



**STATEMENT  
BY  
HONOURABLE DR. SUSAN ALPHONCE KOLIMBA (MP), DEPUTY  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EAST AFRICAN  
COOPERATION OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA (URT)  
AND  
ALTERNATE HEAD OF THE SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION  
MISSION (SEOM)**

**ON THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE SADC ELECTORAL  
OBSERVATION MISSION**

**TO  
THE 2017 GENERAL ELECTIONS  
IN  
THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**LUANDA, 12 AUGUST, 2017**

Distinguished Members of the SADC Organ Troika;

Mr Jorge Cardoso, Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, representing the Executive Secretary of SADC;

Representatives of the National Electoral Commission of the Republic of Angola;

Leaders and Representatives of Political Parties;

Heads of International Electoral Observation Missions;

Your Excellencies, Heads and Representatives of the Diplomatic Missions accredited to the Republic of Angola;

Members of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council;

SADC Election Observers;

Representatives of Local Election Observers;

Religious Leaders and Members of the Civil Society;

Members of the media;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of His Excellency Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, and on my own behalf, it is my honour and privilege to welcome you to the official launch of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the 2017 General Elections in the Republic of Angola. I thank you all for accepting our invitation and attending this important occasion.

It is indeed an honour to stand before you, and on behalf of the Chairperson of the SADC Organ to extend warm greetings and to wish the people of the Republic of Angola successful elections.

**Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Our Mission to the Republic of Angola is at the invitation of the National Electoral Commission of the Republic of Angola.

As you are aware, election observation has become a tradition in the region; and is in line with our obligations in the SADC Treaty; the provisions of *the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation* and the revised *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015)*.

These strategic policy instruments enjoin us to collectively work toward the realisation of our vision of a shared future, defined by the consolidation of democracy in an environment occasioned by peace and security.

In compliance with this obligation, His Excellency Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence, and Security Cooperation, constituted this Electoral Observation Mission and mandated the Executive Secretary of SADC to constitute and deploy the Electoral Observation Mission to observe the forthcoming General Elections in the Republic of Angola.

The Observation Mission, which I have been mandated to lead, consists of seventy (70) observers from 9 SADC Member States which include Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. These observers will be deployed to 14 of the 18 Provinces of the Republic of Angola, thus ensuring that the SEOM covers a substantial proportion of the country. The Provinces include those of Bie, Bengo, Benguela, Cabinda, Cunene, Cuanza-Norte, Cuanza-Sul, Huambo, Huila, Luanda, Lunda Norte, Malanje, Moxico and Zaire.

### **Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

In order for the region to foster peace and security and enhance the process of integration, it is important that we institutionalise and strengthen our capacity to manage procedural democratic processes in a manner that contributes to stability and the improvement of the general welfare of our peoples.

To this end, in July 2015, the Ministerial Committee of the Organ adopted the revised *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing*

*Democratic Elections*, which aim to strengthen our skills and capabilities of assessing the major inter-related segments of the electoral cycle in order to provide stronger evidence-based recommendations and electoral assistance to Member States. These Sub-regional initiatives compliment the African Union Continental vision of entrenching democracy and good governance in its Member States.

Our revised Principles and Guidelines also enjoin us to employ several approaches to our training and deployment strategies to ensure that we adequately observe the pre-election, election and post-election phases of the electoral process.

You will note for instance, that our election observation methodology includes the SADC Electoral Advisory Council Goodwill and pre-election assessment Missions; and the deployment of the Short Term and the Long Term Observers.

In this regard, the deployment of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council Goodwill Mission from 26-30 June 2017 was followed by the arrival of the main Short Term Electoral Observation Mission on 9 August 2017, and the Long Term Election Observation Mission which is expected to operate from 25-30 August.

## **Distinguished guests**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me to further explain the role of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council whose arrival preceded that of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission. You will recall that the SADC Electoral Advisory Council was established by the SADC Summit in 2005 to advise on matters of elections, democracy and good governance. The SADC Electoral Advisory Council is composed of eminent Justices, senior advocates and distinguished scholars with immense experience in matters of democracy building and governance as well as expertise in electoral processes.

The SADC Electoral Advisory Council Goodwill Mission was deployed specifically to assess the state of preparedness of the Republic of Angola to hold these General Elections, in accordance with the *revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections*.

In this regard, the SADC Electoral Advisory Council Goodwill Mission consulted with the National Electoral Commission and various local stakeholders on the electoral process in the Republic of Angola.

We are, therefore, reliably informed by the SADC Electoral Advisory Council Mission, that the National Electoral Commission and the relevant stakeholders in the Republic of Angola have taken necessary measures to ensure that the *Principles for Conducting Democratic Elections* as outlined in the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, are observed. We therefore conclude that the Republic of Angola is generally prepared to hold elections on 23 August, 2017.

We further note that the 2017 General Elections will be contested within the existing legal electoral framework comprising: the Constitution of the Republic of Angola (2010); the Electoral Law; the National Electoral Commission (CNE) Law; Voter Registration Law; Political Parties Law; Political Party Funding Law; and Election Observation Law.

In addition, there is an Electoral Code of Conduct which regulates the activities of electoral participants who among others comprise political parties or party coalitions, candidates, members and supporters of political parties.

Informed by these inter-related regional and national frameworks, the SADC Electoral Observation Mission will assess the conduct of the elections against a set of central principles stipulated in the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections such as:

1. Full participation of the citizens in the political process;
2. Freedom of association;
3. Political tolerance;
4. Equal opportunity for all political parties to access the state media;
5. Equal opportunity to exercise the right to vote and be voted for;
6. Independence of the Judiciary and impartiality of the electoral institutions;
7. Civic and Voter education;
8. Acceptance and respect of the election results by political parties as proclaimed to have been free and fair by the competent Electoral Commission in accordance with the law of the land;  
and
9. Challenge of the election results as provided for in the law.

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thus far, myself, and the distinguished Members of the Organ TROIKA and SEAC, have had the opportunity to meet a broad range of stakeholders, who among others, included political parties, the National Electoral Commission, the Office of the Attorney General, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the Constitutional Court, Ministry of Territorial Administration and National Police of Angola to better understand the political context and management of the electoral process leading up to the voting day on 23 August 2017. Further engagement with other electoral stakeholders will continue until the closure of the Mission.

**Distinguished guests,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission we would like to assure the citizens of Angola to note that among others, our Electoral Observation Missions will always strive to promote Member States adherence to the *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing*

*Democratic Elections.* Through the said Principles and Guidelines, we will also aim to encourage Member States to embrace best practices learned during electoral processes in the Region. We also wish to assure you that in executing their observation duties, our observers will comply with the national laws and regulations and maintain strict impartiality in their conduct.

With a few days remaining before Polling Day, we wish the people of this great nation a peaceful and credible election. We assure you of SADC's full support for this electoral process.

Finally, may I also take this opportunity to invite you all to attend the release of our Preliminary Statement scheduled for 25 August 2017, at this venue.

It is now my singular honour, on behalf of the Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, His Excellency Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, to declare the SADC Electoral Observation Mission to the 2017 General Elections in the Republic of Angola, officially launched.

**Thank you very much**

**Muito Obrigado**

**Merci beaucoup**

**Asante Sana**