



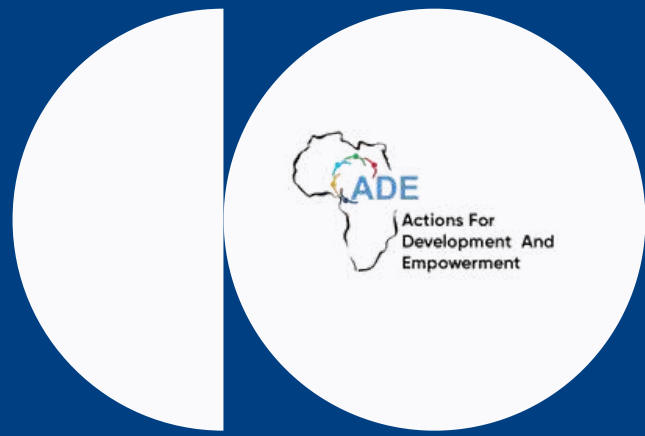
**Actions For
Development And
Empowerment**

OFFICIAL REPORT OF ADE'S MISSION DURING CAMEROON'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

OCTOBER, 2025

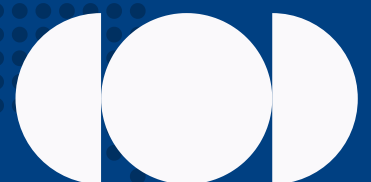
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Marked by an atmosphere of increased political engagement and commitment, the 2025 presidential elections in Cameroon witnessed a vibrant population ready to uphold democratic principles and values. As an organisation engrossed in fostering inclusive electoral processes, ADE utilized essential avenues to achieve this goal. With accreditation from the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) we deplored 40 independent and impartial citizen election observers across 7 of Cameroon's 10 regions, covering the Central, Adamawa, Far North, North-West, North, West, and Littoral areas on the 12th of October 2025 to contribute to a transparent, inclusive and democratic electoral process.

The pre-electoral period was characterized by a generally calm and stable political climate, marked by optimism, positivity and renewed public hope in the democratic process. This period also witnessed several notable political developments that generated public interest and engagement. A key indicator of this growing civic participation was the significant increase in the number of registered voters. Compared to the previous election cycle in 2018, registered voters rose from 6,667,754 to 8,010,464, an increase of approximately 21 percent. This substantial growth reflects a more politically engaged population, heightened public confidence in democratic reforms and increased awareness of the importance of participation in the electoral process.

On election day, the voting process was generally in a peaceful atmosphere with significant citizen participation and a remarkable engagement of young voters. The logistics put in place by Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) were generally considered satisfactory, with election materials adequately available in the majority of polling stations.

Some positive points worth mentioning are the opening and closing of polling stations within the regulatory deadlines in most centres, the presence of electoral staff and general compliance with procedures, public and transparent counting of ballots in several localities, effective maintenance of security by defense and security forces and assistance to voters with disabilities.



While the election process was largely smooth, several areas were identified that warrant attention to inform future improvements. Notably, the electoral lists contained significant inconsistencies, with some registered voters unable to find their names on the lists at their designated polling stations. This situation caused confusion and, in some cases, resulted in voter disenfranchisement.

Additionally, there were substantial delays in the accreditation of institutions and organizations, as well as in the distribution of observer badges and identification materials. These delays adversely affected ADE's observation mission and resulted in more limited coverage than initially planned.

The report also highlights accessibility challenges in certain regions, where elderly persons and individuals with disabilities experienced difficulties accessing their polling stations. Furthermore, some incidents observed during the mission included allegations of double voting, attempts to manipulate ballots and ballot box stuffing.

The post-election period was marked by a breakdown of the initial climate of peace. Political disputes emerged, with the main opposition figure rejecting the results and calling them "fake." Protests broke out in several cities (Douala, Yaoundé, Garoua), resulting in casualties (4 to 6 deaths according to the media) and numerous injuries during clashes with law enforcement. The European Union expressed its "deep concern" over the repression, while human rights organizations denounced arbitrary arrests.

The Constitutional Council of Cameroon announced the results of the presidential election held on 12 October 2025, officially proclaiming the final outcomes on 27 October 2025. According to the Council, incumbent President Paul Biya, candidate of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement (RDPC), secured victory with 53.66 percent of the valid votes cast. He was followed by Issa Tchiroma Bakary of the Front for National Salvation of Cameroon (FSNC), who obtained 35.19 percent of the votes, while the remaining candidates collectively accounted for 11.15 percent. The proclamation of these results by the Constitutional Council marked the conclusion of the electoral process and confirmed the official outcome of the presidential race.



To enhance the credibility, transparency and efficiency of future electoral processes, the following strategic recommendations are proposed:

Institutional Reforms

- Enhance transparency by ensuring the systematic publication of election results at the polling station level.
- Guarantee the accuracy and regular updating of electoral rolls to minimize inconsistencies and reduce the risk of voter disenfranchisement.
- Ensure the timely accreditation of observers, including the early distribution of badges and identification materials, to enable comprehensive and effective election observation.

Technical Improvements

- Standardize polling station infrastructure and improve physical accessibility, particularly for elderly persons and persons with disabilities.
- Provide adequate and suitable spaces in high-traffic polling stations to ensure orderly voting and counting processes.
- Implement emergency lighting systems to guarantee the continuity and integrity of vote counting in the event of power outages.
- Ensure the reliability and functionality of digital platforms used to provide voter information and electoral updates.

Strengthening Transparency

- Facilitate the equitable presence of representatives from all political parties at polling stations and during key stages of the electoral process.
- Guarantee equal access to public media for all candidates throughout the campaign period.
- Strengthen ELECAM's institutional communication by providing timely, clear and consistent information before, during and after the electoral process.

