

# FW: Report

Hawwa Ziuna

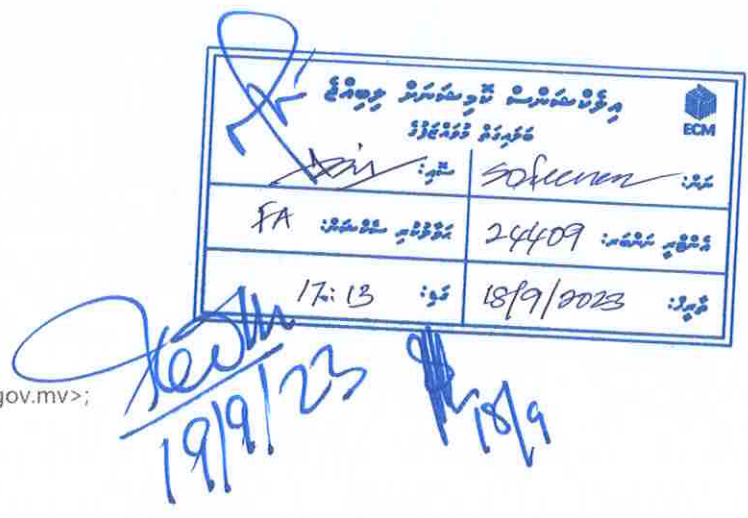
Mon 9/18/2023 4:06 PM

To: Info Email Shared <info@elections.gov.mv>;

Cc: Fathimath Shaba Bagir <fathimath.shaba@elections.gov.mv>;

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Report on the presidential Elections,2023.pdf;



Entry



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**From:** Commissioner's Bureau <bureau@elections.gov.mv>

**Sent:** Saturday, September 16, 2023 1:41 PM

**To:** Hawwa Ziuna <ziuna.2490@elections.gov.mv>

**Subject:** FW: Report

**From:** Tsheten Dorji <tdorji@ecb.bt>

**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 11:31 AM

**To:** Commissioner's Bureau <bureau@elections.gov.mv>

**Subject:** Report

Tsheten Dorji

Legal & Communication Division

Election Commission of Bhutan

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Dear Sir/Madam

I hope this email finds you well. On behalf of the International Observers from the Election Commission of Bhutan, I am pleased to share a Brief Report on the Presidential Elections, 2023 of the Republic of Maldives held on 9th September 2023 for your kind information.

Yours sincerely,

# BHUTAN

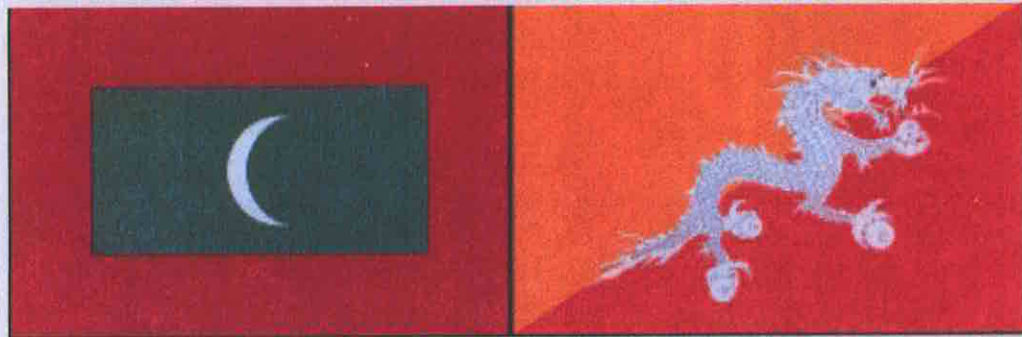
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**Brief Report**  
**on**  
**the Presidential Elections, 2023 of the Republic of**  
**Maldives held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2023**



The two-member delegation from the Election Commission of Bhutan arrived at Velana International Airport, Male on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and was received by Mr. Mohamed Asif, Commission Member. All the invited delegates were accommodated at Maagiri Hotel. The International Observers and Monitors were taken a sightseeing tour around Male on 7<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 and briefing session in the evening at Salman Mosque by Elections Commission of the Republic of Maldives.

