



**RESULTS DECLARATION SPEECH BY CHAIRMAN, JUSTICE DR
CHIFUNDO KACHALE
FOR 30 MARCH BY-ELECTIONS**

1st April, 2021, Umodzi Park, Lilongwe

- My Fellow Commissioners,
- The Chief Elections Officer, Mr Sam Alfandika and all staff from Commission
- Representatives of various political parties and independent candidates here present
- Representatives of various Civil Society Organizations
- Distinguished Invited Guests
- Members of the Press
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good afternoon

I am grateful to God, the Almighty that this morning the Commission is presenting to you the results of the by-elections, held on 30th March, 2021 in the following areas:

1. Karonga North West Constituency;
2. Ntchisi North Constituency;
3. Lilongwe Msinja South Constituency;
4. Zomba Chungalume Constituency;
5. Chikwawa East Constituency;
6. Nsanje North Constituency;
7. Nsanje Central Constituency;
8. Liviridzi Ward in Balaka West Constituency; and
9. Chitakale Ward in Mulanje South Constituency.

The Commission has been meeting since close of polls doing three things:

1. Reviewing the complaints submitted to it regarding polling
2. Reviewing null and void votes brought to the main tally centre by the Returning Officers; and
3. Determining on the results brought to the main tally centre by the Returning Officers

Before announcing the final results and declare the winners, please allow me to give a brief background of the process.

Background to the vacancies

Ladies and gentlemen, you might be aware that four constituencies and two wards fell vacant because of Covid-19 related deaths and these are:

1. Karonga North West Constituency;
2. Ntchisi North Constituency;
3. Lilongwe Msinja South Constituency;
4. Zomba Changalume Constituency;
5. Liviridzi Ward - Balaka West Constituency;
6. Chitakale Ward - Mulanje South Constituency; and

The other three constituencies fell vacant because of a court ruling on 4th February, 2021 nullifying the 2019 parliament election results and ordered fresh elections be held within 60 days. The constituencies are:

1. Chikwawa East Constituency;
2. Nsanje North Constituency; and
3. Nsanje Central Constituency.

In accordance with the directions of the High Court, section 63(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi, section 32(2) of the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections Act and section 23(2) of the Local Government Elections Act, the Commission had to organise by-elections to fill these vacancies so that people in the seven constituencies and two wards should continue to have representation in Parliament and the councils respectively.

Setting of calendar for the by-elections

The Commission had initially planned to hold the by-elections in two sets starting 30th March, 2021 for the three constituencies that fell vacant because of the court ruling. The other four constituencies and two wards were to follow in April, 2021. However, when the Commission met with the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 and the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) Board on the 15th of February, 2021, they all advised that the by-elections be held together. Consequently, the Commission had to revise the electoral calendar to accommodate all the vacancies on 30 March, 2021.

The Commission also revisited the budget because the by-elections were being held together. The budget was, therefore, revised downwards to K2,647,020,000 from K3,157,064,020.

The Commission launched the by-elections on 19th February, 2021 through a televised address and also held stakeholders' meetings on 19th and 20th February, 2021 in the seven constituencies and the two wards, respectively.

Inspection of voters' register and registration of voters

The Commission opened centres for two weeks for registration and inspection of the voter's register from 22 February to 7 March, 2021 in all the by-elections areas. Those who registered for the 2019 elections in these areas were asked to go and verify their details or get duplicate certificates if they had lost their first voter certificates.

Registration of new voters took place in the constituencies and wards that fell vacant because of death only. For this period, the Commission managed to register a total of **8,136** new voters of which **4,051** were male while **4,085** were female. The breakdown for each area is as follows:

Ward/Constituency	New registered voters		
	Male	Female	Total
Karonga North West Constituency	848	561	1409
Ntchisi North Constituency	791	910	1701
Lilongwe Msinja South Constituency	1340	1394	2734
Zomba Changgalume Constituency	641	661	1302
Liviridzi Ward	270	368	638
Chitakale Ward	161	191	352
Total New registered voters	4051	4085	8136

Nomination of candidates

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, according to the direction of the court, there was no nomination of new candidates in the three constituencies which fell vacant following the nullification of the 2019 elections results. The candidates contesting in the elections were those who stood in 2019 and there was no provision for change of affiliation or substitution.

