

**FIRST ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION IN TOGO
22 FEBRUARY 2020**



PRELIMINARY DECLARATION

I- INTRODUCTION

- 1- Upon the issuance of Decree No 2019-191/PR of 05/12/19 the first round of the presidential election in the Togolese Republic was scheduled by the Government to hold on Saturday, 22nd February 2020.
- 2- Pursuant to the provisions of the ECOWAS Supplementary Protocol on Democracy and Good Governance (2001), **His Excellency Jean-Claude Kassi BROU**, President of the Commission of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), deployed an Electoral Observation Mission (EOM) to observe the presidential election in Togo, as part of ECOWAS' ongoing efforts to support the Togolese people in the consolidation of democracy.
- 3- The EOM team was led by **His Excellency Ernest Bai KOROMA**, former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone and comprised officials from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the ECOWAS Member States, electoral experts from the Electoral Commissions of the ECOWAS Member States, members of the ECOWAS Parliament, Member States Ambassadors accredited to ECOWAS, journalists and members of the Civil Society.
- 4- The Mission was efficiently backstopped by the office of the Permanent Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission in Togo, led by **H.E. Garba LOMPO** and a team of technical assistance from the ECOWAS Commission led by **General Francis Awagbe BEHANZIN**, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security.

**II- COMMITMENTS AND SUPPORT TO THE ELECTORAL
PROCESS**

- 5- In keeping with our regional solidarity tradition, ECOWAS demonstrated its commitment to support the government and people

of Togo in creating a conducive environment that led to the holding of the legislative elections in December 2018. In pursuit of these efforts, ECOWAS deployed a pre-electoral fact-finding mission from 9th to 14th December 2019 to assess the status of preparedness of the institutions mandated to conduct the electoral process that would lead the Togolese people to choose their future President of the Republic, in conformity with the electoral code.

- 6- Most of the recommendations made by the pre-electoral fact-finding mission were implemented by the relevant Togolese institutions and stakeholders, which was preceded by the Joint ECOWAS - UNOWAS high level mission to the country from 9th to 14th November 2019. ECOWAS also held a workshop from 19th to 21st November 2019 on the use of dialogue and mediation techniques in the management of electoral disputes. Furthermore, ECOWAS and UNOWAS held joint workshop from 23rd to 28 January 2020 to sensitize the institutions and stakeholders involved in the electoral process with a view to ensuring a peaceful presidential election.
- 7- ECOWAS also dispatched two (2) experts to support the CENI in auditing the Electoral Register in order to ensure that the voters' list used during the legislative elections was not altered and to help audit the voters' register after capturing the new registrants.
- 8- As part of the preparations for the first round of the presidential election, ECOWAS deployed, on 8th February 2020, a Long-Term Observation Mission (LTOM) composed of 6 experts, which was later reinforced by the Short-Term Observation Mission (STOM) of 54 Observers.

III. ELECTORAL PROCESS

- 9- The constitutional amendment of 2019 provides that the Togolese president must be elected by universal suffrage for a term of five years renewable once through a two-round race. In that regard, 3,614,056 (three million six hundred and fourteen thousand and fifty-six) voters were registered to vote in the presidential election in 9,389 (nine thousand three hundred and eighty nine) polling stations across the country and some selected Togolese Embassies around the world.
- 10- Thus, for the first time, the Togolese diaspora participated in the presidential election held in six (6) Embassies in the DRC, France, Nigeria, the United States, Gabon and Morocco.
- 11- Nearly 10,000 (ten thousand) men and women were deployed under the Special Security Force, officially called FOSEP 2020, which was put in

place to secure the presidential elections and ensure that all stakeholders are protected throughout the electoral process.

IV-ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AND THE MEDIA

12. The electoral campaign commenced on 6th February 2020 and took place throughout the country in a peaceful atmosphere. However, some incidents relating to the management of public spaces and verbal abuse on social media networks were noticed.
13. In conformity with the law, the Higher Authority on Audiovisuals and Communication (HAAC) provided the enabling conditions of fair access to the public media by the candidates. Debate sessions were organized to give candidates the opportunity to present their programmes.

