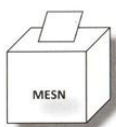


MALAWI ELECTORAL SUPPORT NETWORK (MESN)



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MESN Verification Statement on Partial Official Results announced by the MEC

Delivered in Blantyre – 24 May 2014

Ladies and gentlemen, last night at 10 pm on 23 May the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) announced partial official results for the presidential election. The Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN), as part of our comprehensive observation effort for the 2014 Tripartite Elections, conducted a Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) exercise to verify the accuracy of the official results for the presidential election as announced by the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC).

Under this initiative, MESN deployed 800 trained and accredited PVT Observers to a representative random sample of polling stations, representing more than 1.3 million registered voters, located across all three regions, all 28 districts and all 193 constituencies (see Appendix 1).

The PVT methodology is based upon well-established and widely-accepted statistical principles. PVT's are a common tool of citizen observation and have been conducted across Africa, including: Ghana, Kenya and Zambia. The PVT is not new to Malawi. The methodology was used here in 1999 and 2009 – in both cases the PVT verified the accuracy of the official results (see Appendix 2).

The PVT is based solely upon the official results announced at sampled polling stations. As previously reported by MESN, at over 85% of polling stations the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), the Malawi Congress Party (MCP), the People's Party (PP) and the United Democratic Front (UDF) had party agents present and they signed the official results form for the presidential election (MEC.060c), signifying they agreed with the announced results (see Appendix 3).

PVT Observers did not count any ballot papers themselves nor did they ask any voter how he/she voted. The PVT did not rely on any information from print or electronic media. It is an entirely independent exercise conducted solely by MESN with the intent of providing independent information on the accuracy of the official result of the presidential election regardless of the outcome.

MESN has analysed the partial official results released thus far by the MEC. The results from the 30 percent of polling stations announced by the MEC track closely with the data from the PVT when the response rate by region and district is taken into account. Malawians should have confidence that the results released thus far from the MEC are an accurate reflection of those polling stations that have been tallied.

However, the distribution of the polling stations announced by MEC is not representative of the entire country. Results from more polling stations in Northern and Southern region have been processed than for Central region. Thus, the final official results to be announced by the MEC are likely to be different from the partial results released by the MEC on 23 May.

Based on reports from 795 of our 800 PVT Observers, MESN can state with 99% confidence that when the MEC announces the final and official results for the presidential election:

- Prof. Peter Mutharika should receive between 32.7% and 39.3% of the vote;
- Dr. Lazarus Chakwera should receive between 25.1% and 31.7% of the vote;
- Dr. Joyce Banda should receive between 18.2% and 21.8% of the vote;
- Atupele Muluzi should receive 11.9% and 15.5% of the vote; and
- The remaining 8 presidential candidates combined should receive between 1.2% and 3.0% of the vote.

MESN PVT Estimates for Presidential Election (795 of 800 polling centres reporting with 922,219 valid votes cast)				
Candidate	Party	Estimate	Precision	Estimated Range within which Official MEC Results should Fall
Prof. Peter Mutharika	DPP	36.0%	+/-3.3%	32.7% to 39.3%
Dr. Lazarus Chakwera	MCP	28.4%	+/-3.3%	25.1% to 31.7%
Dr. Joyce Banda	PP	20.0%	+/-1.8%	18.2% to 21.8%
Atupele Muluzi	UDF	13.7%	+/-1.8%	11.9% to 15.5%
Other		2.1%	+/-0.9%	1.2% to 3.0%
Total		100.2%		

Source: Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN)

Note: Precision based on 99% confidence level
Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding

(see Appendix 4 for full results for all 12 candidates).

MESN's PVT data also shows that the final turnout figure for the presidential election will be between 68.7% to 72.5% (of which between 1.4% and 2.0% of ballots will be declared null and void because the voter's intention could not be clearly determined).

The estimates provided by MESN are not the official results for the presidential election. Only the MEC can announce official results. However, MESN's estimates are exclusively based on the official results as announced by MEC presiding officers at a representative random sample of polling stations as recorded by MESN PVT Observers.

MESN is sharing this information because despite the challenges experienced so far with the 2014 Tripartite Elections the integrity of the process has not been fundamentally undermined. While there were problems with the delivery of polling materials that resulted in the late opening of polling stations and there have been serious delays with the tallying process, there is no evidence to suggest that these are more than logistical issues. MESN also believes it is important to release this information at this time to provide the Malawian people with an accurate and independent picture given concerns raised by various interested parties.

MESN calls on all political parties, candidates and Malawians to be calm and to show political restraint as the MEC continues to tally the results from the 4,445 polling stations and announces the official results for the presidential elections.

