

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION DIRECTORATE

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African Union Continues Comprehensive Engagement in the 9th August 2022 General Elections in Kenya

Following an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Kenya, the African Union (AU) is engaging comprehensively in the 9th August 2022 General Elections.

The AU began engaging in May 2022 with the deployment of a High-Level Pre-election Assessment Mission, which was carried out jointly with the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the East African Community (EAC). It was led by **H.E. Domitien Ndayizeye**, former President of Burundi and current Chairperson of the African Union Panel of the Wise. The purpose of the Mission was to assess the state of preparedness for the 9th August 2022 General Elections and engage in consultations and dialogue with key stakeholders to ensure peaceful, credible and inclusive outcomes.

Based on the findings and recommendations of the high-level pre-election assessment mission, the AU subsequently deployed an Election Expert Mission to Kenya from 25th June 2022 to 24th July 2022. The Mission comprised eight (8) experts from the AU, COMESA, EAC, IGAD and independent conflict analysts. It was mandated to assess the political dynamics, genuine inclusivity, competitiveness, and fairness of the electoral process, especially the electoral campaigns.

The Expert Mission's work also involved identifying risk factors, assessing the country's overall peace and security situation, and keeping the leadership of the AU Commission informed about developments on the ground for it to take preventive measures if necessary.

The Expert Mission concluded its work by organising a Roundtable Meeting with key national stakeholders¹ on 21st July 2022 to examine potential risk factors and necessary actions to mitigate and avert any likely violence before, during and after the 9th August 2022 elections.

Additionally, on 25th July, the AU deployed eight (8) long-term observers (LTOs) to continue following Kenya's preparations and conduct of elections. The LTOs will remain in the country until 20th August 2022 to observe, assess and report on the results management process and other post-election developments. The work of the

¹ These included, among others, representatives from the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP), Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNHCR), Election Observation Group (ELOG), Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC), Kenya Television Network (KTN), Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).



LTOs will be complemented by fifty (50) short-term observers (STOs) who will be deployed on 2nd August to observe the conduct of Election Day operations.

The STO Mission will be led by **H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma**, former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone. It will include the Chairperson of the AU Panel of the Wise, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, and representatives of the Pan-African Parliament, youth and women.

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