



Press Release

Issued by Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF)

Nairobi, Kenya

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For Immediate Release

To all media & news agencies in EASF member states

REF: EASF EOM in Union of Comoros

The Eastern Africa Standby Force (EASF) announces the arrival of its observation mission for the Presidential election in the Union of The Comoros and governors' election in Autonomous Islands on 24 March 2019 and in case of subsequent runoff on 21 April 2019. The Director of the Eastern Africa Standby Force, Dr. Abdillahi Omar Bouh accepted the invitation of the Government of the Union of the Comoros and deployed the Mission to observe and report on the conduct of elections.

The Eastern Africa Standby Force Election Observation Mission (EASF EOM) is led by retired Lt. Gen. Germain Niyoyankana, former Defence Minister of the Republic of Burundi. The EASF EOM comprises of 27 observers from 8 EASF Member States namely; Burundi, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Seychelles and Uganda.

The EASF EOM has the mandate for independent, impartial and objective observation of elections. Its assessment will be based on relevant provisions of the AU African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of 2012 (ACDEG), the OAU/ AU Declaration of on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, other relevant international instruments on election observation as well as national legal framework governing presidential and governors' elections of the Autonomous Islands of the Union of The Comoros. EASF EOM will undertake the following objectives;

1. To project the presence of EASF during the Election process
2. In relation to international standards observe, assess and provide an impartial opinion on the legitimacy of the electoral process.

3. Identify possible crisis triggers.
4. To provide technical advice to election officials and coordinate with the RECs/RMs/AU if required or requested.

The assessment will be based on the regularity, transparency, equity and fair conduct of the electoral process.

The Mission will meet political authorities of the country, leaders of institutions in charge of election management, control and security of elections, candidates, media houses, civil society actors and representatives of the international community accredited to the Union of The Comoros. The Mission will also meet other election observation missions present in the country.

The Mission will deploy observers in all the Autonomous Islands of the Union of Comoros namely: Ngazidja (Grande Comoros), Ndzuwani (Anjouan) and Mwali (Moheli);

EASF EOM will issue a Preliminary Statement at the end of the Mission.

EASF thanks the Government of the Union of The Comoros for extending the invitation to the Mission and for all the support to facilitate the work of the Mission on the ground.

The Mission's Secretariat is based at Retaj Hotel in Moroni, Comoros.

End of Press Release

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