END

Appendix 1

Distribution of All Polling Stations and MESN PVT Sampled Polling Stations													
Region	District	All Polling Stations						PVT Sampled Polling Stations					
		Polling Stations	Polling Streams	Registered Voters	Polling Stations	Polling Streams	Registered Voters	Polling Stations	Polling Streams	Registered Voters	Polling Stations	Polling Streams	Registered Voters
		Number	Number	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent	Number	Number	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Central		1,844	4,876	3,148,023	41%	42%	42%	332	886	575,798	42%	43%	42%
Northern		948	1,743	1,026,245	21%	15%	14%	170	307	178,953	21%	13%	15%
Southern		1,653	5,003	3,309,463	37%	43%	44%	298	917	592,539	37%	44%	43%
TOTAL		4,445	11,622	7,483,731				800	2,110	1,347,290			
Central	Dedza	228	540	342,893	5%	5%	5%	41	96	62,995	5%	5%	5%
Central	Dowa	187	504	325,239	4%	4%	4%	34	99	64,012	4%	5%	5%
Central	Kasungu	231	585	375,578	5%	5%	5%	41	101	62,909	5%	5%	5%
Central	Lilongwe	539	1631	1,081,667	12%	14%	14%	97	301	202,973	12%	15%	14%
Central	Mchinji	135	406	268,633	3%	3%	4%	24	68	43,734	3%	3%	3%
Central	Nkhotakota	135	295	176,122	3%	3%	2%	25	58	34,604	3%	3%	3%
Central	Ntcheu	158	413	262,790	4%	4%	4%	28	73	45,440	4%	3%	3%
Central	Ntchisi	116	216	131,735	3%	2%	2%	21	38	23,585	3%	2%	2%
Central	Salima	115	286	183,366	3%	2%	2%	21	52	35,546	3%	3%	2%
Northern	Chitipa	144	197	101,665	3%	2%	1%	26	38	19,254	3%	1%	2%
Northern	Karonga	116	262	160,324	3%	2%	2%	20	46	30,041	3%	2%	2%
Northern	Likoma	7	12	6,933	0%	0%	0%	2	3	1,624	0%	0%	0%
Northern	Mzimba	481	881	520,967	11%	8%	7%	86	155	92,585	11%	7%	7%
Northern	Nkhata Bay	113	217	129,927	3%	2%	2%	21	35	18,597	3%	1%	2%
Northern	Rumphi	87	174	106,429	2%	1%	1%	15	30	16,852	2%	1%	1%
Southern	Balaka	129	301	186,278	3%	3%	2%	23	54	31,531	3%	2%	3%
Southern	Blantyre	179	838	588,634	4%	7%	8%	33	151	106,831	4%	8%	7%
Southern	Chikhwawa	136	376	241,657	3%	3%	3%	24	68	43,715	3%	3%	3%
Southern	Chiradzulu	83	254	168,079	2%	2%	2%	15	48	30,386	2%	2%	2%
Southern	Machinga	166	418	268,293	4%	4%	4%	30	77	47,644	4%	4%	4%
Southern	Mangochi	240	678	438,432	5%	6%	6%	43	117	67,947	5%	5%	6%
Southern	Mulanje	117	441	305,286	3%	4%	4%	21	88	60,204	3%	4%	4%
Southern	Mwanza	34	84	55,110	1%	1%	1%	6	17	10,737	1%	1%	1%
Southern	Neno	56	107	62,206	1%	1%	1%	10	21	12,686	1%	1%	1%
Southern	Nsanje	93	212	127,068	2%	2%	2%	17	40	23,731	2%	2%	2%
Southern	Phalombe	82	268	180,136	2%	2%	2%	15	48	30,639	2%	2%	2%
Southern	Thyolo	146	475	317,829	3%	4%	4%	26	78	53,147	3%	4%	4%
Southern	Zomba	192	551	370,455	4%	5%	5%	35	110	73,341	4%	5%	5%
TOTAL		4,445	11,622	7,483,731				800	2,110	1,347,290			

This table shows the distribution of all polling stations compared to the distribution of polling stations in the MESN sample. For each region and district the percent of polling stations, polling stream and registered voters for all polling stations closely matches the percent for sampled polling stations. The sample includes 1,347,290 registered voters or 18% of all registered voters.

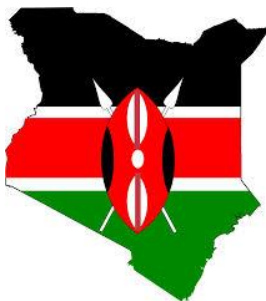
Examples of Independent Results Verification with PVT in Africa

GHANA



Presidential Election 2008 (First Round)	PVT Estimated Range	Official Results	MATCH ✓
Nana Akufo-Addo	48.2% - 51.4%	49.1%	
John Atta Mills	45.8% - 49.0%	47.9%	
Number of Polling Stations	1,070	21,007	
Presidential Election 2012	PVT Estimated Range	Official Results	MATCH ✓
Nana Akufo-Addo	45.8% - 48.5%	47.7%	
John Dramani Mahama	50.1% - 52.7%	50.7%	
Number of Polling Stations	1,492	26,003	

