



# **MALAWI ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

## **DECLARATION OF RESULTS FOR:**

- Khwawa Ward
- Chibanja Ward
- Msikisi Ward
- Central Ward
- Luchenza Ward

**26<sup>th</sup> August, 2015, Blantyre**

- My fellow Commissioners,
- The Chief Elections Officer, Mr Willie Kalonga and your deputies
- All candidates, representatives of various political parties and candidates
- Representatives of various Civil Society Organisations
- Management and staff from MEC secretariat
- Members of the press
- Ladies and gentlemen;

Following the Local Government By-elections we had on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, the Commission met earlier this morning to determine the results of the by-elections. This afternoon we gather here to announce the official results of the by-elections in the five wards. But before I do so, allow me to make some comments about the journey we have travelled in these elections.

### **Vacancies in five wards**

All the vacancies in the five wards arose because of the deaths of councillors who were duly elected during the May 20, 2014 Tripartite Elections. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, pursuant to section 36 of the Local Government Elections Act, the Commission is required to conduct by-elections to fill the vacancies.

## **Preparation for by-elections**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, you would recall that the Commission initially planned to hold the by-elections on June 23, 2015. Unfortunately, government could not release the required funding in time. The by-election had to be postponed. We are glad that after discussion with the Ministry of Finance we received funding in mid June 2015. This funding enabled us to launch the by-elections on June 26 in all the wards with a revised calendar where registration and voter verification were slotted between 15 and 19 July, 2015.

During the voter registration and verification period, the Commission registered 858 first-time voters bringing to 27,272 the total of registered voters for these by-elections from 26,404. This represents 3.25 per cent increase with the highest 12.02 per cent recorded in Luchenza Ward.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the Commission received 30 nomination papers on July 28, 2015 through the Ward Returning Officers. During its meeting on July 31, 2015, the Commission rejected the nomination of People's Party candidate for Chibanja Ward, Mr Blackson Kalwena Gondwe on the grounds that he obtained registration fraudulently. He appealed to the High Court. On August 13, 2015 the Court dismissed the appeal and upheld the decision of the Commission. Let me take this opportunity to appeal to political party leaders and indeed candidates to stick to detail as provided under the law and ably reminded by the Commission from time to time.

The campaign period was successful. There was no case reported of candidates and political parties violating the code of conduct. I applaud you all for this feat. However, I should mention that the Commission received a complaint that the Constituency Civic and Voter Education Assistant who had been deployed to Khwawa Ward was engaging in partisan activities. We immediately suspended him to pave way for investigations. We are yet to conclude the investigations. You as our valued stakeholders shall be informed of our findings in due course.

Distinguished Commissioners, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission has always said that it has nothing to hide. We have endeavoured to live up to this word. On July 24, 2015 we invited all contesting parties, candidates, the media and civil society organisations to the demonstration of the results management system that has been developed in-house. I should thank all parties that showed up for the exercise.

## **Nomination**

Out of 30 candidates who presented nomination papers, only 8 were women representing 27 per cent. Of course Central Ward in Zomba did well on women representation as it had 4 women out of six contestants. Khwawa Ward did not feature any female candidate among its six candidates. This is unfortunate.

## **Appreciation of stakeholders**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, allow me to express the Commission's gratitude to various players who have assisted us in the administration of these by-elections.

- The Government of the Republic of Malawi for provision of funds and vehicles which we needed for the by-elections. These by-elections have been funded 100 percent by Government using our own public funds.
- Accredited civil society organizations. Of special mention, is the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE), which conducted Civic and Voter Education in the five wards and also placed monitors.
- The Faith Community that prayed for the success of the elections. They prayed for the elections to be violence free. No doubt God answered their prayers. There was no violence, They also encouraged their faithful to take part in electoral processes.
- The Police for providing security during various processes of the elections.
- The media for sensitizing the public on elections.
- District Commissioners, Chief Executives of councils and members of District Election Supervisory Committees who managed the elections on the ground.
- A fitting word of high and hearty commendation to my fellow Commissioners and the MEC secretariat staff for their

dedication, professionalism, commitment and selflessness in managing the electoral process so well – To you we say well done!! Keep it up! You have done us proud. It's all for the sake of our beloved country and our beautiful people!

- Finally I should also express sincere gratitude and appreciation to all registered voters and Malawians at large for the manifestation of tolerance, peace, trust and spirit of cooperation in their conduct, during the electoral period. I should also in a special way thank all those that turned up for voting.

### **Refund of nomination fees**

May I take the opportunity to remind all candidates and stakeholders that nomination fees for Local Government Elections are non-refundable whether a candidate wins or loses.

### **Declaration of Results**

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, I will now proceed to declare the results. Voting in the by-elections took place on Tuesday, August 25 from 6AM to 6PM in all polling stations. The Commission is impressed that this election had all the required components of transparency, inclusiveness, freeness and fairness. For this reason I have no hesitation as Chairman of MEC to declare that the by-elections in all the five wards were free, fair and credible.

