



PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Highly competitive, generally well-organised elections, but with insufficient efforts at transparency from the election administrations

Dar es Salaam, 27 October 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- For the Union elections, voting was conducted in an organised and generally calm atmosphere. EU observers assessed the conduct of voting as positive. Political party representatives were present in almost all of the polling stations observed. Voting procedures were consistently followed in the polling stations visited, providing adequate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the vote and transparency of the process. There were, however, some polling stations where Union elections had to be postponed in the mainland and in Zanzibar due to the lack of or destruction of ballot papers. Counting started immediately after closing and was conducted in the presence of political party agents who received copies of the results forms. The integrity of the counting process was sufficiently protected in the polling stations observed by the EU EOM.
- In Zanzibar, almost all polling stations observed opened on time and opening procedures were generally followed. The conduct of voting was positively assessed in the polling stations observed. Voting was conducted in a generally calm atmosphere, with a few cases of campaign activities in the vicinity of polling stations. Political party representatives were present in almost all of the polling stations observed. The performance of ZEC polling staff was mostly assessed to be good and very good. Counting started immediately after closing in all polling stations visited.
- Both the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) showed sufficient levels of preparedness for the administration of the electoral process and competence in conducting key operations such as the printing of ballot papers and the distribution of electoral material. Despite the absence of a permanent structure of the NEC at lower levels, EU observers assessed its performance as organised and well prepared. In the undertaking of the different stages of the electoral process, the NEC and ZEC did not provide for full transparency regarding their decision-making processes, and stakeholders' access to scrutinise the commissions' activities was not always granted. Although the NEC provided updates on electoral preparations through regular press conferences, these measures were insufficient to build confidence amongst political parties about the NEC's transparency. In Zanzibar, the lack of information provided to political parties regarding the voter register and constituency boundaries also affected the confidence of political parties in the ZEC and in the electoral process.
- The legal frameworks governing the elections in the Union and in Zanzibar provide for a reasonable basis for the conduct of democratic elections. Nevertheless, there are a number of constitutional limitations on political rights and freedom of association, and, in Zanzibar, on the right to register as a voter, that have remained unaddressed since the previous elections and which are not in accordance with international principles for democratic

elections. These include the constitutional ban on independent candidates to stand for elections, the inability to challenge presidential election results, and the absence of legal provision to form and register coalitions of political parties.

- There are no unreasonable requirements to register as a voter for the Union elections. However, for the Zanzibar elections, the residency requirement to register as a voter, and the related controversial discretionary powers given to the *shehas* to certify a voter's 36 months residence in a particular constituency, is considered unreasonable. Both voter registers were released 10 days before election day, in advance of the legal deadline. An earlier release of the voter registers allowing for proper verification could have increased confidence in their reliability and better enable political parties to be aware of their electorate for campaign purposes, especially given the recent alterations to constituency boundaries.
- The EU EOM observed 139 campaign events. Despite the generally positive nature of electoral competition on the mainland, a number of localised disputes between supporters of rival parties resulted in violence. While such incidents did not typically result in serious escalation, they did detract from the quality of the campaign. CCM continued to benefit from its historic legacy as the ruling party. The party's use of or benefit from what were formerly state resources and assets, such as public stadia and sports grounds, which the EU EOM observed in Arusha, Dodoma, Katavi and Kigoma regions, provided an advantage over other parties, and contributed to an imbalance in the electoral playing field. The inauguration of a number of major projects in the closing weeks of the campaign further blurred the distinction between the state and the ruling party, reinforcing CCM's campaign advantage.
- In Zanzibar, existing tensions between CCM and CUF led to a more heated and divisive campaign than that seen on the mainland. The aggressive rhetoric employed by some party leaders contributed to the campaign's occasionally intolerant tone, and increased communal tensions. Confidence in the policing of the campaign was lacking amongst some electoral stakeholders, and isolated incidents of voter intimidation instigated by the security agencies were documented by the EU EOM. However, despite these events, and the intensity of competition, the campaign on Zanzibar was generally peaceful.
- The state media failed to provide equitable and fair coverage of the campaigns. Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) TV and radio and Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) TV and radio allocated significantly more airtime to CCM than to all other political parties combined. The state-owned *Zanzibar Leo* and the *Daily News* also demonstrated bias towards CCM. Positively, some private media demonstrated a relatively balanced coverage of the campaigns, in particular TV Azam 2, Radio One and ITV, and the daily newspapers, *Mwananchi* and *Nipashe*.
- This statement is issued as the tallying of results is ongoing. It is important that election administration and authorities conduct these crucial steps of the process in full transparency and that political parties, candidates and civil society can continue participating in the process in line with provisions in the legal framework in order to strengthen the confidence in the process.

