



MALAWI ELECTORAL COMMISSION

VOTER REGISTRATION CLARIFICATIONS

**PRESENTATION AT PRESS BRIEFING
CROSSROADS HOTEL - LILONGWE
19TH MAY 2020**

Introduction

Transition to Biometric Voter Registration (BVR)

It has always been in the Commission's interest to have a Clean Voter Register

The decision was therefore made for the 2019 TPE to migrate to BVR in an effort to realise Clean Voter register arising from recommendations from various electoral stakeholders

Using BVR, the voter information is obtained by just scanning the QR Code of National ID Card – there's no typing of voter details, no editing, etc

Introduction

The actual capture of an individual's details and biometrics was undertaken by the National Registration Bureau.

Following a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NRB and MEC, the Commission uses that information through the National ID Card to positively identify all prospective voters and to ensure that everyone is only registered once in the Voters' Register.

Introduction cont'd

Please take note that the National ID is only used for the positive identification of a prospective voter and collection of their information.

Paper Voter Registers will still be printed for polling day as per tradition

Those with the National ID but do not come for Voter Registration will not vote on Polling Day

Registration Process

Operator will start the system and enter his/her login details which will be issued by MEC system administrators.

Registration Process

After successful login, the system will display the voter capture window which will have preconfigured Centre details (District, Constituency, Ward and Centre).

The display window will prompt the operator to scan the applicants national ID card using the Quick Response (QR) code scanner.

Registration Process

Please take note that for those that have the sticker from NRB and have not yet collected their National ID they can present this sticker to register as a voter.

The system will read the QR code on this sticker as well.

Registration Process

The system will check that the person that has presented themselves is eligible to vote.

The system will reject all applicants that are under age.

Registration Process

At a successful scan, the system will read the text information from the card, extracting the individual's Names, Gender, Date of birth and their national ID number.

Please take note that MEC does not get this information from the NRB database

Registration Process

At the same time of extraction, the system will generate a voter ID number for the applicant.

Registration Process

The system will then display the details of the registered voter and on prompt, save the information into the local disk and to a backup media and then initiate the printer.

Registration Process

The system will print the voter's details on two Voter Registration Certificates and clear the detail display screen, waiting for the next registration.

Registration Process



MALAWI ELECTORAL COMMISSION

20180209113036

DEDZA | Dedza North | RC1



PHIRI CHIKONDI INNOCENCE

DoB: 13/08/1995 | F | Reg. Date: 09/02/2018



MALAWI ELECTORAL COMMISSION

20180209113036

DEDZA | Dedza North | RC1



PHIRI CHIKONDI INNOCENCE

DoB: 13/08/1995 | F | Reg. Date: 09/02/2018

Registration Process

One Voter Registration Certificate will be put in a plastic pouch and given to the registered voter as proof of registration

The second Voter Registration Certificate will be stuck into a book that will be kept by the registration centre staff.

Stakeholders can crosscheck any registration with the physical registration book to confirm existence

Registration Process

The system will not allow multiple registrations on the same kit.

Someone may register multiple times in different centres and phases but these entries will be caught when all the information is deposited into the main database and exception reports will be printed.

Only the first registration is valid

Registration Process

MEC then sends Nat ID and Receipt Numbers of all those that came for Voter Registration to NRB

NRB confirms those numbers and returns the photograph of the voter.

Setting Voter Register to May 2019 Status

Each registration drive has its own unique prefix identifier

2019 Tripartite Election **T19**

2019 By Election **A19**

2020 By Election **A20**

2020 Fresh Presidential Election **F20**

Setting Voter Register to May 2019 Status

Samples of certificates



Setting Voter Register to May 2019 Status

Samples of certificates



Setting Voter Register to May 2019 Status

Only those with voter certificates beginning with **T19** will be allowed to vote in the Fresh Presidential Elections

Only those whose voter numbers start with **T19** will be found in the voters registers for the Fresh Presidential Elections

Setting Voter Register to May 2019 Status

Just by looking at the Voter Certificate polling staff will know whether the person can vote in the Fresh Presidential Election or not

Setting Voter Register to May 2019 Status

The Voter Register for the Fresh Presidential Elections shall exclude all registrations that do not start with **T19**

Queries Raised by MCP

Total number of registered voters for 2019 TPE was **6,859,570** and not 6,859,700

- Don't know how it was concluded that people voted in 2019 without being on MEC VR database

Queries Raised by MCP

There were multiple National IDs used to vote in 2019

Not too sure what this means but it should be borne in mind that National IDs were not necessary during polling.

