



**WELCOME REMARKS**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. ELIAS MAGOSI, THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY OF SADC**

**ON THE**

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE SADC ELECTORAL  
OBSERVATION MISSION (SEOM) TO THE 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER  
2024 GENERAL ELECTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
BOTSWANA**

**AVANI HOTEL, GABORONE**

**22 OCTOBER 2024**

**Your Excellency Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda, former Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM);**

**Distinguished Members of the SADC Organ Troika;**

**Members of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC);**

**Your Excellencies, Heads and or Representatives of the Diplomatic Missions Accredited to the Republic of Botswana;**

**Distinguished Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Botswana;**

**Chairperson, Members and or Representatives of the Independent Electoral Commission of Botswana;**

**Distinguished Representatives of International Electoral Observation Missions;**

**SADC Election Observers;**

**Representatives of Local Election Observers;**

**Religious Leaders and Members of the Civil Society;**

**Members of the Media;**

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Good Morning!**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to today's official launch of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) for the General Elections of the Republic of Botswana scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024. This SEOM represents the second of a broader set of SADC observation missions being deployed under the leadership of the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,** it is a distinct honour for me this morning, to officially present to you **His Excellency Mizengo Kayanza**

**Peter Pinda, the former Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania**, who has been appointed by the SADC Organ Chairperson, Her Excellency President Hassan, as the Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to Botswana.

I wish to acknowledge the presence of the distinguished members of the Organ Troika comprising the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republics of Malawi and Zambia. The Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, facilitated by the Organ Troika, is broadly responsible for overseeing all aspects of peace and security of our region, and acts as the coordination mechanism for implementing the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

This observation mission also benefits from the counsel and guidance of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC), a critical structure that is responsible for advising SADC and its electoral institutions on all matters of electoral processes, as well as the enhancement of democracy and good governance in the region. The SEAC not only advises the Chairperson of the Organ on deployments of SEOMs in Member States, but it also assesses progress made by the Member State holding elections on the implementation of recommendations made in previous SEOM reports.

### **Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,**

The SEOM is mandated to implement the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections that were adopted back in 2004 and have been amended over the years, leading to the much more recent version of 2021. Article three (3) of the SADC Principles and Guidelines mandates SADC to deploy the SEOM to all its Member States holding general elections. And to achieve its objectives here in Botswana, the Mission is undertaking stakeholder engagements at the Head of Mission and Troika levels. It will also receive information from SADC observers that will be deployed very soon and will be interacting with various stakeholders across the country.

The SADC Secretariat facilitated a four-day training program for all observers between the 17 and 20<sup>th</sup> October, not only to capacitate them to effectively observe the election processes, but also to give them the context of Botswana to carry out a successful deployment. The Head of Mission will

officially send off the observers to their assigned districts and stations today, after the launch.

### **Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,**

Our shared aspiration of transforming the SADC region into a fully integrated space that safeguards prosperity for all, relies heavily on its resilience in commanding democracy, good governance, peace and stability. This is increasingly perfected as Member States consider and implement SEOM recommendations. As such, the implementation of the SADC Principles and Guidelines is set to uplift each SADC Member State and, in so doing, enable the region to progress safely towards the achievement of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), the SADC Vision 2050, as well as the broader African Union Agenda 2063 on the Africa We Want, without leaving any Member State, or anyone behind.

The above notwithstanding, we continue to urge Member States to consider implementation of the recommendations made by the various SEOMs. The SEOM normally arrives at its conclusions and recommendations after having considered reports from SADC observers as well as views of various stakeholders they engage with in countries holding elections. Implementation of the SEOM recommendations will serve to enhance democratic processes of Member States, ensure good governance, and give confidence to the citizens as well as external stakeholders, that election observations, which are very costly in nature, are indeed beneficial and worthwhile exercises, and that they are not just the ticking of boxes by countries holding elections and a simple excursion for observers.

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,** it is now my singular honour to welcome **His Excellency Mizengo Kayanza Peter Pinda, the former Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania** and Head of SEOM, to deliver his statement and officially launch the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the Republic of Botswana for the General Elections scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

***I thank you very much!      Muito Obrigado!      Merci Beaucoup!***

***Asante Sana!      Ke a Leboga!***

**Your Excellency Honourable Pinda!!!**