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**AFRICAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION (AUEOM) TO THE 24 OCTOBER  
2014 GENERAL ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

**ARRIVAL STATEMENT**

At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Botswana, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, deployed an African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to observe the General Elections of 24 October 2014 in the Republic of Botswana.

The AUEOM has a mandate to observe the 24 October, General Elections in the Republic of Botswana in conformity with the relevant African Union instruments especially the Constitutive Act of the Union adopted in July 2000, African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which entered into force on February 15 2012, the AU/OAU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa (AHG/Decl.1 (XXXVIII)) and the African Union Guidelines for Election Observation and Monitoring Missions both adopted in July 2002; other relevant international instruments governing elections observation including the Universal Declarations of Human Rights (UDHR) adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which entered into force on 23 March 1976 and the Constitution and National Laws of the Republic of Botswana.

The Mission is led by Her Excellency Dr Joyce Banda, former President of the Republic of Malawi. The Mission comprises thirty-five trained African Union observers drawn from the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), African Ambassadors to the African Union, Election Management Bodies, Human Right Institutions and Civil Society Organisations from various African countries. The Mission is supported by team of technical experts from the Democracy and Electoral Assistant Unit (DEAU) of the African Union Commission, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and the Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA).

As part of its activities, the Mission will meet relevant electoral stakeholders in Botswana, including the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Political Parties, Presidential Candidates, and Civil Society Organisations to understand the political context in the lead up to the polls. The Mission will then observe the 24 October 2014 Elections across the country. After polling, the Mission will release its Preliminary Statement at a Press Conference at the Grand Palm Hotel, Gaborone on 26 October 2014. The Mission will subsequently produce a more detailed final report with recommendations two months after the elections. The report will be shared with relevant authorities in Botswana and released on the African Union website for the African public. The observations and recommendations of the Mission will be based on the fairness, credibility, transparency, and the effective management of the election, as enshrined in the aforementioned AU instruments, from which the Mission will express its views.

The Secretariat of the Mission is at Grand Palm Hotel, Gaborone. For further information, Please contact the Mission Coordinator: Mr. Chika Charles Aniekwe, Email: [Aniekwec@africa-union.org](mailto:Aniekwec@africa-union.org) or [chikacharles@gmail.com](mailto:chikacharles@gmail.com) Tel: +267 74850973 or John Mugabo on +267 74850971.

Gaborone, 16 October 2014