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## **ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF THE EISA ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE 2016 GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUM IN THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) announces the arrival of its election observation mission (EOM) in the Republic of Zambia to observe the general elections and referendum that will take place on 11 August 2016. The EISA observers are in Zambia to conduct an independent assessment of the electoral process and contribute to its peaceful and transparent conduct through their findings and recommendations.

The EISA Mission is led by His Excellency, Honourable Cassam Uteem, former President of the Republic of Mauritius as the mission leader and Mr. Denis Kadima, EISA's Executive Director as the deputy mission leader. It consists of 10 short term observers (STOs) drawn from Election Management Bodies and civil society organisations from the African continent. The Mission will base its assessment on the standards and obligations stipulated in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation; and the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation.

The EISA observers will follow pre-polling, Election Day and post-polling activities, and will be deployed in Lusaka, Copperbelt, Southern and Western Provinces, where they will consult with electoral stakeholders such as the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), political parties and candidates, the Zambia Police Services, media and civic groups.

EISA has been involved in Zambian electoral processes since 2000, when it supported the ECZ to establish its conflict management panels and develop civic and voter education materials. Thereafter it deployed observer missions to the 2006, 2008, 2011 and 2015 elections. The EISA EOM to the 2016 elections notes that these elections are taking place under a reformed legal framework that to a great extent reflects the recommendations issued by previous election observer missions, including EISA EOMs. We commend the Zambian stakeholders for their commitment to continually learn from their experiences and improve the electoral process.

The EISA EOM will remain in Zambia until 15 August 2016, it will issue a preliminary statement on its findings, conclusions and recommendations on the electoral process on 13 August 2016. The Mission will publish a final report after the close of the mission.

The Secretariat of the EISA Mission is located at the room 426, Taj Pamodzi Hotel, Lusaka. For further information, please contact: Ms. Olufunto Akinduro: +260 97 2800714, [olufunto@eisa.org.za](mailto:olufunto@eisa.org.za)

**Lusaka, 5 August 2016**

**Denis Kadima,  
Deputy Head of Mission**

Patron: Sir Ketumile Masire (Botswana)

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