



It is a great pleasure for me to lead the EISA election observation mission to the 2019 national and provincial elections in South Africa. These elections which come in the 25th year of South Africa's democratic journey are of great importance as they provide another opportunity for South Africans to exercise their right to vote and thus support the country's democratic consolidation. The EISA EOM seeks to contribute to the integrity of the electoral process through its findings and recommendations.

– Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Former President of Nigeria, Leader of the EISA EOM

ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF THE EISA ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE 2019 NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

1 MAY 2019

The Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA) announces the arrival of its election observation mission (EOM) in the Republic of South Africa to observe the 8 May 2019 national and provincial elections. The EISA EOM is in South Africa at the invitation of the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of South Africa, to conduct an independent assessment of the electoral process and contribute to its integrity through its findings and recommendations.

The EISA EOM is led by His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, former President of the Republic of Nigeria, and Mr. Denis Kadima, EISA's Executive Director, as the Deputy Mission Leader. The EOM is comprised of 37 international observers drawn from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Election Management Bodies (EMBs), and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) from 16 African countries. This EOM is the 5th to be deployed by EISA in South Africa since the 1999 elections.

The EISA EOM's assessment methodology is guided by its commitments as an endorser of the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (DOP). The EOM will assess the extent to which the legal framework and procedures in the 2019 electoral process comply with South Africa's commitments and obligations set out in the following international instruments: the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections; the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance; the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation (PEMMO) and the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

EISA observers will be deployed in 18 teams to all the nine provinces of South Africa to observe the last days of the electoral campaigns, pre-polling activities, special voting, and Election Day and post-polling activities. On 10 May 2019, the EISA EOM will issue a statement on its preliminary findings and recommendations on the electoral process. The short-term observers will remain in the country until 11 May 2019 while the technical team will be on the ground until 20 May 2019.

These elections are the sixth to be conducted since the end of Apartheid and the adoption of the 1996 Constitution. They coincide with the 25th anniversary since the country held its first elections by direct universal suffrage, marking a critical milestone in the country's democratic journey. A peaceful and successful election will therefore further cement the democratic gains made by the country over the past generation. EISA is pleased to be part of this historic moment in South Africa.

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