

AFRICAN UNION
الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE
UNIÃO AFRICANA

**AFRICAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE 15
OCTOBER 2014 PRESIDENTIAL, PARLIAMENTARY AND PROVINCIAL
ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

Pre-Election Statement

11 October 2014

**“The AU pleased with Mozambican election preparations thus far: Calls on
all Mozambicans to ensure peaceful elections.”**

– AUEOM Pre-Election Statement

1. At the invitation of the Government of the Republic of Mozambique, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Her Excellency Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, approved the deployment of an African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to observe the Presidential, National and Provincial Assembly elections scheduled to be held on 15 October 2014.
2. The AU launched its election observation mission in Mozambique on 8 September 2014 with the deployment of 10 long-term observers (LTOs) drawn from nine African countries. The LTOs were deployed in five teams to cover the ten provinces of Mozambique and Maputo city. Since their arrival, the LTOs have closely followed pre-election events and preparations including political campaigns, training of polling personnel, media coverage of elections, and consultations with key election stakeholders in Mozambique.

Election Context

3. The AUEOM has noted negotiations between the Government of Mozambique and RENAMO which culminated in a ceasefire agreement and amendments to the electoral legislation and composition of CNE and STAE. In order to meet the principles of inclusivity and peaceful conduct of elections, the AUEOM welcomes these efforts to resolve disputes through peaceful, democratic means.
4. In reference to paragraph 3, the AUEOM has noted the following specific amendments to the electoral process and legislation:
 - Electoral complaints/protests and appeals are now dealt with by the district courts, which must give priority to resolving these cases.
 - The inclusion of additional political party nominees in the national, provincial and district electoral commissions;
 - The inclusion of political party nominees amongst the staff of the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration (STAE); and
 - The inclusion of political party representatives among Polling station staff.

Observations

5. The AUEOM commends CNE and STAE for a successful voter registration campaign which has added more than 1 million new voters to the voters register. The AUEOM is further encouraged by the enthusiasm displayed

by the people of Mozambique to take up their right to vote in the 2014 elections.

6. The AUEOM is encouraged by the efforts of CNE and STAE to promote transparency and openness by accrediting international and domestic observer groups to observe the elections. The AUEOM urges CNE and STAE to maintain these levels of transparency and accountability at all stages of the 2014 elections, including the counting and tabulation of results.
7. The AUEOM observed widespread civic and voter education campaigns by the political parties, but noted that due to the current legislation governing voter education, civil society efforts to promote voter awareness were curtailed once the campaign period began.
8. The official campaign period started on 31 August 2014 and will end on 12 October 2014. AUEOM observers noted some incidences of electoral violence and intimidation, but are satisfied with the generally peaceful conduct of parties and their supporters in most areas throughout the campaign.
9. The AUEOM was encouraged by improvements made in granting access to public media to all political parties for the 2014 elections, in particular on public television and radio platforms.
10. The AUEOM also notes that whilst women are generally well represented in the CNE and STAE, there were few women occupying leadership positions in these institutions at either national, provincial or district level.
11. The distribution of electoral materials including ballot papers is in underway and proceeding according to schedule. The mission notes however that in Chimoio, ballot papers were stolen in transit to their destination in Zambezia province. Whilst we note the speedy response of the electoral authorities to this incident, it does raise issues of the safety and security of electoral materials. The security of electoral materials is an area that needs attention particularly during counting and tabulation of results.

Conclusion

12. The AUEOM has noted with satisfaction the progress achieved so far towards the conduct of the 2014 Presidential, Parliamentary and Provincial Assembly Elections in Mozambique. It further notes the enthusiastic participation of the electorate as demonstrated by the high number of voters recorded during the registration period.
13. In order to ensure a peaceful and participatory election day, the AUEOM implores all Mozambicans, particularly political parties and candidates to continue exercising their restraint and ensure that the prevailing peaceful environment that has characterised much of the campaign period is maintained.

Recommendations

14. The AUEOM offers the following recommendations towards the holding of democratic, credible and transparent elections in Mozambique:
 - The CNE and STAE should continue to strengthen the security around the distribution of election materials to enhance the integrity of the election results;
 - The CNE and STAE should continue in the open and transparent manner which it has conducted itself thus far and allow access to the remaining aspects of the electoral process;
 - The CNE and STAE should continue to urge voters to exercise their right to vote by casting their ballots on Election Day; and
 - Political party leaders should urge their supporters and members to refrain from violence and any provocative actions.