

Commencement: 30 December 1982

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS REGULATIONS

Order 60 of 1982
Order 8 of 1993
Order 9 of 1997
Order 11 of 2001
Order 38 of 2004
Order 9 of 2006

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MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS REGULATIONS

To prescribe regulations for municipal council elections.

PART 1 – INTERPRETATION

1. Interpretation

In these regulations unless the context otherwise requires –

“Act” means the Municipalities Act, Cap. 126;

“election” includes a bye-election;

“electoral officer” means the Principal Electoral Officer and officers of the Electoral Office; a registration officer; an assistant registration officer; a returning officer or a polling clerk;

“polling day” means the day fixed for an election or the commencement of an election in accordance with section 7(2)(a) of the Act;

"ward" means an area council division of a municipality as declared under section 4 of the Act.

PART 2 – CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

2. Disqualification for election

A person shall be disqualified for election as a councillor if he –

- (a) is a Minister;
- (b) is disqualified from being a member of Parliament;
- (c) is in the service of the council;
- (d) is the legal advisor or auditor of the council or the partner or employee of such advisor or auditor;
- (e) being a person engaged in a profession, is disqualified for or suspended from the practise of such profession;
- (f) is in default of payment of any rates, charges or other debts due to the council for a period exceeding 2 months after the same shall become due;
- (g) is a person having a contract with the council to provide municipal services.

3. Eligibility of candidates

Subject to regulation 2 a person shall be eligible to stand as a candidate for election to a municipal council if he –

- (a) is a citizen of Vanuatu;
- (b) is registered as an elector in the municipality in which he is a candidate;
- (c) is not disqualified from voting;
- (d) has not received a sentence including a suspended sentence of a term or terms of imprisonment which has not ended;
- (e) is not an undischarged bankrupt; and
- (f) has attained 21 years of age.

4. Declaration of candidature

(1) Not later than the date fixed for the return of candidature every candidate for election shall lodge with the electoral officer –

(a) a declaration of candidature signed by him in the form and containing the particulars provided for in Part 1 of Schedule 1 which shall include a declaration that the candidate is eligible as provided for in regulation 3;

(b) two full face photographs of himself;

(c) except for a candidate sponsored by a political party having a symbol approved by the Minister, an illustration on paper of his personal electoral symbol.

(2) A declaration of candidature shall also contain the signatures of not less than five sponsors being persons registered to vote in the municipality of the candidate and not being related to the candidate.

(3) No person may lodge a declaration of his own candidature –

(a) for more than 1 ward; or

(b) in the case of a by-election if he is a member of the municipal council.

(4) The electoral officer who receives a declaration of candidature shall give a receipt to the candidate in the form contained in Part 2 of Schedule 1 and forward the declaration immediately to the electoral office.

(5) The Principal Electoral Officer shall within 24 hours of the day declared by the Minister under subregulation (1) make a list of the candidates named in declarations of candidature received by the Electoral Office and send copies to the Minister.

(6) The Principal Electoral Officer shall send with the list referred to in subregulation (5) such comments on the validity of the candidature of any person named in the list as he shall consider fit.

5. Declaration of invalidity of candidature by the Minister

(1) When a declaration of candidature has been delivered in compliance with regulation 4 the candidate shall stand sponsored for election unless and until the Minister declares his

candidature invalid or evidence is given to his satisfaction that the candidate had died, or the candidate withdraws by notice in writing given to the Electoral Office.

- (2) The Minister shall only declare a candidature invalid on the following grounds –
- (a) the candidate or his sponsors do not have the necessary qualifications or are disqualified; or
 - (b) the declaration of candidature is not sponsored as provided in regulation 4(2).
- (3) Where the Minister decides that a candidature is invalid he shall so endorse the declaration of candidature giving reasons for the decision.

6. Resubmission of declaration of candidature by candidates

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of regulation 7 the Minister shall, where he considers that a declaration of candidature is invalid by reason of a *bona fide* error, not less than 4 days before polling day request the candidate to resubmit a valid declaration within 48 hours after such request.
- (2) Where a declaration of candidature sponsored by a political party is declared invalid by the Minister or a candidate dies not less than 4 days before polling day another candidate sponsored by the same party may lodge a declaration of candidature provided that he does so within 48 hours of the declaration or death.

7. Publication of lists of candidates

A list of candidates shall be displayed at –

- (a) the Town Hall;
- (b) the Parliament building;
- (c) the office of the Minister;
- (d) the Electoral Office; and
- (e) such other places in the municipality as the Minister may direct,

for not less than 4 days before polling day except in the case of new or resubmitted candidatures under regulation 6 where the period shall be not less than 2 days.

