



## NATIONAL INITIATIVE FOR CIVIC EDUCATION (NICE) Trust

*... Making Democracy Work – Take Part in Public Life*

### **The NICE Election Situation Room-2019 Tripartite Elections.**

In its quest to enhance the ability of Malawian citizens to participate in public life including democratic decision-making processes, NICE Public Trust has collaborated with mHub to establish and manage a national wide Election Situation Room. The Election Situation Room is an initiative that has been deployed in many countries such as Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia to mention a few.

The main objective of the Election Situation Room is to track issues and incidences during elections for interventions by stakeholders thereby contributing to the integrity of the election.

The Election Situation Room is a coordinating center to which data on aspects that constitute a free, fair and credible election are submitted, collected and analysed in real time by a team of experts to provide constructive information to various electoral stakeholders for their urgent action, operational responses and to feed into a broader report on how elections are and or were conducted. The Election Situation Room is very important as it provides a mechanism for real time interventions to incidences as they happen during the election process.

NICE shall use innovative technology platforms to collate data as regards standard election observation and incidences as they happen around the election in real time from **5002 stationary monitors** and **462 roving observers** across the country. The roving observers shall lead the process of data collection where data shall be sent using a dedicated SMS short-code and a secure android mobile application developed by mHub for use under the Election Situation Room

Roving observers shall use smartphones to collect data and pictures in real time. Citizens shall send reports on incidences as they happen through the election process through an integrated SMS channel. The Trust has already started receiving issues and incidences from citizens through the following numbers; Airtel users 6466 and TNM users 0888242063. These numbers have been publicized widely across the country through different forms of media. Citizens have been able to report on incidences around the elections as they happen in real time for quick intervention. NICE

is therefore appealing to all Malawians to use this platform to send messages to the numbers provided above. The public should note that Elections Situation Room is not a tally center.

Further to that, through collaboration with the London School of Economics (LSE) NICE and mHub shall implement a **Photo Quick Count** where election observers shall digitally send pictures of polling station result sheets at constituency tally centre that will be transcribed into statistical tables for analysis and interpretation by LSE experts.

### **So how does the Election Situation Room work?**

Observers send in reports as responses to a standard Election Observer Check List on categories that include human resource, voting procedures, voting materials and incidences that define whether an election was free, fair and credible.

It is expected that a large amount of data and information will be generated about the electoral environment and context, Election Day proceedings, and post-election developments and events. The information and data will be analysed and packaged in an accessible and digestible format for a variety of audiences and stakeholders. NICE has partnered with Malawi's first technology and innovation hub and a team of experts to develop innovative technologies for data collection analysis and information, producing write-ups, and other written materials that will facilitate decision making by the situation room stakeholders.

The Election Situation Room is open to all stakeholders today 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2019. On elections day, the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, 2019, NICE welcomes all election stakeholders as it will update the public about the status of elections. On this day, NICE will hold three press briefings, scheduled at 10:00, 14:00, and 18:00 hours, in Njamba 3 Room, Mount Soche Hotel, Blantyre.