



**UPDATE 05: DETERMINED RESULTS, ELECTORAL OBSERVATION
AND COMPLAINTS RECEIVED UPDATES**

BY MEC CHAIRMAN, JUSTICE DR CHIFUNDO KACHALE

25.06.2020

My Fellow Commissioners

The MEC Chief Elections Officer, Mr Sam Alfandika

Representatives of Various Political Parties

Members of the Diplomatic Missions accredited to Malawi

Commissioners of the Malawi Human Rights Commission

members of the clergy

Representatives of Civil Society organisation

Members of the Press

Staff from the Malawi Electoral Commission

My fellow Malawians

The Electoral Commission (Commission) continued sitting yesterday night determining results and complaints received from various councils. In this briefing, the Commission will give an update on the councils that have so far brought in their results and also explain

more on invitation of observers and release district results which have been confirmed and determined.

Presence of international Observers

The Commission is compelled to tackle this issue because of the misinformation presented in the media. In preparation for the 2019 Tripartite Elections, the Commission invited international observers and they responded positively. When the court cases started and up to the nullification of the presidential results, the Commission was still in contact with these international observers, giving them regular updates.

In preparation for the Fresh Presidential Election, the Commission sent out invitation letters to the International Observers including the European Union on 12th June, 2020. The European Union will come out on its own to clarify the media reports that it was not invited to observe the election.

The discussion around absence of international observers should also not pay blind eye to the effect of travel bans due to Covid-19. Being international guests, it meant it would have been a requirement for them to be subjected to a two-week quarantine or self-isolation period. The Commission can safely assume that the absence of international observers is attributed to the covid-19 pandemic.

As of today, the following are the organisations that have placed observers in various places across the country.

International observers:

- European Union
- Dan Church Aid
- UNDP
- Zimbabwe High Commission
- Zambia High Commission
- Tanzania High Commission
- Mozambique High Commission
- Embassy of Japan
- South Africa High commission
- British High Commission
- United States Embassy
- International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES)

It should be noted that these international observers are resident in Malawi.

Domestic Observers

- 50-50 Campaign Agency
- Active Initiative for Social Enhancement (AYISE)
- Blantyre Synod, Church and Society Programme
- Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (8 dioceses)
- Centre for Development of the People (CEDEP)
- Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)
- Democracy Works foundation
- Episcopal Conference of Malawi

- Evangelical Association of Malawi
- Faculty of Law, Chancellor College
- ICT Association of Malawi
- Institute Public Opinion and Research (IPOR)
- Livingstonia Synod, Church and Society Programme
- Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN)
- Malawi Human Rights Commission
- Malawi Network for the Deaf (MANAD)
- Malawi Union of the Blind
- National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE)
- Political Science Association
- Profession Independent Observers Group
- VIHEMA
- Women Lawyers Association
- YOCADE
- Youth Wave
- YouthNet and Counselling (YONECO)

Results received from the councils

The Commission has so far received results from 26 councils out of 28. The remaining councils are Mzimba and Dowa. The Commission is making steady progress in processing and determining these results to ensure that the nation is informed of the official result of the election within the legally stipulated time.

Complaints received so far

As announced yesterday, the Commission received a complaint from the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) regarding various incidences happening in Lilongwe whereby its monitors were harassed, intimidated and abducted. The Commission has looked into the matters and found that they border on criminal conduct. Therefore, the complaint has been referred to the Malawi Police Service for further investigation.

The Commission is also reviewing log books received from all the councils to see if there are any complaints that were not satisfactorily resolved at the council level. Such complaints will be determined by the Commission before releasing the results.

Total registered voters for Nkhata Bay

The Commission has heard media reports indicating that there were issues to do with the total registered voters in Nkhata Bay. The media reports that in 2019 MEC voters register indicated 106, 374 people will cast their ballot in the district, but this year the register shows 96 435 people. It was reported that this created a heated debate and that the Returning Officer and the MEC District Staff did not have answers.

The Commission wishes to clarify that the total registered voters for the 2019 elections in Nkhata Bay was 106,074 and for the 2020 Fresh Presidential Election the total, after factoring in transfers, is 106,374. The figure has increased by 300. The Commission circulated the

voters roll to all political parties and encouraged them to use it when any situation arose. The Commission had also published a summary of total registered voters at each polling station, constituency and district in the Weekend Nation and Malawi News editions of 20th June 2020 and was broadcast on Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) on Monday 22nd June, 2020. It is our honest expectation that stakeholders should make reference to such publicly-available information to resolve any queries.

MEC van involved in accident

A MEC van carrying non-sensitive polling materials was involved in accident on its way from Lilongwe yesterday night at around Phalula area. The truck collided with a stationary vehicle. Another vehicle was sent to rescue them and nothing has been lost. All materials made it to Blantyre same night. The Commission wishes to emphasise that this van was not carrying results. By the time the accident was happening the results were already received at the National tally Centre.

Determined results

As announced yesterday, the Commission will be releasing results district by district. So today the Commission is releasing the official results for Likoma, Chiradzulu and Mwanza as follows:

(Refer to results sheets)

The Commission will be back later in the day to present more official results and also address issues that may have arisen.

May God Bless you and bless our country