

**MOE Misión de Observación Electoral
PRESS RELEASE - 12.00pm**

**FIRST ELECTORAL OBSERVATION REPORT BY THE MOE - MIDDAY
SECOND ROUND OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION IN COLOMBIA
June 17, 2018**

The Electoral Observation Mission (MOE) delivers its first report on the second round of the Presidential and Vice presidential election in Colombia to authorities, the media, other civil society organizations and the citizenry. This report offers updated information on the opening of the election day up until midday.

For this electoral process, MOE has deployed a total of 3.414 observers out of which 3.169 are Colombian nationals and 139 international. More than half of the MOE observers are women (56%) and 44% are men. All observers received previous training on the Colombian electoral system, crimes and irregularities of the process and observation techniques. For the electoral processes of 2018, MOE carried out 38 and 35 workshops last year and during the first trimester of this year respectively.

MOE observers are present in all 32 Departments and 553 municipalities of the country - more than half of the total. Also, 106 observers are monitoring the electoral process in 19 countries and 31 cities abroad. Electoral observation is also being carried out by the MOE in 139 post-conflict municipalities (81,8% of the municipalities in the Development Programs with a Territorial Approach - PDETs), 71,6% of the municipalities with an extreme risk of fraud and violence and 61,8% with some level of risk. In sum, MOE observers cover 84.7% of the electoral potential.

This report presents the results of the electoral observation from 7:00 am to 11:00 am.

FAKE NEWS ABOUT THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Since yesterday (June 16), MOE has received several requests by citizens to clarify false, distorted and overstated information that has been shared on social media. MOE believes that these messages have contributed to an environment of disinformation and uncertainty about the proper and correct rules and procedures of the electoral process. This dissemination of false information has been difficult to control and counteract by MOE, the media, authorities and political parties. This phenomenon had a significant impact in messaging service platforms such as Whastapp where the original source of the information is impossible to trace, but whoever shares this information is a trusted person for the recipient.

MOE reminds that misinforming voters with the objective to confuse and influence their decision is an electoral crime - namely 'Voter Fraud', punishable with 4 to 8 years of prison. MOE is looking out for the results of the work of the Prosecutor's Office to identify the authors of this information in social media.

ELECTORAL IRREGULARITIES

MOE has received a total of 114 reports of possible electoral irregularities and crimes from 17 Departments and 55 municipalities (including Bogotá) from 12:01 am and 11:00 am today.

The most frequent irregularity reported was of the alleged 'buying and selling of votes'. There were 50 reports of the transporting of voters in cars, buses and taxis and giving of money or other resources in local markets.

In addition, there have been some anomalies with a minor impact on the electoral process such as flaws in the opening procedure of polling stations by electoral juries, as well as the entry of electoral witnesses.

CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

The National Civil Registry confirmed yesterday that no polling stations will be transferred for the second round for natural or climatic reasons - such as the cases of Hidroituango in Antioquia and the recent tremor in the area of the Galeras Volcano in Nariño.

In the area of the Piedmonte Llanero, heavy rains and river flooding have been reported. However, these events have not affected the electoral process but could impact on voter turnout.

Throughout the start of the electoral day, power failures have been reported in the municipalities of Norosí (Bolívar) and Montecristo (South of Bolívar).

PUBLIC ORDER

For the second round of the presidential election, the MOE warned about four regions of Colombia that required special attention due to the presence of illegal armed groups - namely: Catatumbo (North of Santander), South of the Chocó, the Patía basin, and the Tumaco area in Nariño. At the moment of drafting this report, there were no reports of violent incidents that affected the security of citizens during the electoral process in this municipalities.

MOE is in constant communication with both contending political campaigns to monitor their security reports of incidents that could affect the security and calm of the election day.

