

Press Statement on the Closing of Polls for the second round of the 2023 Presidential Elections

30 September 2023 - Transparency Maldives appreciates and thanks the over 490 observers and volunteers in our observer network, based in 20 atolls including resorts, industrial islands, prisons, and abroad in Colombo, Sri Lanka, Trivandrum, India and Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur. We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to the dedicated and committed observers, without whom our domestic observation would not have been possible. We believe that an independent observation effort at this scale promotes greater levels of trust in our electoral processes, and that our observers played a crucial role in ensuring the transparency of electoral processes in the Maldives.

The methodology used for this observation was based on systematic random sampling. Our observers collected both qualitative and quantitative data from 302 polling stations representing 51.5% of all ballot boxes. Our approach allowed us to generate results from the sample to the entire population, within a margin of error of +/- 1%.

The following are the key findings we would like to highlight:

- 10.3 % of ballot boxes were closed before 5:00 pm, 89.4% of ballot boxes closed between 5:00 – 6:00 pm and 0.3% of boxes closed after 7:00pm
- There were reports that people were not able to vote because their names were not on the voter registry, but this affected very few cases (less than 0.1% of all voters).
- 1.9% of the total voter turnout were assisted voters spread across 77.5% of the polling stations.
- Voting was temporarily halted in 2.3% of polling stations.
- Despite a few isolated cases of reported violence (0.7%) at the polling stations, we are happy to report that this election has been relatively peaceful. We will be closely monitoring any further developments.
- While Police entered inside 12.2% of polling stations, in 79% of these cases interventions occurred at the invitation of the Presiding Officer in accordance with the law.
- Candidate representation was high across the polling stations. Candidate representatives for Dr Mohamed Muizz and Ibrahim Mohamed Solih were present at 80% of the polling stations.
- Only 0.3% of ballot papers were disputed by the candidate/party observers during the counting process across 27.4% of the polling stations. No reports or complaints regarding double voting, underage voting or issues with votes cast in the names of deceased individuals were reported in any of the boxes observed today.

Based on our quick count results, we are confident to announce that the Dr. Muizz has won the 2023 Presidential election having secured the required 50% plus 1 vote.

The electoral observation by Transparency Maldives includes more than just the voting day processes for the two rounds of election for this Presidential Election. It is also an analysis of the larger electoral environment. We maintain that there were serious systematic issues during the pre-election period. We call on all stakeholders to recognise and respect the decision of the electorate who have come out and used the power of the ballot to decide on the outcome of this election.

Transparency Maldives calls on all parties, candidates and the stakeholders to maintain an environment conducive for a peaceful transition

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أيضاً، يُظهر التحليل أن نسبة 51.5% من الأفراد الذين يعانون من اضطرابات اجتماعية ينحدرون من العرق الأسود، في حين ينحدر 48.5% من العرق الأبيض.

وَمِنْهُمْ مَنْ يَرْجُو أَنْ يُؤْتَهُنَا مِنْ حَيْثُ شَاءَ رَبُّهُنَّا فَلَا يَعْلَمُهُنَّا إِلَّا بِمَا كَانُوا يَعْمَلُونَ

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وَرَجُلٌ مُّؤْمِنٌ يَرْكُضُ فِي الْأَرْضِ لَا يَسْعُكُهُ شَيْءٌ مِّنْ مُّتَّهِبِّي الْمُجْرَمِينَ إِنَّمَا يَرْكُضُ لِيَعْصِمَ مِنْ أَذًى