The EU EOM will remain in country to observe the tabulation of results and any complaints and appeals, and will publish a final report, containing detailed recommendations, within two months of the conclusion of the electoral process.

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) has been present in Tanzania since 11 September 2015 following an invitation from the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the National Electoral Commission and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission. The Mission is led by Chief Observer Judith Sargentini, a Member of the European Parliament (MEP). In total, the EU EOM deployed across the country 141 observers from the 28 EU Member States, as well as from Norway, Switzerland and Canada to assess the entire electoral process in accordance with international commitments for genuine and transparent elections as well as the laws of Tanzania. A delegation from the European Parliament, headed by Inés Ayala Sender MEP, also joined the mission before election day and fully endorses this statement. The EU EOM is independent in its findings and conclusions and adheres to the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation commemorated at the United Nations in October 2005. The EU EOM wishes to express its appreciation to the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, the National Electoral Commission, the Zanzibar Electoral Commission, political parties, civil society, media, as well as the people of Tanzania for their cooperation and assistance in the course of the observation. The EU EOM is also grateful to the Delegation of the European Union to Tanzania and the European Union Member States' diplomatic missions in Tanzania for their support throughout.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

BACKGROUND

On 25 October 2015, the United Republic of Tanzania held its fifth multi-party general elections since the abolition of the one-party system in 1992. Elections for president, parliament and local councils were held simultaneously for the Union and for Zanzibar, which has its own president, parliament and local councils. The Union president, Jakaya Kikwete, is completing his second and final term in office. The 2015 elections were vigorously contested, and saw the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) face, for the first time, a coalition of the largest parliamentary opposition parties fielding a single Union presidential candidate. In addition to candidates from CCM and the Umoja wa Katiba ya Wananchi (Ukawa) coalition, comprising the Chama Cha Demokrasia ya Maendeleo (CHADEMA), the Civic United Front (CUF), the National Convention for Construction and Reform (NCCR-Mageuzi) and the National League for Democracy (NLD), six other parties competed for the Union presidency, of which the candidate for the Alliance for Change and Transparency (ACT) was the only woman. There were 1,218 candidates competing for the 265 directly elected seats in the National Assembly, with 10,879 candidates competing for local council seats. Due to the deaths of candidates, parliamentary and local council elections were postponed in six constituencies (Lushoto, Ulanga East, Arusha Urban, Masasi, Ludewa and Handeni) and in a number of wards.

For the presidency of Zanzibar, 14 parties, including CCM and CUF, fielded candidates. The President of Zanzibar, Ali Mohamed Shein of the CCM, ran for a second term in office. A Government of National Unity (GNU), provided in the August 2010 amendment to the Constitution of Zanzibar, was formed after the October 2010 general elections, with the party in second place appointing the first vice-president to serve alongside the elected

