



ID REGISTRATION DURING THE MEC VOTER REGISTRATION EXERCISE

PRESENTATION

By

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19 MAY, 2020

Mandate of the National Registration Bureau

- The National Registration Bureau (NRB) is a Department under the Ministry of Homeland Security
- NRB is guided by the National Registration Act of 2010 and the National Registration Regulations (2015)
- It is mandated to manage and maintain the National Registration and Identification System (NRIS) for Malawi
- NRIS has the following two components:
 1. National Identification System
 2. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)

1. National Identification System

- Involves registering Malawian citizens and resident foreigners, aged **sixteen** and above, for positive identification
- Leads to production and issuance of National Identity Cards

2. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS)

- Has the following 3 Sub Components

a) Birth registration

- Registration of newly born babies and children below 16 years of age
- Leads to production and issuance of Certificate of Birth

b) Death registration

- For production of Certificates of Death

c) Marriage registration

- For production of Certificate of Registration of Marriage

Roles of NRB in the Electoral Processes

1. Providing identification documents (National IDs) to eligible voters
2. Ensuring positive identification of eligible voters
3. Providing proof of eligible voters' age through the NID
4. Providing pictures of registered voters for presentation in the voter's roll

ID Registration During the Voter Registration Exercise

1. Continuous registration was being done in all DCs offices and also in about 29 Post Offices across the country
2. NRB with MEC deployed Registration Officers at ward level in each and every constituency in Phases 1 and 2
3. Due to inadequate equipment allocated to MEC, NRB conducted Mop Up/Mobile Registration exercise in some of the Phase 1 and 2 districts to assist those that might have to travel long distances to register.

Cumulative Registration Figures as at 30th April 2020 - 9,980,229

Northern Region	Registrants
Chitipa	131,146
Karonga	199,178
Rumphi	123,804
Mzimba	661,978
Likoma	8,873
Nkhatabay	160,821
Total	1,285,800

Central Region	Registrants
Nkhotakota	236,421
Salima	250,979
Ntchisi	168,855
Dowa	440,024
Kasungu	483,670
Mchinji	361,253
Lilongwe	1,567,187
Dedza	490,285
Ntcheu	353,672
Total	4,352,346

Southern Region	Registrants
Balaka	238,474
Machinga	354,729
Mangochi	589,627
Zomba	468,344
Chiradzulu	203,978
Phalombe	238,873
Mulanje	386,761
Thyolo	394,753
Blantyre	783,324
Chikwawa	339,796
Nsanje	184,888
Mwanza	76,096
Neno	82,440
Total	4,342,083

Phase 1 Registration Figures

District	Total Registrants	Above 18 Years
BLANTYRE	8,966	6,621
CHIKWAWA	3,761	2,933
CHITIPA	3,376	2,613
DEDZA	7,228	6,274
KARONGA	3,660	3,114
NSANJE	3,562	2,894
NTCHEU	4,164	2,980
SALIMA	3,997	3,511
TOTAL	38,714	30,940

- These are ID registration figures as per NRB's mandate and not Voter Registration Figures.
- The actual voter registration figures would be provided by MEC

Challenges Encountered During Registration

1. Perceived registration of minors as adults for “voting” purposes;

- Eligibility for national ID registration is from 16 years of age while the “voting” age is at 18 years.
- Registration to participate in the voting during any election is the responsibility of MEC. This means that a Malawian citizen may register for a national ID but may not be eligible to vote if they are below 18 years old.
- Any Malawian citizen who is below 16 years qualifies for birth registration and the subsequent issuance of a Birth Certificate and not a National ID.
- All NRB Registration Offices are always strongly advised to strictly adhere to the set standard operating procedures by vetting Malawian citizens in terms of both citizenship and age before registering them.
- However, due to the strong allegations being made that minors might have been registered most particularly by the Temporary Registration Officers that were carrying out ID Registration during the MEC Voter Registration, the NRB has instituted investigations to verify the validity of these allegations.
- Therefore the ID data that has been captured during the Voter Registration exercise will be checked and properly adjudicated before being processed further for issuance of ID.

