



PRESS RELEASE

SADC PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE 2009 NOVEMBER ELECTIONS: 27 - 28 NOVEMBER 2009

A 40-Member Election Observer Mission of the SADC Parliamentary Forum arrives in Windhoek on 20 November 2009 to observe the 2009 Namibia Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. This is the third time the Forum Mission observes Elections in Namibia, having done so in 1999 and 2004 respectively.

The Delegation consists of Members of Parliament from Parliaments of SADC, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius South Africa, Swaziland, Seychelles, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In addition, there are also members, staff from National Parliaments and the SADC Parliamentary Forum Headquarters based at Windhoek, Namibia.

As per now established practice, the Forum observes the Elections in an impartial, objective, transparent and neutral manner. The Mission will consult widely during its period of stay in Namibia, both at Windhoek and in the Provinces, including but not limited to the Electoral Commission of Namibia, Government Officials, political party representatives, academia, Civil Society and others as regards compliance with the various aspects of management of the electoral process.

A two-day Orientation Workshop has been arranged for the Mission to take place on 21 and 22 November 2009 at the Windhoek Country Club Resort where it will be briefed by representatives of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, political parties, civil society and the media on the management of election and the political environment in which the elections are going to take place. The mission will then be deployed to eleven provinces. The teams will observe elections at close range

as well as the campaigning and rallies by the political parties. Teams will further observe the actual voting, counting and collation of votes. The field teams will send reports to the Mission Headquarters in Windhoek on their assessments on a daily basis which will form the basis of its Mission Statement. The Forum has been observing Elections in the SADC region since 1999 and this is the 24th such mission.

The Mission wishes the electorate of Namibia well on their 2009 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections. It also wishes to encourage all registered voters to come out in large numbers to exercise their democratic right to vote on the Election Day.

Dr. Esau Chiviya
SECRETARY GENERAL