

process in preparation for the next general election scheduled for 2025. This will be done by continuous enhancement of the knowledge, skills and technical abilities of key electoral related duty bearers and also ensuring that electoral policies and legislation is revised/developed and better implemented in line with the framework of on-going electoral reforms. While elections *per se* are not equal to democracy, elections endorsed as free, fair and credible by all key stakeholders go along to create supportive conditions for a resilient democratic dispensation that favours accountability, transparency, rule of law and responsiveness of elected officials to their citizen's needs. To this effect, the maintenance of a functional national registration system will be essential as it can be linked to the voter registration system to ensure credibility while also promoting cost-savings for the Government. So too will the dedicated civic education efforts, to enable all Malawians the opportunity to equitably and freely participate in all the electoral processes. Over the past two elections, MEC has demonstrated an increase in technical capabilities to ably undertake its role. The Action aims to provide continuous support in this area, so as not to maintain the momentum rather than regress. Further guidance will be given to facilitate the revision of various electoral laws that as identified in the EOM 2019 report hinder active citizen participation and pose as obstacles to a wholly free, fair, competitive process.