Challenges Encountered During Registration

2. Harassment and Intimidation of Registration Officers ;

- A lot of Registration Officers complained that they were being harassed mostly by politicians in the course of doing their work.
- The harassment in some cases led to their work being compromised.
- The harassment was across all the districts involved in the registration.
- The issue was reported to the Malawi Police Service for further action

3. Huge Turnout of Registrants;

- ID Registration was being done at ward level in each constituency.
- As most of the Wards are spread apart, this led to congestion in most of the registration centres.

4. Frequent Malfunctioning of Equipment;

- Due to the huge turnout of registrants, most of the Biometric Registration Kits (BRKs) could not cope leading to frequent malfunction.

5. Inadequate Registration Materials

- NR1 Forms, sticker rolls were in short supply leading to delays in registration

1. NRB has 14,727,277 registrants by 1st April and about 3,747,262 have no ID Numbers

- As per its mandate, NRB is required to register children from birth to the age of 16 for the issuance of Birth Certificates.
- Since the introduction of the mandatory birth registration in 2015, the birth registration uptake has been very minimal and therefore during the ID Mass Registration Exercise that was carried out in 2016/2017, a decision was made to capture children data as well by requesting parents to also register their children as part of the ID registration in order for the NRB to issue birth certificates to these children.
- However, over 3 million records that were registered for children during this exercise were not successfully processed and transferred to the Electronic Birth Registration System (eBRS) as the data had a lot of challenges e.g. wrong date of birth (2029), unmatching parent details e.t.c.
- The main factor that contributed to this outcome was that the decision to register children during the ID mass registration exercise was made as an afterthought in the later stages of the exercise and thus the system was not properly configured to process these records.
- Therefore, the over 3 million records for children collected during the Mass ID Registration Exercise in 2017 have no ID Numbers allocated to them due to the data disparities.

1. NRB has 14,727,277 registrants by 1st April and about 3,747,262 have no ID Numbers

- Further, as a quality assurance measure, 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. duplicate record, are held in suspension with no ID allocated until they have been assessed, validated and adjudicated on.

2. Under 16 Year Old's (about 1 Million) have NRB ID Numbers

- As per its mandate, the NRB is implementing an Electronic Birth Registration System (eBRS) to register children from birth to the age of 16 for the issuance of Birth Certificates. The eBRS is a separate system from the National ID System.
- The United Nations Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Guidelines advocates the use Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems as a foundation for Legal Identity Management and thus recommends a holistic approach to legal identity through the integration of civil registration and vital statistics systems and identity systems. This approach was ratified through the Lusaka declaration in October 2019 during the Fifth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration.
- The NRB being proactive, successfully integrated the eBRS with the National ID System in 2018 to ensure that each and every birth that has been registered through the eBRS is allocated a National ID number at birth. When the child reaches the age of 16, biometrics and a photo will now be taken and the same details as registered at birth will be used to issue a National ID card. This will ensure that a person has one legal identity from birth to death.
- Therefore, it is not a misnomer to have under 16-year old's with National ID numbers in the National ID Database.

2. Under 16 Year Old's (about 1 Million) have NRB ID Numbers

Form NR9



REPUBLIC OF MALAWI
NATIONAL REGISTRATION ACT, 2010
CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH
(Regulation 26)

1. Birth Entry Number	ZA/00005094/2019
2. National ID	[REDACTED]
3. Name	[REDACTED]
4. Date of Birth	8 th December, 2018
5. Sex	Male
6. Place of Birth	Zomba Central Hospital, Zomba
7. Name of Mother	[REDACTED]
8. Nationality of Mother	Malawian
9. Date of Registration	6 th August, 2019

I hereby certify the above to be a true and correct extract from the Birth Register kept at NRB.

Dated this 10th September, 2019



Chief Director
Signature of Designated Person

3. Over 16 Years Old of age registered in NRB without an ID Number

- 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 will have no ID allocated.
- Further some of these records also pertain to the over 3 million children records that were collected in 2017 during the mass registration as explained in 1 and are now over 16 years.

4. 33523 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.

5. Some people in NRB were registered as if they were born in the 1800s

- As per the UN legal identity guidelines, when setting up a National Identity Register it must not exclude people of any age.
- In this case, Malawi's NRIS is designed to accept a maximum age of 120 years at the date of registration and thus there are a handful of people over 100 years who were registered during the Mass ID Registration in 2017 whose ID and date of birth were verified by their village chiefs and witnesses at time of registration.
- Therefore, the NRB has no grounds to reject the registration if the elderly person meets all the verification requirements.
- As the NRIS allows a maximum age of 120 years at date of registration, a 120-year-old person when registering in 2017 would have been born in 1897, so this is still a valid registration.