president. The GNU mechanism, part of the Constitution of Zanzibar, will remain in place after the 2015 elections. There were 180 candidates, representing 14 parties, standing for the 54 directly elected seats in the House of Representatives of Zanzibar. Local council seats were contested by 353 candidates.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The legal framework in both the Union and Zanzibar provides for a reasonable basis for the conduct of democratic elections generally in line with the international and regional commitments subscribed to by the United Republic of Tanzania. Both constitutions, as well as election-related legislation, guarantee political rights and fundamental freedoms. Nevertheless, there are a number of constitutional limitations on political rights and freedom of association, and, in Zanzibar, on the right to register as a voter, that have remained unaddressed since the previous elections and which are not in accordance with international principles for democratic elections. These include the constitutional ban on independent candidates at all levels of elections in violation of the right to participate freely in the government of the country, freedom of association, including the right not to associate (to a political party),¹ the inability to challenge presidential election results, the lack of effective remedy for unlawfully rejected presidential nominations, the absence of legal provision to form and register coalitions of political parties, and, in the case of Zanzibar, the strict residence requirement for voter registration. The inconsistencies between Tanzania's legal framework and its international commitments can only be addressed through amendments to both the Constitution of the United Republic and the Constitution of Zanzibar.

ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

Both the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) showed sufficient levels of preparedness for the administration of the electoral process and competence in conducting key operations such as the printing of ballot papers and the distribution of electoral material. The NEC provided an inclusive voter registration process that largely guaranteed the enfranchisement of eligible voters. Despite the absence of a permanent structure of the NEC at lower levels, EU observers assessed its performance as organised and well prepared. EU observers on the mainland also reported that, in most regions, meetings between electoral officials and political parties were conducted regularly. Within the ZEC, there was insufficient communication between the ZEC and the district officials, namely in Pemba, who often lacked information on the status of electoral preparations. On mainland Tanzania, communication between the NEC and its lower levels appeared to be more efficient.

Political parties held different views on the independence and transparency of the NEC and ZEC. While some trusted the functioning and effectiveness of the election administrations, others were more sceptical about the impartiality of the NEC and ZEC. In the undertaking of the different stages of the electoral process, the NEC and ZEC did not provide for full transparency regarding their decision-making process, and stakeholders' access to scrutinise the commissions' activities was not always granted. Problems encountered with the finalisation of the voter registers and with the delimitation of boundaries in the Union

¹ African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, *Judgment Application 009-011-2011, Rev Christopher Mtikila v Tanzania*.

and Zanzibar, as well as details on the results management system for the Union elections were not fully disclosed on time to parties and the public. Even though the NEC briefed political parties on the results management system, it was not able to dispel concerns expressed by some political parties on the technical aspects and software used for the transmission of results. The NEC also provided updates on electoral preparations through regular press conferences. However, these measures were insufficient to build confidence amongst political parties about the NEC's transparency.

The lack of information provided to political parties regarding the voter register and constituency boundaries also affected the confidence in the ZEC and in the electoral process in the run up to election day. The ZEC made available maps of constituency boundaries very late in the process which hampered the capacity of political parties to be aware of their electorate for campaign purposes, especially given the recent alterations to constituency and local administrative (*sheria*) boundaries.

The NEC was mandated to coordinate and supervise events conducted by civil society organisations and community-based groups granted permission to conduct voter education activities. In addition to the cooperation with 49 local radio stations that broadcast voter education messages, the NEC also made use of social media and published guidebooks for voters, political parties and a booklet on frequently asked questions. In Zanzibar, voter education was mainly conducted through regular ZEC announcements broadcast by Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) TV and radio and by community radios. ZEC posters and flyers were distributed to civil society organisations, commissioned to conduct voter education, and to bus drivers for display.

EU observers reported a general lack of voter education activities in most regions, particularly in rural areas and among pastoralist communities such as the Maasai. Some non-governmental organisations conducted limited projects at local level directed towards women, youth and persons with disabilities. In the absence of non-partisan voter education, voters relied on political parties for basic voter information. As a result of the deficiencies in NEC's voter education efforts, voters were not offered information on polling procedures, the secrecy of the vote and the importance of elections and democratic institutions.

