



PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Electoral Commission steps up its preparation for the forthcoming election.

Monday 3rd February 2016

The Electoral Commission of Seychelles (ECS) is stepping up its preparation for the forthcoming Presidential Election scheduled for 2020. Following its first meeting of the year and follow-up meetings with the ECS Secretariat the Commission is launching an appeal to all citizens qualified to vote to ensure that they are registered for the next election. Voter registration will stop as soon as the election dates are announced. The ECS is strongly recommending citizens to register without further delay.

The current Register that was closed on the 31st December 2019 is being finalized and will be open for inspection from the 3rd to the 14th February 2020 during weekdays only at the locations advertised in the Seychelles Nation on Monday 3rd February and on the Electoral Commission Facebook page. This will be another opportunity for citizens to check and ensure they are on the register and their registration details up to date.

Nevertheless continuous registration is ongoing for those not yet registered. Encouragingly the ECS has noted a significant increase in the number of voter registration applications received and processed during the past months. It is to be noted that the register for the Perseverance electoral area has been established.

The ECS has rectified most of the anomalies identified on the 2019 Certified Voters Register. The outstanding anomalies are being addressed in collaboration with relevant authorities, namely the Department of Immigration & Civil Status and Department of Information, Communications and Technology. The anomalies in question are mostly related to NIN, names, deceased and ages of voters on the database.

The ECS has also submitted its comments on the proposed amendments to the Elections Act, the Political Parties Act and the Constitutional amendments in relation to the recommendations for electoral reform.

Some of the key activities for election preparedness being undertaken currently is:

- The identification and setting up of an Election Headquarters in Victoria
- Site visits and assessments of voting stations on Mahe, Praslin and La Digue
- Review of regulations, guidelines and processes in line with the introduction of the alphabetical voting system to be used in the next election.

The ECS in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance and the Procurement Oversight Unit has agreed on the appropriate procurement procedures for electoral equipment, supplies and human resources to ensure that all is in line with the required regulations whilst maintaining the necessary security and integrity of the electoral process.

The ECS is currently finalizing the process of clearing up the Political Parties Register by taking steps to unregister several parties based on their own request and or as a result of being non-compliant with the Political Parties Act. These are being done following due process as required by law. The ECS will be ensuring stricter adherence to the Political Parties Act by Political Parties by putting in place a monitoring system to that effect.

To ensure the effective conduct of the forthcoming election the ECS is in the process of strengthening its Secretariat with more staff, communications and Information Technology facilities and logistics.

The Secretariat is reviewing its contingent of electoral staff and will soon start recruiting new individuals interested to work as electoral staff during the next election. A capacity building training plan is being elaborated in line with the reforms and introduction of new procedures to be adopted for the Presidential election of 2020.

The ECS is grateful for the support and assistance being provided by all its partners and stakeholders as well as the general public. We look forward for your continuous support in ensuring the success of this next election.

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