



MEDIA STATEMENT

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the General Elections to the Republic of Mozambique for the 2014 general elections was launched on Friday, 03 October 2014 at the VIP Hotel, by the Minister of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa, Ms Nkoana-Mashabane in her capacity as a representative of President Jacob Zuma, the current chair of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

This follows an invitation by the Republic of Mozambique The invitation to observe elections in the Republic of Mozambique and deploys the SADC Electora Observation Mission to the General Elections.

The invitation to observe elections in the Republic of Mozambique testifies to the commitment of the people of Mozambique to consolidate democracy in their country and in the SADC region in general as a whole in the context of Article 9 of the Presidential and Parliamentary Election Law no.8/2013 of 27 February.

This is in line with SADC Treaty which commits Member States to “promote shared values”. The SADC Principle further states that in the event a member state invites SADC to observe elections, it should be based on the provisions of the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, as well as the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections as well as the Mozambican Electoral Laws and the National Constitution.

The SADC Electoral Observation Mission SEOM has undertaken the pre-election period, election day and post-election phases.

The SEOM’s presence in the Republic of Mozambique is to assess whether the provisions of the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic

Elections are adhered to in the conducting of democratic elections and whether the electoral laws of the Republic of Mozambique are also adhered to.

As of today, 09 October 2014, one hundred and forty (142) SADC Observers in thirty three (33) teams from the following Member States constitute the Mission:

Angola; Botswana; Lesotho; Malawi; Namibia; South Africa; Tanzanian; Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Observers have been deployed in all the Provinces of the Republic of Mozambique.

The SEOM is grateful to the Mozambican electoral body CNE, for their support and prompt facilitation of the accreditation of the Mission in time for the observation of the electoral process.

The SEOM has been assured by the CNE and the STAE that all aspects related to the election are in place for holding elections in terms of the laws of the Republic of Mozambique.

SADC is mindful of the fact that the responsibility to have peaceful, free and fair elections in the Republic of Mozambique lies in the hands of the people of Mozambique.

SADC would like to take this opportunity to encourage the people of the Republic of Mozambique to continue to demonstrate political maturity by respecting democratic principles and practices during this electoral process.

On behalf of SADC Electoral Observer Mission, we wish the people of Mozambique peaceful elections.

09 October 2014

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