

<u>MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION</u> MINISTERE DE LA COMMUNICATION

GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION

STATEMENT

OF

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MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION,
GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON

Yaounde, 02 November 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On 27 October 2025, during a formal hearing and in accordance with Section 137 of our Electoral Code, the Constitutional Council officially announced the results of the presidential election held on 12 October 2025.

At the end of the election, as we are all aware, Paul BIYA, the candidate of the Cameroon People's Democratic Movement, was declared the winner, with 53.66% of the valid votes cast.

This is the culmination of an open, intense election campaign in which, as we have seen, all the candidates and their supporters worked tirelessly and selflessly to convince Cameroonians of their personal credibility, the relevance of their vision for society and their action programme, their ability to embody the aspirations and expectations of their fellow citizens, and the strengths that underpin their

representativeness and justify the trust of the Cameroonian people they are canvassing for.

The Cameroonian people listened, assessed, evaluated, weighed up the options and ultimately voted in favour of the incumbent President Paul BIYA.

Never before has a presidential election in Cameroon been so full of suspense.

Unlike the election campaign and the voting itself, which took place in a free, responsible and calm manner, the counting of votes by the appropriate authorities, namely the Local Voting Commissions, the Divisional Voting Supervisory Commissions, the National Commission for the Final Counting of Votes, and finally the Constitutional Council, was conducted smoothly and in accordance with the provisions of the Electoral Code.

In this regard, a handfull of national and international observers have made their opinions known, all of whom have commended the smooth running of the election, lauding both its good organisation and the political maturity of the Cameroonian people, all of which reinforce our belief that Cameroonians have exercised their free will and made a rational choice, one based on experience and wisdom, a choice that guarantees peace and stability in Cameroon, in a world in constant flux and facing crises and challenges of all kinds.

This is the whole meaning behind the choice of President Paul BIYA as candidate, that is to say, not change for change's sake as some might have wished, but a choice for change within continuity.

And, from this point of view, while wholeheartedly lauding the Cameroonian people for the trust that his fellow citizens have once again bestowed in him,

President BIYA has made a commitment to take their expectations, particularly those of young people and women, into the utmost consideration.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As in most countries that claim to be democratic, custom warrants that the final verdict handed down by the institution vested with this exclusive prerogative be accepted, and that the protagonists congratulate each other, since no candidate can be both judge and party, and therefore cannot proclaim himself the winner.

It is for this reason that the Government strongly condemns the hasty proclamation of victory by one candidate, as well as the radical challenge to the final verdict of the Constitutional Council confirming the victory of the incumbent President Paul BIYA.

Furthermore, the government unreservedly condemns calls for insurrection, ghost towns or civil

disobedience, which are likely to endanger the life of the nation, social peace and economic development.

As a matter of fact, the harmful effects of the slogans echoed in recent days, loudly proclaiming an unconfirmed victory, should be deplored and condemned.

We have seen hordes of demonstrators rush into public squares in some of our cities, committing serious acts of violence against honest citizens, looting property belonging to individuals and legal entities, setting fire to public and private buildings, storming security posts, buildings housing public services, political party offices, and committing other acts of violence.

These are all unacceptable actions, for which both the perpetrators and the instigators are responsible. In this regard, the government recalls that such acts, which constitute insurrection, are provided for and punished by Section 116 (new) of the Cameroonian Penal Code, which states as follows:

Whoever during an insurrection;

- (a) Instigate or encourage by whatever means the gathering of insurgents;
- (b) or hinders by whatever means the summoning, the assembly or the operation of the forces of order, or usurps their command;
- (c) or invades or destroy any public or private building;
- (d) or holds or seizes any weapon, ammunition or explosives;
- (e) or wears any official uniform, garb or emblem, whether civil or military.

Shall be punished with imprisonment from ten to twenty years.

In the face of these intolerable excesses in a state governed by the Rule of law, the Government of the Republic has taken measures to restore public order and tranquillity, in accordance with its sovereign duties.

Those responsible for the disturbances, caught in the act of committing their crimes, have been arrested.

The suspects are currently being investigated by the security services in order to establish their respective responsibilities and bring them before the competent courts, where appropriate.

Once again, we must commend the high sense of responsibility and professionalism of our defence and security forces, who have demonstrated both firmness and restraint in all their interventions.

There has been no disproportionate use of force by the police, as some have seen fit to criticise, here and there, particularly through some Embassies of friendly countries.

Moreover, this is also the place to call on the representatives of friendly countries and other international partners to be objective in their view of the issues that concern us and in their stances on our structural and economic realities.

The Government wishes to reiterate that their primary role is to work towards strengthening ties between their respective countries and Cameroon, and that under no circumstances should they presume to lecture others or allow their positions to appear partisan, as this could adversely affect our relations with their respective countries. Their positions should be based on mutual respect for our sovereignties.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the face of all endogenous and exogenous attempts to stir up tensions in our country through calls for insurrection and civil disobedience, which are likely to sow disorder, insecurity and instability so detrimental to Cameroon's economic and social development,

The Government appeals to the discernment, sense of responsibility and patriotism of Cameroonians to thwart all these ill-advised attempts and preserve our precious achievements of peace, stability, social cohesion and harmonious coexistence.

The Government urges all our compatriots to be wary of subscribing to inappropriate slogans that seek to sow panic by creating all kinds of artifices aimed at instilling a climate of despair in the country, particularly through artificial food shortages, when every effort is being made to

reassure the population and enable them to go about their business as normal.

The Government affirms that the presidential election is now an issue of the past and that the major challenge that must now mobilise us is the implementation of the new seven-year programme proposed by President Paul BIYA, which, rest assured, will better meet the aspirations and expectations of the Cameroonian people than in the past.

As a matter of fact, at the dawn of the new sevenyear term, the time is no longer ripe for the crystallisation and amplification of the conflicts that have caused so much harm to our country.

The Government therefore invites everyone to work to extinguish these deadly conflicts and to put Cameroon first, above ethnocentrism, egocentrism and personal ambitions.

| For while our ambitions may be legitimate, the |
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| interests of the nation must take precedence over |
| those ambitions. |
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