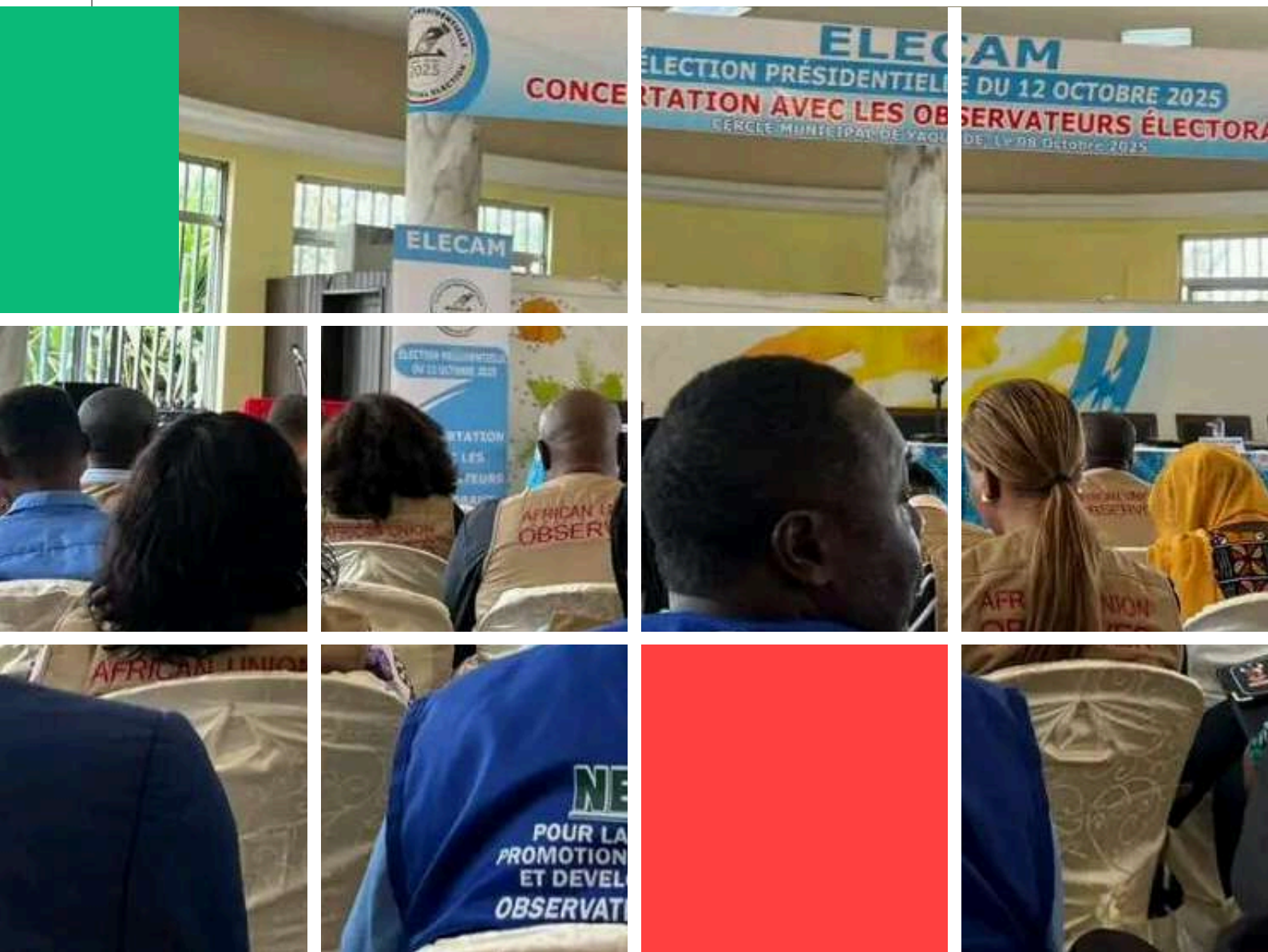
The 2025 presidential election revealed both the resilience of Cameroon's democratic framework and the persistence of structural weaknesses. While the vote took place in a generally orderly environment, challenges related to transparency, coordination and post-election management highlight the urgent need for reforms. The democratic consolidation of Cameroon necessarily requires inclusive political dialogue, a thorough reform of the electoral system and the restoration of trust between citizens and electoral institutions. ADE remains committed to supporting the strengthening of democratic processes in Cameroon and calls on all stakeholders to prioritize dialogue and peace for the country's future.



I. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the consolidated summary of observations collected by the ADE Mission in the context of the presidential election of 12 October 2025. Its purpose is to document the findings, incidents, reactions, and recommendations inherent to the electoral process.

Actions for Development and Empowerment (ADE) is a non-profit, community-based, youth-led organization founded in 2019 with the aim of empowering young people to engage with issues that affect their lives and to play an active role in the development process, thereby creating positive change in their communities and across Africa more broadly. Since its establishment, ADE has mobilized more than 3,000 young people, women, and marginalized groups through civic education campaigns, electoral mobilization initiatives, and democratic dialogue platforms, under two flagship programs: Empowering Every Vote and My Vote My Voice. ADE has members in all ten regions of Cameroon.



ADE focuses on three thematic areas:



ADE envisions a world in which all people, even in the most remote regions in Africa, are equipped and inspired to improve their livelihoods and achieve the future they desire.

II. CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The presidential election of 12 October 2025 took place in a context marked by high political stakes, underlying tensions in certain regions, and significant public expectation. In this regard, ADE deployed its observers accredited by the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) across 7 regions of Cameroon. This was, in fact, ADE's first participation in a national election observation mission in Cameroon.

Overall, ADE observed the smooth conduct of the election and duly acknowledged the quality of the organization of the polls as prepared by ELECTIONS CAMEROON (ELECAM), the independent body responsible for managing the electoral and referendum process in Cameroon. From a logistical standpoint, ADE observed that all polling stations were well equipped.

III. PRE-ELECTION PERIOD

The pre-election period in Cameroon (up to 12 October 2025) preceding the presidential election of 12 October 2025 was characterized by a generally calm and stable political climate, marked by optimism, positivity, and a renewed sense of public hope in the democratic process. A key indicator of this growing civic interest was the significant increase in the number of registered voters. Compared to the previous electoral cycle in 2018, the number of registered voters rose from 6,667,754 to 8,010,464, representing an increase of approximately 21 percent.

The Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) and Elections Cameroon (ELECAM) played a central role in the conduct of election preparations, alongside national and international observers.

1. Political and Institutional Context

Cameroon entered the 2025 presidential election under the leadership of Paul Biya, candidate of the Cameroon People's Democratic Party (CPDM), in power since 1982, who chose to run for an eighth term, despite questions regarding his age and governance style. His decision was presented as a response to calls for continuity and stability, while many citizens and opposition supporters expressed a desire for change.

At the same time, legal disputes intensified, with disqualified candidates appealing to the courts, and the Constitutional Council became a central actor in political disputes concerning eligibility and the electoral process.

Official campaign mechanisms were established, media airtime was allocated to candidates and regulated by authorities, but these measures took place in a context of mistrust and unequal access between the ruling party and opposition voices.

2. Reforms and Legal Framework

No substantial electoral reform was adopted prior to the election. Calls for a revision of the legal framework, improved voting transparency, and publication of results by polling stations were not realized.

3. Major Political Actors

Here is a reorganised, clearer and more consistent presentation in the form of a structured list:



The absence of Maurice Kamto (MRC) had a significant impact on the competition, generating strong reactions in both political and citizen circles.

4. Pre-Selection and Candidacies

The submission of candidacies closed in mid-September 2025. ELECAM validated 12 candidates, including Paul Biya, Cabral Libii, Joshua Osih, Issa Tchiroma Bakary, Akere Muna, Hermine Patricia Tomaino Ndam Njoya, Serge Espoir Matomba, Pierre Kwemo, Jacques Bouhga-Hagbe, Hiram Samuel Iyodi, Seta Caxton Ateki, and Bello Boubba. The rejection of certain candidacies, notably that of the MRC, sparked debates over the neutrality and rigor of the selection process.

5. Political and Social Climate

The political climate before the election remained tense, but without major incidents. Demonstrations occurred in some major cities, while the anglophone regions of the Northwest and Southwest remained under heightened military control. Calls for peace were issued by religious organizations, civic associations, and local NGOs.

6. Campaigns and Mobilization

The pre-campaign began in July 2025. The CPDM focused on a message of stability and continuity. The CPNR centered its communication on youth, employment, and good governance.

The SDF and CNSF called for responsible voting and the consolidation of national unity.

