



MALAWI ELECTORAL COMMISSION

**REPORT ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE NUMBER OF
CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF REVIEW OF BOUNDARIES FOR
THE 2025 GENERAL ELECTIONS.**

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Mponela, DOWA

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REPORT ON THE DETERMINATION OF THE NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES FOR THE PURPOSES OF REVIEW OF BOUNDARIES FOR THE 2025 GENERAL ELECTIONS.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Commission is in the process of reviewing constituency and ward boundaries to ensure that it discharges its responsibility to review constituency boundaries as provided under the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi (the “Constitution”). It is a requirement that constituency boundaries must be reviewed at intervals of five years. However, the exercise has not been comprehensively undertaken since 1998.

2. THE LAW

The Commission’s mandate to review constituency and ward boundaries and to determine the number of constituencies and wards is governed by law. The mandate is set by law under the Constitution and the Electoral Commission Act.

2.1. The Constitution

Section 76 (2) (a) and (b) of the Constitution sets the parameters within which this mandate is to be exercised. Section 76 (2) (a) and (b) reads:

“The duties and functions of the Electoral Commission shall include-

(a) To determine constituency boundaries impartially on the basis of ensuring that constituencies contain approximately equal numbers of voters eligible to register, subject only to consideration of:

(i) Population density

(ii) Ease of communication; and

(iii) Geographical features and existing administrative boundaries

(b) To review existing constituency boundaries at intervals of not more than five years and alter them in accordance with the principles laid down in subsection (2) (a) above.

2.2. The Electoral Commission Act

In relation to determination and review of constituency and ward boundaries, The Electoral Commissions Act Section 8 (1) (a) (b) and (c) (as amended) stipulates that: -

(1) In addition to the broad functions and powers conferred on the Commission by the Constitution and, subject to the Constitution, the Commission shall exercise general direction and supervision over the conduct of every election and without prejudice to the generality of such functions and powers, it shall have the following further functions –

(a) To determine the number of constituencies and wards for the purpose of elections;

(b) To undertake the demarcation of boundaries of constituencies;

(c) Subject to the Local Government Elections Act, and any other written law relating to local government elections, to undertake the demarcation of wards for the purposes of local government elections and to determine the number of such wards:

Provided that-

In the case of City of Blantyre, the total number of wards shall not exceed thirty;

In the case of the City of Lilongwe, the total number of wards shall not exceed thirty:

(iii) In the case of the City of Mzuzu, the total number of wards shall not exceed fifteen;

In the case of City of the City of Zomba, the total number of wards shall not exceed ten;

In the case of Kasungu Municipal Council, the total number of wards shall not exceed ten;

In the case of Luchenza Municipal Council, the total number of wards shall not exceed eight;

In the case of Mangochi Town Council, the total number of wards shall not exceed Ten; and

(viii) In all other cases, the number of wards shall not exceed two 2 for each parliamentary constituency,

3. SENSITISATION OF STAKEHOLDERS

The Commission commenced the activities in April 2021, by meeting leaders of all political parties, Members of Parliament, Civil Society Organizations and the media. The Commission also held a meeting with the Public Affairs Committee (PAC) on 8th September 2021 at Ku Chawe in Zomba.

Further, the Commission conducted sensitization meetings for all 28 District Councils, 4 City Councils and 3 Municipal Councils in the country from 23rd August to 17th September, 2021.

3.1. Objectives of the Sensitization Meetings in Councils

The objectives of the sensitization meetings on review of constituency and ward boundaries were as follows:

- (i) To inform electoral stakeholders in respective councils on the approach and methodology for the comprehensive review of constituency and ward boundaries;
- (ii) To notify stakeholders of the implementation plan of the process; and
- (iii) To give stakeholders the opportunity to seek clarifications, present recommendations and submit proposals to be considered by the Commission in the review of constituency and ward boundaries.

