



**For Immediate Release**

***Press Statement***

**ARRIVAL OF THE SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO OBSERVE THE 2015 ZAMBIA PRESIDENTIAL BY-ELECTION**

The SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) announces the arrival of its 20-member Mission to observe the 20 January 2015 Presidential By-Election in the Republic of Zambia. The arrival of the delegation is at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Zambia.

This is the 36<sup>th</sup> such Mission to be deployed to a SADC Member State since 1999 when SADC PF started observing elections. In the case of Zambia, this is the fourth time SADC PF is observing elections in the country, having deployed similar missions in 2001, 2006 and 2011. The Mission's Headquarters is at Southern Sun Ridgeway in Lusaka.

The Mission comprises Parliamentarians from SADC National Parliaments. The Secretary General of SADC PF, Dr. Esau Chiviya, Parliamentary and SADC PF Secretariat Staff are also part of the Mission.

The Mission will be in the country from 15 to 24 January 2015 and will commence its business with an Official Opening Session on Friday 16<sup>th</sup>. This will be followed by a Training and Orientation Session for all members of the Mission to acquaint them with the full context for the 2015 Presidential By-Election, the framework for observing elections among other critical issues on the elections.

The Mission will deploy its Teams to the country's Provinces from 17 January, where they will interact with the electorate and other stakeholders, and will observe the polling on 20 January and the counting of votes. The Mission's findings will be presented in an Interim Statement at a press conference.

The observation process will be based on SADC PF's two election instruments, namely the *Norms and Standards for Elections in the SADC Region* and the *Benchmarks for Assessing Elections in Southern Africa* as well as the *SADC Principles and Guidelines on Elections*, among other regional and international election instruments.

The Mission wishes Zambians free, fair and credible elections.

***Issued by the Office of the Secretary General on 15 January 2015.***

For further details, contact the Elections Director and Mission Coordinator, Mr. Sheuneni Kurasha: cell: +260966966430; Email: [kurashas@gmail.com](mailto:kurashas@gmail.com); cc: [skurasha@sadcpf.org](mailto:skurasha@sadcpf.org)

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