



## PRESS RELEASE

### **SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to the 2023 First Round Presidential Elections of the Republic of Madagascar scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Gaborone, Botswana:** In line 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, the Government of the Republic of Madagascar had on 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023 invited the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) to observe the country's First and Second Round Presidential Elections, scheduled for the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 and the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023, respectively. To this end, the First Round of the Presidential Elections will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023. In this elections, thirteen (13) candidates are contesting for the position of President of the Republic of Madagascar.

In accordance with the SADC Guidelines, His Excellency Hakainde Hichilema, President of the Republic of Zambia, and Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, appointed Brig. General Godfrey Miyanda, former Vice President of the Republic of Zambia as the Head of Mission (HoM) and mandated the SADC Secretariat to coordinate the SEOM, including facilitation of in-country deployment of observers.

The SEOM will be deployed to all six (6) Provinces of the Republic of Madagascar to observe the pre and post-election phases and the polling day. The Mission's objective is to assess the conduct of the elections in accordance with the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections of (2021). These principles emphasise the importance of citizen participation in the democratic and development processes, the implementation of measures to prevent political violence, intimidation, and intolerance, and the promotion of equal opportunities for all political parties to access the State Media and for all citizens to access information. Furthermore, the Mission emphasises the significance of acceptance and respect for the election results by all political parties.

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 SEOM will include various election awareness activities for the electoral stakeholder to learn and appreciate the work of the SEOM.

The key activities for the SEOM programme of schedule comprises the following;

DATE	ACTIVITY
<b>12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LAUNCH OF SEOM (AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES)</b> Open to the Public and Media</li> </ul>
11 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HoM / Organ TROIKA / SEAC Consultation Meetings with Electoral Stakeholders</li> </ul>
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-Election Peer Exchange with Heads of Electoral Observation Missions - <b>SEOM to Host</b></li> </ul>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION DAY [FIELD OBSERVATIONS]</b></li> </ul>
<b>18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RELEASE OF THE SEOM PRELIMINARY STATEMENT TO THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ROUND PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION</b> Open to the Public and Media</li> </ul>
19 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Departure of Short-Term Observers (STOs)</li> </ul>
20 <sup>th</sup> – 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of Long-Term-Observation (LTO)</li> </ul>
26 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure of the SEOM Headquarters</li> </ul>

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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. 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.

**Issued by the SADC Secretariat  
Gaborone, Botswana**

**9<sup>th</sup> November 2023**