National IDs were only used during voter registration

Queries Raised by MCP

One National ID number with multiple voters in MEC database

- It must be noted that the Commission scans either the National ID or the NRB registration receipt sticker when registering voters.
- Even if two or more people were to share the same Nat ID number or same registration receipt number only the first registration will be recognized in the Voter Register while any subsequent voter registrations with that number will be sent into the exceptions file.

Queries Raised by MCP

- **One National ID can have transposed names, date of birth and gender in MEC database hence more voters for one ID**
- NRB had a lot of cases where the registration officers during ID mass registration and ID registration during voter registration made mistakes when registering the people e.g. on gender, names e.tc. A number of people have come back to request NRB to edit details after they had already registered for voting. This was mainly after the ID cards had been printed and distributed to them, way after the voter registration exercise.
- In such instances the same person might have different details on their new National ID as compared to what is in the Voters' Register

Queries Raised by MCP

- **33,523 with NRB receipts and MEC Receipts without National IDs**
- An ID number is issued only after all the validation checks have been carried out successfully. Therefore, those records that have failed validation checks for various reasons e.g. duplicates will have no ID allocated. During the Voter Registration Exercise in 2018, the NRB and MEC Biometric Registration Kits (BRKs) were operating in offline mode with receipts being issued without validating with the Central System. When the records in the BRKs were synced with the server and processed, those that failed the validation checks were not issued with National IDs.

Queries Raised by MCP

- **About 4,367 people with no ID number/receipt but they appear in MEC VR database**

There are various reasons why a record may not have an ID number assigned e.g. a duplicated record. Many such records are held in suspension until they are assessed, passed a validation check, or possibly pending authentication for other reasons. It is a quality assurance measure that an ID number is issued only after all the validation checks are carried out successfully, otherwise the number is not issued.

However as seen from the registration process every record in the Voter Register database will have either a Receipt Number or a Nat ID Number or both. It cannot miss both

Queries Raised by MCP

- **About 37,890 voters no ID numbers**

An ID number is issued only after all the validation checks have been carried out successfully. Therefore, those records that have failed validation checks for various reasons e.g. duplicates will have no ID allocated. During the Voter Registration Exercise in 2018, the NRB and MEC Biometric Registration Kits (BRKs) were operating in offline mode with receipts being issued without validating with the Central System. When the records in the BRKs were synced with the server and processed, those that failed the validation checks were not issued with National IDs.

Queries Raised by MCP

Of particular note is the case of different names in NRB and MEC for same ID number:

- This anomaly is well known and was detected during the mass National ID registration process with the behavior of some Registration Officers (RO). It can be explained by Person A coming to register then leaves. Person B then comes in to register. Instead of the RO creating a new record, they would pick up from Person A's open record and edit it, basically overwriting Person A's data with Person B's details. But Person A would have gone with a receipt and since it is the same record that had been edited, the same receipt number will be printed for Person B. We have seen a few of such cases, and nothing malicious was intended on the part of the RO.
- Using the same examples used by MCP it can be proven that all the people mentioned exist and have NRB receipts and those that proceeded for Voter Registration also have Voter Certificates. No ones details were edited and no new voter was created.

Queries Raised by MCP

- **Allegation that Cecillia becomes Eneless**
- These are two distinct and existing individuals.
- Eneless Pasulani was the first to register with the Electoral Commission as a voter on 26th July 2018 and assigned Voter Number T19099810152005037 while Cecelia Laisi registered with the Commission on the same day but at a later time and assigned Voter number T19099810152005048.
- The adjudication process at NRB designated the two entries as duplicates and therefore only the first entry is recognized by the Commission's system and the second entry was put into the Exceptions file as a duplicate.

