



MALAWI ELECTORAL COMMISSION

PUBLIC NOTICE

GUIDANCE ON THE CONDUCT OF THE MARCH 2026 PARLIAMENTARY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

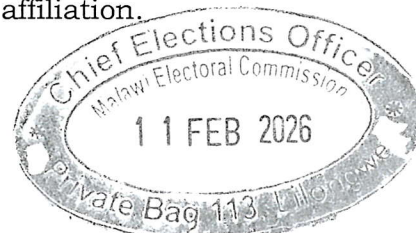
The Malawi Electoral Commission (the "Commission") wishes to inform all political parties, candidates, and electoral stakeholders of the following guidance regarding the Parliamentary and Local Government elections scheduled for 17 March 2026. These elections are being conducted following various circumstances, including the death of candidates, resignations, and nullification of electoral proceedings by the Commission and Court Orders.

The guiding principle for these by-elections is to ensure they are as inclusive as possible to give full effect to the franchise provisions under the Constitution of the Republic of Malawi. Therefore, unless specific restrictions have been imposed by a Court Order or law, all proceedings will be conducted to maximize participation.

In areas where elections were stopped by the Commission either because of death of a duly nominated candidate or due to an omission on the part of the Commission all previous proceedings are considered void and have been commenced afresh in the same manner as a by-election following a vacancy. Consequently, the Commission will hold new nomination proceedings, and the Commission will conduct registration of voters. As is the case with a by-election, the Commission will not conduct transfer of voters to any constituency or ward where a by-election is being held.

However, take notice that for candidates who were already duly nominated for the stopped elections and wish to contest in the March 2026 by-elections, such candidates must notify the Commission in writing of their intention to contest through the Constituency Returning Officer by 20 February 2026. Upon receipt of this written notification, the Commission shall treat the candidate as duly nominated to contest in the by-election. Once the notification of intention to contest in the by-election is received, all legal provisions relating to the withdrawal of a candidate shall become applicable and withdrawal of candidate will then have to be in the prescribed form.

It is further advised that a candidate who was duly nominated to contest in the stopped elections, cannot change affiliation by use of this written notification of intention to contest and will have to seek fresh nomination if they have decided to contest under a different affiliation.



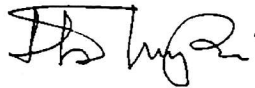
Stakeholders are specifically advised that the only exception to the foregoing processes will be the election in Nkhotakota Liwaladzi Constituency, where the Supreme Court of Appeal directed that the election proceed exactly as it stood on 16 September 2025. In that specific constituency, there will be no new nominations, no new registration of voters, and the candidate list shall be restricted to those duly nominated as of that time.

Stakeholders should also take note that in Rumphi Central Constituency, and Muonekera Ward in Thyolo Goliati Constituency all candidates will have to pay and collect nomination papers, regardless of whether they contested in the same areas in the 2025 General Election.

Political parties are encouraged to review the status of their candidates in the affected areas. In cases where a party's previously nominated candidate is no longer available, the party may participate in fresh nomination proceedings to sponsor a new candidate.

The Commission remains committed to delivering a transparent and credible electoral process. For further clarification or specific guidance, stakeholders are encouraged to contact the Office of the Chief Elections Officer.

Dated this 11 February 2026



Andrew Mpesi
CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER

