



## **EISA ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION**

### **Presidential, Legislative and Provincial Assembly Elections of 15 October 2014 in the Republic of Mozambique**

#### **Launch Statement Maputo, 9 October 2014**

The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) formally launches its Election Observation Mission (EOM) to the 15 October 2014 Presidential, Legislative and Provincial Assembly Elections in the Republic of Mozambique. The Mission is led by Right Honourable Raila Odinga, Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya, with Mr. Denis Kadima, EISA's Executive Director, as the Deputy Mission Leader. Prior to this launch, EISA deployed a team of 23 long-term observers to the eleven provinces of Mozambique since 25 August 2014. The long-term observers are now joined by a contingent of short-term observers drawn from EISA and The Carter Center, thus constituting an integrated mission of EISA and The Carter Center, which comprises 80 observers drawn from over 30 countries. The TCC Mission is led by Professor John Stremlau, Vice President, Peace Programmes at the TCC.

EISA has deployed election observation missions to electoral processes in Mozambique since the third multiparty elections in 2004, and notes the importance of the 15 October 2014 elections in further strengthening peace, stability and democracy in the country. Since August 2014, the EISA observers have witnessed key pre-election activities including the signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement between the Government of Mozambique and the main opposition party, RENAMO, on 5 September 2014; the commencement of the political party campaigns; the training of polling personnel consisting of both the election management body and political party appointees; and the deployment of electoral materials to different provinces and districts. The observers also interacted with various electoral stakeholders across the country.

The EISA EOM notes that the 2014 elections are taking place against the background of negotiated electoral reforms. Amongst other reforms is the re-composition of the National Election Commission (CNE) and its Technical Secretariat (STAE). The negotiated reforms have increased the representation of political parties in all structures of electoral administration, from national to polling station levels. The EISA Mission will continue to assess the implications of these reforms through the later stages of the electoral process. EISA further notes that while election campaigns started off smoothly, they were soon tainted by incidences of violence and intimidation. The Mission will continue to follow closely the concluding stages of the campaigns and observe the polling and tabulation processes.

EISA will provide an impartial and independent assessment of the electoral process, which will be communicated through a preliminary statement at a press conference read by Hon. Raila Odinga on 17 October 2014 in Maputo. The Mission's assessment of the elections will be based on the principles and standards set out in the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the African Union Declaration of 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 Mozambican legal framework governing the elections.

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