



Press Release

EISA DEPLOYS ELECTION WITNESSING MISSION TO THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Cairo, 18 May 2012

Having received accreditation from the Higher Presidential Elections Commission (HPEC), the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) is pleased to announce the arrival of its Election Witnessing Mission in Egypt for the Presidential elections scheduled to take place on 23 and 24 May 2012.

Led by His Excellency, Honourable Cassam Uteem, the former President of the Republic of Mauritius, the mission is composed of thirty-three (33) witnesses drawn from African countries.

The mission is indeed pleased to be in Egypt to witness the elections as expressed by its leader:

'We are pleased to be part of this historic and crucial election in Egypt, the outcome of which will impact on the development of Egypt. We are aware that the outcome of this election will also have resonating effects in other countries in the North Africa region, in the rest of Africa and in the Middle East region. We urge the people of Egypt to participate peacefully and to cast their vote in an election that will shape the future of this country.'

During the period of deployment, members of the Mission will interact with key electoral stakeholders, including the Higher Presidential Elections Commission, government officials, representatives of political parties, the media and civil society organisations. On the election days, witnesses will also visit polling stations across 16 governorates to witness the polling and

counting process. The mission will issue and disseminate written assessments of the electoral process detailing its findings, conclusions and recommendations.

The mission is scheduled to remain in Egypt until a couple of days after the last election date. However, if a runoff election is to take place between the two top candidates, a group of Long Term Witnesses will remain in the country and will be joined by Short Term Witnesses closer to the runoff election dates. Should this be the case EISA will release, in due course, a statement about the extension of its election witnessing mission to Egypt.

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