Public media concentrated their coverage on the activities of the ruling party, while private media and social networks disseminated opposition messages.

7. Meetings and Observer Training

A key event of the pre-election period took place on 8 October 2025 at the Hilton Hotel in Yaoundé, where MINAT convened a working meeting with national and international election observers. According to the ministry, the meeting aimed to “coordinate the security of the process” and present the logistical measures put in place.

On the same day, ELECAM held an official training session for observers, accompanied by the distribution of election observation kits.

As part of observer preparation by MINAT and ELECAM, ADE organized a virtual training meeting on 10 October, bringing together its 40 observers across the country. This session aimed to provide participants with essential information from the various bodies responsible for election observation. It enabled observers to better understand the stakes of electoral observation and reporting while offering a platform to raise concerns, which were subsequently clarified.

8. Observations et missions internationales

Observation missions from the African Union, La Francophonie, and the European Union noted the need for better coherence among electoral actors. Observers nevertheless praised Cameroon’s logistical mobilization while recommending greater transparency and inter-institutional coordination.

9. Security Situation

Defense forces ensured the security of the process nationwide. Law enforcement operations were reinforced in high-risk regions, notably the Northwest, Southwest, and Far North. Despite a few isolated incidents, no major disturbances were recorded prior to the election.

10. Civil Society and Media Involvement

Civil society, through organizations and several religious networks, carried out awareness campaigns on citizen participation and violence prevention.

The media, particularly digital platforms, played an essential role in disseminating electoral information, although several cases of misinformation were reported.

11. Pre-Election Outlook

On the eve of 12 October 2025, Cameroon was in a state of relative calm. Voters showed strong interest in the election, while the international community called for transparency and the rapid publication of results. The main concern remained the credibility of the electoral process, in a context where coordination between MINAT and ELECAM still raised questions.

The pre-campaign and campaign period unfolded in an overall calm atmosphere. The main parties conducted their activities visibly on the ground and through social networks. ADE noted strong involvement of youth and women in civic mobilization.



IV. ELECTION DAY – 12 OCTOBER 2025



1. Regional Observations

Our observation deployment was successfully carried out, covering 7 regions through the engagement of 40 observers. Below is a detailed report structured by geographic zone, along with the initial remarks and observations raised by our observers.



Centre Region (Yaoundé and Surroundings)

Our mission deployed 16 observers across the districts of **Yaoundé 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, Mbalmayo, Bot-Makak, and Monatele**. Their reports reveal significant citizen participation and an overall peaceful process, but also highlight recurring issues related to transparency, logistics, and security.

a. Positive Aspects and Smooth Conduct

In the Yaoundé 6 district, the majority of polling stations opened at 8:00 a.m., with a few polling stations opening a few minutes later. All polling station officials were present, as well as security forces. The ballot boxes were checked and sealed while empty before the start of voting. Representatives from several political parties (PCRN, FSNC, RDPC) were present. Security forces were present and demonstrated calm, highly observant behavior, using a circular control system that was considered effective.

- **Peace and Professionalism :** In the districts of Yaoundé 2 and Yaoundé 6, the election was generally judged to be transparent and peaceful, with professional electoral staff and discreet yet effective security.
- **Tension Management :** In Yaoundé 6 and Yaoundé 2, incidents were quickly controlled by security forces, allowing the vote counting to proceed smoothly.
- **Transparency of Counting :** In Yaoundé 2, vote counting was conducted publicly and filmed, ensuring full transparency.
- **Assistance:** Assistance to voters with disabilities was positively noted in Yaoundé 7.
- **Availability of Materials :** All ballots were available in polling stations throughout Yaoundé.

b. Irregularities and Major Incidents

The main challenges centered on voter lists, arrests, and suspicions of manipulation.

Incidents and Suspected Fraud : In Yaoundé 5, a citizen was detained by the gendarmerie after a complaint accused him of fraud for holding an envelope outside a polling station. Tensions flared at 5:30 p.m. when a voter accused a polling station president of placing envelopes in the ballot box before closing.

In Yaoundé 6, a double-voting incident raised serious questions about voting process control. Also, at one of the polling stations in Yaoundé 6, some agitation was observed when a voter who had already cast their ballot attempted to interfere in duties reserved for polling station officials. The situation was quickly brought under control and calmed by security forces. Some voters, carrying old voter cards, were unable to locate their assigned polling stations in the same municipality.

In Mbalmayo, many voters were unable to vote or faced difficulties because the polling station on their voter card did not match the actual stations, and the lack of voter cards available on-site represented a significant logistical failure.

In Yaoundé 7, a violation of observation rights was reported by a polling station president. The absence of party representatives in some polling stations also raised concerns about the level of oversight and supervision. Additionally, in Yaoundé 7, allegations of ballot manipulation by electoral staff were reported, violating the secrecy and freedom of the vote.



Adamaoua Region

Our mission deployed 9 observers in the districts of **Ngaoundéré 2** and **Ngaoundéré 3**. Their detailed reports converge on a general finding of a smoothly conducted election, marked by adherence to procedures and notable voter participation.

1. Compliance Findings and Best Practices

The electoral process in the Adamaoua region stood out for the following positive points:

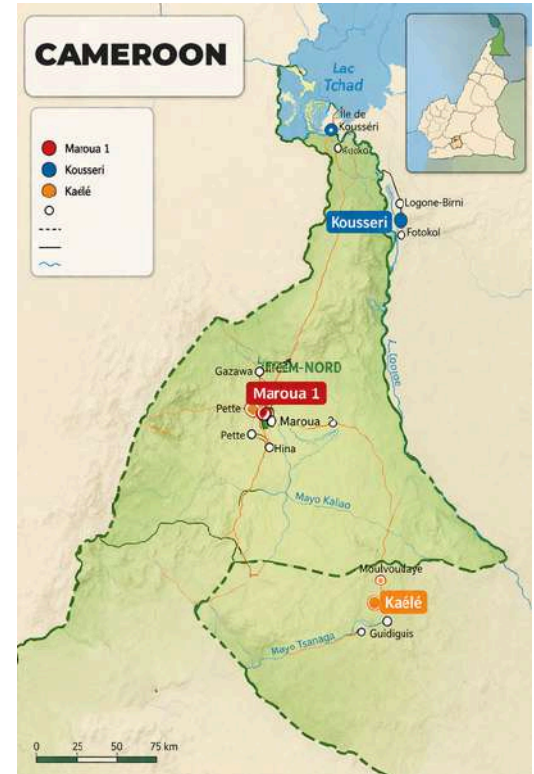
- Polling stations opened on time in all supervised centers, and closing also respected the official schedule.
- The voting process was orderly, calm, and transparent across all centers. Counting was conducted publicly, filmed, and results were displayed at the conclusion.
- Electoral staff were present, prepared, and professional, following the required procedures.
- Voters who were sick or disabled received assistance throughout the election.
- Security forces were considered highly attentive to the safety of all citizens, contributing to a peaceful and non-intrusive environment.

2. Reported Incidents and Areas for Improvement

Although the election was generally judged compliant, one logistical and administrative incident was reported :

Some observers were taken to the Ngaoundéré police station for lacking an observation note. This incident, which hindered the observation mission, highlights the need for clarification and better administrative coordination regarding the documentation required for observers.