In the other four constituencies and two wards, the Commission made available nomination papers from 19th February, 2021 for aspiring candidates to collect.

On 8th March, 2021, the Commission received nomination papers from the candidates. The Commission met on 10th March, 2021 to review the nomination papers received. The Commission approved all the candidates who had presented the nomination papers minus one aspiring contestant in Karonga North West Constituency who was found to be a minor. According to the documentation he presented, he was not yet 21 years on the day of nomination.

In the course of the preparations, the Commission was also served with notices of withdrawals by the following candidates:

1. Nsanje Central Constituency

- Laston Saidi Katole of the United Democratic Front.

2. Chikwawa East Constituency

- Finason Brown Thengulo, an independent candidate

3. Nsanje North Constituency

- Kennedy Jailosi of the UTM

These withdrawals came to the Commission when ballot papers had already been printed, the names were not removed from the ballot papers. As per requirement of the law, the Commission arranged for the names to be deleted using a marker by the ballot issuing clerk on the polling day.

On withdrawal of candidates, we would like to emphasise that the Commission follows procedures as set in the law. The candidate has to write the Commission in a notarized letter expressing their intention to withdraw. If this is not done, the Commission cannot withdraw a candidate without a formal written notice. The Commission does not act on mere speculations. For example, in Nsanje North Constituency, we had a situation where some people raised questions why one candidate who allegedly informed others of his withdrawal and was deemed to have withdrawn was still found on the ballot paper.

On nomination, the Commission is concerned with the conduct of some aspirants who take the process in a very casual manner like attempting to use connections within the Commission to have their papers received after closing time. There are also others that find lame excuses for failing to bring nomination papers on time. Some of the excuses we do not entertain include: I was delayed at the bank; I

had some challenges; my car got stuck in the mud; etc. The nomination process is not negotiable; therefore, we urge stakeholders to always take heed of the information given so that there are no hitches in their intention to contest. Ample time is provided but no extension is provided.

Official campaign period

The official campaign period started on 15th February, 2021. As per requirement of the law, campaign ended at 06.00AM on 28th March, 2021 which was 48 hours to the polling day.

The Commission wishes to commend the people in some of the by-election areas for maintaining law, order, peace and calm during the entire campaign period. However, it also wishes to express serious concern with acts of violence that were experienced in Nsanje North, Nsanje Central and in Karonga North West Constituencies. We commend the Malawi Police Service for moving in fast to arrest the situations. For those arrested, it is an honest expectation of the Commission that their cases will be pursued to a logical conclusion. Criminal activities conducted during elections are like all other criminal acts subject to the law.

On its part, when the violent skirmishes were reported, the Commission moved in swiftly to convene a Multiparty Liaison Committee (MPLC) meeting. The Commission commends the Centre for Multiparty Democracy and the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace

(CCJP) for supporting the MPLC meetings to try and quell these disturbing occurrences.

The Commission is also very concerned that candidates and political party leaders have completely disregarded Covid-19 preventive measures. Mass rallies held across the country by all fronts have been void of visible Covid-19 measures. There was total disregard to physical distancing, no provision of hand washing facilities and enforcement of wearing masks. This is a cause for worry and a departure from the agreement which was reached between the Commission and CMD at the onset of the by elections. As leaders we need to lead in protecting the people we lead.

Polling, counting and results

Polling took place on the 30th of March, 2021. Most polling stations opened on time and ran uninterrupted. Counting of results began immediately after close of the polls in the same polling stations where polling took place. Results from the polling stations were taken to the Returning Officer who brought them to Lilongwe where MEC set the Main Tally Centre.