The delegates departed from Male to designated islands/cities on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2023, to observe the Presidential elections on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2023. The delegates from Bhutan and Sri Lanka had to travel to HA. Hoarafushi and HA. Ihavandhoo islands. We were received by Mr. Mohamed Sakir, Focal Officer from the Secretariat of Hoarafushi Council at the Haurafushi Domestic Airport and transported to Aaniru Guest House.



### **Poll Day**

On 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 we went before 8 am to HA. Harauti Multipurpose Hall of HA Harauti Atoll School to observe the establishment of poll activities by the polling officials before arrival of party representatives/monitors and voters. This polling station has 517 eligible

voters. The voting commenced at 8 am. The Polling Station In-charge showed the ballot box to the party representatives and monitors indicating that it is empty and then sealed. List of voters signed by either candidate or representatives, picture of Presidential Election Candidates and other relevant documents were displayed at the entrance of the polling station.

We also visited the other two polling stations set up at HA. Harauti Orchid Villa, Conference Hall which has 464 eligible voters and HA. Harauti Adam Saleem Handshake Pre-school Hall having 402 eligible voters. Similar arrangements were done in these polling stations too.

In the afternoon, we moved to HA. Ihavandhoo by boat. The polling station was established in the HA. Ihavandhoo School Physics Lab with 664 eligible voters. After having spent sometime in this polling station, we went to the other polling stations located in the same school namely HA. Ihavandhoo Multipurpose Hall with 619 eligible voters and HA. Ihavandhoo School Temporary Hall which has 534 eligible voters.

Adequate chairs were placed in all the polling stations where voters can sit and wait for his/her name to be called by the polling office. Polling officials gave preference to a person with disability (PwD) and senior citizens.

In the evening, we returned to HA. Hoarafushi to see the opening of ballot box and counting of ballots.

### **Voting was conducted in a peaceful and orderly manner**

The designated polling stations were accessible to voters where voters can easily check their names in the list before entering the polling station. The voters appeared relaxed, joyful, calm and quite while waiting inside the polling station for the turn to vote.



(Voters waiting to cast their vote)

**Ballots were counted in a free, fair, peaceful and transparent manner**

Adequate chairs were put in the polling station where accredited local monitors, International Observers, Monitors and party representatives can sit and witness the counting of ballots.

We observed the counting of ballots in the HA. Hoarafushi Orchid Villa Conference Hall. It started at 4:30 pm and ended at 6:40 pm with a total of 372 ballots and 9 invalid ballots. The invalid ballots were clearly identified and presented to the International Observers, Monitors and party representatives.

The counting of ballots is executed in a very transparent as the process indeed gives an opportunity to the International Observers, Monitors and party representatives to see that the ballots were accurately counted.

The Party representatives and monitors remained almost throughout the day till the provisional election result is announced by the Polling Station In-charge.

***Feedback***

The count of 372 ballots took more than two hours. An efficient and effective mechanism in counting of the ballots needs to be looked into so that in the near future, with the increase of eligible voters, there will be problem in declaring timely provisional election results.

The delegates returned to Male on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2023 from Hoarafushi Island. In the evening an official dinner hosted by Elections Commission of the Republic of Maldives to all the International Election Observers and Monitors at Crossroads Resort with culture programme. It was wonderful and memorable.

On the whole, everything went on smoothly and peacefully. We can adopt few best practices which can be implemented in our electoral system.

We sincerely thank the Elections Commission of the Republic of Maldives for giving us an opportunity to see the Presidential Elections, 2023 and we are very grateful to the Commission for providing lodge, food and extending warm hospitality. We wish the Commission best of luck in the upcoming run-off elections on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.

**Thank You, Shukuriyyaa, Kadrinchhey and Tashi Delek!!!**



(Delegates from Bhutan and Sri Lanka)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tsheten Dorji'.

(Tsheten Dorji)  
**International Observer**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawa Tenzin'.

(Dawa Tenzin)  
**International Observer**