INCENTIVES BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISES TO PROMOTE ELECTORAL PARTICIPATION

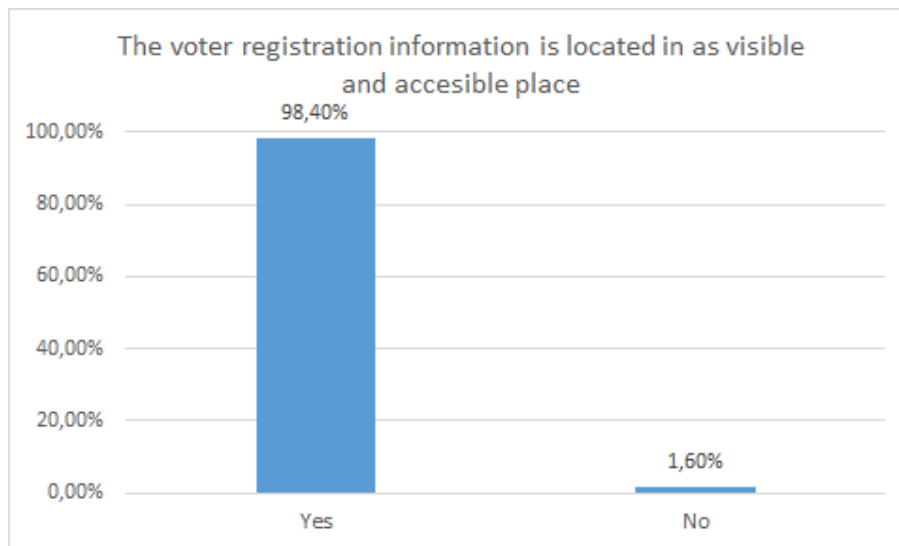
MOE acknowledges the efforts and incentives by private enterprises to offer incentives to their employees to vote on this day without trying to influence their decision.

MOE has been monitoring the incentives given by companies to their employees for presenting their voting certificates. Some of these include: Easytaxi, ÓBoticario, the Zoo of Baranquilla, Don Jediondo, Sierra Nevada Hamburguesas, Starbucks, Farmatodo, Tei Zapatos, Rappi, amongst others, MOE congratulates these and the other companies and organizations that have put in place incentives to promote the participation of their employees in the electoral process.

OBSERVATION OF THE OPENING OF THE POLLING STATIONS

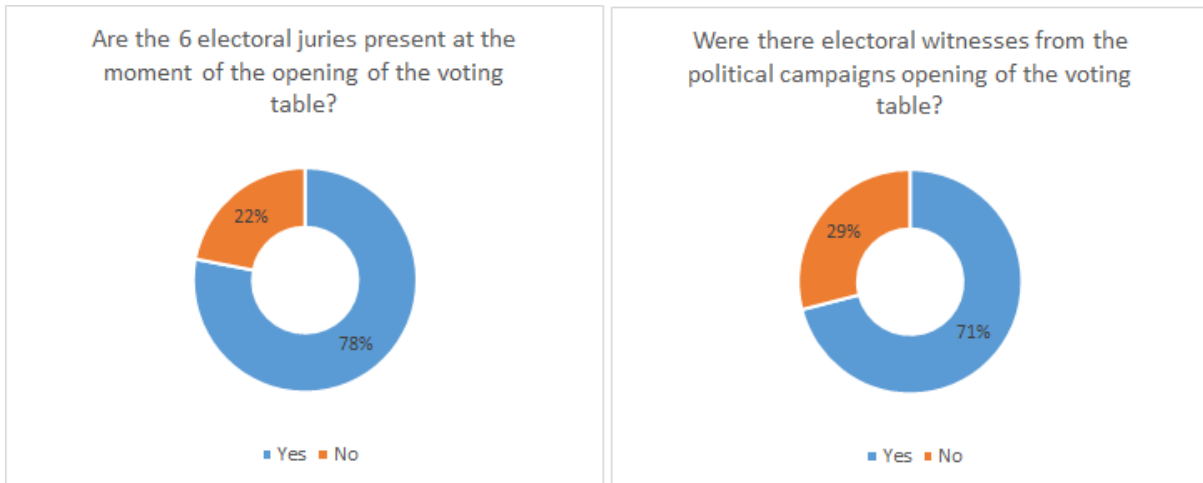
According to the information provided by 2.269 electoral observers in 32 Departments of Colombia and Bogotá D.C, all of them were allowed entry to the polling stations to fulfill their role by authorities. The following were the main results of the observation so far:

In the voting sites where MOE observers were present, the place where citizens can verify if they have the proper authorization to vote is located in a visible and accessible place in 98,4% of the cases - allowing for people with physical and visual limitations to have this information before entering the polling stations.