PART 3 – ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF A MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

8. Declaration of election without a poll and notice of new poll

- (1) If at the close of or at any time after the close of the period for declaration of candidature the number of candidates in any ward is not more than the number of members to be elected the Principal Electoral Officer shall so report to the Minister who shall declare the candidates elected without a poll.

(2) If the number of candidates is less than the number of members to be elected the Minister shall when he declares the number of candidates elected declare the number of seats vacant.

(3) The Minister shall within 30 days after the declaration referred to in subregulation (2) and after consultation with the Principal Electoral Officer fix the date of an election for the seats declared vacant.

(4) If the number of candidates exceeds the number of members to be elected a poll shall be taken in accordance with this Part and without undue delay after the closing of the list of candidates the electoral officer shall publish a notice stating –

- (a) the names of the candidates;
- (b) the hours of polling;
- (c) the situation of each polling station;
- (d) sufficient information to enable voters to know which polling station they are required to vote at;
- (e) any other information that may be prescribed.

9. Returning officers

Every polling station shall be presided over by a returning officer appointed for that purpose by the electoral officer.

10. Electoral rolls to be in polling stations and voters only to vote if therein and have electoral cards

- (1) During voting a copy of the electoral roll shall be kept in every polling station.
- (2) No person may vote unless his name is contained in the roll of electors of the polling station at which he presents himself for voting, and he produces a valid electoral card issued to him.

11. Persons not entitled to vote

Persons detained in a mental hospital in accordance with the law shall not be entitled to vote whether or not their names may be on an electoral roll.

12. Polls to be secret and electors to vote once for one candidate

- (1) A poll shall be taken by secret ballot.
- (2) Subject to regulation 13, no person shall have more than 1 vote nor vote for more than one candidate.

13. Proxy vote

A person may vote by proxy in the circumstances and in the manner provided for in Schedule 2.

14. Suspension and stopping of poll

(1) Where polling is interrupted at a polling station in such circumstances that in the opinion of the returning officer, it is temporarily impossible to continue he may suspend the poll and recommence it when he considers polling may continue undisturbed.

(2) Where there has been suspension and reopening in accordance with subregulation (1) polling shall continue after the time fixed for ending the poll for the period of the suspension unless the returning officer is satisfied that every elector on the roll has cast his vote.

(3) When circumstances arise which in the opinion of a returning officer make it impossible to continue with a poll within a reasonable time whether or not polling has already been suspended under subregulation (1) he shall declare the poll stopped and inform the Principal Electoral Officer of the declaration who shall immediately forward a report thereon with any comments he may have to the Minister.

(4) When a poll has been stopped under subregulation (3) all proceedings before the declaration shall be annulled by the Minister by Order either –

(a) in every polling station in the relevant ward if the result in the ward as a whole could be affected by the addition of the votes of voters of the polling district where the poll has been stopped; or

(b) in the polling station where the poll has been stopped only if the results in the relevant ward as a whole could not be materially affected by the addition of the votes of voters of the polling district where the poll has been stopped,

and in either case the Minister shall in the Order fix a new day and time for polling and a new poll shall be held.

(5) If in the opinion of the returning officer and not less than one polling clerk not later than half an hour before the time fixed for polling to close, the number of voters waiting will not be able to vote in that time, he may extend the time to the close of the poll by 1 hour and shall record the extension in his report under rule 19 of the Election of Candidates Rules set out in Schedule 3.

(6) The returning officer may close the polling station when all the voters on the roll have voted but the counting of votes shall not start earlier than 1 hour before the time fixed for the end of polling.

15. Display and locking of ballot boxes

Immediately before the commencement of a poll the returning officer shall show the interior of the ballot box to those lawfully present in the polling station and then lock the box with 2 padlocks having different keys and shall retain the key of 1 padlock and give the other to a polling clerk.

16. Method of voting and procedures

The method of voting, procedures to be observed during polls, and the manner of counting votes and declaring the election of candidates shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Election of Candidates Rules set out in Schedule 3.

17. Publication of results

As soon as practicable after an election the Minister shall cause the results to be published in each ward in such manner as he considers appropriate and in the Gazette.

