



Declaration on behalf of the Representative of the Independent Electoral Council of the Republic
of Suriname on the observance of the Presidential Elections in the Bolivarian republic of
Venezuela
20th of May 2018

The Chairwoman of the Independent Electoral Council of the Republic of Suriname, Mrs. Dr. Van Dijk – Silos was represented by myself, Renuka Raghoe on the objective observance of the Presidential Elections in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the 20th of May 2018.

Pre – Electoral

In the pre – electoral phase on the elections we have attended and observed the meeting with the Supreme Court of Justice on the legitimacy of the Presidential Elections on the 17th of May; after that we (the international observants) had a “welcome” meeting with the ruling President, Nicolas Maduro.

We observed the installation of the polling stations and polling tables and an indication and explanation on the voting process; after that we went to the factory which screened and updated the hardware of the voting machines.

There was a meeting with four of the five presidential candidates; they gave their point of view on the elections. They were all clear about the election system in Venezuela. The chances to fraud with the votes is very minimal because the votes are counted electronic and manual. In each polling table there are witnesses of the participating political parties to observe the honesty of the voting system.

Election day

On the election day, we observed the first vote of the President and the Firstlady in the Miquel Antonio Caro Centrum. We then went to four other polling stations with approximately 50 polling tables. So far we observed there were no incidents; the voting went according the instructions given by the CNE. In each polling table there were witnesses of the two biggest political parties. We also observed that the disabled, illiterate and blind people had the chance to vote through an assistant.

The security was on point. In every polling table there was one military officer and outside of the polling station the security made sure that the voting was peaceful and they guaranteed minimization of calamities.

Therefore, I, Representative of the Independent Electoral Council of the Republic of Suriname declare that on the observed polling stations the elections were conducted in a safe, fair and honest matter. The voting was peaceful.

I pray that one day Suriname will have the same voting system Venezuela has.

Renuka Raghoe