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ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY
P.O. BOX 3243
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
TELEPHONE 517700 TELEX 21046 OAU
FAX 513036

STATEMENT BY THE OAU SECRETARY-GENERAL
DR. SALIM AHMED SALIM
CONCERNING THE OAU OBSERVATION OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL AND LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS
IN THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

The OAU has, over the last two years, followed closely the evolution of Tanzania's political development, from a single party democratic system to a pluralistic multiparty system.

We in the OAU are encouraged by Tanzania's smooth and peaceful transition to pluralism. The people of Tanzania have once more demonstrated that they can make far-reaching political changes while maintaining the much acclaimed record of a united and peaceful nation.

I should like, on this occasion, on behalf of the OAU, the people of Africa and on my own behalf, to appeal to all the people of Tanzania to cast their vote in a peaceful manner and to accept the verdict of the majority of the people once the results are known. Indeed, in any election there will be winners and losers.

But in the final analysis the will of the popular choice means it is the people who are the real winners.

We are aware that 13 political parties are participating in the elections and have fielded more than 1,000 parliamentary candidates. We are equally aware that official campaigns have been going on for almost two months. Despite the number of parties and candidates who are involved in the election, we are generally satisfied to observe that the whole process leading to the forthcoming elections, has, by and large, been conducted peacefully.

The OAU will be present to observe the on-going democratic process which will culminate in the general elections to be held in the next few days first in Zanzibar on October 22 and thereafter, in the whole of Tanzania on October 29.

The OAU Elections Observer Group will be led by Hon. Justice Kamal BADRI, President of the Supreme Court of Ethiopia and Chairman of the National Electoral Commission, and includes Representatives from Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and South Africa. It is a high-level multi-disciplinary Team comprising Members of Parliament, Electoral Commissioners, Jurists and Diplomats. It also includes OAU Secretariat officials and a Member of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights.

ADDIS ABABA,
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