PART 4 – ELECTION REPORTS

18. Report by the Principal Electoral Officer

After an election the Principal Electoral Officer shall make a report to the Minister with regard to the conduct of the election in the municipality and shall forward with the report –

- (a) a copy of each report received in accordance with rule 19 of the Election of Candidates Rules set out in Schedule 3; and
- (b) his comments thereon.

PART 5 – ELECTION OF MAYORS AND DEPUTY MAYORS

19. Election of mayors and deputy mayors and method of election

- (1) Each municipal council shall elect by secret ballot from among its members a mayor and a deputy mayor.
- (2) The candidate who gains the votes of a majority of members of the council shall be elected.
- (3) Where two or more candidates gain the same number of votes the older shall be considered elected.
- (4) The Minister may at the request of or after consultation with a municipal council, authorise the creation of one or more additional offices of deputy mayor.

20. *(Repealed)*

21. Election procedure

The meeting at which the election of the mayor takes place shall be presided over by a deputy mayor. If there is no deputy mayor the oldest person not being a candidate shall preside.

22. Notice of election of mayor or deputy mayor

Notice of the election of a mayor or deputy mayor shall be given to members of the council not less than 3 days before the election is due to take place.

23. Notification of results

The result of the election of a mayor or deputy mayor shall be published by means of a public notice affixed in a prominent place near the main entrance of the council office within 24 hours of its taking place and shall, within the same period, be notified to the Minister.

24. Challenge of elections

The election of a mayor and deputy mayors may be challenged in the same manner and within the period prescribed for objections concerning the elections of the members of the council.

The period allowed for admission of objections shall commence 1 clear day after the date of election.

25. Resignation of mayor or deputy mayor

(1) A mayor or deputy mayor may resign his office by notice in writing signed by him and delivered to the clerk of the council.

(2) A notice of resignation shall be delivered to the clerk of the council not later than 14 days before such resignation is to take effect.

(3) Two weeks after receipt of such notice of resignation of a mayor or deputy mayor, a meeting of the council shall be convened to elect a new mayor or deputy mayor.

26. Eligibility to hold office of mayor or deputy mayor

Only persons elected to be members of a municipal council may hold the office of mayor or deputy mayor or temporarily carry out the duties thereof.

27. Term of office of mayors and deputy mayors

(1) Subject to regulation 25, all mayors and deputy mayors shall hold office until the end of 2 years from the date of their election or until the dissolution of the council whichever occurs earlier.

(2) At the end of the term of office of a mayor and/or a deputy mayor a meeting of the council shall be convened to elect a new mayor and/or deputy mayor in accordance with regulations 19, 21 and 22.

(3) Mayors and deputy mayors who have completed a term of office shall be eligible for re-election to these offices.

PART 6 – CORRUPT PRACTICES

28. Personation

A person commits the offence of personation if he –

(a) except when voting as a proxy, votes as some other person whether that other person is living or dead or is a fictitious person; or

(b) votes as proxy for a person whom he knows or has reasonable grounds for supposing to be dead or a fictitious person.

29. Bribery

(1) A person commits the offence of bribery –

(a) if he directly or indirectly by himself or by other person –

(i) gives any money or procures any office to or for any voter or to or for any other person on behalf of any voter or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting;

(ii) corruptly does any such act on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting; or

(iii) makes any such gift or procurement to or for any person in order to induce that person to procure, or endeavour to procure, the election of any candidate or the vote of any voter;

or if upon or in consequence of any such gift or procurement he procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure the election of any candidate or the vote of any voter;

(b) if he advances or pays any money or causes any money to be paid to or to the use of any other person with the intent that such money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election or knowingly pays any money or causes any money to be paid to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any election;

(c) if before or during an election he directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees or contracts for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration or any office, place or employment for himself or for any other person for voting or agreeing to vote or from refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting;

(d) if after an election he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting.

(2) For the purposes of subregulation (1) –

(a) references to giving money include references to giving, lending, agreeing to give or lend, offering, promising and promising to procure or to endeavour to procure any money or valuable consideration;

(b) references to procuring office include references to giving, procuring, agreeing to give or procure, offering, promising and promising to procure or to endeavour to procure any office, place or employment.

30. Treating

A person commits the offence of treating –

(a) if he corruptly by himself or by any other person either before, during or after an election directly or indirectly gives or provides or pays wholly or in part the expenses of giving or providing any food, drink or entertainment to or for any person –

(i) for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to vote or refrain from voting; or

(ii) on account of that person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting or being about to vote or refrain from voting;

(b) if he corruptly accepts or takes food, drink or entertainment offered in the circumstances and for the purpose mentioned in paragraph (a) of this regulation.