VOTER REGISTRATION

There are no unreasonable requirements to register as a voter for the Union elections. For the 2015 Union elections, the National Electoral Commission conducted a new voter registration process using biometric technology. The concurrent ward boundary delimitation process, carried out by the Prime Minister's Office, posed some difficulties for the NEC during the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) exercise. The NEC had to review registration data while the BVR process was ongoing, thus delaying the registration process and requiring the production of updated maps reflecting changes to ward boundaries. For the 2015 Union elections, a total of 22,751,292 voters were registered. In conducting the BVR exercise, the NEC captured 96 per cent of the estimated eligible voters projected by the National Bureau of Statistics. Concerns regarding the final voter register led the NEC to issue guidelines foreseeing additional instances in which voters would be allowed to cast a ballot, in addition to the condition when the name of the voter is found on the voter list and the voter is in possession of a voter card. These conditions seemed reasonable and inclusive.

For the Zanzibar elections, the residency requirement to register as a voter, and the related

controversial discretionary powers given to the *shehas* (appointed local authorities) to certify a voter's 36 months continuous residence in a particular constituency, is considered unreasonable and leads to the potential disenfranchisement of eligible Zanzibari voters. The ZEC conducted an update of the Permanent Voter Register. The opportunity for eligible voters to register was constrained as they had only two days to do so at an assigned centre. A total of 503,860 voters were registered. The process was not free from controversy, with CUF claiming that *shehas* did not provide the necessary documentation for their supporters to prove either their entitlement to Zanzibari status or their residence. The EU EOM directly observed that the requirement to present a Zanzibar ID card or a voter registration receipt in order to collect the voter card was not always adhered to by ZEC officials.

Both voter registers were made available late in the process. An earlier release of the registers could have positively affected the level of confidence in the reliability of the voter registers.

CANDIDATE NOMINATION

The requirements for the registration of political parties are considered reasonable and in line with international and regional commitments related to freedom of association. However, the right of political parties to form a coalition is not provided in law. In practice, political parties were able to present a joint candidate for the presidential election but the name of the coalition could not be used on the ballot.

The requirements to stand for presidential, parliamentary and local council elections, as provided in the Union and Zanzibar constitutions and respective electoral laws, are reasonable, with the exception of the constitutional ban on independent candidates. The requirement that candidates must be members of and proposed by a political party restricts the right and opportunity of individuals to stand for office.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The electoral campaign began on mainland Tanzania on 22 August and in Zanzibar on 7 September. A schedule of presidential and vice-presidential campaign events was agreed amongst the competing parties, and amicably revised as the campaign proceeded. In mainland Tanzania, the electoral campaign was vibrant and conducted in a mostly open and peaceful environment. The EU EOM observed 139 campaign events throughout the country, of which 53 were for CCM, 67 were for CHADEMA, CUF, NCCR, NLD and/or Ukawa, 14 were for ACT and five were events of other smaller parties. In observed campaign events, candidates and parties campaigned vigorously, and usually respected the campaign regulations, including the avoidance of inflammatory language and adherence to the hours prescribed for campaigning. Most political parties generally commended the police for its performance during campaign events, but in some areas, opposition parties voiced concerns in response to the arrest and detention of their candidates and supporters for public order offences.

Despite the generally positive nature of electoral competition, a number of localised disputes between supporters of rival parties resulted in violence. Disputes between activists of CCM and CHADEMA, as well as between supporters of CCM and CUF, were witnessed in a number of areas of the country. While such incidents did not typically result in serious escalation, they did detract from the quality of the campaign.

While the emergence of an opposition coalition helped the competitiveness of the electoral campaign, CCM continues to benefit from its historic legacy as the ruling party, and remains the best organised and best financed party. The party's use of or benefit from what were formerly state resources and assets, such as public stadia and sports grounds, which the EU EOM observed in Arusha, Dodoma, Katavi and Kigoma regions, provided an advantage over that enjoyed by other parties, and contributed to an imbalance in the electoral playing field. Civil servants were also occasionally observed attending political rallies in partisan capacities, including in the region of Mwanza and in Zanzibar. The inauguration of a number of major projects in the closing weeks of the campaign further blurred the distinction between the state and the ruling party, reinforcing CCM's campaign advantage.