Queries Raised by MCP

- Allegation that Cecilia becomes Eneless

```
select * from VoterRegister where Pin='00339770'  
select * from ExceptionsVoterRegister where MatchingVoterRegisterId='1007581'
```

100 %

Results Messages

	Id	Pin	Receipt	Surname	FirstName	OtherNames	DateOfBirth	DateOfRegistration	Gender	VRNumber
1	1007581	00339770	D260718MW1748P13266821	PASULANI	ENELESS	BANDA	1995-08-31 00:00:00.000	2018-07-26 10:42:27.900	F	T19099810152005037

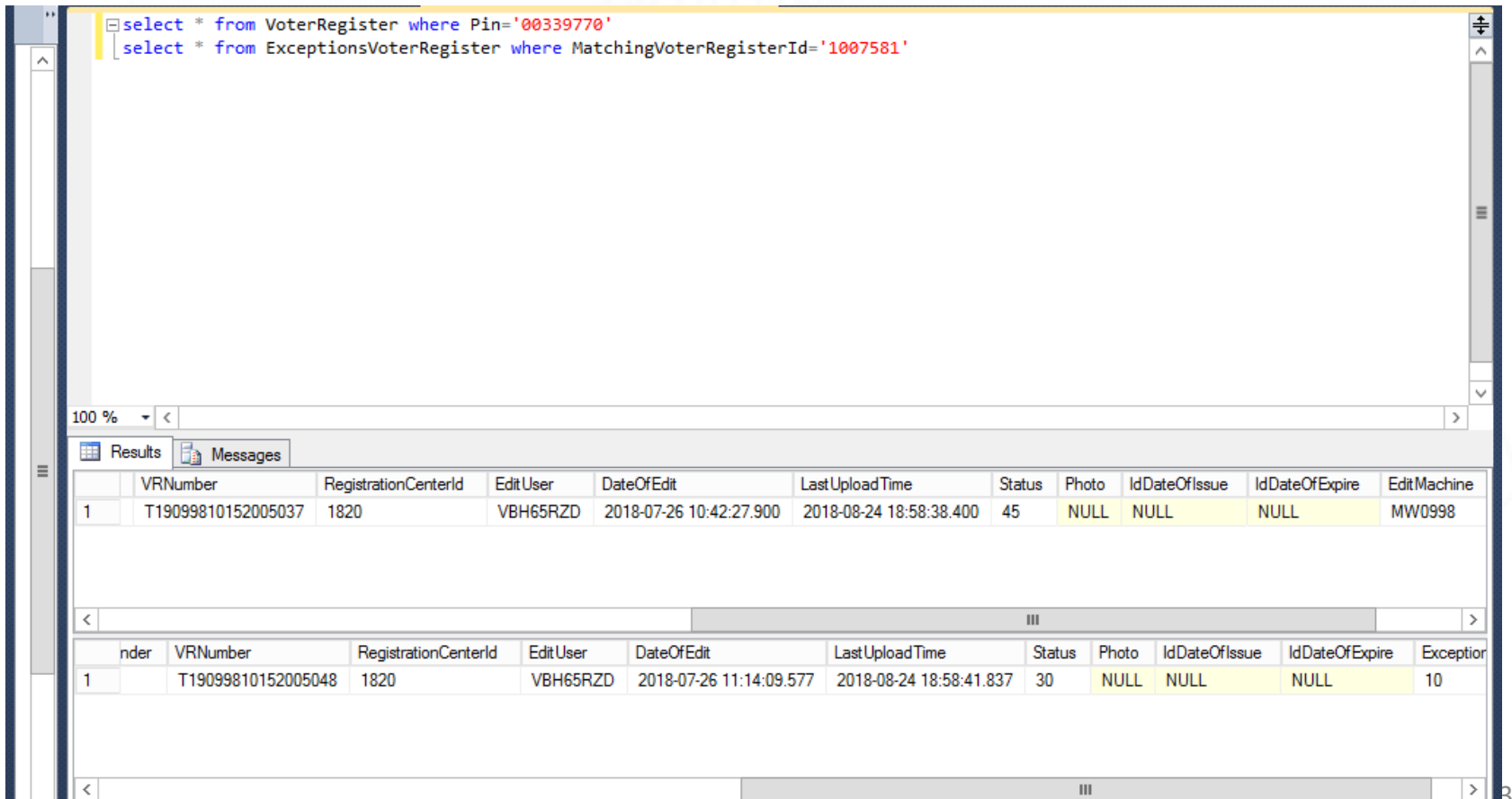
< ||| >

	Id	MatchingVoterRegisterId	Pin	Receipt	Surname	FirstName	OtherNames	DateOfBirth	DateOfRegistration	Gender	VRNumber
1	32560	1007581		D260718MW1748P13266823	LAISI	CECILIA	MIRRIAM	2000-01-04 00:00:00.000	2018-07-26 11:14:09.577	F	T1909

