



**OFFICE OF THE AU OBSERVER MISSION TO THE
PRESIDENTIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN THE UNITED
REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT
OF THE AFRICAN UNION OBSERVER MISSION**

1. In response to an invitation from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and of the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania (NEC), H.E. Jean Ping, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission appointed and sent an Observer Mission to Tanzania in order to observe the General Elections which took place on Sunday 31 October 2010.
2. The African Union (AU) Observer Mission is led by H.E. Dr Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. Members of the mission include Members of the Pan-African Parliament and delegates drawn from Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from various African countries. The Mission also included a support team from the African Union Commission and the Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa (EISA).
3. The African Union Mission observed the General Elections in the United Republic of Tanzania on 31 October 2010 within the spirit and letter of the Durban Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, as adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in July 2002. The main objective of the mission was to make an honest, independent and impartial observation and assessment of the organization and conduct of these elections.
4. In accordance with the African Union Guidelines for Election Observation and Monitoring, the Mission met and consulted with various stakeholders involved in the electoral process. These included Representatives of Political Parties, various Candidates, Civil Society Organizations, the Media, the National Electoral Commission (NEC), the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC), the leader of the Tanzanian Election Monitoring Committee (TEMCO) as well as other international observer missions such as the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC, the Commonwealth, the European Union (EU), the East African Community (EAC), the Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa (EISA) and the International Conference on the Great Lake Region (ICGLR).
5. More particularly, Members of the AU Observer Mission attended on 26 October 2010 a briefing organized by NEC for international observers in order to update them on its preparedness for the polls.

- The use of an electronic device in some places by direction clerks to assist voters easily identify their polling stations;
- In general, the Polling staff handled the voting process in an efficient and transparent manner;
- The voting process was generally orderly and peaceful;
- There were no acts of intimidation or coercion during the voting;
- The Police presence was visible but unobtrusive;
- Women and youth were well represented as electoral officials;
- Persons with disability, the elderly as well as pregnant and nursing mothers were given preferential treatment, and where necessary, assisted to vote;
- Domestic observers, particularly from the Tanzanian Election Monitoring Committee (TEMCO), were present in most Polling stations;
- The counting at the polling stations was done in accordance with the law and the results subsequently posted outside the polling stations.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned, the AU Observer mission noted the following irregularities:

- Names of some candidates for the legislative elections were missing from the ballot papers, which led to the postponement of the elections in 7 constituencies (Mpanda Urban, Mpanda Rural and Nkenge in Tanzania Mainland and Mwanakwerekwe, Mtoni, Magogoni, as well as Wete (Pemba) in Zanzibar;
- Out of 18 registered Political Parties only CCM, CHADEMA and CUF were prominently represented in most polling stations visited;
- There was a shortage of voting materials such as ballot papers in a few polling stations located in districts such as Mjini Magharibi (Zanzibar) and Namagana, Ngongo la Mboti and Kipunguru (Tanzania Mainland).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on observations and findings made by its different teams, the African Union Election Observer Mission to the 2010 General Elections in Tanzania would like to recommend the following:

- NEC should ensure that the three issues that led to the postponement of voting in the 7 constituencies, namely: the shortage of ballot papers, missing names of candidates and printing errors, are dealt with before the statutory date to allow the voting to be conducted in these constituencies;
- Enhance civic education for greater public participation;
- Revisit the Law on the public financing of Political Parties in order to allow a greater participation of all Political Parties and their agents in future electoral processes.

CONCLUSION:

In view of the aforementioned the AU Observer Mission would like to declare that the general elections in the United Republic of Tanzania were conducted in accordance with the Durban Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, as adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in July 2002.

The AU Observer Mission, therefore, states that the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections were Free, Fair, Transparent and Credible.

The African Union Mission wishes to acclaim and congratulate the people of the United Republic of Tanzania, Political Parties and Candidates for their political maturity, as well as NEC and ZEC, the Security Agencies and all the stakeholders involved in the current electoral process, for the peaceful conduct of the 31st October 2010 General Elections and urges all Political Parties and their respective Candidates to accept the outcome of the elections to be announced by the NEC.

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