V- Pre-electoral Consultations and Deployment

14. In order to assess the state of preparations for the election upon his arrival, **His Excellency Ernest Bai KOROMA**, former President of Sierra Leone paid a courtesy visit to **H.E. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé**, President of the Togolese Republic, also a candidate in the presidential election of 22nd February 2020.
15. **President Koroma** also held consultations with **Mr. Assouma Abouden**, President of the Constitutional Court and held a working session with the President of the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) and his team to assess the status of preparations before the presidential election of 22nd February 2020.
16. The Head of Mission also met with representatives and candidates of the political parties competing in the election. He held consultations before and after the election with the Heads of Mission of the African Union (AU), the Council of Entente, the CEN-SAD, the International Organization of Francophonie (OIF), and the Panafrican Institute for Electoral Assistance (IAPE) and other accredited international observers.
17. At the end of these various consultations, the Head of Mission encouraged the electoral management body and urged the political actors to mobilize the Togolese citizens to come out massively on Election Day to perform their civic duty in peace and in a disciplinary manner.



18. Following a pre-deployment briefing session organized by the ECOWAS technical team, the Observers were deployed in all the 5 regions of Togo, namely: **Maritime, Plateaux, Centrale, Kara and Savanes Regions.**

VI- Opening, Proceedings and Counting of Votes

19. After a cautious assessment of the information transmitted to the ECOWAS situation room by the observers deployed in the field, and following a debriefing session with the observers upon their return from the field, the Mission noted that:
- a. The entire electoral process took place generally in a peaceful climate;
 - b. The voting process commenced generally between 7:00 and 7:15 am and closed in the afternoon between 4:00 and 4:30 in most of the polling stations observed, with the exception of a few polling stations in the Gulf, Lomé where voting started after 7:30 am due mainly to late arrival of material;
 - c. Voting also took place in the diaspora, in some selected countries;
 - d. Electoral materials were generally available on time at most polling stations;
 - e. The security forces were present but not meddling;
 - f. The polling agents relatively understood the voting procedures;
 - g. The Representatives of the ANC, UNIR, MPDD, MCD, PSR and ADDI parties were present in the polling stations observed;
 - h. The vote counting process was smooth and in conformity with the provisions of the Electoral Code and other relevant legal documents;

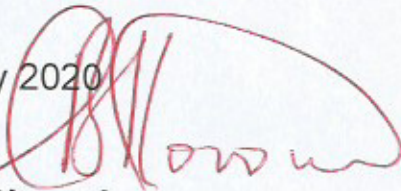
VII- Conclusion

20. Overall, the process leading up to the 22nd February 2020 presidential election took place without any major incident. The ECOWAS Observation Mission (EOM) to the Presidential Election in Togo has therefore arrived at the following provisional conclusions, based on its appreciation of the entire electoral process, from the beginning to the counting of the votes in the various polling stations.
21. This presidential election took place at a crucial stage in the consolidation of peace and the promotion of democracy in Togo. It was

made possible by the determination of the Togolese people and all the stakeholders. The Mission, therefore, congratulates the Togolese people and the government on the measures taken to ensure the holding of this election.

22. More specifically, the Mission commends the patience and the spirit of good citizenship shown by the voters during the election. ECOWAS urges the voters to maintain their exemplary behavior until the provisional results announced are authenticated by the relevant state institution. It further urges them to keep this high sense of responsibility and to preserve the values of tolerance and peace. In a nutshell, the electoral process was peaceful and in accordance to the electoral law in Togo.
23. Furthermore, the Mission appeals to all the candidates who contested in the presidential election to respect the results emanated from the ballot boxes and announced by the relevant election management bodies, and further urges them to use, where necessary, the legal channels to settle any electoral dispute.
24. Lastly, the ECOWAS Commission, through office of the Permanent Representative of the President of the ECOWAS Commission, will observe the post-electoral developments until the final proclamation of the results. The EOM thanks the relevant Togolese authorities for the measures they have taken to facilitate the deployment of observers for the Presidential election of 22nd February 2020.

Done at Lome, this 24th February 2020


H.E. Ernest Bai Koroma
Former President of the Republic of Sierra Leone