



European Union Election Observation Mission

Republic of Kenya – General Elections 2013

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EU launches Election Observation Mission

Nairobi, 24 January 2013

Following an invitation from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the European Union has established a mission to observe the General Elections due on 4 March. The EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) is led by Chief Observer Mr Alojz Peterle, a Member of the European Parliament from Slovenia, member of the European Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee and former Prime Minister of Slovenia.

Over the last few days, Mr Peterle has met the Chairman and several Commissioners of the IEBC, the Registrar of Political Parties, the heads of various political parties, the Elections Observation Group (ELOG), the Inspector General of Police, and the heads of diplomatic missions, among others.

“It is an enormous privilege to be leading this observation mission to Kenya at such a significant moment in the country's history,” said Mr Peterle at a press conference in Nairobi. “The elections are taking place in a challenging and sensitive environment, and we hope that the presence of independent and impartial EU observers is a positive contribution to the democratic election process.”

The EU Election Observation Mission's Core Team arrived in Nairobi on 19 January and will be joined by 18 Long-Term Observers on 30 January. Sixteen Short-Term Observers will be deployed closer to Election Day, along with a delegation of Members of the European Parliament and a group of Locally-Recruited Short-Term Observers from EU member states' embassies in Nairobi. This will bring the total number of observers to approximately 70, from across the European Union, as well as from Norway and Switzerland.

The mandate of the mission is to observe all aspects of the electoral process and to assess the extent to which the elections comply with international and regional commitments for elections, as well as with Kenyan law. The EU EOM will work independently to offer an impartial, balanced and informed analysis of the elections. All observers adhere to a Code of Conduct that says they must maintain of strict neutrality in the course of their work. The EU EOM operates in accordance with the “Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation” adopted in 2005 at the United Nations in New York.

Shortly after Election Day, the EU EOM will issue a preliminary statement of its initial findings. A more comprehensive final report, including recommendations for future elections, will be published within two months of the end of the electoral process.

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