3.2. Participants to the Review Meetings

Participants to the review meetings included:

- (i) Members of District Elections Supervisory Team;
- (ii) Traditional Authorities and Sub Traditional Authorities in all the District Councils or Block Leaders in Urban Councils;
- (iii) Members of Parliament;
- (iv) Ward Councillors;
- (v) Representatives of relevant Civil Society Organizations i.e., members of the District Committees;
- (vi) District Chairpersons/Governors of political parties;

- (vii) District Chairladies/Governess of political parties;
- (viii) District Director of Elections of political parties;
- (ix) District Youth Chairpersons of political parties;
- (x) Representatives of groups for women, youth and persons with disabilities; and
- (xi) Representatives of faith-based organizations

3.3. Conduct of Meetings

During the meetings, the Commission delivered a presentation in Chichewa, through the Chairperson of the Commission (or a designated Commissioner in the initial meetings before settling for one meeting per council), on the review of the constituency and ward boundaries process followed by a plenary through which stakeholders presented concerns, sought clarifications on specific issues and offered recommendations and proposals. A full record of the proceedings may be accessed separately.

At the meeting venues maps for respective councils were displayed to give stakeholders the opportunity to view existing boundaries by Traditional Authority and by constituency. The maps were left with the councils so that stakeholders should continue accessing them if need be.

3.4. Scope of the Presentation

The presentation covered and highlighted the legal framework that regulates the mandate and function of the Commission in relation to review of constituency and ward boundaries; mathematical methods to be employed to take into account factors of population of voters

eligible to register to voter and population density; Other factors to be considered on the review of constituency and ward boundaries as provided under the Constitution, namely, ease of communication, administrative area boundaries and geographical features including topography. In terms of the populations of eligible voters, it was explained that the Commission would use National Statistics Office 2025 projections.

Further, the Commission invited written submissions by stakeholders to the Commission on issue which should be considered by the Commission on the exercise. It was announced that the last date for lodging the submissions with the Commission is 20th October 2021.

The Commission also explained that the outcome of the review process would be applicable in the September 2025 General Elections. The new constituencies and the boundaries which will be approved will come into effect on the next dissolution of Parliament or Councils. The implication is that all by-elections in the run-up to the September 2025 General Elections will held based on the existing constituency of ward.

3.5. General Comment

Stakeholders expressed general appreciation to the Commission for embarking on the comprehensive constituency and ward boundaries review exercise considering that it is a constitutional requirement and that a long time had elapsed since the existing boundaries were reviewed.

3.6. General Stakeholders' Expectations

The meetings provided the opportunity for the Commission to make an assessment of stakeholders' expectations on the outcome of the exercise. The expectations may be summarized as follows:

- (i) That the primary criteria to be used would be land size, population and topography;

- (ii) Existing number of constituencies in the country would not be reduced but rather might be increased;
- (iii) That there would be reduction of the sizes of constituencies, mainly through subdivision of current constituencies considered big in size or on the basis of population generally. This would ensure more equitable distribution of resources in terms of CDF and ease of 'coverage' by representatives;
- (iv) That each Traditional Authority should be a constituency on that account; and
- (v) That the Commission is also responsible for administrative authority boundaries and the review would also resolve issues related to such boundaries.

3.7. Proposals and Recommendations by Stakeholders

During the meetings, stakeholders made the following general and specific proposals:

- (i) Land size as opposed to the population voters eligible to register to vote should be considered the primary factor in some Councils owing to size of the councils. Specific record was made for Mzimba, Dowa and Neno;
- (ii) The Commission should seriously consider issues of challenging topography and terrain in some councils such as, Chitipa, Rumphi, Nkhatabay, Dowa, Ntchisi and Mwanza;
- (iii) Commission should consider increasing number of polling centres for reasons that included: reducing distances to polling centres; decongesting some centres and ensuring that voters are voting at centres which are within their *bona fide* electoral areas as some voters vote outside their constituencies or wards because of preference to the closest polling centres;

- (iv) The Commission should consider using local names for constituencies and wards to reflect local names rather than geographical positions which are confusing in some cases;
- (v) The Commission should consider the economic and financial implications of the increase in number of constituencies and wards and consider whether it is in the best interest of the economy to actually reduce the number of constituencies;
- (vi) It was proposed that the Commission should consider increasing number of wards rather than constituencies on the basis that Parliament's mandate is mainly legislative in nature, while the Councillors were the ones mandated with local development issues. In that regard, it was proposed that the law should be reviewed to provide for more wards.