< ||| >

Queries Raised by MCP

- Allegation that Cecilia becomes Eneless



The screenshot displays a SQL query tool interface. At the top, two queries are entered in a text area:

```
select * from VoterRegister where Pin='00339770'  
select * from ExceptionsVoterRegister where MatchingVoterRegisterId='1007581'
```

Below the queries, the results are shown in a table. The table has two sections, each with a header row and one data row. The first section has columns: VRNumber, RegistrationCenterId, Edit User, DateOfEdit, LastUploadTime, Status, Photo, IdDateOfIssue, IdDateOfExpire, and Edit Machine. The second section has columns: VRNumber, RegistrationCenterId, Edit User, DateOfEdit, LastUploadTime, Status, Photo, IdDateOfIssue, IdDateOfExpire, and Exception.

	VRNumber	RegistrationCenterId	Edit User	DateOfEdit	LastUploadTime	Status	Photo	IdDateOfIssue	IdDateOfExpire	Edit Machine
1	T19099810152005037	1820	VBH65RZD	2018-07-26 10:42:27.900	2018-08-24 18:58:38.400	45	NULL	NULL	NULL	MW0998

nder	VRNumber	RegistrationCenterId	Edit User	DateOfEdit	LastUploadTime	Status	Photo	IdDateOfIssue	IdDateOfExpire	Exception
1	T19099810152005048	1820	VBH65RZD	2018-07-26 11:14:09.577	2018-08-24 18:58:41.837	30	NULL	NULL	NULL	10

Queries Raised by MCP

- **Allegation that Monika becomes Limbikani**

These are two distinct individuals and only Limbikani Maikolo proceeded to register for Elections. Monika did not register for elections and there is no matching record in the Elections Database.

Queries Raised by MCP

- Allegation that Monika becomes Limbikani

The screenshot shows a SQL query execution interface. The query executed is:

```
select * from VoterRegister where Pin='00355fqg'  
select * from ExceptionsVoterRegister where MatchingVoterRegisterId='1311793'
```

The results are displayed in a table with the following columns: Pin, Receipt, Surname, FirstName, OtherNames, DateOfBirth, DateOfRegistration, Gender, and VRNumber. The first row of results is:

Pin	Receipt	Surname	FirstName	OtherNames	DateOfBirth	DateOfRegistration	Gender	VRNumber
1793	D060818MW1878P13266726	MAYIKOLO	LIMBIKANI		1994-01-01 00:00:00.000	2018-08-06 13:17:51.673	M	T19115113025004825

Below the main results table, there is a secondary table with columns: Id, MatchingVoterRegisterId, Pin, Receipt, Surname, FirstName, OtherNames, DateOfBirth, DateOfRegistration, Gender, VRNumber, RegistrationCenterId, Edit User, and D.

Queries Raised by MCP

- **Allegation that James becomes Sosteni**
- These are two distinct and existing individuals.
- Sosten Manda was the first to register with the Electoral Commission as a voter on 18th July 2018 and assigned Voter Number T19051308008006415 while James Mateyo registered with the Commission on 5th November 2018 and assigned Voter number T19116406302012347.
- Seeing as the two entries have the same ID and NRB Receipt Number of D190917MW0153P0096908 only the first entry is recognized by the Commission's system and the second entry was put into the Exceptions file as a duplicate.