31. Undue influence

A person commits the offence of undue influence if –

- (a) he directly or indirectly by himself or by any other person on his behalf –
- (i) makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence or restraint; or
 - (ii) inflicts or threatens to inflict by himself or by any other person any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm or loss upon or against any person,
- in order to induce or compel that person to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of that person having voted or refrained from voting; or
- (b) by abduction, duress or any fraudulent device or contrivance he impedes or prevents the free exercise of the franchise of a voter, or thereby compels, induces or prevails upon a voter either to vote or to refrain from voting.

32. Penalty for corrupt practices

- (1) The offences of personation, bribery, treating and undue influence are corrupt practices for the purposes of these regulations.
- (2) A person convicted of a corrupt practice shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding VT 100,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years, or to both.

PART 7 – ELECTION PETITIONS

33. Election Disputes Committee

- (1) There shall be an Election Disputes Committee which shall consist of not more than six and not less than four members one of whom shall be the chairman who shall be appointed by the Minister by notice published in the Gazette.
- (2) The Minister may replace a member who is unable to carry out his duties or ceases to be qualified or fill any vacancy.
- (3) When appointing the Election Disputes Committee the Minister may make such stipulations, not inconsistent with these regulations, as he may consider appropriate concerning the functions of the Committee.
- (4) The names of the members of the Election Disputes Committee together with the address of the Committee for service of petitions shall be published in the Gazette.

34. Elections only to be challenged under these rules

- (1) The validity of any election to the Municipal Council may be questioned by a petition brought for that purpose under these rules and not otherwise.
- (2) Every election petition shall be heard by the Election Disputes Committee.

35. Persons who may present election petitions

An election petition may be presented by 1 or more of the following –

- (a) a person who is registered to vote at the election to which the petition relates;
- (b) a person claiming himself to have been a candidate at such election.

36. Petitions only valid if deposit made

(1) The presentation of an election petition shall not be valid unless within the time specified in regulation 37, the person seeking to present the same lodges with the Election Disputes Committee a deposit of VT 10,000 as security for costs.

(2) Subject to subregulation (3) a deposit made under subregulation (1) shall be returned to the petitioner after the petition has been heard.

(3) The Election Disputes Committee may deduct from a deposit made under subregulation (1), the amount of any costs ordered to be paid.

37. Time for presentation of petitions

(1) Subject to subregulation (2) an election petition shall be presented within 21 days of the publication in the Gazette of the results of the election to which the petition relates.

(2) If a petition alleges a specific payment of money or other reward after an election by or on the account of a person whose election is disputed, the petition may be presented within 21 days of the alleged payment.

(3) The time limit provided for in this regulation shall not be extended.

38. Election petitions to be in writing and copies to be served on affected persons

(1) An election petition shall be in writing and shall specify the ground or grounds upon which an election is disputed.

(2) The Election Disputes Committee shall cause a copy of each election petition to be served on any person whose election may be affected by the petition and allow such person a reasonable time in which to make any submissions in writing on the hearing of the petition.

39. Proceedings of Election Disputes Committee

(1) The members of the Election Disputes Committee may make such rules or decisions not inconsistent with these regulations or any other law and any stipulations or decisions made pursuant to regulation 33(3), concerning the conduct of proceedings before them, the times and places of their meetings and adjournment thereof as they shall consider proper.

(2) The proceedings of the Committee shall be considered in English, French or Bislama according to the choice of the petitioner and interpreters shall be provided by the Committee.

(3) The proceedings of the Committee shall be recorded in writing.

(4) Persons may be represented before the committee by counsel.

(5) No person appearing before the committee shall be bound to incriminate himself and all such persons shall be entitled to the privileges accorded to a witness appearing before the Supreme Court.

40. Decisions of Election Disputes Committee

(1) On hearing a petition the Election Disputes Committee may –

- (a) declare the election to which the petition relates void;
- (b) declare a candidate other than the person whose election is questioned duly elected; or
- (c) dismiss the petition and declare the persons whose election is questioned duly elected.

(2) The Election Disputes Committee may make such orders as to the payment of costs by any person appearing before it as it may deem fit.