3.8. Other Concerns raised by Stakeholders

During the meetings, the following concerns were raised to be resolved by the Commission;

- (i) That the outcome of the process by 2022 may have an influence on the attitude of incumbent Members of Parliament and Councillors in terms of focus. It was speculated that some of them may start showing some preference to the areas they would be interested to represent after the new boundaries are made effective.
- (ii) That the Commission did not share the 2025 projections of the population of voters eligible to register to vote.
- (iii) That it was not certain that whether Parliament would confirm the final determination made by the Commission as required by law.

- (iv) That it was not certain whether exercise would not be unduly influenced by political interests at the expense of the factors to be considered as provided under the law.
- (v) That Civil Society Organisations were not included in the Constituency and Ward Boundaries Review Committees.

3.9. Commissions Undertakings

It was emphasized that the Commission is going to implement the exercise within the limits of the law as provided in the Constitutions and Acts of Parliament. The review process would involve consultations with stakeholders and the Commission would ensure transparency throughout the process such that stakeholders were at liberty to question decisions and basis of decisions by the Commission.

The Commission is going to utilize the important information obtained from the sensitization meetings to guide the boundaries review committees during field work such as proposed boundary descriptions, proposed polling centres and engagement with Ministry of Local Government on unclear administrative boundaries, extension of city boundaries and plans on changing of status of councils.

4. DETERMINATION OF NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES

4.1. Methodology

The methodology adopted by the Commission for determining the number of constituencies per council has been formulated in full consideration of the factors provided by the relevant constitutional and legal provisions cited above. To begin with, the Commission has used an articulated mathematical formula for all factors that are capable of being represented by a coherent mathematical model; these are the primary factor of

number of eligible voters per constituency as well as the first subsidiary principle of population density (which in this case has been represented by the land size, since density is a factor of land size). All other subsidiary factors that could not realistically be reduced into such a mathematical formula, namely ease of communication, geographical features as well as existing administrative boundaries, have been applied separately in order to determine the final number of constituencies per each Council.

4.2. Formula

The Commission's determination is based on principles and factors that are specifically provided by the law as outlined in the previous paragraphs. Using these factors and principles, the Commission has generated an articulated mathematical formula that embraces the following legal factors:

- (i) 2025 projected population of voters eligible to register to vote as projected by the National Statistics Office.
- (ii) Population density.

In addition to this mathematical formula, the following factors have been considered and applied separately in order to work out the final number of constituencies for each council:

- (i) Geographical features;
- (ii) Ease of communication; and
- (iii) Existing administrative areas.

4.3. General Outcome

The general outcome of the determination is that the current number of constituencies and wards has been increased. The number of constituencies in some councils has remained unchanged whilst other councils have gained additional constituencies and wards.

4.4. Equal Number of Voters and Population Density

Guided by the requirement that constituency boundaries must be drawn in a manner that ensures that constituencies contain approximately equal numbers of voters eligible to register, the Commission has come up with a weighted formula which represents the population of voters eligible to register to vote and the land size of the particular council as a total ratio of 10. Therefore, bearing in mind that the paramount consideration is on population of voters eligible to register to vote, land size has been assigned a total weighting of 1 whilst population will be assigned a total weighting of 9.

4.5. Land Quota

The land quota for each council has been worked out as follows:

Council Land Size (Square Kilometres) divided by the Total National Land Size (Square Kilometres) and then multiplied by one (Land Size Ratio Value). i.e.

$$\text{Land Quota (LQ)} = \frac{\text{Council Land Size} \times \text{Land Size Ratio Value}}{\text{Total National Land Size}}$$

4.6. Population Quota

The population quota for each council has been worked out as follows:

Total 2025 Projected Council Population of Eligible Registrants divided by Total 2025 Projected National Population of Eligible Registrants and then multiplied by Nine (Population Ratio Value). i.e.

