Dr Lazarus Chakwera – MCP	540,424
Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima – UTM	113,146
Professor John Chisi – UP	1,786

Mr Reverend Kaliya – INDEPENDENT 1,119

Mr Peter Kuwani – MMD 1,180

Mr Atupele Muluzi - UDF 13,352

Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika – DPP 84,598

In this case, the District Commissioner had erroneously captured the result for Lilongwe Msinja North on Lilongwe Kumachenga thereby inflating the count for each candidate in the district. At the final stage of computerized counting, the Commission captured the error and corrected the figures for Lilongwe Kumachenga Constituency. Now the finally tally for the candidates is as follows:

Dr Lazarus Chakwera – MCP 530,941

Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima – UTM 113,909

Professor John Chisi – UP 1,575

Mr Reverend Kaliya – IND 1,046

Mr Peter Kuwani – MMD 1,113

Mr Atupele Muluzi - UDF 13,064

Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika – DPP 82,080

The final computer count thereof captured the error and corrected it. If parties had sought clarification from MEC, the unnecessary public alarm could have been avoided.

My fellow Malawians, the MEC also received varied complaints in relation to Presidential Elections.

Allow me to cite some that attracted a lot of publicity. There was a complaint that the number of people who voted at Goliati Centre in

Thyolo East constituency was more than the number of registered voters. After investigation the Commission found out that at Goliati Centre, there were 6,088 registered voters out of which 5,287 voted.

At Lauderdale Centre in Mulanje South, 5,015 registered to vote and only 3,775 voters turned out to vote. At this centre, we did an investigation and all the monitors confirmed that the numbers sent to the Malawi Electoral Commission were correct.

In Nsanje Central, a total of 24,262 voters were registered and 17,774 registered voters cast their votes. It was alleged that the Constituency Returning Officer was caught marking ballot papers and changing figures. The Commission investigated the matter and all the concerned parties confirmed that not a single figure was changed. All such complaints have, therefore, been dismissed as they were baseless.

## **Now I would like to come to the declaration of Results:**

Fellow Malawians, voting in the Tripartite Elections took place on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 in all the 5002 polling stations. Out of 6,859,570 registered voters, 5,105,983 turned up for polling representing 74.44 percent. A total of 74,719 votes were declared null and void representing 1.09 percent.

Before I go any further, let me repeat and emphasize here what I stated on 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 when announcing results for the parliamentary elections that the election results are decided by the numbers of votes that each candidate secures. The Commission only facilitates the process by enabling voters to cast their votes for the leaders of their choice. It should also be clearly noted that the Commission does not favour any individual or political party. It only respects and represents the will of the people. It is the voter who decide who wins the election.

The results of the voting are as follows:

- i. Lazarus McCarthy Chakwera, Malawi Congress Party 1,781,740 votes representing 35.41 percent
- ii. Dr Saulos Klaus Chilima, UTM, 1,018,369 votes representing 20.24 percent
- iii. Professor John Eugenes Chisi, Umodzi Party, 19,187 votes representing 0.38 percent

- iv. Reverend Hadwick Kaliya, Independent, 15,726 votes representing 0.31 percent
- v. Peter DSD Kuwani, Mbakuwawaku Movement for Development (MMD), 20,369 votes representing 0.40 percent
- vi. Atupele Muluzi, United Democratic Front (UDF), 235,164 votes representing 4.67 percent.
- vii. Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) 1,940,709 votes representing 38.57 percent.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission has thoroughly reviewed all the complaints that were lodged for the Presidential Election and we declare the Presidential Elections to be free and fair and these results are the true reflection of the will of the people of Malawi.

By the powers vested in me by the Section 80(2) of the Constitution as read with Section 96(5) of the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections Act, I, Justice Dr Jane Mayemu Ansah, SC, JA, hereby declare candidate Professor Arthur Peter Mutharika as the President Elect of Malawi and Everton Herbert Chimulirenji as vice-president Elect of Malawi following the 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019 presidential election.

On behalf of the entire Commission, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the President Elect and his vice. You have been elected by the people of Malawi to lead them into a brighter future. You have been bestowed with the heavy responsibility of leading the development agenda of the nation for the next five years. I urge you to work and perform to your best and not betray the trust and

confidence of the people of Malawi who have elected you as their President and vice-president.

For those who have not made it this time, I say that this is the decision of the majority of Malawian voters and we must accept it with grace and generosity. And I encourage you to continue to play your part in building Malawi into a greater nation.

To everyone out there I wish to say that what binds us together as Malawians is much stronger than what separates us into political parties. Let us all work together to serve our country and to give our future generation a better, stronger and prosperous Malawi.

May God bless Malawi

I wish you well. Thank you all for your attention.