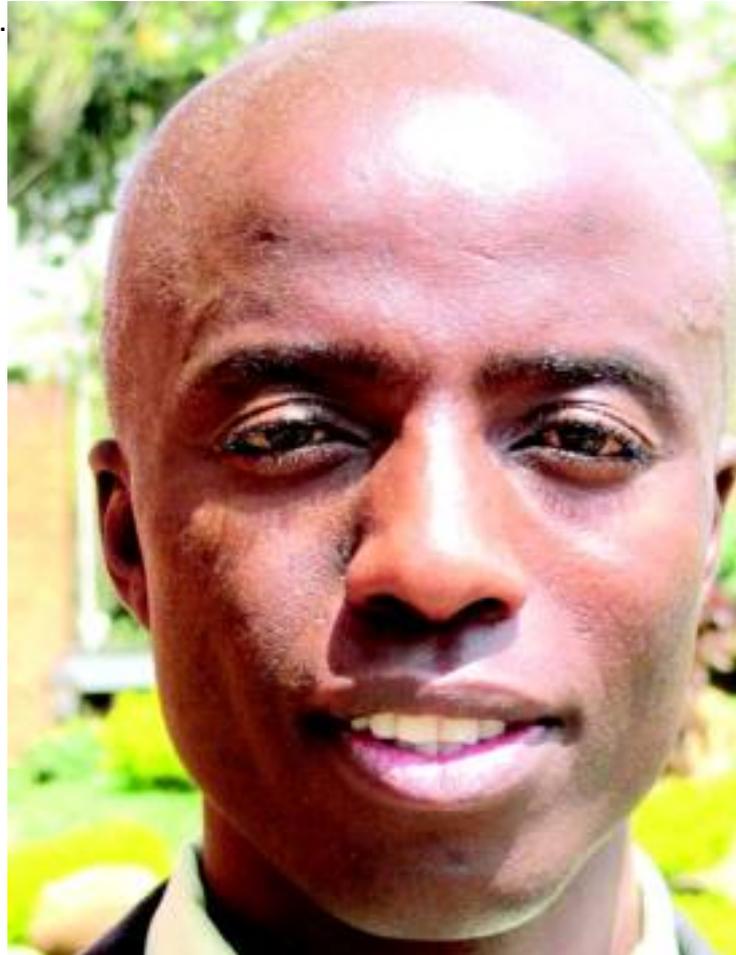


2014 election not too complex—Mec

Written by Chikondi Juma
Thursday, 14 February 2013 09:05

The Malawi Electoral Commission (Mec) says it is confident that voters in the country will easily understand the voting process in the forthcoming 2014 tripartite elections dismissing fears that the process will be too complex for an average voter.



Responding to questions on how Mec is preparing to educate the voters ahead of the elections, spokesperson Sangwani Mwafulirwa said the Commission is planning quality civic and voter education that should reach all electorates for the elections.

According to Mwafulirwa, Mec will work with all stakeholders to ensure that the electorate is reached with quality messages in a form and language they can understand.

"The tripartite elections are not a complex process for an average voter to follow. They are just an addition of one ballot box to the general elections which should not be a complex process resulting in many cases of confusion," said Mwafulirwa.

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He said at the moment Mec has just issued a call for application from civil society organisations that wish to participate in the voter and civic education for the tripartite elections.

He said the Commission expects to have organisations and individuals who will carry out the exercise accredited before the end of the first quarter of this year.

The Commission has also already engaged two consultants, to facilitate the review of the current civic and voter education strategy and come up with a strategy for the 2014 elections.

This is the first time that voters in the country will be choosing a President, Member of Parliament and ward councilor in a single election.

On funding for the voter and civic education activities Mwafulirwa said Mec has deliberately called for applications from organisations that wish to participate in voter and civic education so early so that the organisations can have ample time to fundraise and mobilise resources they will need to do their work.

"We believe if the organisations start their fundraising activities in time they should be able to play their roles as expected of them," he hinted.