



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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PRESS RELEASE OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ON PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS HELD ON 2-4 SEPTEMBER 2018

Pursuant to the Constitution of the Republic of Rwanda of 2003 revised in 2015, which entrusts the National Commission for Human Rights with a mandate of promoting Human Rights; and the law n° 19/2013 of 25/03/2013 determining its missions, organization and functioning, which confers to the Commission a special mission of monitoring the respect of human rights during elections; the Commission observed throughout the country, the process of parliamentary elections held in September 2018; to assess the respect of human rights of candidates, voters and observers;

The National Commission for Human Rights observed that electoral campaign was largely peaceful, and parties and candidates were able to exercise their fundamental rights of association, free speech and assembly without inhibitions or restrictions; and Political parties and candidates were accorded equal access to the State media;

All the stages of the electoral process were carried out in accordance with the electoral timeline, including the timely and safely dispatch of voting materials as well as construction of voting booths that allowed the public to vote in safety and comfort;

The National Commission for Human Rights commends the way in which voters participated in the realization of their right to participation in the affairs of the Government individually or through representation;

The National Commission for Human Rights is particularly pleased with the full respect of the rights of persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable persons during the elections and commends the facilitation accorded to the sick and their companions by availing a voting room in hospitals;

In light of its observation, the National Commission for Human Rights declares that by and large, the legislative elections that took place from 2nd to 4th September 2018 were peaceful, secure, free and transparent;

The National Commission for Human Rights would like to urge all members of the Public to continue adhering to the respect of human rights, and exercise their constitutional rights in electing their leaders;

In addition, the National Electoral Commission should step up efforts to ensure that eligible voters in special categories (Women, Youth, People with disabilities) respect the voting hours in accordance with laws and regulations governing elections;

The National Commission for Human Rights shall remain seized in promoting, protecting and monitoring the respect of human rights at all levels.

Done at Kigali, on 6 September 2018

NIRERE Madeleine,

The Chairperson of the National Commission for Human Rights.