Population Quota (PQ)=

$$\frac{\text{Total 2025 Council Population of Eligible Registrants} \times \text{Population Ratio Value}}{\text{Total 2025 Projected National Population of Eligible Registrants}}$$

4.7. Total Quota

Therefore, the Total Quota for each council is the equivalent of Land Quota plus Population Quota. i.e.

$$\text{Total Quota (TQ)} = LQ + PQ$$

4.8. Determination

4.8.1. Initial Determined Number of Constituencies Per Council (Voter Population & Land Size)

Given that the number of current constituencies is 193, the initial determined number of constituencies per Council based on population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size has been worked out as follows:

Total Quota (LQ +PQ) multiplied by Current Number of Constituencies (193) divided by the Total Ratio Value (10). i.e.

$$\text{Proposed Number of Seats Per Council} = TQ \times 193 \div 10$$

Based on the formula articulated above, the initial proposed number of seats per council would be as follows:

SEE APPENDIX ONE

4.8.2. Final Determined Number of Constituencies (All Factors)

The results in *Appendix One* reflect the redistribution of the number of constituencies based only on the mathematical formula (which in this case emphasizes the demographic elements in the pertinent considerations for deciding the matter but excludes the other geographical and logistical aspects as well as the existing administrative boundaries). In other words, the Commission arrived at the initial number of constituencies as determined using the population of voters eligible to register to vote and the land size of each council; this was a purely scientific process which could not conclude the entire activity comprehensively.

Thereafter, the Commission had to make a final determination on the number of constituencies per council through a deliberative process which considered the following equally relevant factors:

- (i) Geographical features;
- (ii) Ease of Communication; and
- (iii) Administrative Authorities

Based on this elaborate deliberative process, the proposed number of seats per council would be as follows:

SEE APPENDIX TWO

4.9. Final Distribution of Constituencies Per Council

4.9.1. Chitipa

The council be allocated 2 (two) additional constituencies to the 3 (three) constituencies determined by the consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of the topography of the district and ensuring ease of communication. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for Chitipa is 5 (five).

4.9.2. Karonga

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 4 (four) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for Karonga is 5 (five).

4.9.3. Karonga Town

This being an administrative authority be allocated 1 (one) constituency on that account. This is subject to the confirmation that Karonga is a Town Council in accordance with the legal requirements for establishment of Town Councils. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 1 (one).

If the administrative boundary is not confirmed, this one constituency will automatically fall off.

4.9.4. Nkhata Bay

The council be allocated 2 (two) additional constituencies to the 4 (four) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account geographical features of the council, the

topography and ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the council is 6 (six).

4.9.5. Rumphi

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 3 (three) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication and on consideration of the topography of the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 4 (four).

4.9.6. Mzimba

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 11(eleven) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council 12 (twelve).

4.9.7. Mzuzu City

The council be allocated one additional constituency to the 2 (two) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 3 (three).

4.9.8. Likoma

That Likoma being an administrative authority be allocated 1 (one) constituency on that account. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 1 (one).

4.9.9. Kasungu

The council be allocated 10 (ten) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 10 (ten).

4.9.10. Kasungu Municipality

This being an administrative authority be allocated 1 (one) constituency on that account. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 1 (one).

4.9.11. Nkhotakota

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 4 (four) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication as well as the topographical layout of parts of the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 5 (five).

4.9.12. Ntchisi

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 4 (four) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of topography and ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 5 (five).

4.9.13. Dowa

The council be allocated 1(one) additional constituency to the 9 (nine) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of topography and ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 10 (ten).

4.9.14. Salima

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 5(five) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 6 (six).

4.9.15. Lilongwe

The council be allocated 1(one) additional constituency to the 18(eighteen) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 19 (nineteen).

4.9.16. Lilongwe City

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 11 (eleven) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of access and communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 12 (twelve).

4.9.17. Mchinji

The council be allocated 7 (seven) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 7 (seven).

4.9.18. Dedza

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 9 constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council, bearing in mind its topography. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 10 (ten).

