



Record of Endorsement

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

(Copy here attached)

Chairman M. Mbendera

30/5/2014

Commissioner N. Tembo

30/5/2014

Commissioner W. Nakanga

30/05/2014

Commissioner M. Banda

30/05/2014

Commissioner E. Chinkwita-Phiri

30/5/14

Commissioner S. Biliat

30/05/14

Commissioner E. Mtafu

30/05/14

Commissioner G. Chingota

30/5/2014

Commissioner A. Chipchiko

30/5/2014

Commissioner B. Malango

30/5/2014



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE RESULTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I enter into this statement, I have been informed that in the course of today, a young person died during demonstrations in Mangochi. **I deplore this incident and the loss of life.** Our elections are our future, as are our youth. I am therefore calling on all here, and listening throughout the country to observe a minute of silence.

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Our National Assembly amended the Constitution in late 2012 to hold concurrent Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections on 20 May, 2014. Since then, the Malawi Electoral Commission has traveled a long road to deliver these results to you today.

It has not done it alone. The Commission needs to sincerely thank its partners in this process. Our sister institutions across the Government of Malawi and support from international development partners has been essential. The role of the Malawi Defense Force and Malawi Police Service require special acknowledgement and thanks. As does, the role of the Public Affairs Committee and Malawi Human Rights Commission.

In our 20th year anniversary of multiparty democracy it is fitting that the voice of the people will also be heard through their local councils. This Commission, Malawi's Electoral Commission, has been driven by a commitment to make every vote count. In doing so, we

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have striven to be transparent and engaged all stakeholders in our work.

There are numerous factors that characterize an election. I believe that these elections have been defined by a level of competitiveness that is unprecedented in our democratic history.

Ladies and Gentlemen, elections are a process. The polling day event is built upon a series of steps that lead toward it, and many that follow after. Briefly, let me highlight some of these key steps that have led to the polling day:

In early 2013, we demarcated 462 wards as the basis for forming 35 Councils. Local consultations drove this work and we were exposed as a Commission, to the beauty of our land and our people.

Hard work from many partners contributed to a range of legal reforms to harmonize the election laws. These laws were amended in mid 2013 through the National Assembly to guide us through the election process.

We started voter registration in July 2013 and completed it in December 2013. Every registrant received a valued identity card with their photo and name. They were also afforded an opportunity to verify those details in 2014. Seven million four hundred and seventy thousand eight hundred and six voters (7,470,806) were registered of which a majority were women.

Candidate registration was conducted over the 10th to 14th of February. A record number of twelve (12) Presidential Candidates and their Vice Presidential nominees were registered.

Shortly prior to the start of the official campaign there was a sad incident of violence in Thyolo. Two of our citizens lost their lives, on the margins of a political rally. Our prayers are with these souls, their families and friends that were left behind.

The official campaign process itself was held in an overall atmosphere of peacefulness and unmatched media freedom. MBC

has broken new ground, and our colleagues at MACRA have been a steadfast and professional companion.

Every step upon the way, the work of the Commission has been accompanied by our stakeholders. We reinvigorated the National Electoral Consultative Forum – NECOF – and continued the valued work of Multiparty Liaison Committees. At the same time, the electorate was educated and invigorated with information from the Commission and 107 accredited civil society organisations.

In these endeavours, the National Initiative for Civic Education – NICE – as well as the Centre for Multiparty Democracy – CMD – have been extremely valued partners. The work of the Malawi Electoral Support Network and Mtendere Election Support Network need special acknowledgment as does the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace.

Ladies and Gentlemen, almost 90,000 poll workers and security personnel were deployed at 4,445 polling locations to operate 11,626 polling streams. Polling occurred in 99% of the polling centers across the country on 20 May, 2014. Supplementary voting was conducted at the remaining 46 polling centers over the following two days.

These were unanticipated events, but the Commission maintained its commitment to allow every eligible person the opportunity to vote. A total of five million two hundred and eighty-five thousand, two hundred and fifty eight voters (5,288,258) or 70.78% voted. Of these fifty-six thousand six hundred and seventy-five (56,675) votes or 1.07%, were deemed null and void.

For many of the national observers and political party monitors polling day was a continuation of a long commitment throughout the election process. They were joined by international observer missions shortly ahead of the Election Day. The African Union, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Union and SADC deployed missions. To all, we thank you for adding your efforts to the transparency of these elections.

These monitors and national and international observers were present at polling centers when the ballots were counted at the end of a long day. They were also present at tallying centers when the count results were delivered to Constituency Returning Officers across the country.

The tallying process put in place a range of safeguards. This system worked as intended. The system was designed to catch mathematical errors and possible cases of over voting. The system checked for inconsistent data if more than 880 voters were recorded per polling stream (we permitted for a 10% tolerance to account for poll workers, security staff, observers and monitors voting). The logistical difficulties that arose on the morning of polling however created difficulties where voters shifted across streams and triggered these safeguards.

The Commission responded by centralizing the tallying process to the National Tally Center here in Blantyre. This process has happened transparently in the full view of national and international observers, and party monitors.

As previously reported the Commission quarantined 65 cases of suspected over-voting at polling centers. For all of these 65 cases the number of valid votes at stake was **76,692**. Following detailed internal audits and interviews with poll workers the Commission determined that these votes could be satisfactorily explained. As such, the valid votes from these quarantine cases have been included in the National tally.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in total 343 complaints were received across the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government elections. Of these, all of the Presidential complaints have been processed and responded to. Complainants who are not satisfied may appeal the Commission's decision to the High Court.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the concerns from the political parties over discrepancies and irregularities have been heard. The prospect of a recount was brought before the Commission which prepared

plans to undertake a recount, if directed by the Courts, and given sufficient time to do so.

Ladies and Gentlemen, several of the Commissioners of the Malawi Electoral Commission have expressed their reservations in relation to some of the results that have been received by it. These concerns reflect on the highly competitive political atmosphere that exist in this election. The due process that has been followed does not allow us to fully satisfy our own concerns by way of a recount.

The rule of law compels us to release these results, and as **a Commission, we are required to follow due process and respect the rule of law.** It is therefore the duty of this Commission to announce the results that we have been able to determine within eight days of the election.

For any ongoing concerns among political parties for the results they are entitled to make a petition to the high Court within seven (7) days. This is within the avenues provided for by the Constitution and Laws of the republic of Malawi.

We encourage any political party to employ these avenues and to recall the commitment by all Presidential Candidates to the Lilongwe Peace Declaration of 10 May, 2014. The democratic right of the people of Malawi to elect their leaders is sacrosanct and should be respected by all.

Ladies and Gentlemen, as I noted on Wednesday evening the Commission is continuing to collect and verify the results for the Parliamentary and Local Government elections. Accordingly, under the election law, the announcement of these results will be postponed for up to 72 hours while the Commission completes the tallying of these results.

Thank you and God Bless you All.