It is noteworthy that no major incidents, conflicts, or acts of violence were recorded concerning the voting process itself in the supervised centers of Ngaoundéré 3.



Far North Region

Our mission deployed 6 observers in the districts of **Maroua 1**, **Kousséri**, and **Kaélé**. Their reports indicate that the election was generally peaceful but highlight recurring challenges related to logistics, accessibility, and the presence of official accreditations.

1. Positive Findings and Compliance with Procedures

- Polling stations in Maroua 3 opened on time at 8:00 a.m.
- Setup procedures, including the sealing of empty ballot boxes in the presence of ELECAM members and party representatives, were followed.
- Election day took place in a generally peaceful climate without widespread violence.
- In Maroua 3, the counting of ballots at the Djarengol Kodek polling station was conducted transparently.

2. Irregularities, Challenges, and Reported Incidents

- Physical accessibility to some polling stations was noted as very difficult for elderly or disabled voters.
- Low voter turnout in some stations raised questions about equal access to voting and local civic engagement.
- In Maroua 3, two voters complained that they did not receive all the ballots, requiring immediate correction and prompting heightened monitoring by local citizens.
- A suspected double-voting incident was reported in Maroua 1 (Louggol), although the issue was declared and resolved.
- The most notable incident involved observers from other organizations being expelled from polling stations and taken to the police station for lacking their official accreditation.



North Region

Our mission deployed 2 observers in the districts of **Garoua 2** and **Touboro**. Their reports indicate that the election was generally conducted in accordance with procedures, marked by calm and impartiality among electoral staff.

1. Compliance Findings and Best Practices

- Polling stations in Takasko opened punctually at 8:00 a.m., and closing occurred at 6:00 p.m., as required by regulations.
- Ballot boxes were checked and sealed empty in the presence of all stakeholders. All electoral materials were available and compliant.
- Three political parties (CPDM, CNSF, NUDP) were represented. Security was ensured by the police, supplemented by a patrol from the National Gendarmerie. The overall atmosphere was calm and friendly, without intimidation or pressure.
- Electoral staff demonstrated impartiality. Full assistance was provided to all voters from arrival to departure.

2. Reported Irregularities

Despite the generally smooth conduct of the election, a few minor but notable irregularities were observed:

- The presence of deceased candidates on the voter lists was noted. Some voters complained that their names were missing from the lists displayed in their polling stations and had to be redirected to other stations.
- ELECAM staff had to ensure strictly that no voter left with canceled ballots, insisting that such ballots be discarded into a trash bag inside the voting booth, thus maintaining the confidentiality of canceled votes.
- A temporary blockage of the Bénoué Bridge in Garoua was reported, disrupting logistics. The voting, however, remained calm.





West Region

Our mission deployed 4 observers in the West Region, covering the districts of **Santchou** and **Fouban**. Their observations indicate significant logistical issues that impeded the voting rights of several citizens.

1. General Findings

Overall, the electoral process was conducted well in the observed areas.

2. Logistical Issues

The challenges were mainly administrative and logistical :

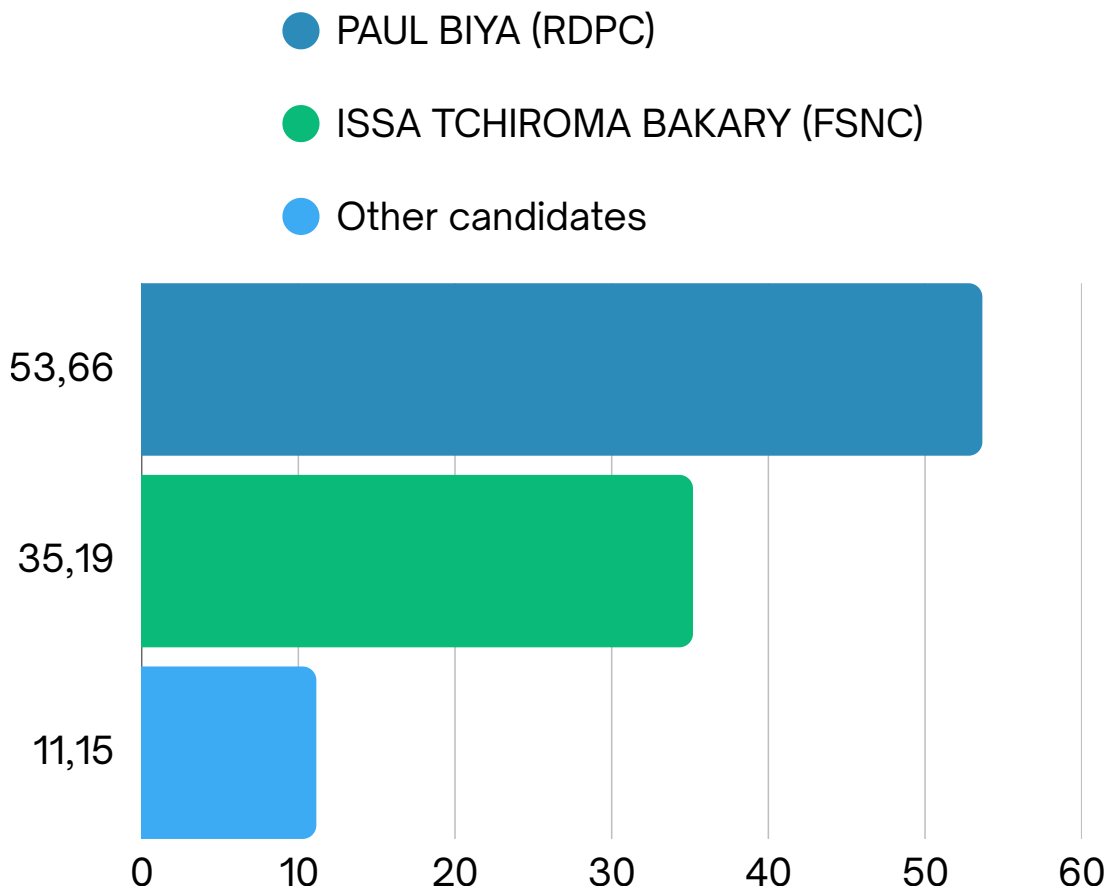
- Several voters had difficulty voting, and some were unable to do so, because the polling stations indicated on their voter cards did not match the actual stations in the field.
- Voters without voter cards faced major difficulties locating their polling stations.
- Lighting in the polling stations during counting was insufficient. With the only torch turned off, staff and observers had to use mobile phone lights to continue, compromising visibility and the reliability of results.
- A documented case of ballot stuffing occurred in Santchou, involving an administrative authority. There was an almost complete absence of opposition party representatives.

V. POST-ELECTION PERIOD BEFORE PROCLAMATION (13–26 OCTOBER 2025)

Between 13 and 26 October, the political climate remained under close monitoring. With the declaration of victory by the CNSF Party candidate, Issa Tchiroma, tensions and riots broke out in several cities of the country with citizens calling for the respect of the ballot box results prior to proclamation. At the same time, civil society organizations emphasized the need for greater transparency in the handling of provisional results. On 20 October, the traditional leader of Buea issued a call for calm and peace while awaiting the official proclamation.