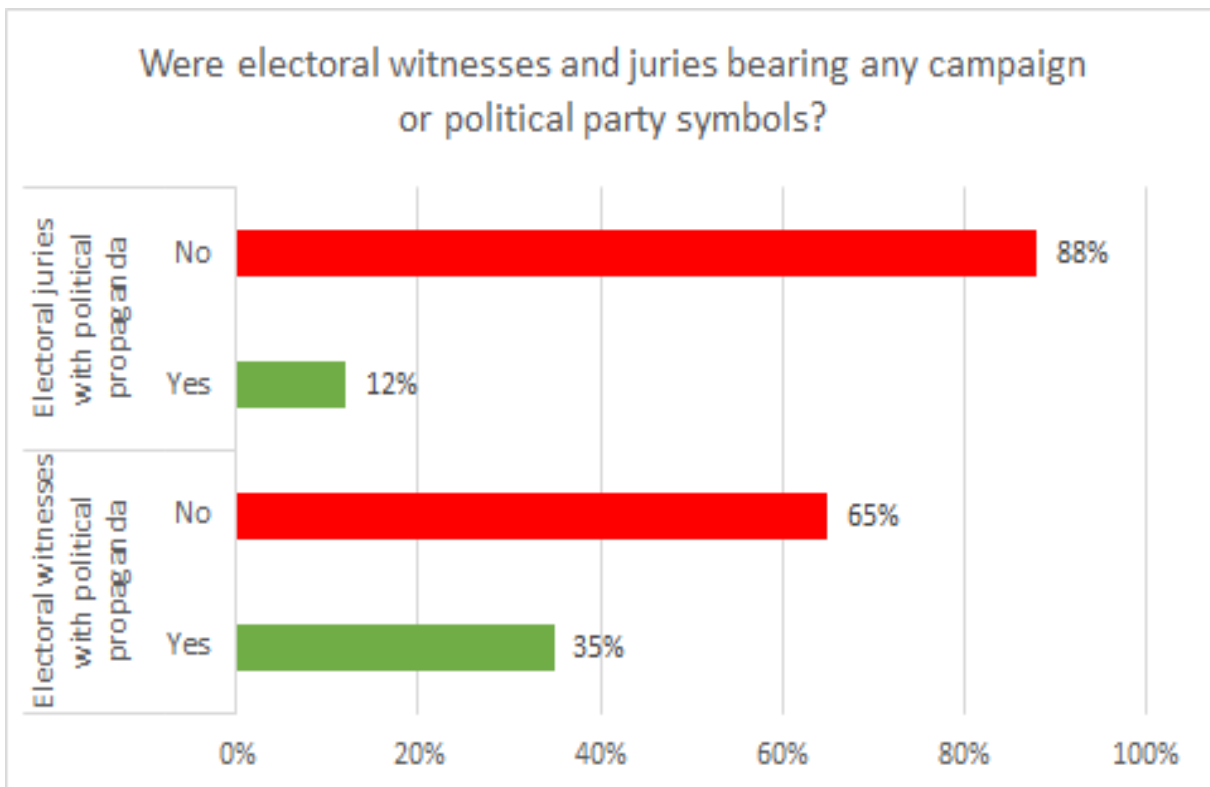
22% of the observed tables did not have the 6 members of the electoral jury present when they were inaugurated at 8:00am today. This percentage is the same compared to the one for the first round of the presidential election the past 27th of May, 2018 and only slightly higher than for the congressional elections in March (21%).

