



ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF THE AFRICAN UNION OBSERVER
MISSION TO THE 2011 PARLIAMENTARY AND PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTIONS IN ZAMBIA

1. In response to the invitation from the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ), H. E. Jean Ping, Chairperson of the African Union (AU) Commission, dispatched an Observer Mission to Zambia to observe the tripartite Local Government, National Assembly and Presidential Elections, which will be conducted on the 20th of September, 2011.
2. The AU Observer Mission is led by H.E. Vijay Makhan, Former OAU Assistant Secretary General. The Mission is composed of 30 members drawn from National Elections Management Bodies (EMBs), National Parliaments, the Pan African Parliament, Ambassadors, eminent persons and members of civil societies from various African countries. The Mission is assisted by a team of technical staff from the AU Commission Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and a team from the Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa (EISA) South Africa.
3. The AU Observer Mission arrived in Zambia on the 16th of September, 2011 and will remain in the country until the 24th of September, 2011.
4. The purpose of the Mission is to make an objective, independent and impartial observation of the National Assembly, Presidential and Local Government elections.
5. Guided by the Durban Declaration of July 2002 on the Principles Regulating Democratic Elections in Africa; the Mission is expected to pronounce itself on:
 - i. Whether the National Assembly, Presidential and Local Government Elections have been conducted in accordance with the country's constitution, electoral laws, other appropriate laws and the guidelines governing the conduct of elections.

- ii. whether the election environment was conducive for voters to participate and exercise their fundamental rights;
- iii. whether the participating political parties, agencies and groups were in general satisfied with the preparations for and conduct of the elections;
- iv. The mission is also expected to evaluate the level of voters' awareness and whether the voters' right to choose freely and in secrecy have been guaranteed, upheld and protected;
- v. Identify and record electoral malpractices, if any;
- vi. Assess whether the media coverage and conduct were in conformity with the laid down rules and guidelines;
- vii. Evaluate transparency and adequacy of the voting, counting and collation processes; as well as the announcement of the results; and
- viii. Establish whether the results of the elections are a true reflection of the democratically expressed will of the people of Zambia.

The Mission members will be deployed as far as possible to all provinces in the country. They will return to Lusaka on the 21st of September 2011 to prepare a Preliminary statement and a Report that will be submitted to the AU Commission.

Issued at the AU Observer Mission Office

Intercontinental Hotel, Lusaka. Zambia

17th September, 2011