

Chief Observer Report

Parliamentary Election in Maldives took place on April 21, 2024. The democratic event was observed by a team of 19 observers from over 9 countries.

It was conducted with meticulous attention to detail and adherence to democratic principles. As the Chief Observer, I am pleased to report that the election process was conducted smoothly, ensuring transparency, fairness, and inclusivity.

Observations

Every aspect of the election process was thoroughly checked, ensuring compliance with established fair electoral practice. This was also reflected in timely operations of the polling booths. Both the opening and closing was punctual.

The election was orderly and peaceful, reflecting the commitment of both voters and authorities to uphold the democratic process.

The election staff exhibited professionalism and politeness throughout the process, contributing to a positive voting experience.

Special arrangements, such as seating chairs and token numbers, were made to accommodate all voters. The seats inside the polling stations were a welcome gesture considering the heat outside.

It was refreshing to see a system where prisoners were allowed to vote, thus safeguarding the civil rights of an often neglected group.

A total of 149 prisoners were eligible to vote. They all came and voted by 10:00 PM, leaving only officials present. However, four prisoners chose not to exercise their voting rights.

It was delightful to see a significant representation of women both among the voters and the election staff, underscoring the commitment to gender equality in the electoral process.

The counting of votes was conducted promptly, ensuring the timely announcement of results and upholding the integrity of the electoral process.

Despite our enquiring from them, there were no complaints or issues raised by observers or monitors regarding the conduct of the election, reaffirming its fairness and transparency.

The turnout at the parliamentary election was 10% lower at 75% than the previous presidential election held three months ago. It was 85% in the presidential election. This was explained to be a routine trend.

Various measures, such as the reduction in the size of polling stations and the streamlining of procedures, contributed to the efficient operation of the election, despite logistical challenges.

I would like to express gratitude to the Chief Election Commissioner, Dr. Fuwad Thaufik, and his brother Commissioners for inviting us and making our stay and travel so comfortable.

In conclusion, the Parliamentary Election in Maldives was as, we observed, conducted very peacefully and transparently.