VI. PROCLAMATION OF OFFICIAL RESULTS – 27 OCTOBER 2025

The Constitutional Council proclaimed the final results of the presidential election on 27 October 2025. The official results are as follows :



These results confirm the victory of the incumbent President Paul BIYA. The Constitutional Council stated that the process was conducted in accordance with electoral law.

VII. REACTIONS AND POST-PROCLAMATION CLIMATE (28 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2025)

Following the proclamation of results, several reactions were recorded. Some opposition political parties expressed reservations, while the international community praised the maturity of the Cameroonian people. Defense and security forces were deployed to prevent any disturbances in major urban centers.

Political Reactions

President Paul Biya was officially declared the winner with 53.66% of the vote according to the Constitutional Council. His main opponent, Issa Tchiroma Bakary (FSNC), rejected the results, claiming he had achieved a “real” majority and describing the victory as “fictitious.” Other political actors reacted in various ways. Cabral Libii (PCRN) “took note” of the results and congratulated the declared winner. The opposition camp denounced irregularities in the conduct of the election, including issues with endorsements, polling station results, and conflict areas.

Social Climate and Demonstrations

Immediately following the announcement, demonstrations broke out in several cities, including Douala, Yaoundé, and Garoua. There were casualties: according to various media sources, several deaths (at least 4 to 6) and numerous injuries were reported during clashes between protesters and security forces. In some regions, the economy and mobility were affected, with businesses closed, disrupted traffic, and a sustained atmosphere of tension.

International and NGO Reactions

The European Union expressed its “deep concern” over the repression of demonstrations and called for investigations. Human rights organizations reported irregularities, including issues with voter lists, endorsements, and conflict zones.

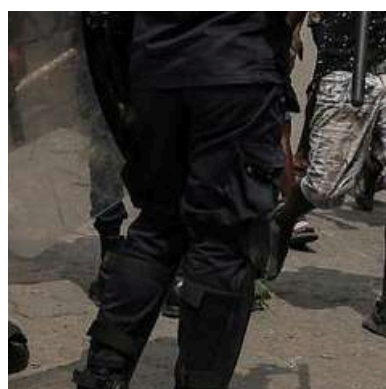
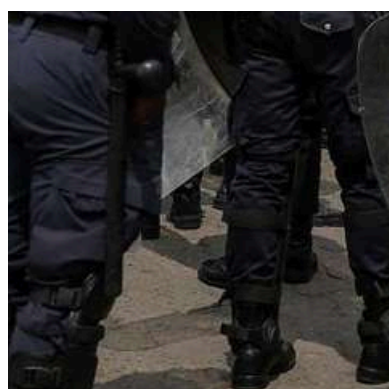
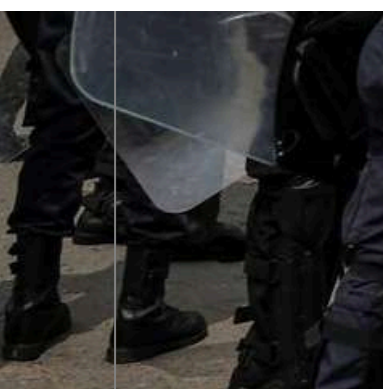
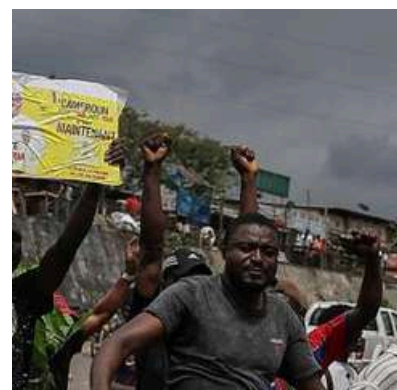


Security and Public Order

The government reinforced security measures in major cities and high-risk areas. Arrests were made, with demonstrators or alleged “instigators” detained, some of whom were brought before the competent courts.

Key Points to Note :

- The rejection of the election results’ legitimacy by part of the opposition created strong distrust.
- The presence of casualties and police repression fueled rising tensions.
- The security situation, particularly in anglophone regions and the Far North, remained fragile, increasing public concern.
- The involvement of the international community highlighted the visibility of the post-election crisis.
- Calls for calm were echoed by religious leaders, traditional chiefs, and civil society actors. Despite some isolated demonstrations in certain regions, the security situation remained generally stable.



VIII. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

1. General Observations

The 2025 presidential election process in Cameroon was conducted with a great deal of hope, marked by a number of registered voters significantly higher than in the previous electoral cycle. Although accompanied by some uncertainty, a larger proportion of young people showed determination and willingness to vote in the 12 October election.

The atmosphere changed abruptly during the waiting period before the results were proclaimed, as citizens demanded respect for the ballot results. This led to violence in several cities across the country, resulting in the arrest of some perpetrators.

The 12 October 2025 election resulted in the re-election of President Paul Biya with 53.66% of the votes cast, according to the official results proclaimed by the Constitutional Council on 27 October 2025.

However, the post-election period was marked by political disputes, localized protests, and questions regarding the management of electoral transparency.

2. Institutional Organization and Coordination

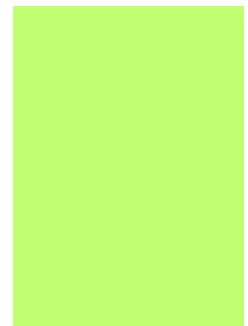
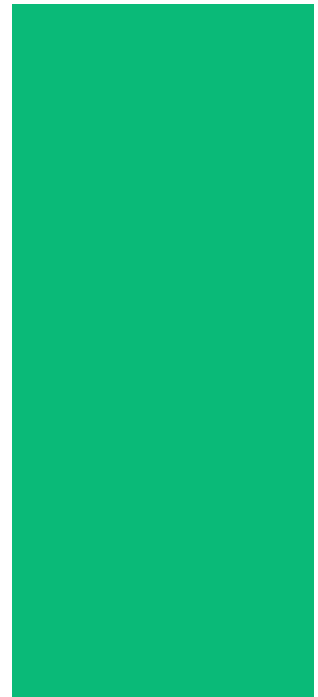
The process was overseen by two main institutions:

- Elections Cameroon (ELECAM), responsible for the technical organization and supervision of the election;
- Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT), responsible for security and the administrative framework.

3. Candidacies and Political Pluralism

When registrations closed in July 2025, a record number of 83 candidacies had been submitted to ELECAM, with some political parties even presenting more than one candidate. On 26 July, ELECAM published a provisional list accepting only 13 candidates, a drastic reduction that eliminated around 70 applications, many due to administrative non-compliance.

In the days following this publication, several rejected candidates filed appeals with the Constitutional Council of Cameroon. After final review, the certified list of candidates for the 12 October election stood at 12. This means that out of the initial 83 candidates, only about a dozen were ultimately retained for the election.



4. Logistics and Conduct of the Election

The material organization of the election was generally judged satisfactory by observation missions, despite some delays in the distribution of electoral materials and isolated technical problems in certain rural areas. No major incidents, such as deaths or serious injuries, were reported in the majority of polling stations.



