African Union Commission conducts capacity building for citizen election observation ahead of the 4th December 2021 presidential election in the Republic of The Gambia

As the Republic of The Gambia prepares to hold presidential election on 4th December 2021, the African Union Commission through the Department of Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) has engaged in capacity building intervention targeting the youth and civil society organisations in a bid to foster electoral integrity and ultimately, the conduct of peaceful, democratic and credible elections. The Department of PAPS in collaboration with The Gambia National Youth Council commenced a ‘training of trainers’ capacity building workshop in Banjul from 1-5 November 2021.

The commencement of the workshop on 1st November 2021 coincided with the continental commemoration of the Africa Youth Day which is celebrated annually following the adoption of the African Union Charter in Banjul, The Gambia in recognition of the role played by the youth in democratic governance, development, peace and security. The capacity building training workshop comprises forty (40) participants from all the regions of the Republic of The Gambia. The training modules focus on the normative framework of elections, global principles of citizen election observation as well as practical methodological approaches and relevant tools for conducting domestic observation throughout the electoral cycle. This initiative envisages long-term skills and knowledge transfer which will eventually enable the youth and civil society organisations to transmit the same within their respective organisations and structures.

The above intervention is part of the overall electoral assistance which the Department of PAPS has embarked on which also entails support to the Independent Electoral Commission in electoral logistics operations, training of polling staff as well as provision of COVID-19 protection materials for polling stations. The African Union Commission has also deployed long term election observers who will be joined by short term observers towards close to the polls.

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