

**COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP**  
**2019 MOZAMBIQUE GENERAL ELECTIONS**  
**Statement by Acting Chair**

**Musa Mwenye, Former Attorney General of Zambia**  
**11 October 2019, Maputo, Mozambique**

We are honoured to have been requested by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, to observe the General Elections in Mozambique scheduled for 15 October 2019 at the invitation of the Government of Mozambique.

We arrived on 10 October and will be in Maputo until 20 October. Members of our Group are drawn from various Commonwealth regions with backgrounds ranging from the political, electoral and legal fields.

We are aware of the significance of these elections in promoting democracy in Mozambique. Our presence here affirms the Commonwealth's enduring solidarity with the people of Mozambique.

As a starting point, we would like to take this opportunity to strongly condemn all incidents of violence including the killing of Mr Anastácio Matavele, head of a local observer group in Xai-Xai. We convey sincere condolences to his family and friends and urge a thorough investigation into this and any other incidents of violence. We encourage all stakeholders to demonstrate unwavering commitment to peaceful and credible elections.

Our mandate is to observe and evaluate the pre-election environment, polling day as well as the post-election period. We will consider the various factors impinging on the credibility of the electoral process as a whole, and report on whether it has been conducted to the national, regional, Commonwealth and international standards to which Mozambique has committed itself.

As independent observers, we will remain objective and impartial in discharging these duties. The Group's assessment will be its own and not that of any Commonwealth member country.

Over the next few days, we will receive briefings from relevant stakeholders including election management officials, representatives of political parties, civil society groups, the police, members of the international community and citizen and international observers.

On 13 October, our observers will deploy to selected provinces, where we will observe the pre-election environment. Subsequently, we will observe the opening of polls, voting, counting and the management of results from election day until our departure from Mozambique. We will issue an *Interim Statement* of our preliminary findings shortly after 15 October. Our final report will be submitted to the Secretary-General and will be made available to the public afterwards.

The Commonwealth Observer Group is composed of:

- **HE Mr Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka (Chair)**, Former Vice-President, Republic of Kenya
- **Mr Musa Mwenye**, Former Solicitor General and former Attorney General, Zambia
- **Dr Alex Vines**, Head, Africa Programme, Chatham House
- **Dr Nomsa Masuku**, Commissioner, Electoral Commission of South Africa
- **Ms Emma Lee Wilson**, Lecturer in conflict mediation, Department of Politics and International Studies, Cambridge University

Note to Editors

For more information or to organise a media interview with the Chair, please contact: [t.kalejaiye@commonwealth.int](mailto:t.kalejaiye@commonwealth.int)