



Republic of Malawi

Electoral Commission Website
<http://www.mec.org.mw>

Parliamentary Structure
Unicameral

Election System
Presidential: FPTP
National: FPTP
Local: FPTP

Female Political Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Metafile

Administrative Divisions

Malawi is divided into 3 regions which are further divided into 28 districts. The local government structure comprises of 35 single-tier authorities consisting of 28 district councils, 4 city councils, 2 municipal councils and 1 town council (CLGF, 2016.) The country's first multi-party local government elections took place in November 2000. In 2004 councils were suspended until the latest election which took place on the 20th of May 2014. The election formed part of tripartite elections.

Election System

Local government elections are conducted under a first-past-the-post system. One councillor is elected per ward for a term of five years. Councils are made up other members which includes the following: members from the National Assembly whose constituencies are located in the local government area are voting members and traditional authorities in the local government area however they are not voting members and 5 members appointed by the councillors elected to represent special interest groups determined by the council (CLGF, 2016).

Women's Representation & Quota Information

Malawi does not have legislated quotas at the national or sub-national level however there are voluntary political party quotas (Quota Project, 2013). According to the United Democratic Front (UDF) party constitution, the party aims to have 25% of its parliamentary seats held by women. Furthermore, the Malawi Congress Party (MCP) aims to allocate 33% of its seats to women at all levels within the party structure.

Seats & Trends in Seat Numbers

The National Assembly has a maximum of 194 members. These members are directly elected in single member constituencies using the simple majority or first-past-the-post system. Following the May 2009 election, women held 41 of 193 (21.24%) seats in the National Assembly. This number decreased to 32 out of 192 (16.67%) seats after the May 2014 elections. At the local level, women held 54 of 462 positions in local government following the May 2014 elections.

References

Malawi. 2013. [Online]. Available: <http://www.quotaproject.org/country/malawi.html>. [2016, January 22].

The local government system in Malawi. 2016. [Online]. Available: http://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Malawi.pdf. [2016, January 22].