



ECOWAS STATEMENT ON GUINEA BISSAU

The ECOWAS Commission has been following with increasing concern the prevailing political and security environment in Guinea Bissau in the run-up to the second round of the Presidential election, scheduled to take place on 22 April 2012.

The successful completion of the process to elect a new President for the country is indispensable for consolidating international efforts aimed at helping the country to stabilize the political situation in order to facilitate critical reforms in several areas. The Commission, therefore, urges the political class to set aside their differences and ensure the successful conclusion of the electoral process in consonance with the legal provisions in force. All parties should seek redress on all electoral disputes through the legal process.

ECOWAS reiterates the cardinal principles enshrined in the Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance, which prescribe Zero Tolerance for power obtained or maintained by unconstitutional means. In this regard, ECOWAS wishes once again to remind the military of its responsibility to scrupulously respect the

constitutional order, and to underscore the determination of the Community to oppose any obstruction of the on-going electoral process by the armed forces.

ECOWAS wishes to reassure the Government and people of Guinea Bissau of its abiding commitment to mobilize regional and international support for national reconciliation, the re-launch of the economy, and for critical reforms in the defence and security sector.

In that regard, ECOWAS urges all the stakeholders in Guinea Bissau to take ownership of the national reconstruction programs drawn up and to actively participate, in an inclusive manner, in their implementation with the facilitation and coordination of ECOWAS and the support of partners, including the African Union, CPLP, the United Nations and the European Union.

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President of the ECOWAS Commission

Abuja, 06 April 2012