5. National and International Observations

Observers from the African Union, La Francophonie, and local organizations noted several positive aspects: the smooth technical conduct of the election in most polling stations, the order and discipline observed during the counting of votes, and the security ensured by defense and security forces.

However, they also raised significant concerns, including the lack of equitable access to public media, weak institutional communication from ELECAM before the proclamation of results, and a lack of transparency in the publication of polling station reports (PV).

6. Results and Proclamation

After reviewing appeals submitted by several candidates, the Constitutional Council confirmed the victory of incumbent President Paul Biya on 27 October 2025, rejecting opposition complaints due to insufficient evidence. These decisions were made in a climate of distrust, with some political parties denouncing “formal appeals without real effect.”



7. Post-Election Climate and Security

Between 27 October and 1 November 2025, the political climate remained tense but under control. Law enforcement forces were deployed around political party headquarters, embassies, and public institutions. Several human rights organizations denounced arbitrary arrests and called for the release of peaceful protesters. International partners, including the European Union and the African Union, urged calm, dialogue, and respect for the will of the people.

8. Critical Analysis of the Process

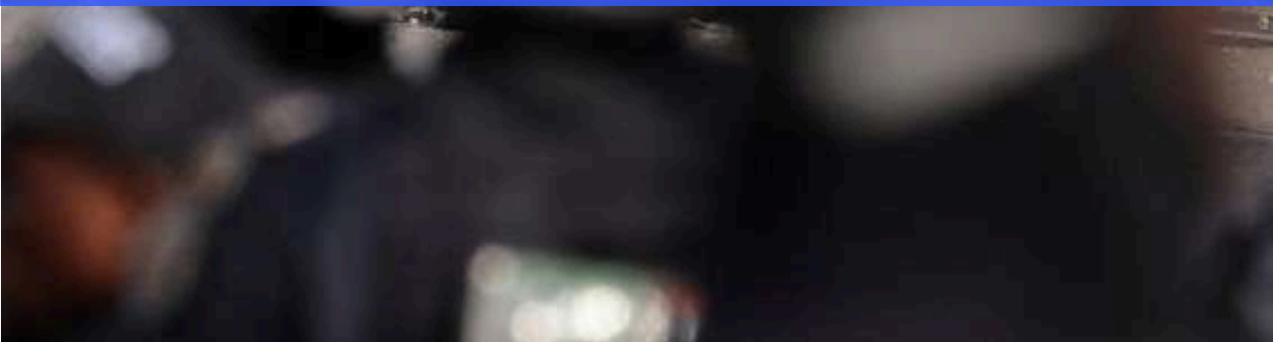
The 2025 electoral process reveals both technical progress and persistent structural limitations.

Positive Points :

- The election was conducted within the legal timeframe.
- Calm was maintained in the majority of localities.
- National and international observers were actively involved.
- Participation of multiple political parties ensured a degree of pluralism.

Concerning Points :

- Limited transparency in the compilation and publication of results.
- Unequal access to public media.



IX. CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED ON THE FIELD AND RECOMMENDATIONS

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
MINISTRY OF TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION
12TH OCTOBER 2025 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
LEGAL FRAMEWORK

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON
MINISTRY OF TERRITORIAL ADMINISTRATION
12TH OCTOBER 2025 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
THE OBSERVER'S GUIDE

Hilton
YAOUNDÉ

publication of the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT)

Adamaoua Region

1. Challenges Encountered on the Field

Absence and Late Arrival of Observer Identification

Materials : Our observers in the Adamaoua region faced significant difficulties on election day because their official identification materials (badges and vests), sent via the Touristic Agency, did not arrive on time. As a result, some observers were denied access to polling stations or were asked to leave, delaying the observation process. While a few observers chose to proceed to their assigned polling stations without full identification, others were unable to participate at all. This situation significantly reduced observation coverage in the region and compromised the effectiveness of our deployment.



- **Inconsistencies in Voter Lists Causing Confusion and Frustration :** At École Franco Arabe Sabongari, several voters presented themselves at their designated polling station, as indicated on their voter cards, but their names did not appear on the official voter list. Consequently, these voters were redirected to the ELECAM office, causing confusion, delays, and frustration. This issue disrupted the voting experience for many citizens and highlighted gaps in the accuracy and reliability of the voter registration system.



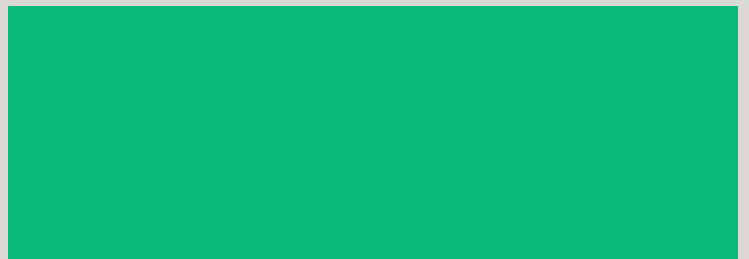
Centre Region



- **Inconsistent Polling Station Infrastructure :** Polling stations at the public school of Abom Ba'aba were not uniform in terms of infrastructure. Station D used a cardboard voting booth instead of ELECAM's standard model, while Station C lacked any signage on the doors, making it difficult for voters to locate the correct polling station. These inconsistencies can confuse voters, slow the voting process, and negatively affect the overall perception of electoral organization.
- **Potential Breach of Voting Privacy :** The head of the Abom Ba'aba neighborhood personally knew most of the voters and assisted them in locating their names on the voter list, while keeping a record of those he helped. Although this practice may have been well-intentioned, it raises concerns regarding voter privacy and impartiality. Additionally, certain observed patterns, such as Station A being predominantly frequented by supporters of the ruling party, may reinforce perceptions of unequal treatment or undue influence on voting.



- **Inconsistencies in Voter Lists and Registration Issues :** In the eight divisions of the Centre region where our observers were present, several voters with valid voter cards did not appear on the voter list for their designated polling stations. Some were newly registered or had changed their registration location, but their information had not been properly updated. These situations caused confusion, delays, and in some cases prevented people from voting, undermining confidence in the electoral process.
- **Crowd Management and Intervention Issues :** At the polling station in the public school of Abom Ba'aba, during voting and counting, a citizen was detained for carrying an envelope, creating a gathering and tensions. Political officials and local authorities interacting with polling station heads heightened perceptions of partiality. Gendarmes and police had to intervene multiple times, particularly at the end of the day and during vote counting, revealing gaps in crowd control and security.



- **Discrepancies During Counting and End-of-Day Tensions :** Still at the public school of Abom Ba'aba, in Station C, a surplus of 28 ballots was observed compared to the number of voters, which had to be removed under crowd pressure. The presence and agitation of citizens delayed the counting and required intervention by security forces. These incidents highlight a lack of training and the need for standardized procedures for vote counting and polling station closure.
- **Challenges Observed at École de Source I/B, Yaoundé II :** At École de Source I/B, Yaoundé II, several challenges were observed during voting. Partisan representation was low, with only three political parties present among all candidates. This limited presence could affect the perceived transparency of the process and reduce multilateral oversight. Additionally, long queues were reported, which may have discouraged some voters or caused excessive waiting times, potentially impacting overall electoral participation.



