

Journalists,

After the convening of the electorate on 11 July 2025 by H.E. Paul BIYA, President of the Republic, Head of State, the declaration and acceptance of candidacies by the Electoral Board and Constitutional Council, Cameroonians are getting set to witness, as from tomorrow 27 September 2025, the start of campaigns for the October 12, 2025 presidential election.

In his December 31, 2024 address to the nation, the Head of State H.E. Paul BIYA, declared, I quote: **“The year 2025 will usher in a new season of elections. According to the electoral calendar, the presidential and regional elections will be held this year.**

As in the past, these events will represent major milestones in the life of our nation. Let us take this opportunity to further strengthen our democracy.

I call on all stakeholders to show proof of maturity and responsibility and to ensure that peace and stability prevail before, during and after these elections.” end of quote.

During the First Bi-annual Conference of Regional Governors held after the convening of the electorate, the Minister of Territorial Administration handed down the Esteemed Instructions of the Head of State on the electoral process to all the political stakeholders, civil society and NGOs.

H.E. Paul BIYA gave firm instructions for a well organised and credible presidential election in a safe and peaceful environment.

It is therefore in this connection that MINAT, in his capacity as the Government Agent on electoral matters shall grant accreditations to national and foreign observers for them to ascertain the vitality of Cameroonian democracy as conceived by His Excellency Paul BIYA, Champion of fairness. It is again time to call on the young female Lawyer in Douala who is giving herself a certain appellation and claiming to be granting accreditations to observers for the presidential election, alongside her partners, to put an end to this falsehood. MINAT alone holds the exclusive prerogatives to grant accreditations to observers.

I would like to reiterate that Elections Cameroon is an independent body in charge of organising the presidential election. The Minister of Territorial Administration, through Administrative Authorities, is there to support the process and ensure strict

compliance with the laws of the Republic by all the political stakeholders participating in the presidential election.

Furthermore, the Minister of Territorial Administration and Administrative Authorities, by virtue of their prerogatives, have the obligation to protect people and their property, and above all, to call to order unscrupulous political and civil society actors who take pleasure in challenging State authority.

For the October 12 presidential election, the Minister of Territorial Administration has put two important documents at the disposal of all presidential candidates and observers: the observer's guide and the legal framework governing the entire electoral process.

These important documents remind each candidate and observer of their rights and obligations during the electoral process.

As you can notice, the administration, following the Esteemed Instructions of the Head of State, is doing everything possible to ensure that peace reigns nationwide before, during and after the presidential election.

Despite our efforts to create a secure environment for a well-organised and peaceful presidential election, MINAT notes with regret and bitterness that some candidates, with no political weight in the country's 360 subdivisions have the intention to disrupt public order before, during and after the presidential election. These unscrupulous politicians hope to achieve through street protests what they are unable to achieve through the ballot box.

MINAT's investigations have just uncovered a platform designed by some opposition unscrupulous politicians dedicated exclusively to compile the results at the close of the polls. These unscrupulous candidates want to manipulate public opinion and proclaim truncated results of the presidential election in their favour, in defiance of the laws in force, which clearly spell out the competent authorities responsible for vote counting and proclamation of results of the presidential election.

The modus operandi of this counting platform is simple: a recruited agent lying in a hotel room in Yaounde can communicate false results from imaginary polling stations in favour of their candidate or candidates. You can see how serious such manipulation is.

It should be re-stated that only the Constitutional Council is authorised to announce the results of the presidential election.

These lightweight politicians, good at manipulating public opinion, have bought mobile phones, recruited naive young people and tasked them with sharing falsified results as from 6 pm, after the close of polls. The police has arrested a number of individuals with more than 100 mobile phones, and who have confessed.

These are matters of extreme gravity, which the Ministry of Territorial Administration (MINAT) vehemently condemns. MINAT warns all political stakeholders involved in this criminal endeavour to abandon this deceptive campaign, which dishonours them and demonstrates that they are not worthy to stand as presidential candidate.

On 31 December 2024, the Head of State called on all political actors to show maturity during the electoral process. Unfortunately, some would-be opportunists now resort to twisted methods to achieve their political ends.

Those found guilty of manipulating election results with the aim of causing social unrest should present themselves to the nearest police station before being apprehended by security forces. We will certainly start with arrests, as offenders who seek to disrupt the electoral process will be held accountable for their criminal acts, whatever they may be; and I promise that they will face very long prison sentences. In any case, the law will prevail.

Know that Cameroonians are not fools. Under the enlightened leadership of His Excellency Paul BIYA, President of the Republic and Head of State, Cameroon is a nation governed by the rule of Law, and legality will be upheld, during and after the presidential election.

Unscrupulous politicians who attempt to disrupt the electoral process in any way will confront a government equipped with all the legitimate authority to enforce order. No excesses by whosoever will be tolerated.

All candidates participating in the presidential election know the rules and are compelled to respect them. After 12 October 2025, candidates with grievances, whether legitimate or baseless, must use legal channels of redress or risk being regarded as outlaws and treated as such without leniency.

Parents need to educate their children so that they should not be manipulated by unscrupulous politicians who, though presenting themselves as presidential candidates, have a hidden agenda and are conspiring to undermine the proper

functioning of republican institutions. They will not succeed, because the law shall prevail.

As the Head of State said during the 1992 presidential election, and I quote: '**No one should joke with Cameroon.**' End of quote.

A word to the wise is enough!