



MALAWI ELECTORAL COMMISSION

CODE OF CONDUCT

FOR

ACCREDITED

CIVIL SOCIETY

ORGANISATIONS(CSOs)

2025 GENERAL ELECTIONS

1. PREAMBLE

The successful delivery of free, fair and credible elections depends on efforts undertaken to adequately mobilise, motivate and inform the majority of the citizenry to enable them to make informed choices. The tasks cannot be effectively accomplished by the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) alone due to its limited capacity. Therefore, the involvement of other players is of uttermost importance.

(Section 8 (1) (j) of the Malawi Electoral Commission Act (MECA) gives powers to the MEC to provide CVE through the media and other appropriate and effective means. MEC developed this enforceable code of conduct to ensure non-partisanship, transparency, and accountability to MEC in terms of programmes among others.

2. GUIDELINES

a. Every accredited CSO shall: -

- i. At all times adhere to the Constitution and all laws regulating the conduct of elections in Malawi.
- ii. Only use messages and materials approved or vetted by MEC.
- iii. Respect people's individual choices and ensure secrecy of the vote.
- iv. Always act in a non-partisan manner free from any direct or indirect influence or control of any political motivations, political party, candidate or organization.
- v. Exercise political neutrality when conducting CVE or discharging any other duties related to the electoral process.
- vi. Develop materials with MEC involvement at all stages.
- vii. Incorporate gender and special needs in their programming.
- viii. Always conduct themselves in unquestionable manner to preserve the credibility of MEC and the electoral process;
- ix. Avoid putting on, carry, or display politically neutral regalia, clothes or symbols.

b. Financial Obligations: -

- i. Be responsible for sourcing their own resources.

- ii. Show commitment to abide by their donor's requirements and conditions.
- iii. Use the sourced CVE financial and material resources solely for that purpose.
- iv. Be ready to make available records to MEC when need arises.

3. ENFORCEMENT

If an accredited CSO violates this code:

1. MEC will seek clarification from the CSO on the misconduct.
2. If not satisfied with the clarification provided, the MEC will do the following:
 - a. Within 5 days including Saturday and Sunday and public holiday summon the organization to a hearing.
 - b. Within 7 days from the date of hearing give determination to the organization on the matter.

4. IMPLEMENTATION

MEC shall ensure that this code is known and fully complied with by all concerned stakeholders.

This code of conduct stipulates sanctions for those accredited CSOs that violate the guidelines. Section 8 (1) (m) of the MECA empowers MEC to act against violators while Section 19 (1) of the MECA compels all stakeholders to co-operate with MEC efforts.

5. DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT TO COMPLY WITH THIS CODE

We/I _____ of _____

After carefully reading the Code of Conduct as an accredited CSO, would like to show commitment by declaring that our organization will fully comply with the guidelines it provides.

Signed: _____ **Position:** _____ **Date:** _____

Organisational Seal



Signed (MEC):

Signature:..... **Date**.....

Chief Elections Officer