

Malawi Human Rights Commission



CONDEMNING ELECTORAL RELATED VIOLENCE

PRESS RELEASE

The Malawi Human Rights Commission (the Commission) is disturbed with reported incidences of electoral violence in some parts of the country. The Commission, in particular, is concerned with the conduct of suspected Malawi Congress Party (MCP) supporters in Mponela and Lilongwe. It is alleged that the MCP supporters perpetrated violence against supporters of the Democratic Progress Party (DPP) and the general public in the two areas. The Commission wishes to condemn such violence in strongest terms.

The Commission wishes to advise the MCP leadership to appeal to its followers and supporters to refrain from any form of violence. Importantly, the Commission calls upon the MCP leadership to condemn such acts of violence. It must be repeated that peace is a right and a precondition for any sustainable development.

It must further be noted that the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi encourages peaceful resolution of disputes. In the case of management of the 21st May, 2019 elections, the Commission notes that the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) adopted a mechanism of complaint handling in line with the spirit of the Constitution. This is commendable. It is also commendable that MEC has tirelessly worked towards resolving nearly all complaints lodged

with it. Apart from the complaint mechanism set up by MEC, the Commission wishes to advise all aggrieved parties of the availability of a court mechanism post-election, yet another peaceful mechanism of resolving electoral disputes.

Meanwhile, the Commission wishes to applaud the Police for managing the violent conflict in Mponela and Lilongwe. The Commission also wishes to urge the police to deal with any form of impunity and bring to book any perpetrator of violence. The Commission, once again, appeals to all the people of Malawi to remain calm, peaceful and patient as they wait for MEC to finalise the elections.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David V.K. Nungu', with a horizontal line underneath.

David V.K. Nungu
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
26TH MAY 2019