

COMISSÃO DA CEDEAO
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ECOWAS COMMISSION
ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF WEST AFRICAN STATES



COMMISSION DE LA CEDEAO
COMMUNAUTÉ ÉCONOMIQUE DES ÉTATS DE L'AFRIQUE DE
L'OUEST

COMMUNIQUE

ECOWAS EVALUATION MISSION ON THE TRANSITION IN MALI

Bamako, 9th to 12th May 2021

ECOWAS Commission
Bamako, 12th May 2021

1. Within the framework of the implementation of the recommendations of the consultative meeting of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Commission of the West African States (ECOWAS) on the political situation in Mali, held on 15th September 2020 in Accra, Ghana, and in conformity with the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol A/SP1/12/01 of 21st December 2001 on Democracy and Good Governance, a high-level mission led by H.E. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Special Envoy and ECOWAS Mediator to Mali, visited Mali from 9th to 12th May 2021.

2. The ECOWAS Mediator's delegation comprised General Francis A. BEHANZIN, ECOWAS Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, Professor Hamidou BOLY, Resident Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Mali, H.E. Chikézie NWACHUKWU, Ambassador-designate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Mali and Mr. Desmond AGYEMANG-BAAH, Charge d'Affaires at the Embassy of Ghana in Mali, representing the Chair of the ECOWAS Council of Ministers.

3. H.E. El Ghassim WANE, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General in Mali, Head of the Multidimensional Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and the Head of the African Union Mission for Mali and the Sahel, Mr. Fulgence ZENETH, also participated in the Mission.

4. The purpose of this mission is to assess the progress made in the conduct of the Nation's affairs since the establishment of the Transitional institutions. The Monitoring and Evaluation Mission is also being carried out in the context of a socio-political and security situation characterised by discussions on the electoral process, particularly on:

- the electoral calendar;
- the mandate of the Steering Committee (COS) set up by the Prime Minister to carry out the planned institutional reforms;
- the framework for the revision of the electoral law;

- the issue concerning the consensual body in charge of organising the elections;
- the threat of renewed unrest in the social front; and
- the resurgence of security incidences and their consequences.

5. The Mission paid a courtesy call on the President of the Transition and Head of State, **H.E. Bah N'DAW**, the President of the National Council of the Transition, **Colonel Malick DIAW**, the Vice-President of the Transition, **Colonel Assimi GOITA**, and the members of the Constitutional Court. It held a working session with the Prime Minister and Head of Government, **H.E. Moctar OUANE**, and the Minister of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MATD). The Mission held consultations with the stakeholders, the members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the political parties, the religious and traditional leaders, and the civil society actors.

6. At the end of the various consultations with all the stakeholders, the mission noted with satisfaction that remarkable progress has been made in the implementation of the recommendations made in the Final Communique of the ECOWAS Mediator's Assessment Mission of January 2021.

7. The mission also welcomed the judicial process relating to those who have been arrested over the alleged attempt to destabilize and undermine state security, which led to the acquittal of the alleged perpetrators, the restart of dialogue among the stakeholders within the framework of consultation with the Minister of Territorial Administration and the establishment of the Steering Committee under the Prime Minister.

8. The mission further took note of the publication of the electoral calendar on 15th April 2021 by the MATD and the technical work of the Delegate-General for Elections concerning the voters' register and the chronogram of the subsequent electoral activities.

9. The mission welcomed all the efforts made by the Government to create the enabling conditions for a successful transition, in particular the field visit led by the Prime Minister to the zones in the Centre, as well as the meetings

initiated by the President of the Transition to foster Peace and Reconciliation, the joint military operations initiated by the Government to progressively secure the entire territory, the planned disarmament and conversion of armed self-defence groups and militias, the gradual return of the State to the parts of the territory where terrorist groups are active, etc. Accordingly, the Mission encourages the Government to continue its efforts to strengthen the necessary security for the conduct of peaceful and credible elections.

10. The Mission welcomed and encouraged the Government to implement its initiative to organize a social conference in the second half of May 2021 to engage the social actors in working towards appropriate and lasting solutions in the spirit of consolidating the environment of trust and peace necessary for the successful conduct of the transition.

11. The mission noted, however, the concerns raised by some stakeholders regarding:

- the prioritisation of the reforms;
- the urgency of a consensus on the choice of the election management bodies;
- The timeliness of the territorial divisions,
- the respect for human rights and rule of law, as well as the issue of inclusivity in the conduct of the transition.

The mission also noted the need to enhance communication between the government and the stakeholders regarding the implementation of the government's Action Program.

12. In the light of the concerns raised by the stakeholders, the Mission encourages the Government to ensure greater inclusivity of the main socio-political actors in the Steering Committee to reach a consensus on the prioritization of the reforms that should lead to a transparent, credible and universally acceptable electoral process within the timeframe set for the transition. It therefore urges the other stakeholders to work with the

Government to achieve this inclusiveness by actively participating in the work of the Steering Committee.

13. The Mediator stressed the imperative need for all stakeholders to continue to demonstrate a spirit of responsibility and patriotism at this critical juncture of the ongoing transition and to draw on their collective wisdom to overcome the present challenges. The Mediator will continue to monitor the situation very closely and has tasked the local monitoring committee to intensify its efforts to encourage the Malian stakeholders to reach a consensus on the outstanding issues of the transition and to regularly report to him, within the framework of the mandate given to him by ECOWAS.

14. Lastly, the Mission commended the Government for its commitment to implement the Government's Action Plan, to respect the 18-month transition period, and to conduct an inclusive, credible and transparent electoral process.

15. The Mission also took note of the requests made to ECOWAS and the other development partners to support Mali in the technical, material, and financial organization of the elections for a successful transition.

16. The Mission reiterated ECOWAS' solidarity with the Government and people of Mali and expressed its commitment to support them in the process for a successful transition.

17. The Mission expresses its gratitude to the Government of Mali and the socio-political actors for the warm welcome and all the facilities put in place to ensure the successful conduct of the Mission.

Done at Bamako, on 12th May 2021.



H.E. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan
ECOWAS Mediator