KENYA



Constitutional Referendum 2010	PVT Estimated Range	Official Results	MATCH ✓
Yes	65.9% - 71.7%	68.6%	
No	28.3% - 34.1%	31.5%	
Number of Polling Streams	501	27,689	
Presidential Election 2013	PVT Estimated Range	Official Results	MATCH ✓
Uhuru Kenyatta	47.0% - 52.4%	50.1%	
Raila Odinga	40.9% - 45.9%	43.3%	
Number of Polling Streams	976	33,952	

MALAWI



Presidential Election 1999	PVT Estimated Range	Official Results	MATCH ✓
Gwanda Chakuamba	44.8% - 48.9%	45.2%	
Bakili Muluzi	48.9% - 53.0%	52.4%	
Number of Polling Stations	896	6,721	
Presidential Election 2009	PVT Estimated Range	Official Results	MATCH ✓
Bingu wa Mutharika	64.7% - 68.3%	66.0%	
John Tembo	25.5% - 32.1%	30.7%	
Number of Polling Centres	800	3,987	

ZAMBIA



Presidential By-Election 2008	PVT Estimated Range	Official Results	MATCH ✓
Rupiah Banda	37.0% - 41.3%	40.1%	
Michael Sata	34.4% - 40.3%	38.1%	
Number of Polling Stations	646	6,454	
Presidential Election 2011	PVT Estimated Range	Official Results	MATCH ✓
Rupiah Banda	34.5% - 37.3%	35.4%	
Michael Sata	41.3% - 44.1%	42.0%	
Number of Polling Stations	710	6,454	

Appendix 3

Political Party Polling Agents at Polling Stations (741 of 800 reporting)		
Party	Polling Agent Present at Polling Station	Polling Agent Signed Presidential Results Form
DPP	94%	99%
MCP	87%	99%
PP	97%	99%
UDF	86%	99%

Source: Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN)

Appendix 4

MESN PVT Estimates for All 12 Presidential Candidates (795 of 800 polling centres reporting with 922,219 valid votes cast)				
Candidate	Party	Estimate	Precision	Estimated Range within which Official MEC Results must Fall
Dr. Joyce Banda	PP	20.0%	+/-1.8%	18.2% to 21.8%
Dr. Lazarus Chakwera	MCP	28.4%	+/-3.3%	25.1% to 31.7%
Kamuzu Walter Chibambo	PETRA	0.4%	+/-0.1%	0.3% to 0.5%
Prof. John Chisi	UP	0.2%	+/-0.1%	0.1% to 0.3%
Friday Alexander Jumbe	NLP	0.2%	+/-0.1%	0.1% to 0.3%
Aaron Davies Katsonga	CCP	0.2%	+/-0.1%	0.1% to 0.3%
Mark Katsonga Phiri	PPM	0.3%	+/-0.1%	0.2% to 0.4%
Atupele Muluzi	UDF	13.6%	+/-1.8%	11.8% to 15.4%
Prof. Peter Mutharika	DPP	36.1%	+/-3.3%	32.8% to 39.4%
George Nnesa	MAFUNDE	0.3%	+/-0.1%	0.2% to 0.4%
James Mbowe Nyonda	NASAF	0.2%	+/-0.1%	0.1% to 0.3%
Abusa Helen Singh	UIP	0.3%	+/-0.2%	0.2% to 0.5%
Total		100.2%		

Source: Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN)

Note: Precision based on 99% confidence level
Figures may not sum to 100% due to rounding

MESN's Methodology

MESN observes elections based on the Declaration of Global Principles for Nonpartisan Election Observation and Monitoring by Citizen Organizations. In assessing the conduct of elections, MESN looks at compliance by all stakeholders with our Constitution, Electoral Act and related laws as well as regulations and procedures set out by the MEC. MESN also draws upon Malawi regional and international commitments contained in the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and Governance; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and related protocols.

The data for this report is based primarily on observations from MESN's 800 Parallel Vote Tabulation (PVT) Observers who were deployed to a representative random sample of polling stations across all three regions, all 28 districts and all 193 parliamentary constituencies. While MESN deployed nearly 7,000 total observers to encourage participation, deter problems and enhance transparency, the role of MESN's 800 PVT Observers was to provide rapid information on the conduct of the election that is truly representative of the entire country. It is also information from these observers that will be used to verify the accuracy of the official results as announced by the MEC.

About MESN

Malawi Electoral Support Network (MESN) is a registered network of civil society organizations working on democratic governance and elections in Malawi. It is a registered member of Council for Non- Governmental Organizations (CONGOMA) in Malawi. It was formed in 2003 and has successfully participated in 2004 and 2009 Parliamentary and Presidential Elections in Malawi and currently has 27 members. It has also participated in election observer missions in the SADC regions and beyond. MESN is currently chair for SADC Electoral Support Network (SADC ESN) and founding member of the Global Network for Domestic Election Monitors (GNDEM). It comprises of non-governmental, faith-based and community – based organizations. The network works closely with Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC), other networks, development partners, political parties and eligible voters in ensuring that elections held in Malawi meet both local and international standards for acceptable democratic elections as a way of sustaining democratic governance in Malawi.