

## **Statement of the Minister of Territorial Administration on 12 March 2023** **Senatorial Election**

In compliance with Decree No. 2023/023 signed on 13 January 2023 by the **President of the Republic, H.E. Paul BIYA**, the election of Senators held in all the 58 divisional headquarters of Cameroon, this Sunday, 12 March 2023.

According to the provisions of Law No. 2012/001 of 19 April 2012 on the Electoral Code, amended and supplemented by Law No. 2012/017 of 21 December 2012 and Law No. 2019/005 of 25 April 2019, polling stations opened at 8 a.m. and closed at 6 p.m.

This election was preceded by a heated campaign during which ten political parties who had presented their lists of candidates freely expressed themselves equitably on the public media to sell their respective political ideologies and convince a large number of electors. I reiterate that the Electoral College consisted of regional councillors and municipal councillors.

That said, the public service media was fair in strictly respecting broadcast time devoted to each political party during the electoral campaign.

On the other hand, some private media organs rather did the contrary, giving more air time to certain political parties, thereby making the political debate unbalanced. Nevertheless, the 2023 senatorial election generated unprecedented enthusiasm and commitment.

This is an undeniable evidence that the Senate is a strategic institution that plays its role in a Cameroon that is resolutely committed to its emergence under the enlightened leadership of **His Excellency Paul BIYA, President of the Republic, Head of State**.

Furthermore, the heated electoral campaign that we experienced is a sign of the full commitment of Cameroonians to the decentralisation policy prescribed by the **Head of State, H.E. PAUL BIYA**.

Generally, the senatorial election took place this Sunday in a peaceful and serene atmosphere in all the electoral constituencies. More than 3,000 national and international observers were accredited by the Ministry of Territorial Administration. They travelled across all the ten Regions of the country, and we hope that they will produce objective reports on the conduct of this election which, in our opinion, was free, transparent and credible.

As Government Agent in the electoral process, the Ministry of Territorial Administration took appropriate measures to provide *Elections Cameroon* (ELECAM) with the security framework needed for the smooth running of the polls. As of now, no major incident has been reported in any of the 58 divisions of the country likely to affect the credibility of the results when they shall be proclaimed by the competent institution.

In terms of administration, the supervision of the electoral process ended at 6 p.m. with the closing of polling stations. The rest of the procedure will be handled by ELECAM and the Constitutional Council.

I call on all political parties that ran for this election to wait for official results and welcome them in a spirit of fair play and political maturity.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**