

The Honorary Consulate of the Kingdom  
of Morocco  
Melbourne - Victoria



القنصلية الفخرية للمملكة المغربية  
ملبورن - فيكتوريا

Melbourne, September 30, 2021

*The Kingdom of Morocco has many historic reasons to fly the national flag with pride.*

*The 8 September elections marked the first time that Morocco's 18 million voters cast ballots in both parliamentary and local elections on the same day. Compared with the 2016 elections, there was a 7% increase in voter turnout to over 50%. This reform and results are a tribute to the wisdom and guidance of His Majesty Mohammed VI, King Morocco.*

*Morocco's Western Sahara and Southern provinces experienced a 'massive' increase in voting rate where around 75% of Sahrawis participated. The celebrations of the free and democratic elections in Western Sahara reinforce the integrity and unity of the province within Moroccan sovereignty.*

*Moroccans have voted for a new government with the National Rally of Moroccan Independents (RNI) winning 102 of the 395 seats in parliament. Hence, the King of Morocco has appointed RNI Leader Aziz Akhannouch 'head of government' and tasked him to form a cabinet. As an Australian citizen, I am acutely aware of the continuity and consistency that is embedded in a constitutional monarchy like the Kingdom of Morocco.*

*My sincerest congratulations to His Excellency Prime Minister Akhannouch as he rightly celebrates 'a victory for democracy, its spirit and its rules'. His incoming government deserves every support as the government endeavours to improve the 'daily lives' that have been compromised by the pandemic.*

*The biggest victory in the concurrent local council elections also went to the RNI party who won 9,995 of the 31,503 seats. It is historic that three of Morocco's great cities will be led by female Mayors.*

*Morocco's capital and 'city of lights' Rabat has elected Asmaa Rhlalou, Morocco's commercial capital Casablanca elected Nabila Rmili, and Morocco's tourist hub Marrakech elected Fatima Zahra Mansouri. This is an encouraging and exciting result in a region where women are under-represented in electoral results.*

*This new chapter in Morocco's modern history builds on the many successes that attract increasing global praise.*

*The Noor Solar Complex is now the largest concentrated solar farm in the world. It capitalises on the Saharan sun, providing half of Morocco's electricity. This has positioned Morocco as a renewable energy superpower.*

*Morocco has now developed as Africa's car manufacturing capital. Leveraging its strategic position with only 15 kms to Spain, Morocco exports to both the Africa continent and the EU, with renowned brands such as Dacia, Renault and Peugeot.*

*Similarly, Morocco's agricultural exports are booming, with a 15% volume increase in vegetables per annum. Hence, Casablanca has become much more than a tourist destination, but this major seaport is now the second largest city on the African continent.*

*The Kingdom of Morocco continues to shine as a multilingual and cosmopolitan beacon of freedom, stability and prosperity. The King of Morocco continues at the helm of this promising trajectory, giving Moroccans every incentive to remain proud and patriotic.*

Roland Jabbour OAM  
Honorary Consul General  
For the Kingdom of Morocco  
In the state of Victoria