



PRESS RELEASE

Head of SADC Electoral Observation Mission to Zimbabwe arrives in Harare

16 August 2023, Gaborone, Botswana: As the incoming Chair of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, the Republic of Zambia have appointed **Dr Nevers Mumba, former Vice-President of Zambia** as the Head of Mission (HoM) of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the Republic of Zimbabwe. This is in line with Article 3 of the *revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021)*, which provides that SADC shall observe all general elections held in its Member States.

Dr Mumba arrived in Harare today to commence his duties as Head of Mission of the SEOM. The SEOM will be deployed to all ten (10) Provinces of Zimbabwe to observe the pre- and post-election phases and the polling day. Before the Launch of the SEOM, the HoM shall undertake a Courtesy Call to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade of the Republic of Zimbabwe. He will also conduct meetings with the leadership of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) as well as the SADC Ambassadors and High Commissioners Accredited to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

To promote electoral integrity, electoral justice, good governance, peace, and stability in the SADC region, and to give effect to the commitment contained in the *SADC Principles and Guidelines*, the Launch of the SEOM will be held on the **18 August 2023** and will include various election awareness activities for the electoral stakeholder to learn and appreciate the work of the SEOM.

Given the above, the SADC Secretariat has the honour to invite ZEC, Zimbabwe Republic Police, political parties, voters and citizens, traditional leaders, faith-based groups, civil society, members of the media, Diplomatic Missions/Corps, Heads and Delegations of International Electoral Observation Missions to attend the Launch of SEOM Zimbabwe on **18 August 2023**, at the Rainbow Towers Hotel, Harare, from 10H30 – 13H00.

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Issued by the SADC Secretariat
Gaborone, Botswana

16 August, 2023