

## **LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS OF 9 FEBRUARY 2020**

### **Statement by the Minister of Territorial Administration at the close of polls**

Yaounde, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,**

On November 10, 2019, the President of the Republic of Cameroon, Head of State, H.E. Paul BIYA, convened the electorate for the twin legislative and municipal elections of 9 February 2020.

Information from Elections Cameroon (ELECAM), the independent body in charge of organizing elections in Cameroon, indicates that thirty-three (33) political parties presented candidates for parliamentary elections while forty-four (43) political parties presented candidates for municipal elections.

Campaigns started on January 25, 2020 and ended yesterday, Saturday, February 08, 2020, at midnight.

Globally, electoral campaigns went on hitch-free nation-wide. Apart from a few isolated and inconsequential attacks carried out by terrorists in the North-West and South-West Regions at the start of the campaigns, the parties that ran for the February 9 twin polls canvassed for votes in calm and serenity throughout the National triangle.

The call for boycott made by leaders of political parties who lacked the courage to confront the electorate in the legislative and municipal elections was largely ignored by the vast majority of Cameroonians.

Today's municipal and legislative elections took place in total calm, transparency and serenity all over the country.

Reports received from Administrative Authorities at the close of polls clearly confirm that the legislative and municipal elections actually took place in all the ten (10) Regions, fifty-eight (58) Divisions and 360 Sub-Divisions of the Republic of Cameroon.

In a bid to enhance the transparency of Cameroon's electoral system, the Minister of Territorial Administration accredited 16,765 national and foreign observers who effectively travelled to the ten (10) Regions.

Concerning the North-West and South-West Regions, the population turned out massively to exercise their civic duties in all the administrative units.

Over 150 journalists were accredited to cover elections in these two regions. Television and social media images broadcast since this morning are clear testimony of the enthusiasm and commitment of the population in these two regions to exercise their civic duties.

At the close of polls, it is clear that the boycott calls made by ill-intentioned politicians and lame terrorists did not have any impact on the population. Terrorists are hence reduced to social media propaganda and manipulation to influence weak minds.

In his end-of-year speech, the President of the Republic, Head of State, H.E. Paul BIYA, urged:

*All Cameroonians who are registered on the electoral roll to go and cast their votes, bearing in mind that they will be electing the men and women who will translate into reality the reforms desired by the Cameroonian people, notably fast-tracking the implementation of decentralization.*

As a man who preaches by example, the Head of State re-echoed this call today after performing his civic duty.

Exit poll reports from Administrative Authorities confirm that the vast majority of Cameroonians displayed a high sense of patriotism by heeding the Head of State's call and massively going to the polls to exercise their right to vote. This patriotic commitment is to be hailed.

As Government's Agent in the electoral process, the Ministry of Territorial Administration, through Administrative Authorities, provided

ELECAM with appropriate security for the smooth running of the just-ended twin elections.

The Minister of Territorial Administration would once more like to remind all stakeholders that grievances, if any, should be expressed through legal channels.

Eventual claims, if any won't be significant enough to undermine the credibility of the polls, and hence, the sincerity of the results due to be proclaimed by competent bodies.

Only competent bodies have the right to publish results of the just-ended legislative and municipal elections. President Paul BIYA, to whom the interest of the nation comes before any other partisan considerations, said, not long ago, that "Cameroon's democratic process is now irreversible".

This Sunday, the Head of State reaffirmed it in these terms: "Democracy is effective in Cameroon and it is advancing in giant strides."

The calm and serenity which characterised the just-ended polls is eloquent proof of the maturity of Cameroonians. Political party leaders and the electorate are called upon to wait for the verdict in peace and tranquillity. Under the enlightened leadership of **H. E. Paul BIYA**, Cameroon is a State of law. Only the ballot box speaks.

Thank you for your kind attention.