



REDET - LEAD AGENCY OF TEMCO

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOR DEMOCRACY IN TANZANIA (REDET)

2020 GENERAL ELECTIONS OBSERVATION

PRESS STATEMENT

8th October 2020

Introduction and Background

Since its establishment in 1964, the Department of Political Science (later Political Science and Public Administration at the University of Dar es salaam) has been carrying out the dual function of observing and doing research on elections in Tanzania. The 1990 elections were the last elections to be observed by the Department on her own. Following the introduction of multi-party political dispensation the Department decided to create a unit dedicated to research on democracy and civic education to Tanzanians. This was meant to assist in the introduction and consolidation of democracy in Tanzania. The unit Research and Education for Democracy in Tanzania (REDET) was founded in 1992. Shortly thereafter, it was decided that the Department led by REDET should pool her resources together with other organizations to effectively monitor the first multi-party elections in 1995.

Election observation plays an important role in promoting transparency and accountability, as well as enhancing trust in electoral processes and outcomes. Election observers help build public confidence in the honesty of electoral processes and can help promote and protect the civil and political rights of the electorate and contestants. If carried out professionally and objectively, election observation can lead to the correction of errors or irregularities even while an election processes is still under way. Moreover, it can deter manipulation and fraud or expose such problems if they do occur. If observers issue positive reports, election observation build trust in the democratic processes and enhances the legitimacy of the government that emerges from the election.

Genuine democratic elections, are expressions of people’s sovereignty that need to be observed by non-partisan election observers. The **Tanzania Electoral Processes Observation (TEPO)** project will support genuine democratic elections and strengthening of the democratic institutions through election observation in Tanzania, including Zanzibar. The current program, henceforth, is set out to observe the Tanzania 2020-2021 electoral processes. The program duration is approximately nine months covering the period **July 2020 to April 30, 2021**.

Program Objectives

The general objective of the program is to observe, on behalf of the citizens, the 2020-2021 electoral processes in order to establish the extent to which they were credible, free, fair and peaceful in light of national legislation and international standards for genuine democratic elections. REDET undertakes two mutually supportive components each of which has specific objectives, including:

- i. To observe the 2020 Tanzania (Union) and Zanzibar General Elections in order to determine the degree to which they adhered to the national legislation and universal principles and qualities of genuine democratic elections;
- ii. Observe and assess the fairness of the administration of the elections in general, especially the impartiality of the legal infrastructure (the electoral laws, regulations and directives), the electoral management bodies, and the state machinery for law and order;
- iii. Assess the fairness in the allocation and use of relevant state resources by the contending political parties, especially incumbents and public media; and
- iv. Assess the extent to which the elections can be said to have been credible, free and fair.

Training, Methodology for Observing Electoral Processes, and Deployment Plan

We have deployed LTOs to 200 constituencies (out of the 264 constituencies, which is equivalent to 76 percent coverage), 150 from Tanzania Mainland and all 50 Zanzibar constituencies from 28th September to 5th November 2020. The 200 constituencies were sampled after serious consideration of data needs, political dynamics of certain voting districts and localities, and other relevant factors. All regions in the country are covered.

The Secretariat ensured that it recruited 200 impartial and nonpartisan LTOs. Out of the 200 LTOs **110 (55%)** are males and **90 (45%)** are female observers. The Secretariat also paid attention to the following criteria among others: past track record of working as election observer in the country, report writing skills, integrity, reliability, availability, and gender considerations.

Observers underwent an intensive and rigorous two-day training on 25th and 26th September, 2020 before they were deployed in constituencies. Training covered a number of topics including but not limited to: (i) administration of data collection instruments; (ii) electoral legislation and regulations; (iii) the Recipient's election observers' code of conduct and ethics; (iv) EMBs' code of ethics for domestic observers; (v) documentation of women, youths and people with disabilities in the general election and (vi) Information Communication Technologies (ICTs).

On voting day, we will deploy a total of **3,260** Short Term Observers (STOs) at all sampled polling stations, **2,900** from Tanzania Mainland and 360 from Zanzibar. We are currently coordinating the **200 LTOs** through **31** Regional Coordinators. Both LTOs and STOs will collect information related to the electoral processes using specific data collection tools designed for that purpose.

In order to facilitate timely collection of data, transmitting and analyzing from the constituencies, REDET is using a specific ICT system which supports a wide range of question and answer types, and is designed to work well without network connectivity. This system enables LTOs to send instant information and remain connected with our data center. We are well prepared to augment this LTO information with secondary data generated

through reviewing of relevant documents that guide the management of electoral processes, including, the constitutions, legislation, regulations, and guidelines, etc.

Expected Results

The program is set to achieve five key results during the planned period of implementation. The key expected results are:

- a) Enhancing the capacity of observers involved, in among other things, conducting credible and nonpartisan election observation, using sound and proven methodology in collecting election-related data, developing their skills on pre and election day observation techniques and compilation of constituency reports which are based on the reality on the ground.
- b) Comprehensive observation of both the Tanzania (Union) and Zanzibar general elections by deploying well trained Long Term Observers (LTOs) and Short-Term Observers (STOs):
- c) Compilation of the *Interim Statement* (which may also be referred to as 'preliminary report) will be completed and final draft shared publicly within a few days after the polling day.

Moreover, production of a comprehensive final report on general elections which fairly and objectively presents an assessment of the electoral stakeholders' (EMBs, political parties, party agents, party supporters, media, security personnel, voter education providers, election observers, judiciary and faith based organizations) adherence to electoral laws, regulations and directives, including enforcement of law and order.

- d) Ensuring all the electoral stakeholders are duly informed on the findings and conclusions of the election observation mission, and program achievements and challenges through dissemination of the interim observation report, comprehensive final observation report, newsletters, press briefings, post-election conference, and online mediums such as website and social media platforms. This is chiefly be done through a final report *validation workshop*: Draft chapters will be presented and reviewed by various elections' stakeholders at a two-day validation workshop.

Participants to this workshop will comprise of, among others, some LTOs, representatives of civil society organizations, representatives of political parties, CSOs, media outlets, NEC, ZEC, cooperating partners, and academia. Both the English and Swahili versions of the *final report* will be published into booklet formats and disseminated to various stakeholders.

e) Submission of well-informed recommendations to the EMBs, the government and other electoral stakeholders specifically on how to improve the management and quality of future elections in order to meet acceptable universal standards for democratic elections.

Acknowledgements

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We thank REDET stakeholders from across the country who expressed their readiness to participate in this exercise, carefully evaluated and sent us names of their nominees for interviews as observers, ensured that those selected showed up for training, accepted deployment and served successfully as observers. We are most grateful to the University of Dar es Salaam for its continued support to REDET the lead agency of TEMCO. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. William A.L. Anangisye, and the entire University management team deserve special thanks for making available facilities including valuable working space, meeting and workshop rooms for REDET. We are also grateful to the members of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of Dar es Salaam who contributed their constructive insights at all stages of preparation of the project proposal, documentation to the ongoing implementation.

Accessible Website

We have an online and publicly accessible website for sharing program details, objectives, activities, as well as regular elections updates. The website can be accessed via the UDSM main portal (www.udsm.ac.tz), click academic units and then research centres where the REDET link will be found.

Prof. Rwekaza S. Mukandala,

REDET Chairman and Head of the Election Observer Mission