Queries Raised by MCP

- Allegation that James becomes Sosteni

```
select * from VoterRegister where Pin='gjygwct8'  
select * from ExceptionsVoterRegister where MatchingVoterRegisterId='847965'
```

100 %

Results Messages

Id	Pin	Receipt	Surname	FirstName	OtherNames	DateOfBirth	DateOfRegistration	Gender	VRNumber
1	847965	D190917MW0153P0096908	MANDA	SOSTEN		1989-01-01 00:00:00.000	2018-07-18 10:55:30.297	M	T19051308008006415

< ||| >

Id	MatchingVoterRegisterId	Pin	Receipt	Surname	FirstName	OtherNames	DateOfBirth	DateOfRegistration	Gender
1	21077	847965	D190917MW0153P0096908	MATEYO	JAMES		1957-01-07 00:00:00.000	2018-11-05 11:19:06.697	M

< ||| >

Queries Raised by MCP

- Allegation that James becomes Sosteni

```
select * from VoterRegister where Pin='gjygwct8'  
select * from ExceptionsVoterRegister where MatchingVoterRegisterId='847965'
```

100 %

Results Messages

	Gender	VRNumber	RegistrationCenterId	Edit User	DateOfEdit	Last UploadTime	Status	Photo	IdDateOfIssue	IdDateOfExpire	Edit
1	M	T19051308008006415	1404	W7YBXZDX	2018-07-18 10:55:30.297	2018-08-24 18:40:34.280	45	NULL	NULL	NULL	MV

	Gender	VRNumber	RegistrationCenterId	Edit User	DateOfEdit	Last UploadTime	Status	Photo	IdDateOfIssue	IdDateOfExpire	Edit
1	M	T19116406302012347	847	TFP9GFY5	2018-11-05 11:19:06.697	2018-11-13 10:06:56.493	45	NULL	NULL	2023-01-07 00:00:00.000	

Queries Raised by MCP

- **Allegation that Esther becomes Amosi**
- These are two distinct individuals and only Amosi Nkhopesizo proceeded to register for Elections. Esther did not register for elections and there is no matching record in the Elections Database.

Queries Raised by MCP

- Allegation that Bernard becomes Olivia

```
select * from VoterRegister where Pin='09z0n4c7'  
select * from ExceptionsVoterRegister where MatchingVoterRegisterId='3446794'
```

100 %

Results Messages

	Id	Pin	Receipt	Surname	FirstName	OtherNames	DateOfBirth	DateOfRegistration	Gender	VRNumber
1	3446794	09Z0N4C7	D270818MW1772P13267448	ELIYAMU	OLIVA		1973-12-21 00:00:00.000	2018-08-27 09:56:37.090	F	T191044151240055

	Id	MatchingVoterRegisterId	Pin	Receipt	Surname	FirstName	OtherNames	DateOfBirth	DateOfRegistration	Gender	VRNumber	RegistrationCenterId	Edit User
--	----	-------------------------	-----	---------	---------	-----------	------------	-------------	--------------------	--------	----------	----------------------	-----------

Assertions of One Voter Having Multiple Entries in the Voters' Register

Social Media has recently been awash with stories of someone having seen multiple entries of their name in the Voters Register with different dates of birth

Assertions of One Voter Having Multiple Entries in the Voters' Register

As shown earlier an individual can have only 1 entry in the Voter Register using either their National ID or their NRB Registration Receipt

However there can be many people in the Voter Register with the same name

What distinguishes them is the unique Voter Number

Assertions of One Voter Having Multiple Entries in the Voters' Register

For those that have lost their Voter Certificate and their National ID, MEC can perform a name search

The name search for a particular area will throw up all the names that correspond to the name search parameters

Therefore common names will return many entries

Assertions of One Voter Having Multiple Entries in the Voters' Register

Search Voter By Names

Please select the Distrit and Constituency where the applicant registered and then type their Name

District: Constituency:

Surname: FirstName:

Surname	First Name	Other Names	Gender	Date Of Birth
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE		F	05/05/1991
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE	TONNEX	F	20/07/1989
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE		M	15/03/1996
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE		M	27/05/1984
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE		M	25/12/1990
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE		F	20/07/2000
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE	LOMICE	M	19/11/1997
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE		F	18/03/1998
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE	EMMANUEL	M	16/08/1990
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE		M	07/09/1990
BANDA	CHIMWEMWE		M	05/11/1994

FOR VOTER REGISTRATION RECEIPT TO CHECK THE VOTER DETAILS ...

