

## **EWC LAUNCHES ITS OBSERVATION OF THE 2022 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS**

**7<sup>TH</sup> March 2022**

The Elections Watch Committee (EWC) is launching the 2022 parliamentary elections. The EWC is a partnership of the Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia (PAG), ACTIVISTA and the National Youth Parliament to observe electoral processes in The Gambia. The 2022 observation effort will build on the EWC’s observation of the 2021 Presidential election including the Voter Registration process, the display of provisional list of voters, the candidate nomination and campaign period, and the 2021 presidential election. Ahead of the April 9 parliamentary election, the EWC is now observing the parliamentary nomination and campaign.

For the pre-election period, the EWC has trained and deployed a total of 71 long-term observers including 14 nomination observers, 7 regional coordinators (of which 3 are also observing the nomination), and 53 constituency observers to observe the nomination process, pre-campaign and campaign environment in all regions and constituencies. All 14 nomination observers will observe and send nomination checklist reports and lists of accepted and rejected nominees at the end of each observation day. As well, the 53 constituency observers will observe and send campaign observation checklist reports on three designated days as well as send in critical incidents reports throughout the process, anytime they occur.

EWC observers will observe and report on campaign processes such as political rallies, campaign marches and demonstrations, debates or the use of the media, flyers, posters, billboards or community outreach events. They will also watch out for campaign violence within their assigned areas such as propagation of hate speeches and divisive messages, intimidation and harassment targeted at electoral actors and groups as well as use of campaign resources by candidates and political parties. Observers will further report on civic and voters’ education activities, COVID-19 related issues and awareness as well as the IEC preparatory activities for election day at the regional and constituencies levels. The EWC’s observations of all of these processes will factor into the overall assessment of the electoral process.

In addition to observers, EWC also train and deployed 5 data clerks that will be stationed at the EWC National Information Center in Kanifing to collect checklist reports from constituency observers on the three designated reporting days as well as critical incidents from all observers all through the campaign process.

### REGIONAL COORDINATORS AND CONSTITUENCY OBSERVERS DEPLOYMENT BREAKDOWN:

REGION	NO. OF CONSTITUENCIES	NO. OF NOMINATION OBSERVERS	NO OF REGIONAL COORDINATORS	NO. OF CONSTITUENCY OBSERVERS
Banjul	3	2	1	3
Kanifing	7	2	1	7

West Coast Region	13	2	1	13
North Bank Region	7	2	1	7
Lower River Region	6	2	1	6
Central River Region	11	2	1	11
Upper River Region	6	2	1	6
TOTAL	53	14	7	53

### **REPORTING AND COMMUNICATION PLAN**

For the Pre-Election Period (Candidate Nomination and Campaign), EWC will issue three public updates to communicate its observation findings. These updates will be in the form of a report or brief that will either be posted on a social platform or shared directly into emails to various stakeholders to communicate EWC’s findings. An initial update will be released on Thursday, March 17 which will include the EWC first Pre-Election Observation Report on Candidate Nomination, Public Scrutiny and Pre-Campaign Period observation findings, a second update will be released on Monday, March 28 on Campaign Observation findings and a third and final update will be released on Friday, April 8 on Campaign observation findings and Pre-Election Statement. These reports will be based on the direct observations from EWC’s 60 observers located in all constituencies and regions as well as the IEC administrative Offices in all regions, for the nomination.

In addition to the three Pre-Election updates, EWC will immediately share with the appropriate authorities any verified critical incident reports or any other relevant information so that actions would immediately be taken to address the issue(s).

To communicate its observation findings, EWC will hold three press briefings/conferences on the three updates which will also be shared with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), members of the media and major electoral stakeholders. Throughout the nomination and campaign period, there will also be regular posts of EWC activities on the EWC social media pages and official websites of all the three members of the EWC (ACTIVISTA, PAG and NYP) for the public to access.

#### **PAG Pre-Election Reporting Timeline:**

Report/Update	Observation Period	Date of Submitting Checklist Report	Press Conference and Statement Release
Candidate Nomination, Public Scrutiny and	Monday, March 7 – Tuesday, March 15	Tuesday, March 15 at 10am	Thursday, March 17- Update on Nomination and Pre-Campaign Period

Pre-Campaign Period Update - 1			
Campaign Update-2	Wednesday, 16 March – Saturday, March 26	Saturday, March 26 at 10 am	Monday, March 28 - 1st Campaign update
Campaign Update-3	Saturday, March 26- Wednesday, April 6	Wednesday, April 6 at 10am	Friday, April 8 - 2nd Campaign update + E-day preview
Critical Incident Report	Throughout the observation period, all observers observe critical incidents and immediately report whenever they occur.		

### About the Elections Watch Committee

The Elections Watch Committee is a partnership of three organizations and other network members with different expertise and background collaborating to observe electoral processes in The Gambia. The Elections Watch Committee includes the Peace Ambassadors-The Gambia (PAG), ACTIVISTA and the National Youth Parliament (NYP). This Committee is the decision-making body on all matters relating to the 2022 Elections Watch Project. PAG serves as the Secretariat of the Committee. The Elections Watch Project is being financed with assistance from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and technical support from the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

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