



**SPEECH DELIVERED BY CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER**

**MR. SAM ALFANDIKA**

**DURING BRIEFING OF DISTRICT ELECTION SUPERVISORY TEAM**

**ON POLLING PROCEDURES AND RESULT MANAGEMENT**

**FOR FRESH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION**

- The District Commissioner
- Members of the District Elections Supervisory Team
- Team Leader for the facilitators
- Malawi Electoral Commission Staff
- Distinguished Participants
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

I wish to welcome you to this briefing regarding the polling for the Fresh Presidential Election we are going to have once Parliament has set up the date. Before I go further with my speech, allow me to thank you all for supporting the Commission in preparation for this election. The Commission appreciates your commitment and dedication to make the election a success especially so soon after the previous one.

I should thank you all for accepting to take part in the organization of this election through the various roles that you have been performing. The Commission really appreciates your commitment and we do not want to take it for granted that whenever we need your services you always make them available. To us this is a demonstration of your dedication to the noble cause of election business as well as your commitment to serve your country.

The election we are anticipating is a result of the court ruling which ordered that a Fresh Presidential Election be held within 150 days from 3 February 2020. So far, we have conducted voter update, nomination

exercise and the campaign period is in progress. All the electoral processes have been successful because all the staff that were involved were dedicated.

Ladies and gentlemen, polling is the core of all our electoral processes and we all need to be fully prepared for it. We are in this situation of Fresh Presidential Election because this stage was not competently, procedurally and legally managed. One way of achieving this is ensuring that we all have the accurate, up to date information and knowledge about it. If we miss it at polling, we miss everything. Chances of correcting any mistakes may not be there. That is why the Commission decided that we have this briefing for District Election Supervisory Team (DEST).

Many of you have been involved in elections for a long time and you know a lot about management of elections. But I wish to urge you to pay attention to what will be shared during this meeting so that you will perform your roles very well, as expected.

Following the court ruling, there are so many changes that you all need to understand and master well so that together we can make sure that this election meets all the legal requirements and international standards. This training is therefore aimed at equipping you with that information and expertise to achieve such requirements and standards.

The election ahead of us is as serious as any other election. We are following all processes to the letter and there will be no shortcuts.

Ladies and gentlemen, it has been said now and again, that as electoral staff, you are not supposed to engage in malpractices that can easily undermine the credibility of this election. You are supposed to be impartial and not take political sides or be partisan. There will be constant and intense monitoring and supervision by the Commission. You should also be your own monitor in order to produce the best.

If you are found engaging in any malpractices, the Commission will not hesitate to sever ties with you. Let me also state here that some malpractices may lead to you personally being prosecuted. Similarly, you as having overall responsibility at the Council level to oversee the electoral process, you need to supervise and monitor your staff and ensure that they discharge their duties in line with these core values.

I further urge you all, including staff from the Commission here present, to be courteous and polite to all electoral stakeholders. Your role is to facilitate the voters make their free choices. You should never be seen to assist any candidate win an election. At the same time, you should never be seen to prevent someone from being elected.

With these remarks allow me to wish you a fruitful briefing and wish you every success in this task.

I now have the honour and privilege to declare this training opened.

May God bless you.