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PRESS RELEASE

ICGLR DEPLOYS ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO ZAMBIA'S 2026 GENERAL ELECTIONS

Bujumbura, 09 August 2026, The International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) will deploy an Election Observation Mission (EOM) to the Republic of Zambia to observe the General Elections scheduled for 13 August 2026, reaffirming its commitment to promoting democratic governance, peace, stability and constitutional order in the Great Lakes Region.

The Mission is being deployed at the invitation of the Republic of Zambia and in accordance with the ICGLR Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region and the Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance. It forms part of the ICGLR's continued efforts to support credible, transparent, inclusive and peaceful electoral processes in its Member States.

Ahead of the deployment, the Mission conducted a Pre-Election Situation Assessment to examine the political, legal, institutional and electoral environment, identify key issues requiring attention, and inform the Mission's observation priorities ahead of Election Day.

The Election Observation Mission will be led by H.E. Dr Mokgweetsi Eric Keabetswe Masisi, Former President of the Republic of Botswana, who will serve as the Head of Mission. The delegation will comprise observers drawn from ICGLR Member States, the ICGLR Parliamentary Forum and the ICGLR Secretariat.

Ahead of Election Day, observers will participate in a comprehensive briefing on Zambia's electoral framework, observation methodology and code of conduct before being deployed across the country. During the mission, they will engage with key electoral stakeholders and observe various stages of the electoral process, including polling, vote counting and results aggregation.

Following Election Day, the Head of Mission will present the ICGLR's Preliminary Statement, outlining the Mission's initial assessment of the electoral process. A comprehensive final report containing detailed findings and recommendations will subsequently be shared with the relevant stakeholders.

The ICGLR remains steadfast in its commitment to supporting democratic governance, peaceful political transitions and regional stability through impartial and professional election observation missions.

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