



**STATEMENT ON THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE
SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION (SEOM)
TO THE 2019 LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS**

IN

THE REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR

BY

**DIRECTOR OF THE ORGAN ON POLITICS,
DEFENCE AND SECURITY AFFAIRS
REPRESENTING THE SADC EXECUTIVE
SECRETARY**

**ANTANANARIVO, REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR
24 MAY 2019**

- The Honourable Dr. Katele Kalumba, Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the Republic of Madagascar, and former Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Zambia; representing His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;
- Distinguished Members of the SADC Organ Troika;
- The Chairperson of the National Independent Electoral Commission (CENI) of the Republic of Madagascar;
- Distinguished Members of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC);
- Heads of the international electoral observation Missions;
- Heads and representatives of Diplomatic Missions;
- Representatives of Political Parties;
- Religious leaders and members of the Civil Society;
- Election Observers;
- Partners from the media;

- Ladies and gentlemen.

**Good morning,
Salama Tompoko,**

On behalf of the Executive Secretary of SADC I wish to welcome you all to the launch of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the 27 May, 2019 Legislative Elections in the Republic of Madagascar.

Following a formal invitation by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI), His Excellency H.E Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, and Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation mandated the Executive Secretary to make the necessary preparations for the deployment of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the Republic of Madagascar to observe its 2019 Legislative Elections.

The SEOM has been constituted in compliance with the provisions of the SADC Treaty of 1992, as amended; the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation of 2001 and the *Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections of 2015*.

Honourable Head of Mission; Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman;

First of all, allow me to once again commend the people of Madagascar for the peaceful Presidential Elections held on 19 December 2018 which SADC noted with great enthusiasm. We are sincerely hopeful that the new political dispensation which emerged from the December 2010 Presidential Elections represents a new turn of page from the political instability of the recent past and set in motion the desired poverty eradication and sustainable economic development.

Elections are therefore central to SADC's vision of building legitimate and democratic institutions as a foundation for our common goal of achieving regional integration supported by an atmosphere of sustainable peace and stability and this is what we also aspire for the Malagasy nation.

Building sustainable democratic institutions in the SADC Region is a fulfilment of the provisions in the SADC Treaty and Article 2 of the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security which enjoins us "to Promote the development of democratic institutions and practices within the territories of state parties".

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

In this regard, the observation of elections in the region, including the 2019 Legislative elections in the Republic of Madagascar, signifies a key obligation by the Member States of SADC.

Furthermore, Member States of SADC are committed through the SADC Treaty, and the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the *Revised Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections* (2015), to aspire towards achieving full participation of citizens in electoral processes through peaceful, free, fair, transparent and credible elections conditioned by regional and international normative frameworks.

Honourable Head of Mission; Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman;

The current legislative elections the SADC Observation Mission for the Republic of Madagascar, consists of **37** personnel, including Members of the TROIKA, the SEAC and the Secretariat. The Observers are drawn from 10 SADC Member States, namely Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The Mission, arrived in Antananarivo on 18th May, 2019, and will be deployed to seven (7) of the twenty two (22) regions in Madagascar. The observers will remain deployed until 30 May, 2019.

To ensure that this is done in line with regional best practice, on 21 and 22 May 2019, the SEOM observers was duly trained on various technical aspects of election observation and reporting.

The training was aimed at improving the SEOM's capacities for assessing the electoral cycle; enhancing individual and collective election observation skills code of conduct by the observers and improving the Missions capabilities to analyse qualitative and quantitative data.

The training included the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to enable real time communication with the Mission HQ situation room.

Following the training, all SEOM observers were accredited by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI).

Honourable Head of Mission; Distinguished Ladies and Gentleman;

It is appropriate to thank the National Independent Electoral Commission of Madagascar and relevant stakeholders for facilitating the deployment of our mission to this beautiful Country, we really thank you.

I wish to conclude by taking this opportunity to inform you that the activities of the SEOM in the Republic of Madagascar will be coordinated from its Headquarters, located here at the Carlton Hotel, Antananarivo, up to the 30th of May 2019. All interested stakeholders are therefore invited to engage the Mission on issues relating to the conduct of the elections.

At this juncture, I am honoured to introduce and invite the Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the 2019 Legislative Elections in the Republic of Madagascar, Honourable. Dr. Katele Kalumba representing His Excellency Mr Edgar Chagwa Lungu, President of the Republic of Zambia, and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, to officially launch this Mission.

Thank You

Misaotra Tompoko

Merci beaucoup

Muito Obrigado