The Commission has, therefore, determined the results as follows:-

- **Khwawa Ward**

Khwawa Ward had six candidates. With a total of 11,076 registered voters, 3,648 registered voters turned out. This represents 32.94 % voter turnout. There were 52 null and void votes. This represents 1.45 %. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Oswell Mdokera Chavula, Independent 45 votes
2. Langfield Kanyimbo, People's Party (PP) 1,107 votes
3. Alick Tchokola Mhango, Malawi Congress Party (MCP) 446 votes
4. Bydon Katambika Msiska, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) 1,378 votes
5. John Chipapika Msiska, Alliance for Democracy Party (AFORD) 597 votes
6. Hawkings Mtotomoka Munthali, United Democratic Front Party (UDF) 23 votes

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on the basis of the figures I mentioned, I, Justice Maxon Raphael Mbendera SC now declare **Bydon Katambika Msiska** who contested as Democratic Progressive Party candidate as winner in the Khwawa Ward by-election.

- **Chibanja Ward,**

Chibanja Ward had six candidates. With a total of 6,137 registered voters, 1,248 voters turned out for polling. This represents 20.34%

voter turnout. There were 6 null and void votes. This represents 0.48 %. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Gibson Chisale, Alliance for Democracy Party (AFORD) 458 votes
2. Esmey Jere, Umodzi Party (UP) 10 votes
3. Ulaya Kaunda, Malawi Forum for Unity and Development Party (MAFUNDE) 5 votes
4. George Manda, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) 267 votes
5. Charles Mlogera, Malawi Congress Party (MCP) 486 votes
6. Mike C. Phiri, Independent 16 votes

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Commission I, Justice Maxon Raphael Mbendera SC now declare **Charles Mlogera** who contested as Malawi Congress Party candidate as winner in the Chibanja Ward by-election.

- **Msikisi Ward**

Msikisi Ward had six candidates. With a total of 2,891 registered voters, 1,045 registered voters turned out for polling. This represents 36.15 % voter turnout. There were 11 null and void votes. This represents 1.05 %. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Fatima Chilawi, Independent 118 votes
2. Rasha Chisoni, Malawi Forum for Unity and Development Party (MAFUNDE) 6 votes
3. Frank Kambeta, Malawi Congress Party (MCP) 64 votes
4. Wellington Mangulenje, Independent 289 votes



5. Idana Masiye, People's Party (PP) 119 votes
6. Oliver Tayub, United Democratic Front Party (UDF) 438 votes

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Commission I, Justice Maxon Raphael Mbendera SC now declare **Oliver Tayub** who contested as United Democratic Front candidate as winner in the Msikisi Ward by-election.

- **Central Ward**

Central Ward had six candidates. With a total of 6,646 registered voters, 892 registered voters turned out for polling. This represents 13.42% voter turnout. There were 6 null and void votes. This represents 0.67 %. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Munira Abdullah, Independent 240 votes
2. Melia Likoswe Douglas, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) 268 votes
3. Harry John Mningwa, Malawi Forum for Unity and Development Party (MAFUNDE) 35 votes
4. Wilknes Wilson Nakanga, Peoples Party (PP) 231 votes
5. Prisca Golozero Unyolo, Malawi Congress Party (MCP) 107 votes
6. Ireless Wallani, Independent 5 votes

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Commission I, Justice Maxon Raphael Mbendera Sc now declare **Melia**

**Likoswe Douglas** who contested as Democratic Progressive Party candidate as winner in the Central Ward by-election.

- **Luchenza ward**

Luchenza Ward had five candidates with a total of 522 registered voters, 223 registered voters turned out for polling. This represents 42.72% voter turnout. There were 3 null and void votes. This represents 1.35 %. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Joseph Khoromana, Independent 40 votes
2. Mercy Luwanda, Independent, 52 votes
3. Dorothy Chibwana Mbayani, Peoples Party, (PP) 7 votes
4. Henderson Alex Spoon, Democratic Progressive Party, (DPP) 96 votes
5. James Namilonga Stenala, Malawi Congress Party, (MCP) 25 votes

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Commission I, Justice Maxon Raphael Mbendera SC now declare **Henderson Alex Spoon** who contested as Democratic Progressive Party candidate as winner in the Luchenza Ward by-election.

The highest percentage voter turnout in the five wards was **42.72** registered in **Luchenza Ward** while the lowest was 13.42 percent in **Central Ward**. The average voter turnout was **25.87** percent. This is slightly lower than what was registered during the by-elections in two

constituencies and five wards held on October 7, 2014. The highest turnout was 40.87 percent and the lowest being 12.12 percent. The average was 26.14 percent. This is not encouraging if compared to the turnout during the Tripartite Elections which was 70.7 percent.

The phenomenon of low voter turnout or voter apathy is very worrisome. The Commission left no stone unturned in ensuring that voters in the five wards were reached with voter information messages.

I would like to urge institutions of higher learning in the country to conduct a research on the causes of voter apathy in the country. As it is, we could be providing irrelevant civic education messages to the electorate and could be a waste of resources.

On behalf of the Commission, I congratulate the winners and wish them well. I urge all political parties and candidates to accept the outcome of the election as the expression, reflection and representation of the will of the people. I encourage any party or candidate wishing to challenge the election results to do so in accordance with the Laws of the Republic of Malawi. May the winners be gracious in victory and the losers note that it is a mark of fortitude to accept loss with quietness of spirit. We commiserate with them while congratulating their victorious opponents.

May God Bless you All.

May God bless Mother Malawi  
I thank you for your attention.

Made this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2015 at Blantyre

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Justice Maxon Raphael Mbendera SC