



POLITICAL PARTIES REGISTRATION COMMISSION

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PPRC PRESS RELEASE – 3RD NOVEMBER, 2021

The attention of the Political Parties Registration Commission (hereinafter called "the Commission"), is drawn to a portion of the Press Release, issued by The European Union Election Follow-up Mission, dated the 29th October 2021, that alludes to it and notes the following:

1. That the Mission did not disclose the source(s) of their information nor did they provide the data or evidence, that informed their conclusions on the Commission. Such disclosure would have not only tended to best practice, but also assisted the public, in their appreciation of the context of those information.
2. That the Commission with support from the Government, EU and other Partners, has made tremendous strides in the implementation of the recommendations of Elections Observer Missions, but that was not acknowledged in the Mission's Release, even though the assessment of that, was the core mandate of their visit.
3. That the Mission did not accord the Commission, the opportunity to present its own side of the information given them, about its conduct.

Although they had a one hour session with the leadership of the Commission, it was however, not privileged with the allegations that searched its public trust, with a view to availing it, the opportunity to respond.

The Commission is therefore concerned that, the principle of natural justice, that requires the other Party to be heard, was not adhered to by the Mission.

4. That the Note Verbal received by the Commission, from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, on the purpose of the visit, did not indicate that, the Mission was also here on an institutional audit of

the Commission, over and above, following up on the implementation of their recommendations. Otherwise, the Commission would have readily obliged them, with evidence of how much it has done, to maintain a balance, in its dealings with Political Parties, under a very challenging Political climate, which apparently the Mission did not have recourse to.

5. The Commission is apprehensive that, the Statements in the Release that relate to it, (even if made bonafide), may be deliberately taken out of context and unduly used to engender public disaffection for the Commission and undermine the public confidence we are assiduously working to achieve, again under very difficult circumstances and again, which circumstances did not seem to interest the Mission.

The Mission I suppose is not oblivious of the fact that, detractors abound, that would peddle misconceptions of their Statements, in terms of context and spirit and freeloader from those misconceptions, in furtherance of their personal Political interests.

We are fearful that, Statements like these, from a key development partner, could be vexatiously used by sore losers, on all sides of the political divide, to dispute the outcome of the 2023 elections, in any event.

This is frightening to a nascent and fragile democracy like ours and exposes us, elections management bodies personnel, to undue preconceived hostility.

6. Finally, the Commission wishes to state that, although what the Mission was following- up on are recommendations, we continue to look forward to mutually respectful engagements with the EU and other Partners, on their implementation.

Signed by: _____



A.M. Bangurah
(The Chairman)