Nairobi, Kenya, October 10 (Infosplusgabon) -   Kenya's electoral body summoned its commissioners and lawyers to an emergency meeting Tuesday after the opposition leader, Raila Odinga, withdrew his candidacy ahead of the 26 October presidential re-run
Odinga, candidate of National Super Alliance (NASA), announced his withdrawal from the repeat presidential election, which should trigger fresh nomination process and an election in 90 days.
The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) said it was holding consultations with its commissioners and would make a decision on the way forward.
Odinga said a fresh nomination before the election should be triggered by the formal withdrawal of a presidential candidate nominated after the annulment of a presidential election.
On 8 Aug. Kenyans voted in the 6th election since the return to multiparty politics in 1992.
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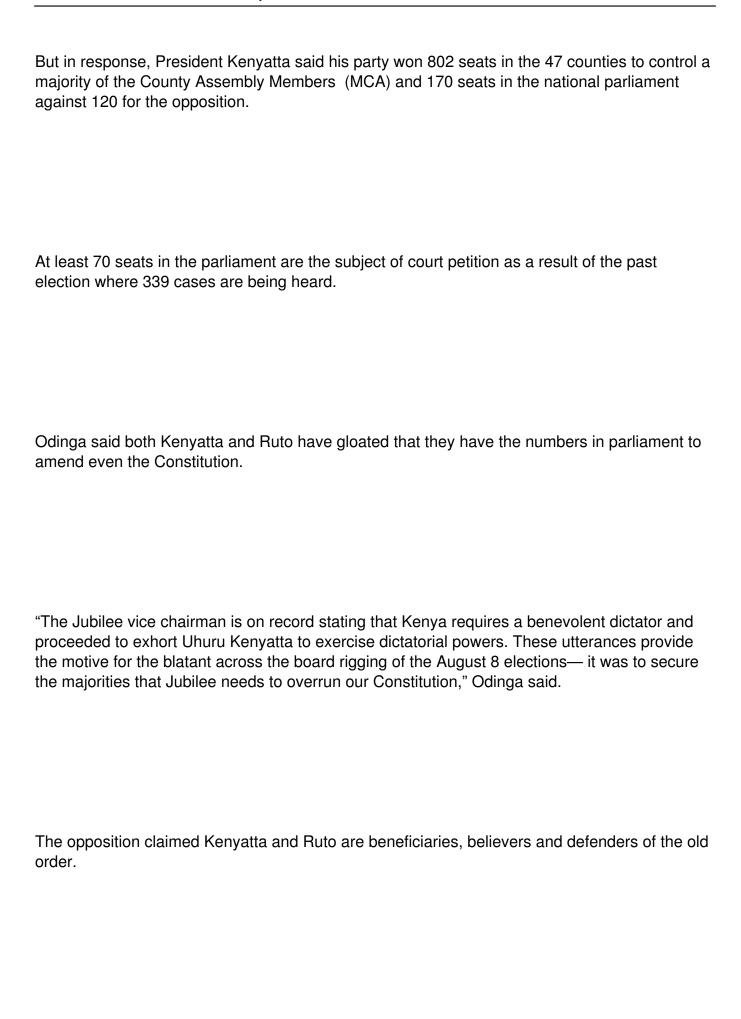
"As is customary voting went smoothly. But when it came to tallying and transmission of results, everything that could go wrong did go wrong. It became the first presidential election in Africa to be annulled by the Court, and only the fourth in the world," Odinga said. He withdrew as Parliament reconvened to discuss a new set of election laws.
President Uhuru Kenyatta and his Deputy William Ruto said the election scheduled for 26 October should go ahead.
After Odinga's withdrawal, Kenyatta said: "If it were my choice, I would have asked to be sworn in. We decided the election should be the way to go."
Odinga, who was accompanied by his running mate Kalonzo Musyoka, said in the aftermath, the annulment has plunged the country into uncharted waters.
"That was to be expected. What we would not have expected is that the country's leadership would be divided by a fundamental tenet of democracy, namely free and fair elections," Odinga told a news conference at his party's Okoa Kenya headquarters in Nairobi.

Kenya: Kenyan electoral board in crisis meeting after Odinga drops out of presidential race

Mardi, 10 Octobre 2017 18:44 - Mis à jour Mardi, 10 Octobre 2017 18:45

In a constitutional democracy, Odinga said there should be no debate about a free and fair election, or compliance with court orders, or accountability for breach of public trust.
"We should have been working together to ensure that we uphold these values as they are not only our national values but are also the foundations of a credible electoral system," Odinga said.
He said he withdrew from the race because the IEBC has stonewalled meaningful deliberations on the necessary reforms to ensure that the election of 26 October is free and fair.
"It has wasted valuable time engaging in public relations exercise intended to create the illusion of motion without any movement," Odinga charged in a televised statement.
He said his party came to the conclusion that there was no intention on the part of the IEBC to undertake any changes to its operations and personnel to ensure that the "illegalities and irregularities" that led to the invalidation of the 8 August 2008 do not happen again.

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