



Head of Mission Launches SEOM to the 2015 Seychelles Presidential Elections in Victoria

NEWS RELEASE

Honourable Patrício José, the Deputy Minister of Defence in the Republic of Mozambique, and Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the Republic of Seychelles launched SEOM on 27 November, 2015, at Avani Hotel in Victoria, Republic of Seychelles.

The event was attended by representatives of various political parties contesting in the 2015 Presidential Election, religious leaders, Heads and representatives of Diplomatic Missions, International Observer Missions, civil society and the media.

The Seychelles Presidential Election is being observed under the provisions of the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

In his Statement, the Director of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Affairs, Mr Jorge Cardoso, representing the SADC Executive Secretary, indicated that prior to the deployment of the Observer Mission, SADC, through the Electoral Advisory Council, undertook a Goodwill and Assessment Mission, which had assessed the level of readiness and preparedness of the country to hold the election. The Mission's meetings with stakeholders had focussed on various issues, including the political environment in the country; the legislative framework; electoral administration; fundamental rights and freedoms; the Voters Roll; the composition of, and access to the media; voter registration; boundary delimitation as well as party and candidate registration. They equally sought to establish the extent of compliance with the rules and regulations governing the conduct of elections. Judging by that assessment, he mentioned that the situation in the country was conducive for a peaceful election.

He also announced that SADC would deploy Election Observers to the three main regions of the country which are Mahe Islands, Grand' Anse and La Digue Islands and they would cover 20 of the 25 districts of Seychelles, which is 80%, a coverage which is quite representative of the Country.

The Head of Mission commented on the remarkable level of maturity that the people of Seychelles continue to demonstrate through their practice of democratic governance. He further registered the regions confidence that the country was ready for the election.

He also highlighted the need for the Seychellois to continue doing the same, and to maintain strict observance of election-related fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in their constitution.

To this, the Head of Mission emphasised that the outcome of this election was in the hands of the people of the Republic of Seychelles. The manner in which they would conduct themselves would determine the character of this election.

He appealed to all candidates, political parties and other stakeholders, to abide by the laws of the land, as well as the domestic and international observers to abide by the laid down electoral observation code of conduct in order to contribute to the success of this election.

The Head of Mission concluded by wishing the people of Seychelles a peaceful 2015 Presidential election, and invited all the participants to attend the release of the SEOM Preliminary Statement on the 7th of December 2015.