Assertions of One Voter Having Multiple Entries in the Voters' Register

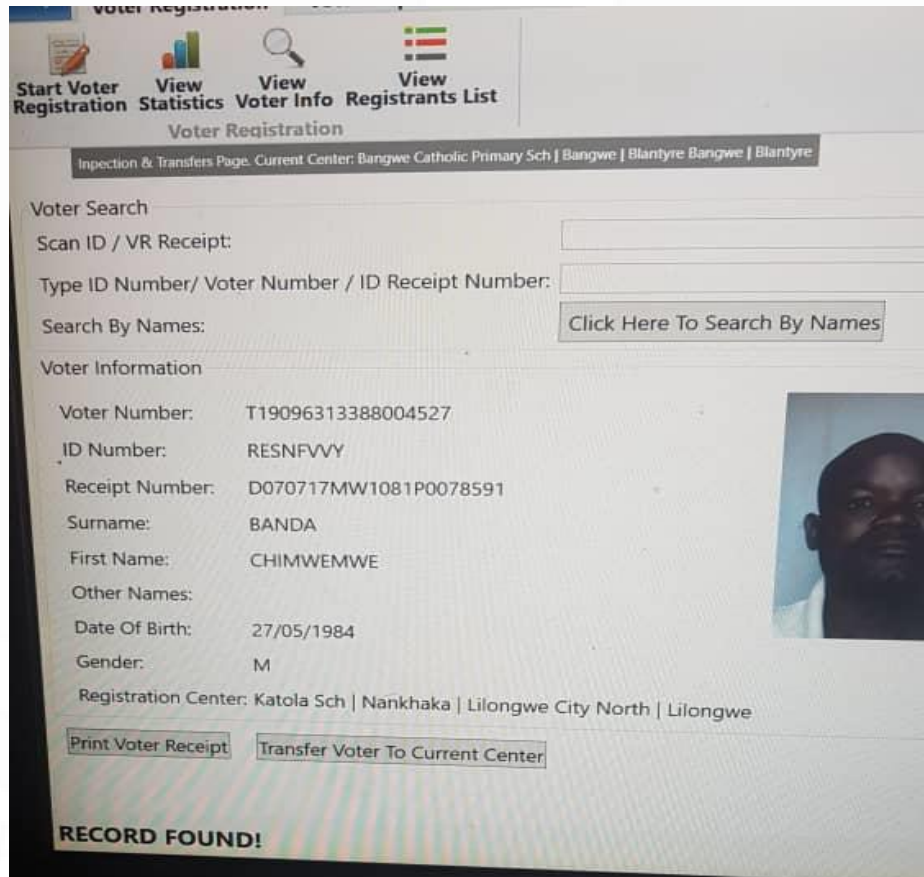
Using date of birth the operator can then pick out the correct entry

Upon selecting an entry the photograph of the voter pops up

This gives the operator a chance to positively identify the person through a visual

If it is not the correct entry the operator can move on to select another entry in the list

