



PAN AFRICAN CIVIC EDUCATORS NETWORK

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**IMPLEMENTATION OF COURT JUDGEMENT BY THE NATIONAL
REGISTRATION BUREAU (NRB) ON THE USE OF THE NATIONAL ID AS SOLE
AUTHORITATIVE MEANS OF IDENTIFICATION FOR VOTER REGISTRATION**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Pan African Civic Educators Network (PACENET) is a local non-governmental organisation in Malawi with over 20 years of active participation in the democratisation processes in Malawi and the SADC region. PACENET as one of the accredited service providers by the Malawi Electoral Commission for the September 2025 tripartite elections has welcomed the High Court Judgement of Civil Cause NO.130 delivered on Friday 25th October 2024 in the case in which some **concerned citizens** sought a Court injunction against the Malawi Electoral Commission's use of the national ID as a sole means of identification for voter registration.

While upholding the law on voter registration the High Court in its judgement ordered the NRB,

“ ... to immediately take steps and put in place adequate mechanisms that would ensure that persons who meet the eligibility criteria set by Section 77 of the Constitution and present themselves at the Malawi Electoral Commission's MEC registration centres, but do not have proof of eligibility issued to them by NRB, are assisted to register in its database and given a unique identifier in line with the requirements of Section 12 of the Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Elections Act and then allowed to register as voters thereafter with MEC...”

PACENET has also welcomed NRB's commitment to comply with the High Court Judgement as expressed through a public statement that PACENET has seen on the 29th of October 2024.

However, PACENET has serious reservations on the manner the NRB intends to comply with the court order, namely that ***“.....NRB will, as a matter of urgency, open additional centres to assist Malawians who may have not yet registered for the National ID....”***

PACENET is of the view that the best and most efficient approach by NRB is simply to avail its registration staff at **ALL** MEC's voter registration centres equipped with National ID registration kits for them to start registering those who were not registered but have attained the age of 18 or will have attained the age of eighteen on 16 September 2025.

PACENET is also of the view that potential voters who missed this opportunity in phase one should be given the chance to be registered by NRB and thereafter with MEC. Denying them this opportunity amounts to a blatant deprivation of their electoral rights.

We appeal to the Government and development partners to urgently support NRB with financial resources to commence implementation of the Court judgement as a matter of urgency.

We appeal to MEC to exercise flexibility in the implementation of the electoral calendar to accommodate necessary adjustments.

We appeal to all political parties, accredited civil society organisations(CSOs) and bonafide citizens to religiously demand transparency and accountability from NRB as it complies with the High Court Judgement of Civil Cause No.130 of 2024.



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