The Commission thanks all political parties and candidates who sent their representatives to polling and tally centres to monitor the counting process. Their presence enhanced the transparency and credibility of the process. And would like to appreciate the presence of all MEC Commissioners and staff in facilitating the entire process.

Civic and Voter Education

In order to fulfil its mandate of conducting civic education, the Commission produced and distributed civic and voter education materials such as posters, brochures and voter information letters to all chiefs and religious leaders in the concerned areas.

The Commission also conducted voter education meetings with religious and traditional leaders on polling procedures and other related matters. The expectation was that when they go back, the message will trickle down to their subjects and congregations. In addition, the Commission deployed loudhailer vehicles to conduct voter awareness and mobilise voters to patronize the polling stations on the polling day. Besides, the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE) Trust complemented the Commission by conducting loudhailer mobilisation that also helped inform the voters about manifestos of the candidates. The Commission commends the NICE Trust for this important role.

The Commission has noted the continued absence of CSOs during by-elections. It should be stated that the law makes voter education continuous. Therefore, it is our expectation of all CSOs and their Development Partners to migrate to the electoral cycle philosophy and conduct civic and voter education throughout the electoral cycle instead of when they are big events happening.

Appreciation to stakeholders

The Commission wishes to extend its appreciation to Government through the Ministry of Finance for timely release of funds to conduct the by elections. The by-elections operations have run without any logistical challenges and uninterrupted because funding was provided 100 percent according to the budget that the MEC submitted.

The Commission also extends its gratitude to the Presidential Task Force on Covid-19 for the technical and material support rendered in the management of these by-elections. The Covid-19 Task Force provided 320,000 face masks which the Commission gave out for free to all voters, polling staff, security officers, observers and candidates representatives. This gesture, we believe encouraged many people to show up for voting without which they could easily have stayed home for fear of COVID-19

Further, the Commission appreciates the efforts by the faith-based organizations and religious leaders who helped in voter education by reading to their congregations the letters that the Commission sent to them with various voter information details.

As MEC, we continue to cherish the role the Malawi Police Service plays in providing security throughout the process. We also greatly recognize the vital role that the media play in sensitizing the public on

these by-elections and publishing accurate and correct information. The Police should be commended for responding swiftly to quell the violence that occurred in Nsanje and Karonga during the campaign and polling periods.

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) should also be commended for supporting training of political party representatives from the seven constituencies where MEC was invited to facilitate the trainings.

The Commission recognizes and appreciates the Acting District Commissioners and other officials from the councils that were engaged as Returning Officers, for a job well done. The Commission also acknowledges members of the District Election Supervisory Teams who managed the elections on the ground. We would also like to thank the Multiparty Liaison Committees, and various political party leaders for the collaboration we had in preparation and conduct of these by-elections. The Commission also commends the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD) for supporting meetings of Multiparty Liaison Committees (MPLC) to address issues of violence.

I would also like to convey my personal commendation to my fellow Commissioners and the MEC staff for their dedication, professionalism, commitment and selflessness in managing the electoral process so well. To you all I say well done and keep it up!

In a special way, the Commission commends MEC field staff that braved the hard rainy conditions to conduct the electoral process on the ground. As you can see from the screen, there were so many instances where our vehicles got stuck in the mud. But our staff never gave up, with resilience and determination, they delivered on their responsibilities.

Finally, the Commission expresses its sincere gratitude and appreciation to all registered voters in the seven constituencies and two wards for turning up for voting. That is the ultimate love a member can show in a democratic dispensation.

Complaints and Offences

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen. It is a requirement that before beginning the determination of the results of an election the Commission must resolve all matters that have been subject of complaints.

Complaints to be lodged with the Commission must be in relation to irregularities at any stage of the electoral process. In accordance with section 113 of the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections Act and section 96 of the Local Government Elections Act only complaints that have not been satisfactorily resolved at the lower level of authority are the ones that must be determined upon by the Commission.

Complaints alleging irregularities and reports of commission of electoral offences must be differentiated to eliminate the impression that the Commission has the capacity to resolve and make determination on each and every complaint that is lodged with it. Some of the complaints that the Commission receives are typical allegations that electoral offences have been committed. All offences must be treated as such and must be dealt with in accordance with the procedures set by the law and by bodies and institutions that are mandated to handle criminal offences.

It must be highlighted that some of the most common reports that Commission receives during elections relates to violence, soliciting, issuing, and receiving handouts, campaigning within forty-eight hours before opening of the poll, use of language which is inflammatory, defamatory or insulting or which constitutes incitement to public disorder, hate or violence. It must be emphasized that these are offences and recognized as such under section 115 of the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections Act and under 98 of the Local Government Elections Act and under the Political Parties Act, 2018. The Commission is not mandated in law to penalize any candidate or person on a mere suspicion that they have committed an electoral offence.

It must be emphasized that the Commission is not endowed with any investigative powers into criminal acts and does not have any

prosecutorial mandate. It is therefore important that reports alleging commission of an offence must be lodged with the Police with all particulars and evidence to make it easy for the Police to investigate the crime and prosecute the offenders. Once the report has been made the Commission must notified to be following up with the police on progress of the investigations and prosecution should it be commenced.

The law prescribes penalties for all electoral offences. Currently, a person who has been found guilty of an offence for which no penalty has been specified is liable to a fine of K500,000.00 and to imprisonment for 2 years.

In addition to imposition of a fine or imprisonment, the Court may where applicable bar the convicted person from performing the duties of the office in connection with the election, suspend the right of the convicted person to vote in an election or even nullify the vote cast by the convicted person. The Court may also give directions deemed appropriate in those circumstances.

It has been necessary to make this distinction to ensure that all electoral stakeholders should become conversant with the mandate that the Commission has in relation to criminal offences and complaints alleging irregularities.

Complaints in these By-elections

In respect of these by-elections the Commission retrieved and reviewed all the Electoral Complaints Logbooks which were placed at the Polling Stations. It was observed that all complaints that had been recorded were resolved at the Polling Stations and the District Tally Centres.

Complaints lodged directly with the Commission

The Commission received a complaint from Mr Daniel Chitonya, Candidate of the Malawi Congress Party in Karonga North West Constituency. The Candidate is seeking disqualification of the disqualification of the UTM candidate, Mr Felix Katwaff Kayira for allegedly being responsible for the violence and intimidation against the Malawi Congress Party, its members and voters. In the alternative Mr Chitonya has demanded that a fresh election be held in the Constituency and the UTM Candidate should not participate. He has also demanded a recount of votes cast in some mentioned centres on account of wrong tallying. Mr Chitonya has since been guided on how the alleged criminal offences should be dealt with. The complainant has not provided the Commission with any evidence of wrong tallying of results in any of the centres. Therefore, the Commission has declined to order a recount in the Constituency or in any of the centres and a response to that effect has been dispatched the candidate

Examination of null and void votes

The Commission, having examined the null and void votes, in accordance with section 97 of the Parliamentary and Presidential Elections Act and section 81 of the Local Government Elections Act has made the following determinations:

- **Karonga North West Constituency:** The Commission examined 133 null and void votes, affirmed 119 as such and corrected 14 votes which have been allocated as follows:
 - Trustings Waluza Kamwambi, DPP 3 votes;
 - Felix Junior Kayira, UTM 7 votes; and
 - Fwasani Silungwe, AFORD 4 votes.
- **Ntchisi North Constituency:** The Commission examined 127 null and void votes, affirmed 120 as such and corrected 7 votes which have been allocated as follows:
 - Arnold William Kadzanja, MCP, 10 votes; and
 - Maurice Mwesawina M'bang'ombe, Independent, 2 votes.
- **Lilongwe Msinja South Constituency:** The Commission examined 268 null and void votes, affirmed 252 as such and corrected 16 votes which have been allocated as follows:
 - Francis Chikumbutso Belekanyama, (MCP), 13 votes;
 - Jones Yamikani Chadza, (Independent) 2 votes; and
 - Mustapha Macdonald, (DPP), 1 vote.

