



AFRICAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF
ZAMBIA'S 11 AUGUST 2016 GENERAL ELECTIONS

ARRIVAL STATEMENT

Following an invitation by the Government of the Republic of Zambia, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), H.E. Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, has deployed an African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to the Republic Zambia from 1 – 15 August in order to observe the General Elections scheduled for Sunday 11 August 2016. The objectives of the AUEOM are: to make an independent, objective and impartial assessment of the 2016 General Elections; to offer recommendations for improvement of future elections; and to demonstrate AU's interest in and support for Zambia's elections and democratization process to ensure that the conduct of genuine elections will contribute to the consolidation of democratic governance, peace and stability in the country.

The AUEOM follows a Pre-Election Assessment Mission by the African Union which visited Zambia from 8 – 17 May 2016 to assess the pre-election environment in the country.

The Mission is led by **H.E. GOODLUCK JONATHAN**, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and comprises 45 Short Term Observers (STOs) and 10 Long Term Observers (LTOs). The Mission includes high profile personalities and experts drawn from the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), African Ambassadors to the AU in Addis Ababa, Election Management Bodies and Civil Society Organizations from various African countries. The Mission is supported by technical staff from the African Union, PAP and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA).

The AUEOM has a mandate to observe the 11 August 2016 General Elections in conformity with the relevant provisions of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which entered into force on 15 February 2012. The Charter is intended to enhance electoral processes in Africa, strengthen electoral institutions and the conduct of fair, free, and transparent elections. The AUEOM's mandate is further strengthened by the AU/OAU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVIII)), adopted by the Assembly of the African Union in July 2002; the African Union Guidelines for Elections Observation and Monitoring Missions; relevant international instruments governing elections observation; and the Constitution as well as the laws of the Republic of Zambia.

To this end, the Mission will meet with various state institutions, the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), political parties, civil society and other stakeholders. The Mission will interact with other election observation missions in the country and diplomatic missions present in the Republic of Zambia.

The observations and recommendations of the AUEOM will be based on the principles of credibility, transparency, fairness and professionalism in the conduct of the elections as enshrined in the aforementioned AU instruments.

After the elections, the AUEOM will release its preliminary assessment of the election at a press conference in Lusaka. A more detailed final report on the elections, which will be shared with the appropriate Zambian authorities and institutions, will be produced within two months.

Lusaka, 2 August 2016

For further information on the mission, please contact the AUEOM coordinators: Sharon Ndlovu (+ 260 97 668 5019) or Samuel Atuobi (+ 260 97 920 1272).
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