The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) deploys an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to the 28 February 2015 National Assembly Elections in the Kingdom of Lesotho. The EISA EOM is led by Advocate Pansy Tlakula, Member of the Africa Commission on Human Rights and former Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa.

Arrival Statement

An election observation mission (EOM) deployed by EISA has arrived Maseru, Lesotho to observe the National Assembly Elections scheduled to take place on 28 February 2015. The deployment of this EISA EOM will be the third in a series of EISA EOMs in Lesotho since the 1998 National Assembly Elections.

EISA notes that the National Assembly Elections are being conducted within the context of political tensions that started shortly after the 2012 elections and escalated into an overt crisis in 2014. The 2015 National Assembly Elections are also being conducted under the facilitation of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). These elections are a crucial step in the process of returning the country to political stability.

The EISA EOM is composed of 21 short term observers drawn from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Electoral Commissions across the African continent. It is led by Advocate Pansy Tlakula, Member of the Africa Commission on Human Rights and former Chairperson of the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa, with EISA’s Executive Director, Mr. Denis Kadima, as the Deputy Mission Leader.

EISA observers will be deployed to seven of Lesotho’s ten districts to consult with electoral stakeholders and observe the final phases of the pre-polling period. Observers will be equipped with computer tablets for the collection and transmission of their findings in real time.

The Mission’s impartial and independent assessment of the elections will be guided by principles and standards set out in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the African Union Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa; the Declaration of Principles on International Election Observation and the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation (PEMMO) as well as the Lesotho legal framework governing the elections.

The EISA EOM secretariat is located at the Mokhorong Room, Lesotho Sun Hotel in Maseru and can be contacted through Ms. Cecile Bassomo on +266 50037411; email: cecile@eisa.org.za

Maseru 23 February 2015

About EISA

In advancing its mission of promoting credible elections, citizen participation, and the strengthening of political institutions for sustainable democracy in Africa, EISA deploys International Observer Missions to electoral processes in Africa. These missions assess elections on the basis of international, continental and sub-regional benchmarks for democratic elections. EISA election observer missions also issue public statements and reports on its observations, findings, conclusions and recommendations for improvement of electoral processes in the host countries. The Institute has observed over 70 electoral processes across Africa. It has field offices in Central Africa Republic, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, and Somalia. It also has a regional liaison office at the Secretariat of the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS).

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