



Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation undertakes a two-day assessment mission to Madagascar, 7 April 2018.

The Chairperson of the Ministerial Committee of Organ (MCO) on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola, Hon. Manuel Domingos Augusto, has completed a two-day assessment mission to Madagascar in order to ascertain the current political situation ahead of the up-coming Presidential and Legislative Elections scheduled to take place before the end of November 2018.

The Mission was a follow-up of the earlier consultations between the President of the Republic of Madagascar H.E Hery Rajaonarimampianina and the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defense and Security Cooperation and President of the Republic of Angola, H.E João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, in the margins of the AU-EU Summit in October 2017, on the potential support of the sub regional organization during the pre and post electoral phase.

During his mission, the Chairperson had consultations with the President of the Republic of Madagascar; the President of the Senate; the Prime Minister; the Minister of Foreign Affairs; the President of the Independent Electoral Commission (CENI); and Former Heads of State H.E. Marc Ravelomanana and H.E. Didier Ratsiraka. He also held wide ranging consultations with leaders of opposition parties, civil society organisations and religious leaders; and representatives of the international community, including the United Nations(UN); the African Union (AU) and Diplomatic Corps.

From the interactions it was clear that all stakeholders regard the upcoming elections as a vigorous test and step towards strengthening of democracy and that the country should now focus on consolidating the national unity and reconciliation among all Malagasy, as well as address the challenges of development and poverty reduction in the Country. Stakeholders also recognized the role of the region in facilitating the signing of the SADC Roadmap as a blue-print that enabled Madagascar to attain a new political dispensation after the 2013 elections.

Hon. Manuel Augusto noted that his arrival in Madagascar coincided with the adoption of the Organic Electoral Law, by the National Assembly on 03 April 2018, and reaffirmed “the region’s unconditional commitment in supporting the democratically elected institutions and the people of Madagascar, but added that SADC would never replace the Malagasy”. He also stressed that the “regional and international support should always be regarded as a complement to the national efforts towards a robust and sustainable democracy where everyone should contribute”. While noting the progress and challenges prevailing in the political landscape in Madagascar as presented by many stakeholders, the Chairperson said that the Mission Report would be submitted to the Double Troika Summit scheduled for 24 April, 2018 in Luanda, in the Republic of Angola.

The Chairperson of the MCO was accompanied by South African Ambassador to Madagascar Ms Maud Dlomo; Ambassador Sandro Oliveira, Director of SADC Affairs at the Ministry of External Relations in Angola; the Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, representing the Executive Secretary, Mr Jorge Cardoso; and Secretariat Staff.

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