



## PRESS RELEASE

### **SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the Presidential and National Assembly Elections of the Republic of Namibia scheduled for 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**12 November 2024, Gaborone, Botswana:** In accordance with Article 3 of the *revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021)*, SADC shall observe all General Elections held in its Member States. As per the standard practice of observing General Elections in the SADC Member States, the Government of the Republic of Namibia invited the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to observe the country's upcoming Presidential and National Assembly Elections scheduled for the **27<sup>th</sup> of November 2024**. The Secretariat Support Team is deployed in Windhoek, Namibia on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to set up the SEOM Headquarters at the **Safari Court Hotel (Mercure, Movenpick)** and prepare logistics for the deployment of observers to all the 14 Regions of the country.

In line with the *revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021)*, the Secretariat is expected to coordinate technical, logistical and administrative arrangements for deploying the SEOM to Namibia. SEOM observers will arrive in Windhoek, Namibia on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024 to undergo a Refresher Pre-Deployment Training, scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024, at the Safari Court Hotel.

The Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, **Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan**, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, constituted SEOM deployment to the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Namibia and appointed **Honourable Anne Semamba Makinda**, Former Speaker of the Parliament of the of the United Republic of Tanzania, as the Head of Mission. The SADC Organ Chairperson also mandated the SADC Secretariat led by **His Excellency Mr. Elias Mpedi Magosi**, SADC Executive Secretary, to coordinate the deployment of SEOM, including the facilitation of in-country deployment of election observers.

The SADC Secretariat personnel arrived in Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia to commence its works. The SEOM will observe the country's the pre-election phase, polling day and post-election processes with the objective of assessing the conduct of the elections in accordance with the *Principles and Guidelines*, which promote the holding of regular, free, fair, transparent, credible, and peaceful democratic elections.

Among the key activities, the SEOM will undertake consultations with a broad range of electoral stakeholders to gain a deeper understanding about the following:

- (i) whether the political and security environments in the country are conducive for the holding of free, fair, transparent, credible and peaceful elections in conformity with the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines.

- (ii) whether the Legal and Constitutional Framework governing the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.
- (iii) in furtherance of the values of Electoral Justice, as provided in Article 11.3.6 of the SADC Principles and Guidelines, SEOM Mission shall inquire into the delimitation of election boundaries – whether it was done in a manner acceptable to stakeholders, and whether the factors that prompted delimitation were in accordance with the laws of the land.
- (iv) whether the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) is prepared and ready to conduct the elections.

**The following are some of the key activities for the SEOM in the Republic of Namibia;**

DATE	ACTIVITY
11-14 NOVEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arrival of Secretariat Team, SEOM Leadership and Observers</li> </ul>
15-18 NOVEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresher Training for Election Observers</li> </ul>
20 NOVEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LAUNCH OF THE SEOM NAMIBIA [AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES]</b></li> </ul>
19 – 28 NOVEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head of Mission/ Organ TROIKA / SEAC Consultation Meetings with Electoral Stakeholders</li> </ul>
27 NOVEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ELECTION DAY [FIELD OBSERVATIONS]</b></li> </ul>
29 NOVEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RELEASE OF THE PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF THE SEOM TO THE 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 ELECTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA</b></li> </ul>
30 NOVEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of Long-Term-Observation (LTO)</li> </ul>
4 DECEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure of the SEOM Headquarters</li> </ul>
5 DECEMBER 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departure of the SADC Secretariat Team</li> </ul>

**Enquiries:**

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**About SADC**

SADC is an organisation of 16 Member States established in 1980 as the Southern African Development Coordinating Conference (SADCC) and later, in August, 1992 transformed into the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The mission of SADC is to promote sustainable and equitable economic growth and socio-economic development through efficient, productive systems, deeper cooperation and integration, good governance and durable peace and security; so that the region emerges as a competitive and effective player in international relations and the world economy. SADC Member States are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.