- **Zomba Changalume Constituency:** The Commission examined 111 null and void votes, affirmed 102 as such and corrected 9 votes which have been allocated as follows:
 - Lawrence D. Bisika, (PP) 1 vote;
 - Jean C. Chilemba, (UTM) 1 vote;
 - Henry M. Kaseama, (Independent) 1 vote;
 - Bizwick Million, (Independent), 2 votes;
 - Mary M. Muheya, (DPP) 1 vote; and
 - Mahomed H. Osman, (Independent) 3 votes.
- **Chikwawa East Constituency:** The Commission examined 314 null and void votes, affirmed 295 as such and corrected 19 votes which have been allocated as follows:
 - Rodrick S. Khumbanyiwa, (UDF) 8 votes;
 - Fyson D. Mainjeni, (UTM) 2 votes;
 - Ginford M. Maulidi, (DPP) 7 votes; and
 - Foster T. Thipiwa, (MCP) 2 votes.
- **Nsanje North Constituency:** The Commission examined 279 null and void votes, affirmed 265 as such and corrected 14 votes which have been allocated as follows:
 - Patrick Chimwemwe Bande (Independent) 3 votes
 - Dr Esther Mcheka Chilenje (DPP), 4 votes
 - Enock Masautso Chizuzu (MCP), 7 votes
- **Nsanje Central Constituency:** The Commission examined 140 null and void votes, affirmed 138 as such and corrected 2 votes which have been allocated as follows:

- Francis Lazalo Kasaila (DPP), 1 vote
- Kafanikhale Mandevana (MCP) 1 vote
- **Liviridzi Ward, Balaka West Constituency:** The Commission examined 46 null and void votes, affirmed 43 as such and corrected 3 votes which have been allocated as follows:
 - Richard K. Alli, (UTM) 1 vote;
 - Lucius Ella (DPP) 2 votes.
- **Chitakale Ward - Mulanje South Constituency:** The Commission examined 54 null and void votes, affirmed 44 as such and corrected 10 votes which have been allocated as follows:
 - Aaron Mickson Chitsulo, (MCP) 1 votes; and
 - Richard Fanuel Mulingano, (DPP) 9 votes.

Declaration of Results

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Commission, I will now proceed to declare the results.

The Commission monitored the voting that took place on the 30th March, 2021. We are satisfied that it was conducted in an environment where the electorate were free to elect a candidate of their choice without fear and intimidation. We are also confident that the results we are about to announce reflect the will of the voters. The Commission, therefore, declares this election as a credible one that has met legal requirements and international best practices generally in as far as free and fair elections are concerned

There was a total of 290,495 voters in all the seven constituencies and two wards of which 136,572 turned out for polling representing 47.01 percent overall. The results are as follows:

- **Karonga North West Constituency**

Karonga North West Constituency had eight candidates. With a total of 53,231 registered voters, a total of 25,689 voters turned up for polling. This represents 48.26 percent voter turnout. There were 136 null and void votes. This represents 0.53 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Daniel CHITONYA (M) Malawi Congress Party (MCP), got 9,207 votes;
2. Felix Katwaff KAIRA (M) UTM got 9,537 votes;
3. Trustings Waluza KAMWAMBI (M) Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), got 3,992 votes;
4. Bone Harry Kasunga MWENENDEKA (M) United Democratic Front (UDF) got 91 votes; and
5. Anderson Peace MWAIPINGA (M) INDEPENDENT, got 55 votes;
6. Dr. Shawo Gabriel MWAKILAMA (M) INDEPENDENT got 125 votes;
7. Harry Hardson MWANYEMBE (M) INDEPENDENT got 156 votes;

8. Fwasani SILUNGWE (M) Alliance for Democracy (AFORD) got 2,390 votes;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Felix Katwaff KAIRA who contested as UTM candidate the winner in the Karonga North West Constituency by-election.

