



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

### **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY OBSERVER MISSION TO UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**

#### **PRESS STATEMENT**

On behalf of the East African Community Observer mission:

At the invitation of the Electoral Commission of Tanzania, the East African Community has deployed an Election Observer Mission to the United Republic of Tanzania. Members of the Mission started arriving in Dar Es Salaam from Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

The Mission is composed of Hon. Members of East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Hon. Members of Parliament from EAC Partner States of the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Rwanda, Republic of Uganda and Republic of Kenya. The National Human Rights Commissions and Civil Societies are represented in the mission.

The Mission will hold briefing and orientation sessions for observers on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October 2010, facilitated by the East African Community Secretariat, in partnership with Electoral Institute for Sustainability of Democracy in Africa (EISA), which will be providing technical assistance to the Mission. Various stakeholders involved in the ongoing electoral process will also brief and update the Mission on the political context within which the 2010 General Elections will be taking place, as well as the state of preparedness of the Electoral Commission ahead of the polling day.

The EAC Mission will observe the forthcoming Elections in Tanzania against universally accepted principles pertaining to democratic and credible elections and the constitutional and legal framework in force in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Different teams of the Mission will be deployed in a number of constituencies throughout the country in order to observe the concluding stage of the electoral campaign and other operations leading to the polling day. On Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010 teams will observe the voting and counting processes. The team will thereafter reconvene back in Dar Es Salaam for debriefing. Based on observations made by its members, the EAC Mission will issue a preliminary statement outlining the main findings and eventually recommendations meant to contribute to the improvement of future electoral processes, if necessary.

The Mission will later produce a comprehensive report for onward transmission to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania by the Secretary General of the East African Community.

The EAC Mission has established a Secretariat at Paradise City Hotel in Dar Es Salaam. For further information kindly contact Mr. Stephen Mugume Tel: +255757614213.

**ENDS**