PREVENTING ELECTORAL VIOLENCE
VIOLANCE MONITORING DURING 9 FEBRUARY 2020 LEGISLATIVE AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS THROUGH THE "WOMEN'S SITUATION ROOM CAMEROON"

- Second release following the progress of elections
  (9 February 2020, 10:30 a.m – 6 p.m)

Within the framework of the municipal and legislative elections holding on 9 February 2020 in Cameroon, the "Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections and Peace Education" Platform coordinated by WILPF Cameroon contributes through monitoring, citizen watch and alert, to a peaceful national electoral process.

After the first communication released at 12 noon and which focused on the opening of polling stations, the Women's Situation Room Cameroon publishes this second communiqué on the conduct of the vote.

The following points were noted:

- Concerning the polling stations:
  ➢ The relocation of several polling stations was observed without prior and adequate information to voters, in particular: The cases of the voting centre of La Caisse in Dschang moved to Notre Dame College and of the Mimboman Gare Routière office in Yaoundé 4, relocated to the Pharaohs School Complex in Mimboman; the case of the Blaise Pascal Institute in Egedji moved to an office at the back of the building; the case of Etoa-Meki, where the office was relocated from the Social Centre to the Pépinière School; a failed attempt to relocate to Maroua I (Opéra Quarter) due to the categorical refusal of the Quarter Head and the Populations; Bamenda Upstation;

- Concerning the electoral rolls:
  ➢ Voters' lists were not pasted in front of some offices, such as the Centre (Yaoundé 6); duplication was noted in the same centre;
  ➢ Some voters' names were absent on the electoral rolls (Case of Akwa Technical High School (Douala);

- Concerning the availability and performance of electoral material:
  ➢ In general, ELECAM regularly equipped the polling stations with electoral material for the elections;
  ➢ Nevertheless, it should be noted that in some polling stations, cases of irregularities were noted: absence of seals on ballot boxes in some polling stations; inadequate layout of the voting booth in the Public School Logbessou polling station in Douala V, likely to affect the secrecy of the vote;

- Concerning practical voting operations
Interference in the confidentiality of the vote by permanent communications between the CPDM representative and voters in the voting booth at the Patchiguinami polling center Maroua A;

- Following attempts by CPDM militants to manipulate voters, clashes erupted at the polling centre in the Domayo sports complex (Maroua 1). The intervention of the police calmed the situation;

- Temporary detention (from 8:00 to 9:20 am) of the SDF ballot papers by the President of Polling Station C of Club CAMTEL in Yaoundé 1;

Concerning members at the polling stations:

- Attempt to impede access to the Scrutineers' Office: case of the UFDC in Bonandalle Public School, and the PADDEC in Makepe which resulted in physical violence (fight).

Regarding other major incidents:

- Continuation of election campaign activities by CPDM militants (Station K of the Akwa Technical High School Polling Centre);

- The arrest of a PCRN militant possessing twenty voters' cards by law enforcement forces at the Cité des Palmiers High School in Douala. The person is detained at the Police Station 12 of Douala;

- Multiple votes, voting for others, electoral corruption characterized by the buying of votes at the Kamgo (Bandjoun) Polling Centre, Catholic School A and B polling stations, by a CPDM Municipal Councilor, which caused a fight between the said Municipal Councilor and an opposition candidate;

- Electoral charters in Bandjoun where students from the University of Dschang were transported to vote in Bandjoun;

- Suspicious financial transactions were observed in Bandjoun around the Kamgo Polling Centre.

- Circulation of leaflets containing hate, tribal and intimidating messages in order to influence votes in the Mouno and the Noun;

With regard to the specific case of the North-West and South-West Regions

- Difficulties for some IDPs from North West and South-West Regions to vote as some transfer requests were not successful and/or the persons concerned were not sufficiently informed about the procedure;

- Non-distribution of electoral material in some polling stations in the North-West, stored at Army Camp in Up Station (Bamenda), due to difficulties in accessing these sites.

A Final Declaration on the general conduct of the twin elections will be released on Monday 10 February 2020.

Issued in Yaoundé on 9 February 2020

The Cameroon Women for Peaceful Elections and Peace Education Platform