- **Acceptance of Old Voter Cards :** At École Bilingue Biyem Assi D, some voters presented outdated voter cards, which were accepted by polling staff. This inconsistency in document verification can compromise procedural standardization and raises concerns about electoral integrity. Ensuring that only valid and up-to-date voter cards are accepted is essential to maintain trust in the system.
- **Low Partisan Representation :** During the election at École Bilingue Biyem Assi D, few party agents were present in polling stations, and several parties were not represented at all. This low presence can affect transparency and reduce multilateral oversight, potentially raising doubts about the fairness of the elections.
- **Limited Observer Presence :** Observation at École Bilingue Biyem Assi D was minimal, with only a few national observers and one or two international observers passing quickly through the polling station. The lack of sustained observation coverage reduces independent monitoring and may hinder the detection and resolution of irregularities during voting.

- **Incident at École Publique Bilingue Biyem Assi :** At École Publique Bilingue Biyem Assi, a serious incident occurred when a man attempted to vote twice without presenting identification. The public reacted angrily, with some individuals attempting to confront him physically. Observers noted he may have acted on behalf of a political party. The female head of the polling station was taken for questioning, and the gendarmerie intervened immediately to restore order and protect the public. This incident highlights challenges related to voter verification, potential partisan interference, and the need to strengthen security and supervision at polling stations.

North Region

- **Irregularities Observed at TAKASKO École Franco-Islamique, Polling Station A :** During the voting process at TAKASKO École Franco-Islamique, Polling Station A in Garoua II, several irregularities were noted. Some deceased candidates still appeared on the voter lists, and several voters complained that their names could not be found. Consequently, these voters were redirected to other polling stations.



- **Incomplete Distribution of Ballots :** Two voters complained that they had not received all the ballots, requiring polling staff to provide additional ballots. This indicates a minor administrative issue that could temporarily disrupt the voting process.
- **Accessibility Issues for Elderly and Disabled Voters :** At one polling station in Maroua 3, the location was not easily accessible for elderly and disabled voters due to obstacles such as drainage ditches or uneven terrain. This could limit participation and inclusivity.
- **Alleged Double Voting Incident :** In Maroua 1, an allegation was made that a person voted twice. Although the issue was resolved, it highlights potential gaps in monitoring voter compliance and ensuring the integrity of the vote.

Far North Region



Littoral Region



- **Difficulties at the Polling Centers of Collège Bilingue du Soleil PK14 and École Publique de Logbessou :** Many voters had trouble locating their polling stations because they had not yet received their ELECAM-issued voter cards or had not picked them up before the election. Some only had their voter card receipts, which did not indicate the polling station. On-site attempts to enter their information on ELECAM's platform (www.file.elecam.cm) were hindered by system malfunctions due to high activity throughout the day across the country. As a result, some voters had to search polling station by polling station, while others relied on the first letter of their name. This situation required significant determination, patience, and a genuine willingness to exercise their civic duty in order to vote.

- **Issue Observed in Mbalmayo, Collège Djilo :** During the counting at Collège Djilo in Mbalmayo, in two separate classrooms, envelopes were found containing duplicate ballots in favor of one political party. These votes were not included in the official total for the candidate, and the official reports (procès-verbaux) were drafted reflecting this omission. This highlights a problem related to the accuracy of counting and the correct recording of all votes during the electoral process.

West Region



2. RECOMMENDATIONS

General Recommendations

- **Strengthen Accreditation and Availability of Identification Materials :** -It is essential to ensure that all official observer identification materials (badges, vests, etc.) are available on time. MINAT must oversee the timely distribution of observation materials so that accredited organizations can provide them to their observers well before the election. This would prevent delays, such as those caused by the Tourist Agency, which took several days, preventing some observers from receiving their badges on time.
- **Ensure Accuracy and Updating of Voter Lists :** Voter lists must be regularly updated and verified to ensure that all registered voters can cast their ballots without confusion or exclusion. Special attention should be given to new registrations and changes of registration location.
- **Standardize Infrastructure and Improve Polling Station Accessibility :** Polling stations should have standardized infrastructure that is accessible and comfortable for all voters, including the elderly and people with disabilities.
- **Strengthen Respect for Voting Privacy and Impartiality :** Voters should be sensitized and election staff trained to guarantee the secrecy of the vote and the impartiality of the process, avoiding any form of assistance that could influence voters' choices.
- **Optimize Crowd Management and Security During Voting and Counting :** Adequate and well-trained security forces are necessary to prevent tensions, protect voters and staff, and ensure the smooth conduct of election operations.
- **Guarantee Complete Availability of Ballots :** All ballots must be provided in sufficient quantity to allow every voter to vote, thereby avoiding interruptions or disruptions of the electoral process.
- **Ensure Reliability of Voter Information Tools :** Platforms and information systems that allow voters to locate their polling stations must be reliable and accessible. Alternative solutions should be provided to assist voters in case of failure of digital tools.

Observers' Recommendations

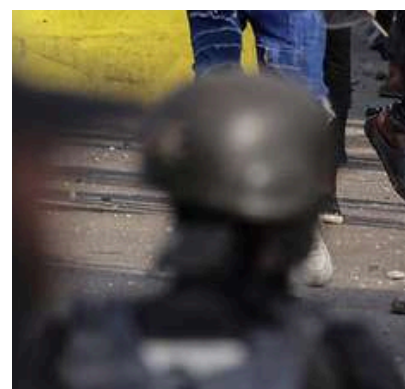
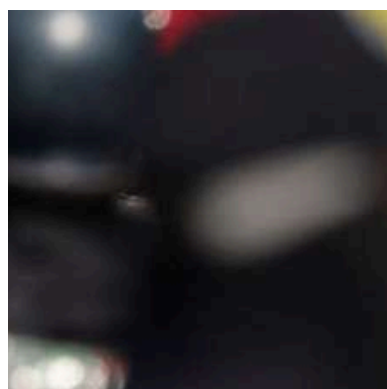
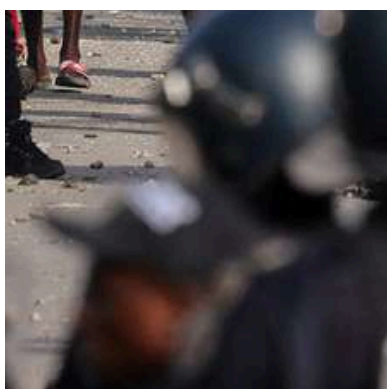
- **Strengthen Transparency and Access for Political Parties :** Facilitate the accreditation and access of representatives from all political parties and candidates to all polling stations in order to enhance transparency and build confidence in the electoral process.
- **Optimize Logistics in High-Traffic Polling Stations :** Improve organization in polling stations experiencing a large influx of voters for example, by increasing the number of voting booths or ballot boxes where regulations allow to streamline voter flow and reduce waiting times.

- **Improve Polling Station Space :** During the election at Garage Aoudi, the room used was too small, making counting operations difficult and uncomfortable. It is recommended to provide larger, better-suited spaces to facilitate operations and ensure the comfort of election staff and observers.
- **Implement Backup Lighting Systems :** A power outage occurred during the counting process, temporarily disrupting operations. It is advised to install a backup lighting system, such as a generator or rechargeable lamps, to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a power failure.

