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**REMARKS BY THE ACTING MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE HON. PROFESSOR AMON MURWIRA AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) MISSION IN THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE AT THE SIGNING CEREMONY FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENT GUIDING THE OBSERVATION OF THE 2023 HARMONISED ELECTIONS, 30 JUNE 2023.**

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1. In terms of Section 158 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, and also in terms of Presidential Proclamation number 4 of 2023, published in Statutory Instrument number 85 of 2023, the Republic of Zimbabwe shall be conducting Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Government Wednesday the 23rd of August 2023. Elections on
2. Since the advent of universal suffrage in 1980, it has been Zimbabwe's practice to invite Foreign Governments and Organisations to observe its elections.
3. In line with this tradition, and the Governments Engagement and Re-Engagement Policy, the Government of Zimbabwe is, once again, inviting international observers to witness the people of Zimbabwe exercise their sovereign right to freely elect a President, Members of the Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, and Local Government Representatives of their choice during these forthcoming Harmonized General Elections.

4. Among other international organisations, European Union is one of the entities invited to observe the upcoming Harmonized Elections.

5. An invitation was issued by the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Cde. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa to the European Union to observe the elections from the pre-election stage right through elections to the post-election stage.

6. The EU has accepted the invitation to observe the elections and the EU Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) is ready to be deployed.

7. In this regard, I am pleased to inform that the purpose of the Administrative Arrangement (AA) is to organize the relationship between the EU EOM and the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

8. The EU EOM and its members will maintain strict impartiality, objectivity and independence in the conduct of their mandate.

9. All EU EOM observers shall respect the Code of Conduct in terms of the First Schedule of the Zimbabwe Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13].

10. Furthermore, the EU EOM observers will respect other codes of Conducts such as the Code of Conduct for European Observers, Declaration of Principles of International Election Observation and Code of Conduct for International Election Observers.

11. The Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe will provide EU EOM with any assistance required for the implementation of the

EU EOM mandate, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

12. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade representing the Government of Zimbabwe is entering and signing with the European Union (EU) send its team to observe our Harmonized Elections on 2023.

13. In 2018 Harmonized Elections, a similar administrative arrangement was signed between the two parties.

14. In conclusion, the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe is inviting all entities to come and observe the Harmonized Elections. The teams are however reminded that their purpose is solely to observe not to monitor the election processes.