Assertions of One Voter Having Multiple Entries in the Voters' Register



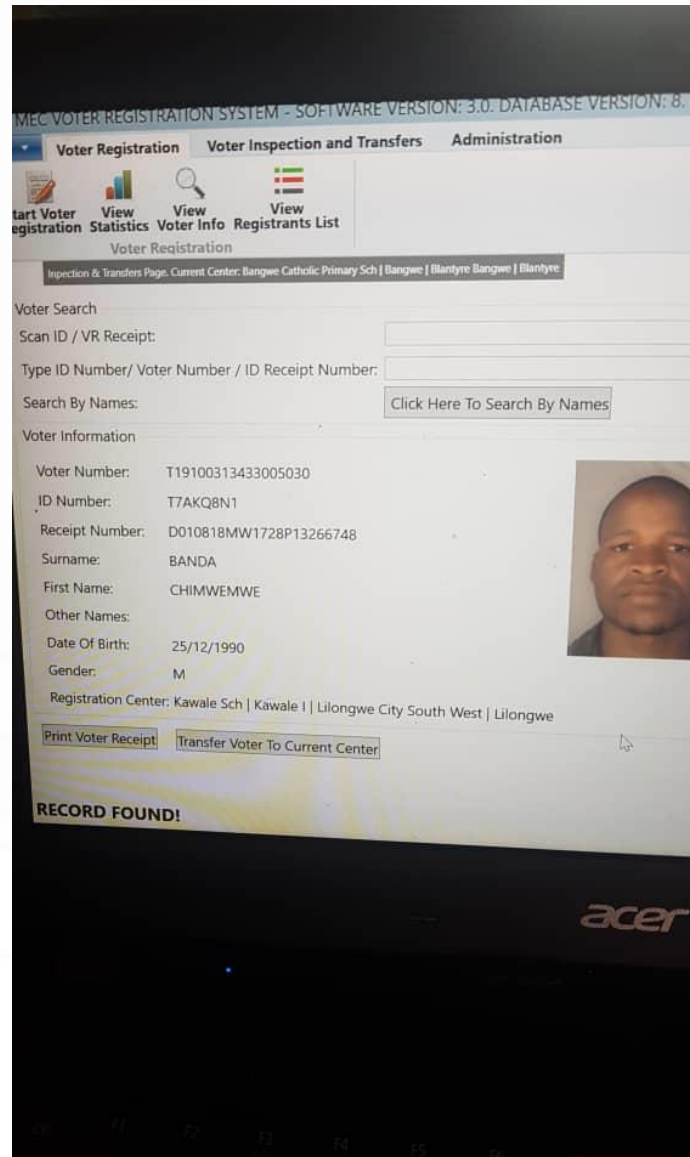
The screenshot displays a web application interface for voter registration. At the top, there are navigation links: 'Start Voter Registration', 'View Statistics', 'View Voter Info', and 'View Registrants List'. Below these is a breadcrumb trail: 'Inspection & Transfers Page. Current Center: Bangwe Catholic Primary Sch | Bangwe | Blantyre Bangwe | Blantyre'. The main section is titled 'Voter Search' and contains several input fields: 'Scan ID / VR Receipt:', 'Type ID Number/ Voter Number / ID Receipt Number:', and 'Search By Names:'. A button labeled 'Click Here To Search By Names' is positioned to the right of the 'Search By Names' field. Below the search fields is the 'Voter Information' section, which lists the following details: Voter Number: T19096313388004527, ID Number: RESNFVY, Receipt Number: D070717MW1081P0078591, Surname: BANDA, First Name: CHIMWEMWE, Other Names: (empty), Date Of Birth: 27/05/1984, Gender: M, and Registration Center: Katola Sch | Nankhaka | Lilongwe City North | Lilongwe. To the right of this information is a small portrait photo of a man. At the bottom of the information section, there are two buttons: 'Print Voter Receipt' and 'Transfer Voter To Current Center'. A red banner at the bottom of the screen reads 'RECORD FOUND!'. The Acer logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the screen.

Voter Number:	T19096313388004527
ID Number:	RESNFVY
Receipt Number:	D070717MW1081P0078591
Surname:	BANDA
First Name:	CHIMWEMWE
Other Names:	
Date Of Birth:	27/05/1984
Gender:	M
Registration Center:	Katola Sch Nankhaka Lilongwe City North Lilongwe

[Print Voter Receipt](#) [Transfer Voter To Current Center](#)

RECORD FOUND!

Assertions of One Voter Having Multiple Entries in the Voters' Register



Assertions of One Voter Having Multiple Entries in the Voters' Register

In the alleged case it was stated that there were 6 multiple entries

An investigation revealed that there were only 2 entries on the searched name

The person was positively IDd by the operator but there was a difference in date of birth

This could be due to an edit or the person forgot the date they used to register at NRB

People claiming to Have Registered but not found in the Voter Register

Following the stoppage of new registrations there is an upsurge in the number of people claiming to have registered for Voter Registration but are not found in the Voter Registers

There are also people that think that having registered with the NRB then they should be found in the Voter Register

People claiming to Have Registered but not found in the Voter Register

There is a case of two people that claim to have registered at Matewu School in Mzimba Solora