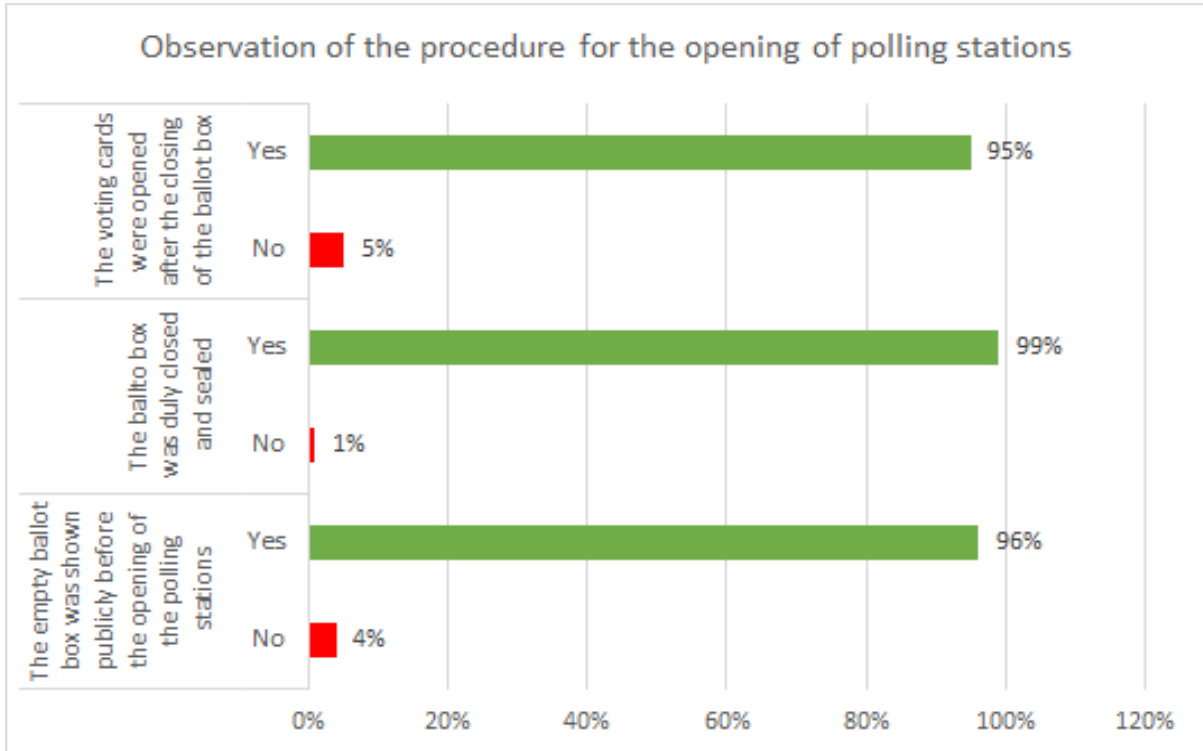
Observers report that electoral witnesses from the different campaigns were present in 71% of the observed polling stations. This number is similar to that for the first round of the presidential election (72%). It is evident that the political campaigns made a special effort to have electoral witnesses at the polling stations.



Electoral witnesses and juries are not allowed to bear campaign or political party symbols on the day of the election. MOE calls attention upon the reports by observers of electoral witnesses and juries bearing campaign propaganda in 35% and 12% of voting stations observed respectively.

