



PRESS RELEASE

SADC Electoral Advisory Council Pre-election Goodwill Assessment Mission to the Republic of Zambia

20 May 2026, Lusaka, Zambia. The SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) is currently in the Republic of Zambia to conduct pre-election consultations with stakeholders ahead of the General Election scheduled to take place on 13th August 2026. The SEAC pre-election goodwill mission is being led by Ambassador Joseph Nourrice, the SEAC Member representing the Republic of Seychelles, and Dr. Leonard Sesa, the SEAC Member representing the Republic of Botswana. The SEAC Mission is supported by Officers from the SADC Secretariat. The mission is meeting with stakeholders who include Government, Political Parties, Civil Society and individual experts on elections and democracy in general.

The mission is being conducted in line with the standard practice of observing elections in SADC Member States, in accordance with the revised *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections* which provide that the SEAC shall undertake a Pre-Election Assessment Goodwill Mission to a Member State that is due to hold a General Election.

Amongst other objectives, the SEAC Mission is undertaken to:

- (i) Assess if 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) Assess the Legal Framework governing the 2026 General Election in Zambia, including the delimitation of constituencies; and
- (iii) Assess if the Electoral Commission of Zambia is prepared and ready to conduct the General Election.

This assessment will inform the decision whether or not the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) will be deployed to observe the General Election.

Stakeholders are advised that the mission of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council **is the only SADC designated structure** that has been deployed to the Republic of Zambia for the purposes of the pre-election assessment.

The Mission is based at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Lusaka, for the period 16-29 May 2026. All enquiries that stakeholders may have can be channelled through the SADC Secretariat, for this purpose, Mr. Magabolle Mafiri, email mmafiri@sadc.int, Whatsapp +267 7606 7142.