In Zanzibar, existing tensions between the parties that comprise the Government of National Unity, CCM and CUF, led to a more heated and divisive campaign than that seen on the mainland. The aggressive rhetoric employed by some party leaders contributed to the campaign's occasionally intolerant tone, and increased communal tensions. Confidence in the policing of the campaign is lacking amongst some electoral stakeholders, and isolated incidents of voter intimidation instigated by the security agencies were documented by the EU EOM. However, despite these events, and the intensity of competition, the campaign on Zanzibar was generally peaceful.

In the closing days of the campaign, the rhetorical battle between the opposition and the government over the legality and desirability of calling on voters to remain in the vicinity of polling stations to 'defend the vote' after casting their ballots contributed to an uncertain security environment in the run-up to the vote, on both the mainland and in Zanzibar.

MEDIA

Freedom of expression was generally respected, and journalists were able to operate in an atmosphere of relative freedom, particularly given the number of laws, such as the Cybercrimes Act 2015, that could restrict this fundamental right and has led to a degree of self-censorship. For the first time, the media regulatory bodies adopted the Broadcasting Services (Content) (The Political Part Elections Broadcasts) Code, 2015 on the coverage of elections, which supplements the rather limited legal framework. While the code aims to prevent unbalanced coverage, parts of it are too prescriptive in its current form. For example, the provision such as the requirement to postpone a discussion programme if one of two parties fails to attend is viewed by media interlocutors as interfering with editorial independence.

Elections, in particular the presidential contest, dominated the content of broadcast and print media, with editorial coverage centred on the campaigns of the main candidates. Voters were able to access a variety of views through the media. However, there was little critical reporting and discussion of political platforms, with the majority of media simply repeating the parties' campaign messages. Political parties were provided with free airtime/space in the state media, although, the airtime the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) allocated to contestants' final campaign rallies benefited CCM in terms of amount of coverage and its prominence, while CUF complained to the EOM about unfair treatment by the state-owned Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) that aired its election materials outside of the time slot scheduled. The CCM paid for the most airtime on

the broadcast media, followed by the Ukawa parties, although to a considerably lesser extent.

The findings of the EU EOM media monitoring² show the state media failed to provide equitable and fair coverage of the campaigns and a level playing field for all contestants. Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC) TV and radio allocated 63 per cent and 53 per cent, respectively, of their prime time news coverage of political parties and other political actors to CCM, while all other parties combined received only 19 and 18 per cent, respectively. Similarly, Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) TV and radio provided 70 and 72 per cent, respectively, of their news coverage to CCM, while the other parties combined received 15 and 11 per cent, respectively. State officials - presidents, vice presidents and members of government, some of whom were candidates, also obtained airtime through coverage of their official activities. TBC TV and radio allocated 18 and 29 per cent, respectively, and ZBC TV and radio 15 and 17 per cent, respectively, of airtime on news programmes to such stories. Other programmes by the state broadcast media offered a similar picture. This media bias has remained unchallenged by the media regulatory bodies.

Positively, some private media outlets demonstrated relatively balanced coverage of the campaigns, in particular TV Azam 2, but also Radio One and ITV, each of which offered almost equal airtime in news programmes to both CCM and the opposition parties. TV Azam 2 also had special election programmes, which provided extensive information on the campaigns and contestants. Star TV, Radio Free Africa and Channel 10 largely focused on CCM.

The state-owned daily newspaper, *Zanzibar Leo*, devoted the largest share of its coverage, 71 per cent, to CCM, with the other political parties combined receiving 10 per cent. *Daily News*, also state-owned, focused on CCM, though its coverage of other parties combined was more noticeable, 27 per cent. In comparison, the private daily *Nipashe* distributed coverage roughly evenly between CCM and the opposition parties, while *Mwananchi*, also private, provided an even more diverse portrayal of contestants. The private weekly *Raia Mwema* also offered relatively diverse coverage of key political actors, while the private weekly *Mwana Halisi* clearly leaned towards CHADEMA. Both weeklies offered a more analytical reporting style in comparison to other monitored media outlets.

