African Union Commission embarks on electoral support to The Gambia ahead of 4th December 2021 Presidential Election

As the Republic of The Gambia prepares to hold presidential election on 4th December 2021, the African Union Commission (AUC) through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security, has embarked on electoral support in a bid to promote peaceful, democratic and credible process. The multi-pronged electoral support provided by the Commission comprises election observation as well as technical assistance.

The Commission has commenced the deployment of African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) through deployment of long term observers who will be complemented short term observers towards the close to the election. Nine long term observers were deployed from 20 October 2021 and will remain in the country until 12 December 2021. The long term observers will be joined by the 50 short term observers from 23 November to 10 December 2021. This will enable the AUEOM to engage in more comprehensive assessment of the electoral process.

The electoral assistance to the Independent Electoral Commission is in response to the request made by the latter to the African Union Commission. It comprises support in electoral logistics operations, training of polling staff as well as purchase of COVID-19 protection materials for polling stations throughout the country. The support also includes training of trainers in citizen election observation in collaboration with the Gambia National Youth Council which will target the youth and civil society organisations. The training of trainers workshop will take place from 1-5 November 2021 in Banjul.

The conduct of 4th December 2021 presidential election in The Gambia marks a critical juncture towards democratic consolidation under the new political dispensation in the country. It is the first presidential election since political change occurred following 2016 election cycle. Therefore, in line with its normative instruments, in particular, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the AUC seeks to contribute to inculcating a culture of inclusive and participatory democracy, sustainable peace and development in The Gambia.

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