4.9.19. Ntcheu

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 7 (seven) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council bearing in mind its topography. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 8 (eight).

4.9.20. Mangochi

The council be allocated 12 (twelve) constituencies determined with the consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 12 (twelve).

4.9.21. Mangochi Town

The town council be allocated 1 (one) constituency on account of being an administrative authority. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 1 (one).

4.9.22. Balaka

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 4 (four) determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 5 (five).

4.9.23. Machinga

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 7 (seven) determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 8 (eight).

4.9.24. Zomba Rural

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 8 (eight) determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 9 (nine).

4.9.25. Zomba City

The council be allocated 1 additional constituency to the 1 (one) constituency determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of access and communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 2 (two).

4.9.26. Chiradzulu

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 4 (four) determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 5 (five)

4.9.27. Blantyre Rural

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 5 (five) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 6 (six).

4.9.28. Blantyre City

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 9 (nine) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of access and communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 10 (ten).

4.9.29. Mwanza

The council be allocated 2 (two) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 2 (two).

4.9.30. Neno

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 2 (two) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of the topography of the district and ensuring ease of communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 3 (three).

4.9.31. Thyolo

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 7 (seven) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made to ensure ease of access and communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 8 (eight).

4.9.32. Luchenza Municipality

This being an administrative authority be allocated 1(one) constituency on that account. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 1 (one).

4.9.33. Phalombe

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 4 (four) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease access and communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 5 (five).

4.9.34. Mulanje

The council be allocated 2 (tow) additional constituencies to the 7 (seven) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease access and communication in the

council bearing in mind the topography. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 9 (nine)

4.9.35. Chikwawa

The council be allocated 1 (one) additional constituency to the 6 (six) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of access and communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 7 (seven)

4.9.36. Nsanje

The council be allocated 2 (two) additional constituencies to the 3(three) constituencies determined by consideration of population of voters eligible to register to vote and land size. This decision was made on account of ensuring ease of access and communication in the council. Therefore, the final determined number of constituencies for the Council is 5 (five)

5. SUMMARY OF DISTRIBUTION OF CONSTITUENCIES PER COUNCIL

COUNCIL		NUMBER OF CONSTITUENCIES
NORTHERN REGION		
	Chitipa	5
	Karonga	5
	Karonga Town	1
	Nkhatabay	6
	Rumphi	4
	Mzimba	12

	Mzuzu City	3
	Likoma	1
REGIONAL TOTAL		37
CENTRAL REGION		
	Kasungu	10
	Kasungu Municipal	1
	Nkhotakota	5
	Ntchisi	5
	Dowa	10
	Salima	6
	Lilongwe Rural	19
	Lilongwe City	12
	Mchinji	7
	Dedza	10
	Ntcheu	8
REGIONAL TOTAL		93
SOUTHERN REGION		
	Mangochi	12
	Mangochi Town	1
	Balaka	5
	Machinga	8
	Zomba Rural	9
	Zomba City	2
	Chiradzulu	5
	Blantyre Rural	6
	Blantyre City	10
	Mwanza	2
	Neno	3
	Thyolo	8

	Luchenza Municipal	1
	Phalombe	5
	Mulanje	9
	Chikwawa	7
	Nsanje	5
REGIONAL TOTAL		98
NATIONAL TOTAL		228

This total of 228 is dependent on the confirmation of gazetting of Karonga Town otherwise the total will be 227.

6. BOUNDARIES

In view of the determination of the constituencies the original boundaries have been abolished and will be redrawn to reflect the new constituencies.

7. NAMING OF CONSTITUENCIES OR WARDS

Stakeholders in the constituency may make proposals for names or change of names of constituencies or wards and submit then submit written proposals to the Commission. The Commission will review the submissions to ensure that stakeholders have agreed and that the proposed name is appropriate for the purpose. A name will be considered inappropriate if it is offensive to any individual, ethnic grouping, or religious sector, restrictive in its intended purpose or if it may be considered as a source of conflict with any sector of the Society.