



JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION (SEOM), THE ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS FORUM OF SADC COUNTRIES (ECF-SADC), AND THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM (SADC PF) ON THE HOLDING OF THE FORTHCOMING 2016 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM IN THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

8 AUGUST 2016

1. We deployed our respective observers countrywide for the observation of the forthcoming 2016 General Elections and Referendum of the Republic of Zambia.
2. We have noted that Zambia is prepared and ready to hold elections on 11 August 2016, which will take place concurrently with the Referendum seeking to amend the Constitution to enhance the Bill of Rights. The Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) has confirmed that the necessary logistical preparations are in place across all Provinces of the country to deliver successful elections. Similarly, we also take note of the security measures taken by the Zambian Police Service in their efforts to help with the delivery of peaceful elections.
3. We appeal to all political parties, electoral stakeholders and the people of Zambia at large, to maintain the Zambian spirit of holding peaceful, non-violent and inclusive elections.
4. We also appeal to the political leadership to continue to promote a climate of tolerance, and national unity throughout the electoral process, and encourage their supporters to refrain from political violence.
5. We call upon the Zambian citizenry for calm and the observance of the rule of law in the post-election phase, as they await the announcement of the election results.
6. We further urge political actors and other stakeholders to embrace the Zambian democratic values and practices of accepting the election results in line with the Constitution and electoral laws of the Republic of Zambia and taking note of the revised *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections* (2015).



We applaud the people of Zambia for their steadfast commitment to multi-party democracy and the strengthening of democratic institutions, and wish them successful elections.

SEOM Deputy Head of Mission
Her Excellency Nyeleti Mondlane,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Mozambique

ECF-SADC Head of Mission
His Excellency Ambassador O. M. Mapuri

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Honourable Advocate Taska R. Mbogo