

## **EASF Election Observer Mission**



### **Initial Report: EASF Election Observation Mission in the Republic of Seychelles special voting 22nd October 2020.**

**Issued on 22nd October 2020, Mahe Seychelles.**

EASF Election Observer Mission has observed a high turnout on the first day of special voting held today 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020 on some outer Islands, Praslin and on Mahe. This election is fundamental to the political situation in the Republic of the Seychelles where the election is being highly contested by three candidates for presidential and four political parties and two independent candidates for the parliamentary seats.

The methodology of the Mission is resolutely inscribed in the structural framework of principles elaborated in key provisions of international instruments notably the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2012), the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, (2002), the AU Guidelines for Election Observation and Monitoring Missions (2002), and the United Nations Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation (2005). The Mission also takes into consideration regional instruments and particularly the national legal framework for the conduct of elections. In line with its mandate, the EASF-EOM is meeting with key actors of the electoral process notably the Electoral Commission, civil society and the candidates.

This international election observer mission consists of observers from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Uganda. The observers are from the civil society sector, media, peace and security. The EASF election observers were deployed in seven polling stations today. The EASF Mission noted with satisfaction the active role of the local observers from the two observer groups CDWS and ARID.

The EASF-EOM notes with satisfaction that the first day of special voting was conducted under calm, serenity, transparency and without major incidents. This election represents an important step towards the consolidation of the democratic process in Seychelles. We commend all voters who have exercised their civic duty in a calm, peaceful and pacific manner and party agents for their adherence to the code of conduct. EASF-EOM notes with satisfaction the role of the media in the dissemination of updated, factual and credible information to the public at large.

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EASF-EOM has received information relating to the following points;

1. Envelope for presidential candidate lacking sufficient features to ensure proper and effective seal.
2. Some isolated cases of voters' intimidation
3. Non-adherence to the public health measures, no social distancing at some polling stations
4. and long queues in some polling stations due to limited copies of voters' roll

EASF-EOM notes with satisfaction the work being done by the Election Commission and we are hopeful that the concerns highlighted above will be promptly addressed by the commission in time for the main voting day, Saturday 24th October 2020.

The EASF calls on voters to actively engage and carry out their civic obligation and constitutional duty by voting in the general elections. EASF is appealing to the citizens to maintain the peaceful environment, adherence to the rule of law and to promote respect and tolerance throughout the elections.

The EASF will issue a preliminary statement based on the objective assessment of the process on Sunday 25th October, 2020.