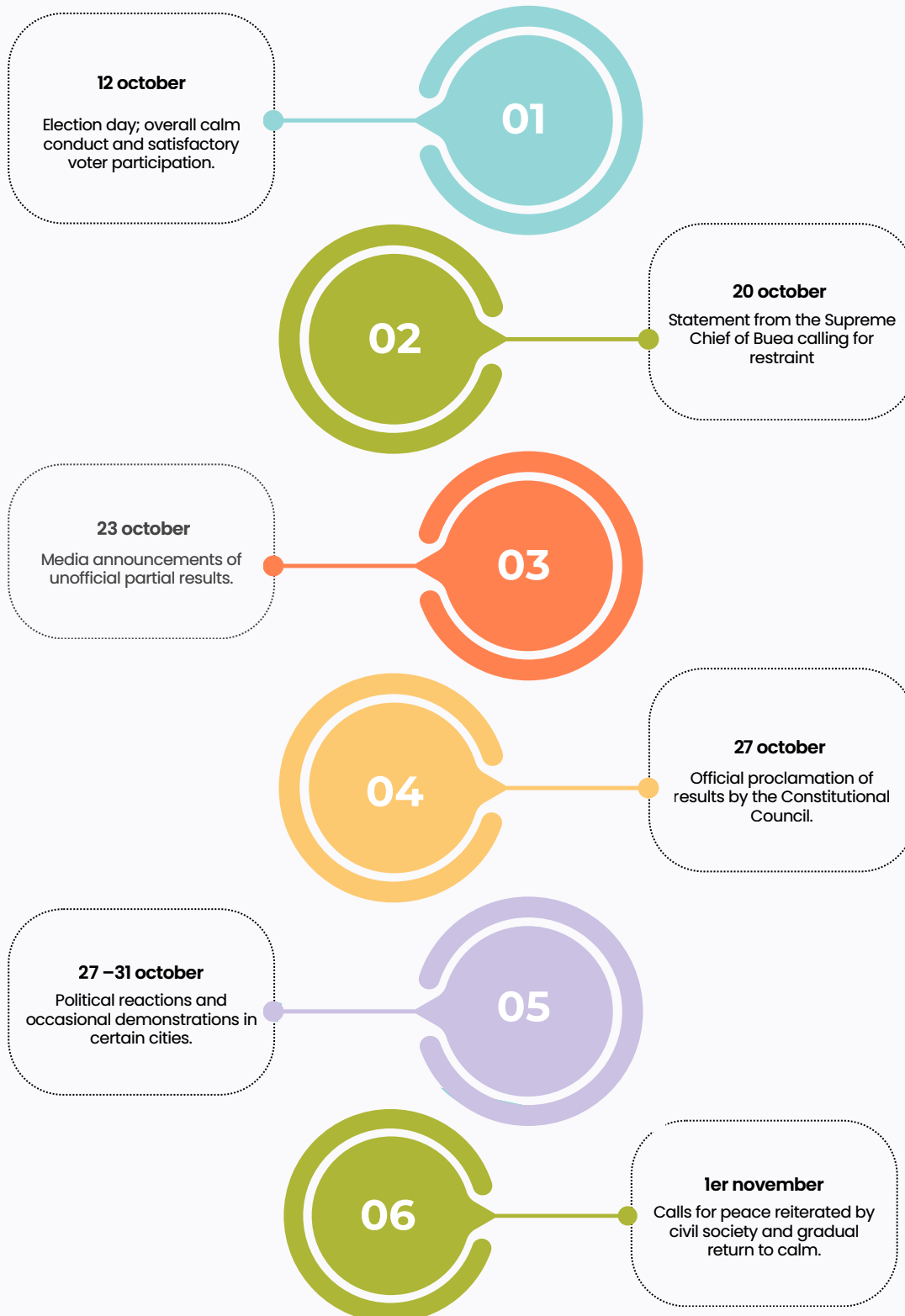


X- GENERAL CONCLUSION

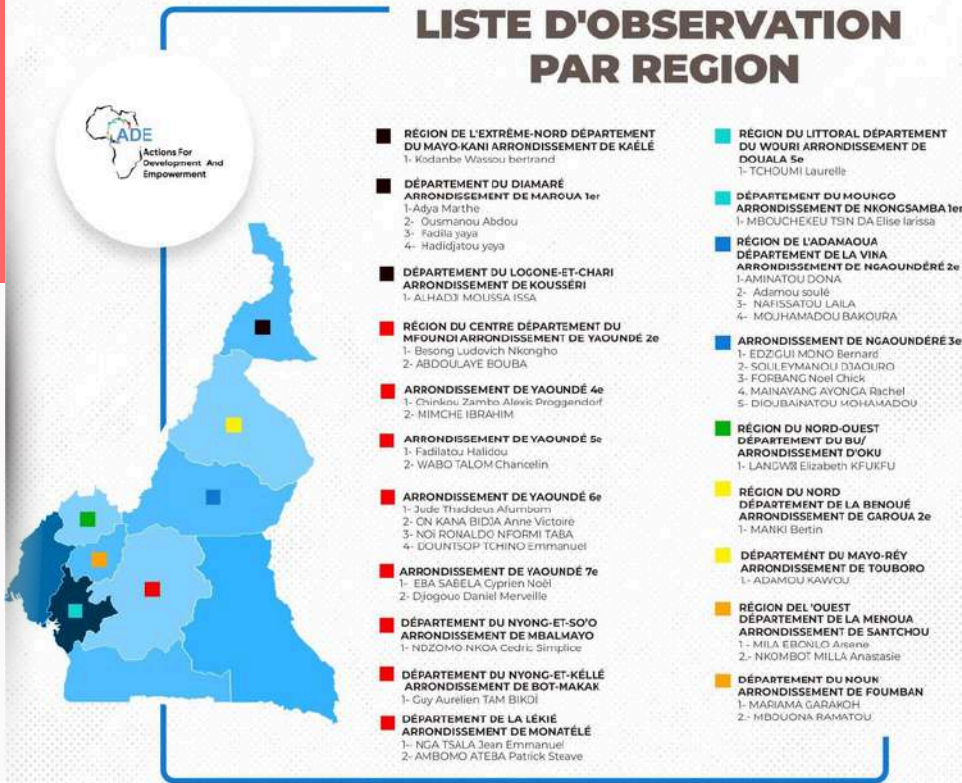
The presidential elections concluded on Sunday, October 12, 2025, in a generally peaceful atmosphere prior to the official proclamation of results. Despite the self-declaration of victory by one of the candidates, which created a preemptive crisis before the official results were announced, the voting process was conducted smoothly across the entire national territory. It will therefore be up to the legislature to examine the appropriate response to the recurring skepticism of certain opposition parties and segments of civil society regarding the electoral process, and to take the necessary measures to strengthen the trust between the population and the electoral institutions.



CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS (12 OCTOBER – 1 NOVEMBER 2025)



Geographical Representation



Photos of Observers in the Field



