



## DIRECTORATE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

### H.E. Dr SPECIOSA WANDIRA KAZIBWE ARRIVES IN THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO TO LEAD THE AFRICAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION FOR THE 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022 NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

#### ARRIVAL STATEMENT

**Maseru, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022:** Following her designation by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), His Excellency Mr. Moussa Faki MAHAMAT and on the proposal of the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS), H.E Ambassador Bankole ADEOYE, to lead the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) to the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 National Assembly Elections in the Kingdom of Lesotho, H.E Dr. Speciosa WANDIRA Kazibwe, former Vice President of the Republic of Uganda has arrived in Maseru on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022. The Mission has been enhanced by the effective support of Mrs. Patience Zanelie CHIRADZA, Director of Governance and Conflict Prevention within AU PAPS Department.

The Mission comprises forty (40) Short-Term Observers (STOs) representing various Member States of the African Union (AU), deployed from 28 September to 13 October 2022. The AUEOM consists of Ambassadors to the AU in Addis Ababa, Pan-African Parliamentarians, members from African Election Management Bodies (EMB), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Independent Experts.

Upon her arrival, the Head of AUEOM attended a two-day orientation and briefing of AU observers which ran from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 before their deployment throughout the country. The briefing focused on the electoral political context, the legal framework, levels of preparedness by the Independent Electoral Commission of Lesotho and that of different electoral stakeholders and the AU election observation methodology.

The Mission will monitor the ongoing electoral process in line with relevant provisions of the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the 2002 Declaration of the AU/OAU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa; the 2002 AU Guidelines for observation missions and other relevant regional and international instruments governing the conduct of democratic elections in Africa. The observation will also rely on the existing legal framework for the organization of the national assembly elections in the Kingdom of Lesotho.

The AUEOM will issue its Preliminary Statement based on its observation of the elections after the close of polls, which will be completed by a more comprehensive Final Report after the Elections.

The Mission's Secretariat is located at Avani Lesotho Hotel and reachable at +266 58402506.

The African Union Electoral Observation Mission wishes to thank the authorities of the Kingdom of Lesotho for all the steps taken in order to facilitate its work on the field.

**Maseru, 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**For the Mission,  
H.E. Dr Speciosa WANDIRA Kazibwe  
Head of Mission**

**For more information, please contact the AUEOM's Coordinator:**

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