



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Condemning incidences of violence in Karonga Central Constituency**

As the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) is preparing for by-elections on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020, it has been observed that the campaign period has generally been peaceful in Lilongwe North West Constituency and Makhwira South Ward in Chikhwawa. However, in the past few days the Commission has received complaints and reports of incidences of violence, intimidation and verbal abuse in Karonga Central Constituency.

The Commission strongly condemns incidences of violence, intimidation and verbal abuse that has characterized the campaign period in Karonga Central Constituency.

The Commission is concerned because the violent incidents have potential to scare away the electorate from attending political rallies and participating in polling on 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020.

The Commission appeals to all political leaders to preach peace and tolerance during the campaign period. They should focus on issues other than character assassination which can easily breed violence and aggression.

The Commission is especially appealing to the youth to refrain from being used to perpetrate violence.

All political parties and candidates are advised to observe the code of conduct they signed for during nomination. The Commission will intensely monitor all campaign activities being conducted in the constituency and will not hesitate to enforce full compliance of the code of conduct by any of the electoral stakeholders.

The Commission is also reminding all stakeholders that all violent activities committed during electoral period remain criminal and the relevant security agencies are advised to take appropriate measures as required by law.

The Commission is warning all the candidates, political parties and the electorate in the constituency that if acts of violence and intimidation persist, it will have no choice but to call off the by-election to protect lives and property.

Signed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2020 at Blantyre.



Justice Dr Chifundo Kachale

**Chairman**