



European Union
Election Observation Mission to Malawi
2014 Tripartite Elections

– PRESS RELEASE –

THE EUROPEAN UNION LAUNCHES AN ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO ASSESS THE TRIPARTITE ELECTIONS IN MALAWI

Blantyre, 25 April 2014. – Following an invitation from the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC), the European Union (EU) is deploying an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to Malawi to observe the 20 May Tripartite Elections. At the official launch of the mission, the Chief Observer of the mission, a Belgium Member of the European Parliament, Ms Véronique De Keyser, said:

“The way in which these elections unfold is important for the confidence of the Malawians and the international community in the democratic functioning of Malawi. These are challenging elections because they are being carried out at three different levels of governance at the same time: presidential, parliamentary and local. These are also very competitive elections since no one can predict today the results of the elections. For all of these reasons, the European Union has decided to send an election observation mission, which I am very happy and proud to lead ”.

The European Union Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) will assess all aspects of the electoral process and the extent to which the election process complies with national laws and international commitments agreed upon by Malawi. The mission will comprise more than 80 observers coming from all 28 European countries. A core team of seven analysts – with electoral, legal, political, human rights, media and data analysis expertise – arrived in Blantyre on 12 April 2014 to coordinate the mission.

A group of 28 Long-Term Observers (LTOs) will be deployed throughout the country, on 27 April, to observe the pre-election period and will report back to the core team in Blantyre. Shortly before the elections, 40 Short-Term Observers (STOs) will join the mission to observe voting, counting and tabulation of the results. Moreover, observers from the EU diplomatic representations in Malawi will further reinforce the mission closer to election day.

The EU EOM will cover the political campaign, pre-election preparations, election day – polling, counting and tabulation of results – and the complaints and appeals process as well as the announcement of results. This will include a thorough analysis of the legal framework, the work of the election administration, campaign activities, the conduct of the media in covering the elections, and the mechanisms for electoral disputes. The mission will meet election stakeholders, including government officials, election administration bodies,



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candidates and representatives from political parties, members of civil society and the media, the judiciary, amongst others.

Shortly after election day, the mission will issue a statement containing its preliminary findings. A final report, including a comprehensive assessment of all aspects of the electoral process and with possibly recommendations for future elections, will be released approximately two months later.

The EU EOM to Malawi uses a comprehensive observation methodology developed by the EU in over 130 election observation missions in more than 65 countries. The EU has previously deployed election observation missions to Malawi in 2004 and in 2009, as well as an Election Follow-Up Mission in 2012.

The EU mission is impartial and is independent from any EU institution including the EU Delegation to Malawi and EU Member States Embassies in the country. The EU EOM operates in accordance with the “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” adopted at the United Nations in 2005.

For further information please contact:

Silvia DE FÉLIX – Media analyst & Press and public outreach officer - Cell: +265 999 839 005

Email: silvia.defelix@eueommalawi2014.eu