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## ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS FORUM OF SADC COUNTRIES

### PRELIMINARY STATEMENT SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF TANZANIA AND ZANZIBAR ELECTORAL COMMISSION.

#### INTRODUCTION

The Electoral Commissions Forum (ECF) of the SADC countries received invitation letters from the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission to observe the General National Elections to be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2010 in the United Republic of Tanzania.

In response to these invitations, the ECF deployed to the United Republic of Tanzania a twenty four Member Observer Mission made up of Electoral Commissions from Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with the first delegates arriving in Dar Es Salaam on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010. The Mission was led by Mrs Shaboyo Motsamai, a Commissioner with the Independent Electoral Commission of Botswana.

#### The ECF Mandate

The Electoral Commissions Forum, consisting of fifteen (15) Election Monitoring Bodies of the SADC member States was launched in July 1998 and is governed by a Constitution which mandates the Forum to perform the following functions:

- To strengthen co-operation amongst Electoral Commissions in the SADC region;
- To promote conditions conducive to free, fair, transparent and credible elections in the SADC region;
- Promote democracy and the rule of law

The ECF views election observation as an important component of promoting democratic elections and consolidating democracy in the SADC region. The rationale for the Forum's Elections observation, therefore, is to assist fellow Election Management Bodies identify areas in elections administration.

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Forum Presidency: Dr.B. Bam - President (RSA), Rev. A. Malumalu -Vice President (DRC)

EXCO: Chairperson: Prof Joao Leopoldo da Costa (Mozambique) - Vice Chairperson: Justice S.Mutambanengwe (Zimbabwe), Justice A.C.P.C. de Sousa ( Angola), Justice M. S. Gaongalelwe (Botswana), Dr V.Tonchi (Namibia), Hendrick Gappy ( Seychelles), Justice L. Makame (Tanzania).

## Pre-Poll Mission activities

1. The Mission arrived in the Republic of Tanzania on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010 and did not observe much pre-election activities and consequently it had to rely on the briefings organized by the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania (NEC) on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and by the Zanzibar Electoral Commission on the 28<sup>th</sup> October in Zanzibar. The briefings provided comprehensive information on the preparedness of the Commissions to conduct the elections, the legal frameworks within which the poll was to be conducted, the electoral system an update on voter registration. The briefings gave valuable information on the security situation and the role of security forces during election period.
2. A courtesy call was made by the Mission to the NEC subsequent to the briefing, which resulted in clarifications on issues covered by the presenters at the briefing; the mission benefitted from this visit.
3. The Mission organized a seminar on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2010, on the Mainland and invited the local stakeholders from the media fraternity, the Academia, NGOs, the Youth sector and Religious Groups. Regrettably the Mission only met one Political Party. The following concerns were brought up by the local stakeholders as they interacted with the Mission:
  - Issues of participation of women and allocation of their seats should be re-looked at to specify requirements of eligible candidates.
  - The coverage of contesting parties by both the print and electronic media was not equitable.
  - Lack of national identity cards during the registration period. This was cited as risky since non-citizens could register to vote without being noticed.
  - No enactment of regulation on media coverage of elections and protection of media.
  - Lack of Political Party funding contributes to non-level playing field.
  - The National Electoral Commission accused of not being independent due to the fact that its members are appointed by the President in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic.
  - Exclusion of Youth on political party programmes and decision-making positions.
  - Lack of civic and voter education.
4. The Mission met with the SADC Observer Mission on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010 and the European Union Mission on the 01<sup>st</sup> November 2010 to share notes and discuss issues of mutual interest pertaining to election observation.
5. The Mission leader met the Director of Zanzibar Electoral Commission on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010, with a view of establishing contact and sharing notes on the preparedness of the Zanzibar Electoral Commission. The Mission was able to get an insight on the situation in Zanzibar through this meeting, in addition to the report given by the ECF team based in Zanzibar.
6. The Mission managed to undertake pre-poll visits to all deployment areas ahead of the poll, these included attending some of the political party rallies held on the Mainland and

Zanzibar, and observing of refresher training of polling staff and dispatch of election material.

7. The Mission had intended to visit the NEC and ZEC offices for a tour of operational departments such as Information Technology (IT), Voter Education and Logistics. Similarly the Mission had intended to visit the warehouses to observe the verification of ballot papers and packaging of election material. These trips were not undertaken due to the limited time of the Mission.
8. The Mission deployed seven teams which covered regions/constituencies in Dar Es Salaam; Bagamoyo; Morogoro and Zanzibar but could not deploy to the rest of constituencies for logistical reasons.

## **Overview on the Poll (Mainland and Zanzibar)**

The Mission observed the following on the polling day:

- Generally, polling stations opened on time and opening procedures were adhered to.
- The polling staff was adequately trained and handled the voting process with efficiency, however the issuing of ballot papers by one officer somewhat delayed the process.
- The secrecy of the ballot was generally safe guarded at most of the polling stations.
- Generally, the layout of polling stations was uniform throughout, except where polling stations were in small rooms.
- The signage to polling stations was not adequate.
- Domestic observers and party agents were present at most polling stations. In addition international observers visited most polling stations.
- Some party agents did not have voter's rolls during the voting process.
- The voting streams were divided by voters name accordingly in alphabetical order.
- The Direction clerk directed voters to polling stations this facilitated the voting process.
- The closing procedures were adhered to.
- The voting process was peaceful, orderly and free of intimidation and the voters cast their ballots without any visible difficulties.

## **Counting and Results Process**

- The counting exercise was carried out satisfactorily, however there is need for improvement in the reconciliation of ballots paper accounts.
- The Mission awaits the final announcement of the results.

## **Recommendations**

Against the foregoing observations and the stakeholders concerns, the Mission recommends the following to the National Electoral Commission and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission:

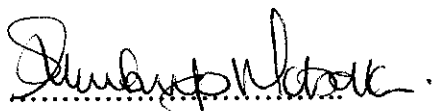
1. There is need for improvement on the voter registration exercise, i.e. there should be some form of identification of voter.

2. A number of polling officers could be used to issue ballot papers in their categories, confining it to one polling officer delays the voting process.
3. There is need for enhanced training of poll staff, particularly in the counting process.
4. **The Mission will submit detailed recommendations in the final report at a later stage.**

## **Conclusion**

The Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries submits that:

- The United Republic of Tanzania had credible elections emanating from transparency of electoral processes.
- The National Electoral Commission and Zanzibar Electoral Commission were ready and prepared to conduct the elections.
- The Mission could not pick any logistical challenges that could have had material effect on the conduct of elections.
- The people of Tanzania were able to exercise their democratic right to vote in a dignified and peaceful manner.
- The Mission commends the two member Commissions (NEC) and (ZEC) for the conduct of transparent and credible elections.



**Mrs Shaboyo Motsamai**  
**Mission Leader**  
**Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC countries**

**02<sup>nd</sup> November 2010**

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Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries Observer Mission to TANZANIA - 2010

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