ELECTORAL JUSTICE

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) and the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) are responsible for resolving complaints and appeals at all levels of the electoral administration in relation to civil matters. The decisions of both electoral commissions are considered final. Appeals regarding the NEC and ZEC decisions on the nomination of parliamentary candidates may only be appealed to the respective High Court after the declaration of election results. This provision does not allow for a timely remedy for aggrieved parties.

² The EU EOM commenced its media monitoring on 21 September. The sample of 16 monitored media outlets includes the state-owned TV channels Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC1), Television Zanzibar, and the private Independent Television (ITV), Channel 10, Star TV, and TV Azam 2; the state-owned radio stations Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC Taifa) and Radio Zanzibar, and the private Radio Free Africa and Radio One. The newspapers monitored are the state-owned *Daily News and Zanzibar Leo*; the private dailies *Mwananchi* and *Nipashe*, as well as private weeklies *Mwana Halisi* and *Raia Mwema*.

The legal framework for the Union and for Zanzibar does not provide a mechanism to appeal a decision of the NEC and ZEC in refusing the nomination of presidential candidates. In addition, the inability to challenge Union and Zanzibar presidential election results is contrary to international principles entrenched in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Parliamentary election results in the Union and Zanzibar can be challenged before the High Courts. The timeframe of two years for the Zanzibar High Court to deliver a judgment is lengthy in comparison to the 12-month period in the Union.

As in previous elections, the Code of Conduct for Political Parties allowed for the establishment of Ethics Committees at national, constituency and ward levels to provide a forum for the resolution of electoral disputes. EU observers reported that around 20 complaints were submitted to the Ethics Committees throughout the country, mainly on issues such as the destruction of campaign material, exceeding campaign hours and the use of abusive language during campaign events. In most constituencies, the Ethics Committees were established and perceived by the political parties as an effective mechanism to resolve minor disputes. Nevertheless, in some parts of the country, campaign related disputes were either settled between the involved parties and electoral officials without the need for these committees to be established, or through the mediation of other authorities such as district commissioners.

Electoral related offences are dealt with through the normal judicial channels. Around 29 cases were filed with the Union district courts before election day, mainly over allegations of use of abusive language, unlawful procession, assault and the destruction of public property.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN

Women represent 53 per cent of the registered electorate in Tanzania. One of the eight Union presidential candidates is female, nominated by ACT. For the first time, CCM nominated a woman for the position of the vice-president. Although the Constitution provides for women to be indirectly elected to the reserved seats in the National Assembly, currently a minimum of 40 per cent, women are underrepresented in the contest for directly elected seats. There were 233 women of 1,218 candidates competing for the 265 directly elected seats in the National Assembly. The percentage of female candidates for these seats has increased only very slightly from the last elections, 18.4 per cent to 19.1 per cent. There was no female presidential candidate in Zanzibar. Twenty-nine women of a total of 180 candidates contested the 54 directly elected seats in the House of Representatives. Women are also indirectly elected to the reserved seats in the House of Representatives.

NATIONAL OBSERVERS

The main national groups conducting election observation are the Tanzania Election Monitoring Committee (TEMCO) and the Tanzania Civil Society Consortium on Election Observation (TACCEO). The Coalition on Election Monitoring and Observation in Tanzania (CEMOT) brought the TEMCO and TACCEO platforms together. TEMCO and TACCEO jointly deployed 350 long-term observers, and 6,500 and 3,000 short-term observers respectively. TACCEO and TEMCO also deployed long-term observers to Zanzibar. Under the CEMOT umbrella, they had at least one long-term observer in each district. The Zanzibar Legal

Services Centre (ZLSC) coordinated the TACCEO observers, most of whom have a paralegal background. In addition, the Muslim Leadership Organisation (MLO) deployed long-term observers.