- **Ntchisi North Constituency**

Ntchisi North Constituency had three candidates. With a total of 36,197 registered voters, a total of 17,156 voters turned up for polling. This represents 47.40 percent voter turnout. There were 130 null and void votes. This represents 0.76 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Arnold William KADZANJA (M) Malawi Congress Party (MCP) got 10,385 votes;
2. Kensinalakwiyo Lasford MAMBEYA (M) Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) got 452 votes; and
3. Maurice Mwesawina M'BANG'OMBE (M) INDEPENDENT got 6,189 votes.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Arnold William KADZANJA who contested as Malawi Congress Party candidate the winner in the Ntchisi North Constituency by-election.

- **Lilongwe Msinja South Constituency**

Lilongwe Msinja South Constituency had five candidates. With a total of 37,550 registered voters, a total of 17,284 voters turned up for

polling. This represents 46.03 percent voter turnout. There were 288 null and void votes. This represents 1.67 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Francis Chikumbutso BELEKANYAMA (M) Malawi Congress Party (MCP) got 8,664 votes;
2. Jones Yamikani CHADZA (M) INDEPENDENT got 6,596 votes;
3. Ruth CHATATA (F) INDEPENDENT got 66 votes;
4. Lameck John KONDESI (M) INDEPENDENT got 1,150 votes
5. Mustapha MACDONALD (M), Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) got 520 votes.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Francis Chikumbutso BELEKANYAMA who contested as Malawi Congress Party candidate the winner in the Lilongwe Msinja South Constituency by-election.

- **Zomba Changalume Constituency**

Zomba Changalume Constituency had ten candidates. With a total of 26,036 registered voters, a total of 13,793 voters turned up for polling. This represents 52.98 percent voter turnout. There were 114 null and void votes. This represents 0.83 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Yusuf Noor BAMUSI (M) United Democratic Front (UDF) got 451 votes;

2. Lawrence Denezio BISIKA (M) Peoples Party (PP) got 748 votes;
3. Jean Cheonga CHILEMBA (F) UTM got 2,651 votes;
4. Anne Mary FLETCHER (F) INDEPENDENT got 52 votes;
5. Henry Marko KASEAMA (M) INDEPENDENT got 105 votes;
6. Bizwick MILLION (M) INDEPENDENT got 4,280 votes;
7. Mary Matiya MUHEYA (F) Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) got 2,207 votes;
8. James NIPURO (M) INDEPENDENT got 98 votes;
9. Rexa Kuntambila NTODWA (F) INDEPENDENT got 591 votes;
and
10. Mahomed Hanif OSMAN (M) INDEPENDENT got 2,493 votes.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Bizwick MILLION who contested as an Independent candidate the winner in the Zomba Chungalume Constituency by-election.

- **Chikwawa East Constituency**

Chikwawa East Constituency had six candidates. With a total of 38,052 registered voters, a total of 17,967 voters turned up for polling. This represents 47.22 percent voter turnout. There were 323 null and void votes. This represents 1.8 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Rosemary Singano KALIDOZO (F) INDEPENDENT got 99 votes;

2. Rodrick Samu KHUMBANYIWA (M) UDF got 7,584 votes;
3. Fyson Duncan MAINJENI (M) UTM got 154 votes;
4. Ginford Mabo MAULIDI (M) Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) got 5,065 votes;
5. Phoebe MTEMBENUZENI (F) INDEPENDENT got 130 votes; and
6. Foster Thomson THIPIWA (M) Malawi Congress Party (MCP) got 4,612 votes

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Rodrick Samu KHUMBANYIWA who contested as UDF candidate the winner in the Chikwawa East Constituency by-election.

