



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY OBSERVER MISSION TO THE 2010 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN TANZANIA

Interim Statement

Dar es Salaam, 01 November 2010

1.0. Introduction

The East African Community, at the invitation of National Election Commission of Tanzania, deployed an Observer Mission to the General elections held on Sunday 31st October 2010. The Mission was led by Hon. Abdul Karim Harelimana Member of the East African Legislative Assembly and was composed of fifteen observers drawn from East African Community partner states namely, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda including Members of the East African Legislative Assembly and the staff of the East African Community Secretariat. Members of the Mission began arriving in Dar es Salaam on 24th October and observed the last phase of electoral campaigning, the voting and tabulation of results. The Mission comprised of the following:

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| 1. Hon. Abdul Karim HARELIMANA | Member EALA, Chairperson |
| 2. Hon. Reuben OYONDI | Member EALA |
| 3. Hon. Georgette NIBITANGA | Member EALA |
| 4. Hon. Gerald Simon MENHYA | Member of Parliament (Uganda) |
| 5. Hon. Revocate GAKOBWA | Member of Parliament (Burundi) |
| 6. Hon. Faith MUKAKALISA | Member of Parliament (Rwanda) |
| 7. Ms. Anne Marie KANYANGE | Human Rights Commission (Rwanda) |
| 8. Hon. Mohamed RUKARA | Member of Parliament (Burundi) |
| 9. Ms. Lucy MINAYO | National Human Rights (Kenya) |
| 10. Mr. Davis Kimutai CHIRCHIR | Electoral Commission (Kenya) |
| 11. Mr. Pacifique NDUWIMANA | Electoral Commission (Rwanda) |
| 12. Mr. Augustine NKENGURUTSE | Electoral Commission (Burundi) |
| 13. Mr. Willy AGIREMBABAZI | Human Rights Commission (Uganda) |
| 14. Mr. Stephen MUGUME | EAC EALA |
| 15. Mr. Richard Owora OTHIENO | EAC Secretariat |

The EAC Observer Mission has made the assessment of the electoral process in Tanzania and its preliminary findings and recommendations are presented in this interim statement. The EAC will produce a more comprehensive and final report on the entire election process in due course. The final report will provide an in-depth analysis, detailed observations as well as recommendations for improvement of the country's electoral process.

2.0 Objectives of the Mission

The specific objectives of the Observer Mission were to:

- Assess whether conditions exist for the conduct of elections that allow the people of Tanzania to freely express their will;
- Assess and determine whether elections were conducted in accordance with the legal framework for elections in the United Republic of Tanzania;
- Assess whether the conduct of the electoral processes was consistent with the provisions as set out in the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, the AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, the UN Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and
- Determine whether the results of the elections reflect the wishes of Tanzanians.

3.0 Methodology of Work

In carrying out its mandate, the Mission employed various methods that included:

- training on observation exercise;
- review of literature and media reports including radio, print and electronic;
- meetings and interactions with political parties and Tanzania National Electoral Commission, attending political campaign rallies; and
- Meeting responsible officers and field observations at polling stations.

3.1 Training

In order to equip its observers with skills to effectively assess the electoral process in Tanzania, the EAC in partnership with the Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa (EISA) conducted training in international election observation. This was the first one of its kind since EAC started observing elections. Members of the Observer Mission commended the training and recommended the same to future EAC Observer Missions.

3.2 In-Country Briefings

On 26th October, the Observer Mission received briefing at Paradise City Hotel from election stakeholders including the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania, representatives of civil society and political parties who enabled it to have an insight on the state of preparation of the elections and the prevailing environment. The briefings were complemented by other meetings that the observers held with election stakeholders while deployed in the various parts of the country.

3.3 Deployment

A total of four teams were deployed in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar, Morogoro and Coastal regions. The teams attended rallies of various political parties, met with several candidates, local authorities, security officials as well as civil society organisations in the four regions. On polling day the Mission was able to visit several polling stations, covering randomly selected rural and urban areas.

4.0 Findings of the Mission

After analysing the legal framework of elections in Tanzania and the observations made by its different teams deployed on the ground, and basing itself on the international, continental standards and East African Guidelines for Election Observation, Monitoring and Evaluation of credible elections, the EAC Observer Mission has identified the following:

4.1 National Electoral Commission of Tanzania

The National Election Commission is established under Article 74 (1) of the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania, 1977. It is comprised of seven Commissioners who are appointed by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

The Mission observed that commissioners are appointed by the President of the Republic and are not even subjected to parliamentary sanction.

4.2 The Campaign Process and Access to Media

The Observers endeavored to attend several campaigns conducted by different political parties in Dar es Salaam, Zanzibar and other various parts of the mainland. We observed that the campaigns were generally peaceful and complied with the regulations governing campaigning process and procedure.

However, the Mission was informed about certain sporadic and isolated incidences of violence reported in some constituencies.

The Mission also observed that access to state media (Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation) by different political parties was balanced.

4.3 Voter Registration and Voter's Register

The National Electoral Commission manages the Permanent National Voters Register (PNVR). After the 2005 General Elections, the National Electoral Commission updated the PNVR two times that is in 2007/2008 and 2009/2010.

The Mission observed that the voter register was published one week before the elections in order for electors to consult.

We noted that the period for consultation of the register was not sufficient enough to correct any material errors that could arise thereof.

4.4 The Voting Process and Counting

Voting process was generally peaceful. We noted an affluence of voters in most polling stations visited.

Most polling stations visited by our observers closed at 4:00pm and counting started immediately.

4.5 Election Observation

The EAC Observation Mission observed Elections and was generally peaceful. The current preparations for electoral process have been better compared to the previous elections of 2005. The Election Day was peaceful in most of the polling stations and opened on time. Despite long queues in various polling stations, the Mission noted that everyone voted. Most political parties were represented by their agents with a list of voters to confirm whether names were matching with the respective numbers. This made the exercise look more transparent.

Minor procedural deviations reported and witnessed were not fatal. These deviations were sporadically and instantly put correct. The Mission believes that suspension of voting of four (4) constituencies in Zanzibar and three (3) in Tanzania Mainland, was one of the ways of solving such problems.

5.0 Recommendations

Noting the observations above, the mission proposes the following recommendations:

1. The EAC Observation Mission recommends that appointment of National Election Commission Commissioners be done by the President of the Republic in consultation or on approval by the Parliament.

2. The Mission further recommends that the period for consultation of voter register by the electors be done early enough in order to enable the Commission to correct any material errors that may arise.

6.0 Conclusion

The Mission has provided a detailed account of its observations in previous sections above in all material aspects.

The Mission commends the general elections as conducted and believes that they have been free and fair.

Contact information:

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