41. Grounds for declaring election void

(1) The election of a candidate may be declared void on an election petition if it is proved to the satisfaction of the Election Disputes Committee, that –

- (a) bribery, treating, undue influence or other misconduct or circumstances whether similar to those hereinbefore enumerated or not, have so extensively prevailed that they may be reasonably supposed to have affected the result of the election;
- (b) there has been such non-compliance with the provisions of these regulations, in the conduct of polling or in any other matter that such non-compliance affected the result of the election;
- (c) the candidate was at the time of his election a person not qualified or disqualified for election; or
- (d) there was such irregularity in the counting of the votes as may reasonably be supposed to have affected the result of the election.

(2) The election of a candidate shall be declared void if he is convicted by a competent court of committing a corrupt practice or of attempting or conspiring to commit a corrupt practice.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subregulation (1) –

(a) where upon the hearing of an election petition the Election Disputes Committee finds that any agent of a candidate has been guilty of a corrupt practice and the Election Disputes Committee further finds that the candidate has proved to the Election Disputes Committee that–

- (i) no corrupt practice was committed by the candidate himself or with his knowledge or consent or approval;

- (ii) the candidate took all reasonable means for preventing the commission of corrupt practices at such election; and
- (iii) in all other respects the election was free from any corrupt practice on the part of the candidate;
- (iv) such corrupt practices did not affect the result of the elections;

then, if the Election Disputes Committee so recommends, the election of such candidate shall not by reason of any such practice be void.

(b) Where upon the hearing of an election petition the Election Disputes Committee finds that there has been failure to comply with any provision of these regulations, but the Election Disputes Committee further finds that it is satisfied that the election was conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in these regulations and that such failure did not affect the result of the election, the election of the successful candidate shall not, by reason of such failure, be void.

42. Examination of votes cast

When on an election petition the election is claimed for an unsuccessful candidate on the ground that he had a majority of lawful votes the Election Disputes Committee may direct an examination of the counted and void votes and of the counting of votes.

43. Communication of decision of Election Disputes Committee and appeals

(1) The decision of the Election Disputes Committee shall be communicated without delay to the petitioner and all persons whose election is subject to such petition.

(2) Any person referred to in subregulation (1) may within 14 days of such decision or such further time as the Supreme Court may allow appeal to that Court in writing giving brief reasons for his appeal.

(3) After consideration of the written appeal and of the record of the proceedings before the Election Disputes Committee the Supreme Court may either dismiss the appeal summarily or give the other persons affected by the appeal an opportunity to lodge replies to it and fix a date to hear the appeal.

(4) Any decision of the Supreme Court on an appeal whether a summary dismissal or a decision after a hearing shall be final.

(5) The Supreme Court may make rules of procedure to be observed in relation to appeals to it under this regulation.

(6) The Election Disputes Committee forthwith after the end of a period of 14 days after its decision, or in the case of an appeal the Supreme Court forthwith after its decision, shall inform the Minister thereof who shall take all proper measures to effect it and shall inform the Council of Ministers of the decision.

44. Reports to Public Prosecutor

The Election Disputes Committee or, if an appeal from its decision is made, the Supreme Court shall if in its opinion anyone has committed an offence of a corrupt practice in

connection with an election to which a petition heard by it relates, send a written report in respect thereof to the Public Prosecutor.

45. No person required to reveal his vote

No person who has voted in an election shall in any proceedings be required to state for whom he has voted.

46. Savings when election declared void

Where on an election petition the election of a member of the municipal council is declared void nothing done by him prior to such declaration either as a member of the municipal council or in an office for which membership of the council is a qualification shall be thereby invalidated.

47. Disposal of reports and documents

(1) Subject to subregulation (2) the Electoral Office shall retain for not less than 1 year all reports sent to it in accordance with these regulations and all documents sent therewith including packets of counted and void votes.

(2) Documents relating to an election in respect of which an election petition or any legal proceedings have been commenced shall not be destroyed until the proceedings have ended.

(3) The Supreme Court when hearing an election petition or any court trying a person for any corrupt practice may make an order that any document retained by the Electoral Office shall be inspected, copied or produced at such time and place subject to such conditions as it thinks fit.

(4) No order shall be made under subregulation (3) unless the Court is satisfied that inspection, copying, or production is essential for the hearing of a charge of a corrupt practice or the hearing of an election petition.

(5) Except as provided by subregulation (3) no person may inspect or copy any document retained by the Electoral Office under these regulations.

