2 December, 2021

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For Immediate Release

**Elections Watch Committee (EWC) is prepared to observe Saturday polls and releases findings from it campaign observation**

The Elections Watch Committee (EWC) today released its findings on the second half of the campaign period for the 4th December presidential elections. EWC’s findings are based on reports received from its 59 campaign observers deployed across all 53 constituencies and are based on their observations from 18th November - 1st December, 2021.

The EWC is composed of three organizations - Peace Ambassadors - The Gambia (PAG), ACTIVISTA, and the National Youth Parliament (NYP). Members of the EWC have observed all aspects of the election process including political party congresses, voter registration, the candidate nomination process, and the campaign period.

PAG’s President, Bubacarr Sambou stated, “Gambians should be congratulated for a widely peaceful campaign period.” He added “Elections Watch observers’ reports indicated that political parties’ campaigns spanned the country and civic and voter education activities ramped up during the final stage of the campaign.”

However, he noted that observers continue to witness and hear of several instances of the abuse of state resources such as use of vehicles and vote buying by candidates and political parties. These violations of the Code of Conduct and Code on Election Campaign Ethics create an unlevel playing field and threaten to undermine confidence in our democratic institutions.

The EWC was able to rapidly collect, verify, and analyze data on the campaign period by having its observers report in real-time by sending reports using coded text messages via their mobile phones. All reports are processed at the EWC National Information Center using a specifically designed elections database.

“The EWC has observed all phases of this electoral process and is now ready to observe the 4 December polls. We plan to deploy 460 trained and accredited election day observers, of which 300 will be deployed proportionally as stationary observers, allowing EWC to have a nationwide picture of what happens on election day,” said Sambou.

The Elections Watch Committee reminds all registered voters to bring their voter’s card to their assigned polling station on Saturday, 4th December to exercise their right to cast their vote for president of The Gambia. The Committee also calls upon all political actors to abide by the Janjanbureh Peace Accord and commitments to participate peacefully in the election process.

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