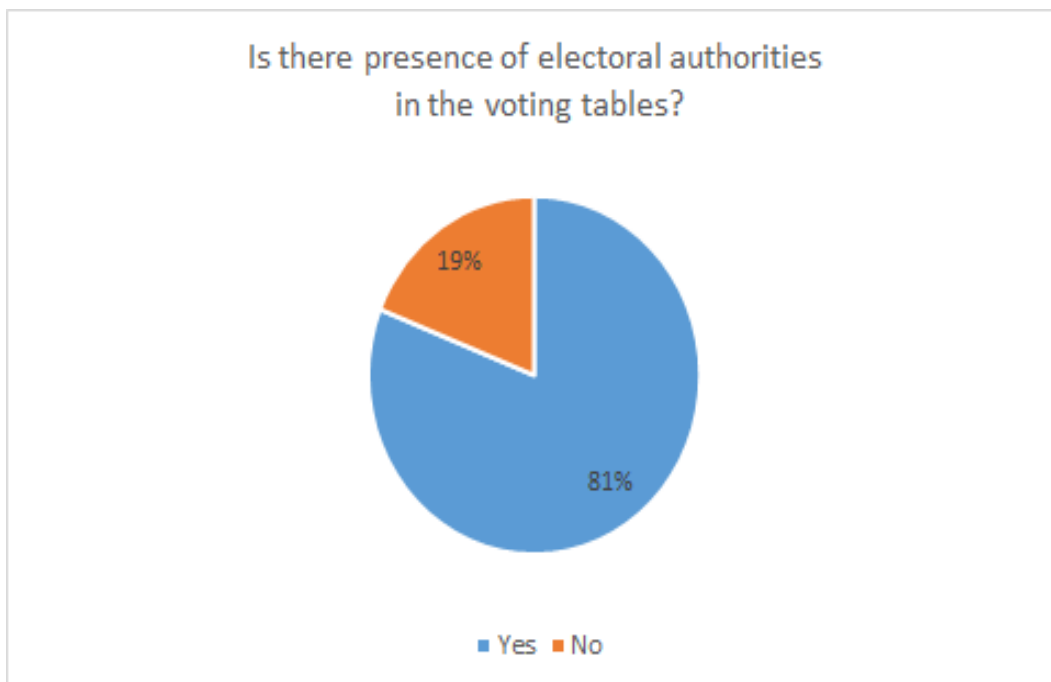
Compared to the first round of the presidential election this year, the number of electoral witnesses with political campaign and party symbols was reduced by a 4% for this second round and a 6% for the case of electoral juries.





In the voting tables observed by the MOE, the rules and procedures for the inauguration of the polling stations were duly complied with. According to the observers, the electoral juries and delegates showed a good knowledge and understanding of the process.

The three procedures observed on the opening of the polling stations allow us to confirm that voting has started without any votes inside the ballot boxes. In 96% of the cases, the ballot box was publicly shown empty before the voting started and in 99% of the tables the ballot boxes were properly closed and sealed.



MOE observers also reported that electoral authorities were present in 81% of the polling stations observed - including the offices of the attorney general, the prosecutor general and the ombudsman. Compared to the first round of the presidential election, this percentage improved 19 percentage points - from a 62% to an 81% coverage.

With regards to the biometric identification, observers have reported that this mechanism is in place in 92% of the 15 municipalities planned and that they are working normally. However, in Magangué (Bolívar) and Manaure (La Guajira) observers noted that not all the biometric identification posts are working properly.

MUNICIPALITIES	BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION OF VOTERS
Barranquilla, Atlántico	Present and working
Soledad, Atlántico	Present and working
Magangué, Bolívar	Present in 15 of the voting stations observed
Becerril, Cesar	Present and working
Curumaní, Cesar	Present and working
La Jagua De Ibirico, Cesar	No information
Pueblo Bello, Cesar	Present and working
Chinú, Córdoba	Present and working
Sahagún, Córdoba	Present and working
San Andrés De Sotavento, Córdoba	Present and working
San José De Uré, Córdoba	Present and working
Maicao, La Guajira	Present and working
Manaure, La Guajira	It is not working in 2 polling stations
Riohacha, La Guajira	Present and working
Uribia, La Guajira	Present and working

ELECTORAL OBSERVATION ABROAD

At the time of drafting this report, the electoral day has come to an end normally in the 19 countries where the MOE was present. All the polling stations in the Philippines, Spain, France, Italy, United Kingdom and Switzerland. In Venezuela and Peru, the electoral participation has been significantly lower for this second round of the presidential election compared to the first.

The only incident reported in the election abroad was in Buenos Aires, where a person reacted violently because he failed to find the voting card for the anti-corruption consultation scheduled for September this year. The same person later took a picture of his vote and refused to delete the photo. The authorities present reacted appropriately and managed to delete that picture.

In Madrid, polling stations already closed. Our MOE observer there reported that participation fell compared to the first round. She also reported that the electoral witnesses from the Centro Democrático political party tried to prevent us from taking pictures of the E-14 form but that this was finally achieved.

Lastly, MOE highlights the multiple actions taken by private enterprises to promote the participation of the citizenry by providing incentives and permits to their employees - the latter without demanding them to vote for any given candidate.

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MEN AND WOMEN AT THE SERVICE OF DEMOCRACY