



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Response to Nyasatimes article “K1.6 billion cashgate at Malawi Electoral Commission”**

The Malawi Electoral Commission has noted with concern a rushed publication the by the Nyasatimes with a headline “K1.6bn cashgate at Malawi Electoral Commission” published on Monday, September 28, 2015.

The Commission wishes to advise all stakeholders that the issues being raised in the article are subject of a preliminary audit report conducted by the Internal Audit Department of the Ministry of Finance. The preliminary report had not taken into consideration responses by MEC management. As the issues are work in progress, they are not meant for public consumption as there might be changes in the final report.

MEC did submit its responses to the auditors in good time but due to communication breakdown in the Ministry of Information, the responses did not reach the auditors in time. Although there is high temptation to reveal the responses now in view of the damage the leaked preliminary report might cause, the Commission will restrain itself as doing so will be flouting audit procedures and ethics.

At the moment the Commission is awaiting for a final version of the report which will incorporate its views, responses and explanations. The Commission is

optimistic that with the information and evidence availed to the auditors, most of the issues that have been thrown into the public array will be dropped. To that effect the Commission is advising all stakeholders to disregard the information published by Nyasatimes until the final report is issued by the auditors. It is unfortunate that someone has leaked the draft report before its finalization which has led to throwing of wrong and unsubstantiated allegations into the public sphere.

The Commission is committed to financial prudence in line with all public regulations and International standards. That is why apart from being audited by the Auditor General it is also audited by private auditors.

In all professional essence, a final audit report becomes a public document and it is the one shared with stakeholders.

The Commission is appealing to the auditors and their auxiliaries to maintain their code of conduct and ethics by refraining from divulging distorted information to the media.

The Commission further urges those who might wish to seek clarification to contact the undersigned on 0999274304 or smwafulirwa@@mec.org.mw.

Dated at Blantyre this 28<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.



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