POLLING AND COUNTING

Union Elections

On election day, the EU observers followed voting procedures at 625 polling stations throughout all regions of the country. The conduct of voting was positively assessed in 96 per cent of the polling stations observed by the EU EOM. All polling stations observed opened on time. Voting was conducted in an organised and generally calm atmosphere despite long queues being reported throughout the day. A few cases where campaign activities were observed in the vicinity of polling stations. Political party representatives were present in almost all of the polling stations observed while at least one national observer was present in 22 per cent of these stations. EU observers reported a few instances of political party representatives acting in excess of their mandate as well as some cases of ballot papers not being sufficient in 11 polling stations and protocols missing in 13 stations. In the main, voting procedures were consistently followed in the polling stations visited by EU observers, providing adequate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the vote and transparency of the voting process. EU observers reported inadequate protection of the secrecy of the vote in 21 per cent of polling stations visited, mainly due to inappropriate polling station layout. The performance of polling staff was mostly assessed to be good and very good.

There were, however, some polling stations where elections had to be postponed. The NEC announced re-polling for presidential and parliamentary elections to be held in 35 polling stations in Kinondoni, Dar es Salaam, and for 15 polling stations in Sumbawanga, Rukwa region. In Kinondoni polling staff destroyed ballot papers over disagreements with the NEC regarding payment for election day duties. In Mitepa ward, Sumbawanga, citizens burned ballots papers due to the alleged discovery of fake ballots. In Zanzibar, two constituency National Assembly elections (Pangawe, Kijito Upele) had to be suspended due to a shortage of ballot papers. A lack of ballot papers was further reported from Chukwani and Mombasa constituencies.

Counting started immediately after closing in 86 per cent polling stations visited and was conducted in the presence of political party agents and observers. The integrity of the counting process was sufficiently protected. Copies of the results forms were publicly displayed and given to party agents. The overall assessment of the closing and counting process was good or very good in 83 per cent of the polling stations observed by the EU EOM, with the transparency of the process being assessed as good or very good in 88 per cent of the polling stations observed.

Zanzibar Elections

In Zanzibar, the EU EOM observed the process in 71 polling stations. Almost all polling stations observed opened on time and opening procedures were followed except in one case. The conduct of voting was positively assessed in 96 per cent of the polling stations observed by the EU EOM. Voting was conducted in an organised and generally calm atmosphere despite long queues being reported during the morning. There were a few

cases where campaign activities were observed in the vicinity of polling stations. At the Sharifumsa polling centre (Mtoni constituency) a candidate and voters felt intimidated by the presence of armed special department (security) forces at the entrance gate. Political party representatives were present in almost all of the polling stations observed. EU observers reported one polling station where political party representatives acted in excess of their mandate as well as some cases of ballot papers not being sufficient in two polling stations. In a few cases, EU observers noted double entries in the voter register and were informed that it included deceased voters by party representatives. Polling procedures were mainly followed in the polling stations visited by EU observers providing adequate safeguards to ensure the integrity of the vote. EU observers reported inadequate protection of the secrecy of the vote in 8 per cent of polling stations visited, mainly due to inappropriate polling station layout. The performance of ZEC polling staff was mostly assessed to be good and very good.

Counting started immediately after closing in all polling stations visited and was conducted in the presence of political party agents and observers. The integrity of the counting process was sufficiently protected although in two cases police and other authorities were present. Copies of the results forms were publicly displayed and given to all party agents. The overall assessment of the closing and counting process was good or very good in most polling stations observed by the EU EOM.

The EU EOM is aware of a letter from a political party to the Inspector General of Police about data, computers and other equipment having been confiscated from its communication centres and 191 of its staff having been arrested. The EU EOM is closely following the situation. It is important that election administration and authorities conduct the final crucial steps of the process in full transparency and that political parties, candidates and civil society are able to participate in the process in line with provisions in the legal framework in order to strengthen the confidence in the process.

The EU EOM continues to observe the tabulation of results and will follow any complaints and the appeals process before reaching its final conclusions.

The preliminary statement is available on the EU EOM's website www.eueom.eu/tanzania2015

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The Preliminary Statement is available in English and Kiswahili; only the English version is official.