- **Nsanje North Constituency**

Nsanje North Constituency had three candidates. With a total of 32,554 registered voters, a total of 18,338 voters turned up for polling. This represents 56.33 percent voter turnout. There were 278 null and void votes. This represents 1.52 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Patrick Chimwemwe BANDE (M) INDEPENDENT got 113 votes;
2. Dr. Esther MCHEKA CHILENJE (F) Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) got 8,081 votes; and
3. Enock Masautso CHIZUZU (M) Malawi Congress Party (MCP) got 9,866 votes.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Enock Masautso CHIZUZU who contested as MCP candidate the winner in the Nsanje North Constituency by-election.

- **Nsanje Central Constituency**

Nsanje Central Constituency had four candidates. With a total of 24,262 registered voters, a total of 15,422 voters turned up for polling. This represents 63.56 percent voter turnout. There were 141 null and void votes. This represents 0.91 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Esmy Hubert BANDE (F) Democratic People's Congress (DEPECO) got 72 votes;
2. Francis Lazalo KASAILA (M) Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) got 6,648 votes;
3. Kafandikhale MANDEVANA (M) Malawi Congress Party (MCP) got 8,230 votes; and
4. Nzeru MYBECK (M) UTM got 331 votes.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Kafandikhale MANDEVANA who contested as MCP candidate the winner in the Nsanje Central Constituency by-election.

- **Liviridzi Ward in Balaka**

Liviridzi Ward had seven candidates. With a total of 24,160 registered voters, a total of 6,220 voters turned up for polling. This represents 25.75 percent voter turnout. There were 47 null and void votes. This represents 0.76 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Richard Koloko ALLI (M) UTM got 1,618 votes;
2. Jones CHAMANGWANA (M) Malawi Congress Party (MCP) got 692 votes;
3. Lucius ELIA (M), Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) got 2,191 votes
4. Chilambe Isaac MARTIN (M) INDEPENDENT got 81 votes;
5. Sten Felesani MAWINDO (M) INDEPENDENT got 328 votes;
6. Paul NAPHWIYO (M) INDEPENDENT got 42 votes; and
7. Stande NGUYEJE (M) United Democratic Front (UDF) got 1,221 votes

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Lucius ELIA who contested as DPP candidate the winner in the Liviridzi Ward by-election.

- **Chitakale Ward in Mulanje**

Chitakale Ward had three candidates. With a total of 18,453 registered voters, a total of 4,703 voters turned up for polling. This represents 25.49 percent voter turnout. There were 58 null and void votes. This represents 1.23 percent of the total votes cast. The results of the voting are as follows:

1. Aaron Mickson CHITSULO (M) Malawi Congress Party (MCP) got 742 votes;
2. Alexander Makawa Phiri FOSTER (M) UTM got 338 votes; and
3. Richard Fanuel MULINGANO (M) Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) got 3,565 votes

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the Commission declares Richard Fanuel MULINGANO who contested as DPP candidate the winner in the Chitakale Ward by-election.

Participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities

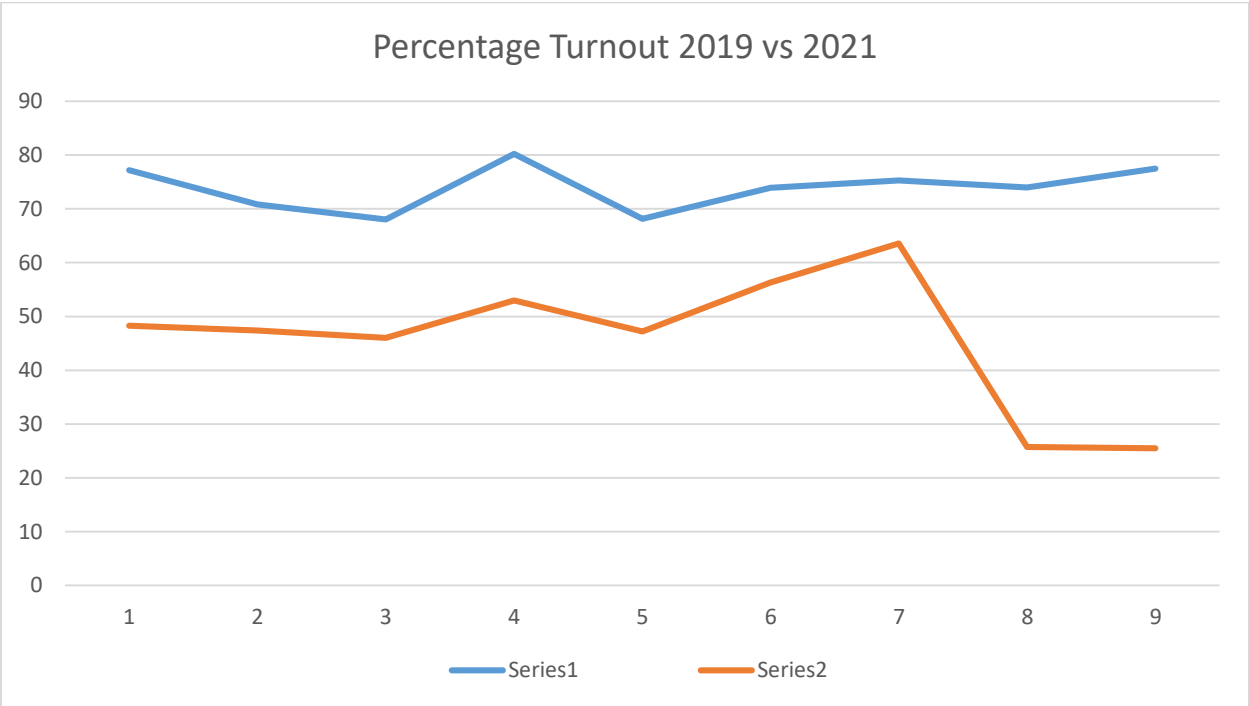
The Commission has always maintained a 50 percent discount on nomination fees for women and persons with disabilities and 75 percent for the youth as an incentive for them to participate in elections as candidates. For these by-elections there were 49 candidates in all the areas of which only nine were women. There were 30 men contesting in parliamentary elections against nine women, this represents 18 percent only of the contestants. There were nine men and no woman contesting in Local Government Election. There were no youths and persons with disabilities participating in the by-elections as candidates. On the contrary the Commission continues to encounter more women registering and showing up for voting than men. The Commission also observes active participation of the youths during campaign activities. Political parties and stakeholders need to take some decisive actions to encourage more

women, youths and persons with disabilities to stand as candidates in elections.

Low voter turnout during by-elections

The Commission has noted with concern the recurrence of low voter turnout during by-elections. This has been common during by-elections but we are still of the view that something can be done to stop and reverse this trend. At the moment the Commission will not speculate the reasons but we believe a thorough study involving the voters would help to identify interventions that can help to address and reverse this trend. For these by-elections we plotted the results against the 2019 turnout and the picture is as you can see on the screen.

The gap between the two lines is more pronounced in Local Government Elections where turnout is very low.



PLACE	NO	2019 % turnout	2021 % turnout
Karonga North West Constituency	1	77.1637829	48.26
Ntchisi North Constituency	2	70.8366947	47.4
Lilongwe Msinja South Constituency	3	68.0123779	46.03
Zomba Changgalume Constituency	4	80.2168131	52.98
Chikwawa East Constituency	5	68.143593	47.22
Nsanje North Constituency	6	73.9171838	56.33
Nsanje Central Constituency	7	75.2864562	63.56
Liviridzi Ward	8	73.9595217	25.75
Chitakale Ward	9	77.4661134	25.49

Concluding remarks

Allow me on behalf of my fellow Commissioners to extend congratulations to the winners. Please go and deliver the promises made during the campaign period and please celebrate with responsibility. To those that have not made it I say, there will always be next time. Go, reflect and plan on how to win next time.

I wish to thank everyone for participating in these by-elections and allow me to thank my colleagues in the Commission for all the hard work.

May God bless you

Bless our land of Malawi.