

MALAWI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



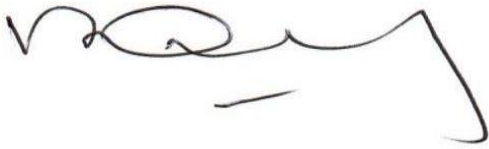
A RENEWED CALL FOR POST-ELECTION PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND UNITY

The Malawi Human Rights Commission (the Commission) monitored the administration and conduct of the entire electoral process leading to the 2019 Tripartite Elections. Informed by this monitoring exercise, the Commission issued two preliminary statements. The first one was issued on 19th May, 2019 whilst the second one was released on 25th May, 2019. Both statements detailed salient observations and viable and implementable recommendations to the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) and other relevant electoral stakeholders vis-à-vis human rights connected to and efficacy of elections. Presently, as assured in the said second preliminary statement, the Commission is working on its full election monitoring report, with detailed observations and further recommendations, which would be released soon.

The Commission has also been monitoring the post-election developments. The Commission notes that the results in, mainly for the presidential election, have been disputed. The Commission also notes that, dissatisfied with the verdict of MEC on their disputes and grievances, some contestants have taken the responsibility to petition the courts for effective redress. The Commission is delighted with and commends all aggrieved contestants that have chosen to follow peaceful mechanisms of resolving electoral disputes by petitioning the courts. It is also encouraging that the courts have demonstrated zeal to expedite petitions as per the requirements of the law.

Meanwhile, the Commission, once again, is calling upon all Malawians to remain peaceful and united as the nation waits for the verdict of the courts on the various petitions, including the one on the presidential election. Where protests, within the right to assemble and demonstrate peacefully and unarmed, has been chosen as a mechanism for addressing the grievances

herein, the Commission calls upon all such protestors to exercise this civil liberty within its limitations by observing peace and rule of law. The Commission particularly urges the Malawi Police Service to handle the demonstrations with restraint, professionalism and minimum force, without violating the rights of the people of Malawi. On its part, the Commission will continue to engage all electoral stakeholders in a bid to finding lasting solutions to the political impasse and achieve sustainable peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nungu', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

David V.K. Nungu
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
19th June, 2019