They are not found in electronic voter register on the kit

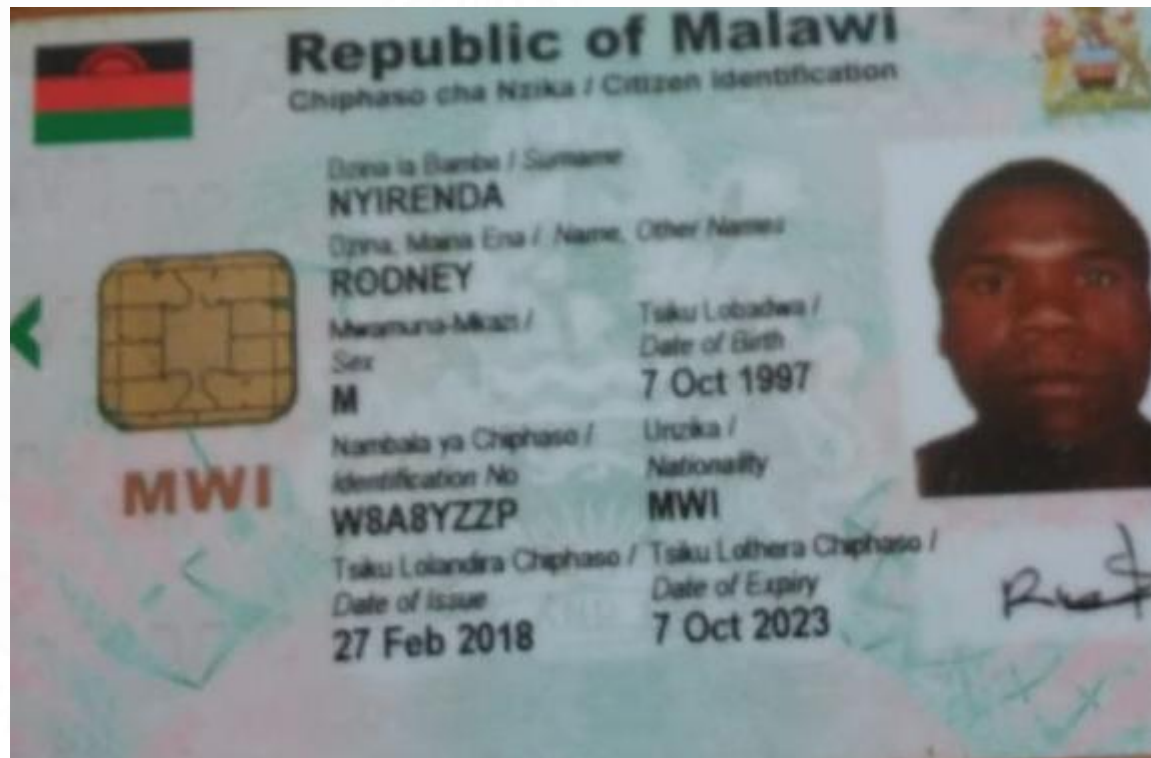
We called for the physical MEC.REG001 from the MEC warehouse in Blantyre

The gentleman was not found in this book as per details on his National ruling out that he registered for voting.

The lady is found but the spelling of her name and date of birth on her receipt are different from what is on her ID.

Even the clothes she is wearing are different telling us she registered twice for NRB

People claiming to Have Registered but not found in the Voter Register



People claiming to Have Registered but not found in the Voter Register



People claiming to Have Registered but not found in the Voter Register

Inspection & Transfers Page: Current Center: Chaleza School | Maryamula | Mzimba Solola | Mzimba

Voter Search


Scan ID / VR Receipt:

Type ID Number/ Voter Number / ID Receipt Number:

Search By Names:

Voter Information

Voter Number:	T19063006384015529
ID Number:	
Receipt Number:	D071118MW1375P13298288
Surname:	MVULA
First Name:	LIZI
Other Names:	
Date Of Birth:	26/07/1978
Gender:	F
Registration Center:	Mateu School Perekezi Mzimba Solola Mzimba



Conclusion

MEC Voter Registration very simple and accurate
However, even the best computer systems ever developed in the world require periodic updates and patches to respond to changing times, technologies and environment

MEC welcomes any voice of reason whose aim is achieving an even cleaner voter register for purposes of elections in Malawi

However, any queries and suggestions should be addressed to relevant authorities for clarification before alarming stakeholders unnecessarily



THE END

Thank you very much for your attention