



EISA ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION TO THE LIBERIA PRESIDENTIAL RUNOFF ELECTIONS 2011

ARRIVAL STATEMENT

Monrovia, 4 November 2011

The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) is pleased to announce the arrival of its Election Observer Mission in Monrovia, Liberia, for the presidential run-off elections scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 8 November 2011.

The Mission is led by Justice Irene C. Mambilima, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Zambia. It is composed of fifteen (15) observers drawn from Civil Society Organisations and Election Management Bodies from Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Republic of South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

Prior to the deployment of this Mission, EISA deployed a 3-member Technical Assessment Team to observe the 2011 Referendum in Liberia from 15-24 August, 2011, and an 18-member Mission to the 11 October, 2011 Presidential, Senate and House of Representatives Elections. The work of this Mission will build on the findings of the previous Missions.

EISA will be coordinating its observation and deployment in partnership with The Carter Center (TCC) through the TCC-EISA Integrated Election Observer Mission. Both organizations will adopt the same observation methodology and jointly deploy observers in fifteen Counties in Liberia. While both organisations will jointly observe the elections, their statements and reports on the elections will be separately issued.

The overall objective of the Mission is in line with EISA's vision of promoting credible elections, citizen participation, and the strengthening of political institutions for sustainable democracy in Africa. Its specific purpose is to observe the electoral process to ascertain whether the process was organised and conducted in compliance with internationally accepted standards for credible elections. These standards include the African Union Declaration on Principles Governing Democratic Elections, the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation (PEMMO).

Members of the Mission started arriving in Monrovia on Tuesday, 2 November 2011 and will remain in the country until 12 November 2011. During this period, they will interact with key electoral stakeholders, including the National Electoral Commission of Liberia, representatives of political parties, the media, and civil society organisations.

From 6 November 2011, members of the Mission will be deployed to the different counties of Liberia to observe the concluding stages of the campaigns, the polling and counting processes and other post-polling activities.

Before its departure from Monrovia, the Mission is expected to present a preliminary analysis of its observations, findings and conclusions in a preliminary statement. EISA will compile and publish a final comprehensive report of the observations, findings and recommendations of the Mission within 3 months after the election. The report will present an objective assessment of the electoral process aimed at contributing, eventually, to the improvement of future elections and democratic governance in Liberia. The assessment to be presented in the report will be based on universally accepted principles and norms to which Liberia is subscribed as a sovereign democratic state.

The EISA Election Observer Mission is committed to working closely with all the relevant Liberian stakeholders and other election observer groups. It will act in an impartial, objective and transparent manner at all stages of the electoral process.

For further information about the Mission, please contact the Secretariat of the Mission based at the Cape Hotel, Mamba Point, Monrovia. The Mission Coordinator is Ms. Olufunto Akinduro who can be contacted on +231880909462 or email: olufunto@eisa.org.za