

**ELECTIONS (CODE OF CONDUCT OF
ELECTION OBSERVERS) REGULATIONS**

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**ELECTIONS (CODE OF CONDUCT OF
ELECTION OBSERVERS) REGULATIONS - SECTION 99**

(S.I. 131 of 2020)

Commencement

[14 September 2020]

Citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Elections (Code of Conduct of Election Observers) Regulations.

Definition

2. In these Regulations, “Election Observer” means an International or local Observer accredited by the Electoral Commission for an election or referendum.

Application

3. These Regulations shall apply—

- (a) in relation to the local Observer, from the time of accreditation until the declaration of results under section 38 of the Elections Act; and
- (b) in relation to an International Observer, from the arrival of the Observer in Seychelles until his or her departure from Seychelles.

Conduct prior to polling

4. The Election Observers shall, prior to the polling—

- (a) familiarise themselves with the laws governing elections and referendum in Seychelles;
- (b) understand the arrangements at the polling stations and the voting process and counting process in an election or referendum;
- (c) disclose to the Electoral Commission any interest, direct or indirect with any candidate or registered political party.

Conduct during polling and counting

5. The Election Observers shall—

- (a) introduce themselves to the Electoral Officer and obtain permission for entry, wear their accreditation badges issued by the Electoral Commission, and satisfy the Electoral Officer or Deputy Electoral Officer of their identity whenever necessary;
- (b) keep mobile phones switched off and not take any photo or record video inside the polling station;
- (c) bring to the attention of the Electoral Officer if they notice any irregularity in the voting process or counting process;

- (d) without prejudice to paragraph (c), not interfere with the voting process or counting process;
- (e) not give any advice unless requested to do so by the Electoral Officer;
- (f) not express any views on any subject that is relevant to the election or referendum;
- (g) not communicate to any voter on any election or partisan matter;
- (h) record their visit to a polling station and counting station and observations made;
- (i) not wear clothes, apparels, or accessories of any colour which may be associated or resemble with any candidate or political party contesting in the election or referendum;
- (j) not make any statement to the media or any other form of public statement in regard to the ongoing election or referendum.

Conduct at close of polling

6. The Election Observers shall, at the close of polling—
- (a) submit, within a reasonable time, a report of their visit and observations in an objective way to, and provide de-briefings if requested by, the Electoral Commission;
 - (b) seek clarification before validating any adverse allegations made against the Electoral Commission or a candidate or political party contesting in the election or referendum;
 - (c) not announce or communicate the election results until declared by the Electoral Commission under section 38 of the Elections Act;
 - (d) not issue any public statements in respect of their observations until announcement of results by the Electoral Commission.

Conduct to be followed at all times

7. The Election Observers shall—
- (a) not participate in the electoral campaign of any candidate or any political party or directly demonstrate partisanship;
 - (b) exercise diligence and maintain high level of discretion and professional behaviour;
 - (c) display impartiality, independence, neutrality, objectivity and act in an unbiased manner;
 - (d) not display or wear any colour or clothes, symbols, stickers, or banners which may be associated or resembles with any candidate or registered political party;
 - (e) not accept any gift or donation from any candidate, political party, organisation, or any person involved in the electoral process;
 - (f) maintain a close liaison with the office of the Electoral Commission.
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