6. Different names, and gender between NRB Database and MEC Database

- 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.

7. Born in 2029 registered but registered on 21 June 2017

- This record pertains to the children data that was obtained during the ID mass registration exercise that was done in 2017 and is not usable.
- As explained in 1, the decision to collect the children data was made late in the exercise and thus no proper system controls were put in place leading to the capturing of over 3 million records with a lot of disparities and therefore unusable.
- Adjudication of these records is still ongoing as it is a continuous process

8. Different names in NRB and MEC for same ID number

- This anomaly happened during the 2017 Mass National ID registration exercise whereby some Registration Officers (RO) did not adhere to the set registration procedures.
- This process happened as follows;
 1. Person A comes to register then leaves.
 2. Person B then comes in to register.
 3. Instead of the RO creating a new record, the RO would pick up from Person A's open record and edit it, basically overwriting Person A's data with Person B's details.
 4. 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.
 5. Person A and Person B will register with MEC using the same receipt number
 6. Person B's details will be the ones processed in NRB system and an ID number issued.
 7. Person A's Details will not be reflected in NRB's database even though the person has NRB receipt as the details were overwritten by Person B's details.
 8. Since it is the same NRB receipt number used to register with MEC, Person's B ID number might also be attached to Person A details in the MEC database but under the "exceptions list"
- This anomaly has since been rectified

9. Registrations occurring after 4.00pm

- NRB as a government department closes 4.30pm and further some of the system processes are automated which might translate in the eBRS requesting the National ID system for National ID allocation even after 4.30pm.
- Therefore, there is no anomaly for the National ID system allocating a National ID at 9.00pm.

10. Audit of National ID Database

- NRB is not a position to allow MCP or its agents to audit or verify the National ID Database as this will contravene Section 44 of the National Registration Act (2010) which reads as follows;
(1) Subject to subsection (2), no person shall disclose to any other person information recorded in any register, document or proof of registration, except for purposes of this Act or any judicial proceedings or the performance of his functions in terms of any law, and no person to whom any such information has to his knowledge been disclosed in contravention of this section shall disclose such information to any other person.
(2) The Minister may furnish any information in relation to any person whose name or particulars are registered under this Act to any Ministry, local authority or body established by or under any law for any purpose of that Ministry, local authority or body

11. Exposure of the National ID Database

- NRB would like to condemn in strongest terms the disclosure or exposure of personal details of registrants in the National ID Database as this contravenes both the National Registration Act (2010) as well as the E-transactions and Cyber Security Act (2016)
- The NRB data was obtained and disclosed illegally contravening several Section 84 provisions of the E-Transaction and Cyber Security Act which read as follows;

(1) A person shall not gain unauthorized access to, or intercept, or interfere with, data

(3) Any person who intentionally accesses or intercepts any data without authority or permission to do so, or who exceeds the authorized access, commits an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine of K2,000,000 and to imprisonment for five years

(8) Any person who__

(a) communicates, discloses or transmits any data, information, program, access code or command to any person not entitled or authorized to access the data, information, program, code or command;

commits an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine of K2,000,000, and to imprisonment for five years.

(9) Any person who knowingly receives data which he is not authorized to receive commits an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine of K2,000,000 and to imprisonment for five years.

Conclusion

1. The Deployment of NRB staff at ward level in each and every constituency proved to be a challenge with most Registration Officers being overwhelmed
2. NRB does not condone the registration of under 16s as adults as it is a crime under the National Registration Act (2010). Therefore, investigations have been instituted to verify this and appropriate action will be taken accordingly.
3. NRB will embark on a Civic Education Campaign to sensitise the General Public on the mandate of NRB, Eligibility for Registration for Birth, ID and their responsibility to safely keep the ID to the best of their ability as per the National Registration Act (2010)
4. NRB registers people 16 years old and above for issuance of National ID whilst MEC registers 18 years old and above for voting purposes, therefore the two separate databases cannot have the same number of records.
5. Unauthorised disclosure or exposure of personal details of registrants in the National ID Database contravenes both the National Registration Act (2010) as well as the E-transactions and Cyber Security Act (2016)

THANK YOU

END OF PRESENTATION