



Felix Tshisekedi wins to be the president “of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) .

Felix Tshisekedi has vowed to be the president “of all Congolese” after the [Democratic Republic of Congo’s](#) (DRC) electoral commission declared him the winner of the country’s long-delayed elections.

The result, which was announced in the early hours of Thursday, was rejected by rival Martin Fayulu, who was backed by opposition heavyweights and had led in polling prior to the December 30 vote.

Tshisekedi had won with 38.57 percent of more than 18 million ballots cast, Corneille Nangaa, head of the election commission said at about 3am (02:00 GMT) in a news conference that appeared timed to avoid any immediate reaction in the

streets. Tshisekedi received more than seven million votes, compared to about 6.4 million for Fayulu, who had warned against manipulation.

Emmanuel Ramazani Shadary, the hand-picked candidate of long-time President Joseph Kabila was third with about 4.4 million votes. The announcement came hours after [riot police deployed](#) at the commission's headquarters in Kinshasa amid fears of violence due to a disputed result.

Election observers [reported a number of irregularities](#) during the vote and the opposition alleged it was marred by fraud.

The result could lead to the vast country's first democratic transfer of power since independence from Belgium in 1960, with Kabila due to leave office this month after 18 years in power – and two years after the official end of his mandate.

But vote tallies compiled by the DRC's Catholic Church found Fayulu had clearly won the election, two diplomats told Reuters news agency, raising the spectre of a standoff that many fear could lead to violence.

In a conference last week, the Church's bishops said that it knew the identity of the winner and demanded that CENI publish accurate results. The Church did not say who it thought the winner was, but briefed diplomats on its conclusions.

Losing candidates can contest the results before the country's constitutional court in the coming days. The swearing-in of the new president is planned for January 18.

Some observers have suggested that Kabila's government sought to make a deal as hopes faded for a win for Shadary.

The result is expected to fuel further suspicion that Tshisekedi struck a power-sharing pact with Kabila. Tshisekedi's camp has acknowledged contacts since the vote with Kabila's representatives but denies there has been any

kind of deal.

Speaking to thousands of cheering supporters in Kinshasa, Tshisekedi paid his respects to Kabila, whom he described as "an important political partner". He said he is will to be a president for all the people of Congo and thanked Fayulu and Shadary, saying he is willing to work with them to build a better Congo