



## Centar za demokratsku tranziciju - CDT

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## Public Statement of the Center for Democratic Transition about the course of the election process up until now

The Center for Democratic Transition is monitoring respect of the election procedure at more than 90% of the polling stations in all Montenegrin municipalities.

Until 13.00, turnout of the voters at the Republican level was 38.59%, while turnout of the voters in Podgorica and Tivat was 37.97% and 31.53% respectively. In the special constituency of four parliamentary mandates, turnout was 28.37%.

On the basis of reports of our monitors, the Center for Democratic Transition evaluates that the elections are being conducted in accordance with the election procedure. Irregularities that are noticed until now could not importantly influence the regularity of the elections.

In accordance with Article 32, paragraph 2 of the Law on Election of Councillors and Representatives, CDT asked for clarification of Article 71a of the same law on 02 October 2002. Thereafter, we received a written answer from the Republican Election Commission on 04 October 2002 that stated that CDT monitors would be allowed to gather evidence about voter turnout, as well as about the conduct of the election procedure. All CDT monitors were given a copy of the REC response.

Unfortunately, we have cases of some polling boards that did not allow the gathering of evidence about voter turnout at the following polling stations:

Polling Stations in Herceg Novi:

16 Savina 1

17 Savina 2

18 Savina 3

19 Srbina 1

20 Srbina 2

Polling Stations in Nikšić:

120 Zgrada Gimnazije

Polling Stations in Podgorica:

13 A Građevinska škola

60-A Mašinopromet

71-A Zabjelo Dom zdravlja

4-A OŠ Radoica Perović





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Polling Stations in Kotor: 12 Škaljari

We inform you that, in cooperation with the Republican Election Commission, we are trying to overcome problems that have arisen in these polling stations.

At Polling Station 23 Pečurice in Bar, 37 persons did not sign the voter register and, therefore, the voting process was temporarily suspended at 10.00 and and resumed at 11.00.

At Polling Station 22 Trepča in Andrijevica, public voting caused disagreement among the members of the Polling Board and voting was temporarily suspended.

At Polling Station 32 Igalo 5 in Herceg Novi, all the work of the Polling Board is being done by only one member. In addition, a person without accreditation from the Republican Election Commission uses a mobile phone inside the polling station.

At Polling Station 1 MZ Blok 5 in Podgorica, the member of the Polling Board in charge of identification of the voters announces the voters' names out loud.

Opening the Polling Stations 129 Podhum in Podgorica was delayed for an hour and a half because of incomplete election material.

Two polling stations in Bar are placed in the same location (a corridor in Blazo Jokov Orlandić school – Polling Stations 53 and 4) such that, by mistake, one voter dropped the ballot paper from Polling Station 4 into the box of Polling Station 53.

At Polling Stations 22 and 121 Rastoci in Niksic, some 20 DPS activists circle in automobiles around the mentioned polling stations. We think that these activities can cause unnecessary tensions.

At Polling Station 49 Vir in Niksic, the members of Polling Board are, in some cases, announcing out loud the names of voters during the identification process. In addition, they violate voting procedure by using the spray before identifying the voters.

According the statements of our monitors, political parties are gathering evidence about voters from outside the polling stations, which is according to our understanding of the law, does not represent a violation of the election procedure. At the same time, we remind the parties that, according to Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Law on Election of Councillors and Representatives, "No one in any way can call citizens to account because of voting, nor require from them to announce for whom they voted or why they didn't vote."