

AFRICAN UNION

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**Program of International Electoral Accompaniment  
Presidential and State Legislative Councils Elections**

**Sunday, May 20, 2018**

**Guide for the Voting Centre Trips**

**I. General Information**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Arikana Chihombori Quao, Permanent Representative

**Institution:** African Union Mission, Washington DC

**Country of Origin:** Ghana

**Region and Route Assigned:** Caracas, Metropolitan area

**Names of the Voting Centers visited**

1. Francisco pirnemtél
2. Fermin Toro
3. Bicentenario Republicano
4. Unidad Educativa Nac. Conocoi MA
5. Comandante Supreme Hugo Chaves Frias



## II. Opening of the Voting Booths

**Constitution of the electoral booths. Assistance of the members of the booth (President, principal members and secretary) and the witnesses. Electoral material, complete and in a good state?**

- All the stations were properly manned
- Each station had 2 witnesses one from the ruling party and one from the opposition
- Electoral materials were all in order

## III. Voting Activity

**Clear recognition by the voters of their options to vote. Training of the members of the booths. Adequate support to the voter regarding the steps to follow. Presence of the witnesses or groups representing the candidates in the sectors of the political organizations which represent each option:**

Each voter was told what to expect during the voting process from beginning to end

There were two witnesses in each room/station.

## **Functioning of the Integrated Authentication System (SAI):**

The SAI was seamless.

There were no system breakdowns during the time I visited the 5 Centers above.



**Functioning of the step by step voting procedure (voting booth) :**

The process was transparent from beginning to end of the voting.

**Guarantees of voting secrecy :**

The voting booth was shielded by a screen which gave the voter privacy as they voted.

**Access and easiness of voting for: disabled citizens, illiterate citizens, elderly citizens, etc. :**

Disabled voters were allowed to have an assistant to help them navigate the process. Each assistant was properly identified.

**Propaganda and political participation. Denouncements of pressure, coercion or bribing in voting. Location of the information points of the different political options:**

I did not witness any signs of pressure, propaganda information, coercion or bribing at any of the locations I visited.

**VI. Scrutiny and auditing of citizens verifications:**

**Regarding the process of scrutiny and citizens verifications :**

The verification process was transparent both at the beginning and end of voting





**Presence of voters and witnesses from the sectors representing each political organization :**

There were witnesses at all the Centers I visited.

**About the organization of the voting process by the CNE:**

The voting process was very well organized with exceptional attention to detail

**About the citizens participation in the electoral process and in exercising their right to vote:**

The Citizens moved freely and did not seem intimidated into coming to the Center to vote.

**Regarding the automatized process of voting (the technological platform):**

The voting machines and electronic digital/biometric verification went on seamlessly

**Regarding the electoral guarantees applied in this process:**

All Centers were manned by armed members of the military

**Conclusion:**

I found the voting process to be transparent, free and fair. Voters were not intimidated or coerced into voting. The environment was secure and safe. I congratulate the people of Venezuela for a peaceful well-run election. Thank you for inviting the African Union to be Observers of this important election.