SCHEDULE 1

(Regulation 4(1)(a))

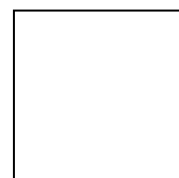
PART 1

DECLARATION OF CANDIDATURE

To the electoral officer for district

I, [name] of

.....
being a citizen of Vanuatu and aged 21 or more



HEREBY DECLARE

1. Myself as a candidate for election to the Municipal Council as representative for Ward;
2. That I am registered in the electoral roll for Polling District, electoral card no.;
3. That I am not disqualified from voting;
4. That I am not serving a sentence of imprisonment or have not received a suspended sentence of imprisonment where the period of suspension has not ended;
5. That I am not an undischarged bankrupt;
6. That my occupation/profession is

DATE:

SIGNATURE OF CANDIDATE

NOTES:

1. When this form is completed (including the sponsorship details overleaf) it should be returned to the electoral officer of the district in which the election is to be held.
2. Please attach to this form –
 - (a) Two passport sized photographs of yourself (not colour photos);
 - (b) An illustration on paper of your personal electoral symbol unless you are sponsored by a political party with an approved symbol.

SPONSORS OF CANDIDATE

1. NAME: ADDRESS:

OCCUPATION: ELECTORAL CARD NO.:

SIGNATURE

2. NAME: ADDRESS:

OCCUPATION: ELECTORAL CARD NO.:

SIGNATURE _____

3. NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____ ELECTORAL CARD NO.: _____

SIGNATURE _____

4. NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____ ELECTORAL CARD NO.: _____

SIGNATURE _____

5. NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

OCCUPATION: _____ ELECTORAL CARD NO.: _____

SIGNATURE _____

NOTE:

Sponsors must be registered as electors in the local government region of the candidate and must not be related to him.

PART 2

(Regulation 4(4))

RECEIPT

Received from Mr/Mrs/Miss this
..... day of, 20....., a declaration of candidature for
the election of members of the municipal council ofto be held on
the day of, 20.....

Signed:

Electoral Officer for District

SCHEDULE 2

(Regulation 13)

RULES FOR VOTING BY PROXY

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PART 2

- Form A – Application to vote by proxy
Form B – Proxy form

PART 1

1. Application to vote by proxy

(1) Any person who is entitled to vote may only vote by proxy if he can demonstrate that by reason of –

- (a) occupation;
- (b) health; or,
- (c) religion;

he is unable to vote at the polling station where he is registered to vote.

(2) A person referred to in subrule (1) shall apply to the electoral officer for the constituency in which he is entitled to vote by the completion and submission thereof of Form A in Part 2 of this Schedule accompanied by his electoral card.

(3) A person who is prevented from voting by reason of his occupation shall accompany his application with a certificate signed by his head of department, superior officer, manager or other person to whom he is responsible certifying as to his inability to vote in person and the reason therefor.

(4) A person who is prevented from voting in person by reason of health shall accompany his application with a certificate by a recognised medical practitioner, nurse, dresser or on the unavailability of any such persons a person of standing certifying as to his inability to vote in person and the reason therefor.

(5) A person who professes to be prevented from voting in person by reason of religious obligations shall accompany his application by a certificate of a minister of his religion that confirms that he cannot vote for reasons of religion.

(6) Every application under subrule (2) hereof shall reach the electoral officer not less than 72 hours before polling.

2. Decisions of electoral officer and notification thereof

(1) If the electoral officer who receives an application under rule 1(2) is satisfied that –

(a) an applicant is entitled to vote by proxy; and

(b) the person named as proxy is registered on the same roll as the applicant;

he shall so inform the applicant using the detachable part of the application form and deliver by post or other means the completed proxy form in Form B in Part 2 of this Schedule and the applicant's electoral card to the proxy named by the applicant.

(2) For the purposes of subrule (1) the electoral officer shall be deemed to have delivered a proxy form and electoral card if he makes known to a proxy that the cards are available for collection at the polling station on polling day.

(3) If an electoral officer who receives an application under rule 1(2) is not satisfied that the applicant is entitled to vote by proxy he shall so inform the applicant.

(4) If an electoral officer although being satisfied that an applicant under rule 1(2) is entitled to vote by proxy but that the person nominated as proxy is not eligible to be a proxy for the applicant he shall so inform the applicant and invite him to nominate another person provided that in his opinion the applicant will be able to make such nomination not less than 72 hours before polling.

3. Revocation of proxies and further applications

(1) A voter may revoke a proxy by notice in writing to a registration officer.

(2) A voter who has revoked a proxy may apply for the issue of another.

4. Elector who has obtained issue of proxy may vote in person

A voter who has obtained the issue of a proxy may vote in person provided he obtains his electoral card from his proxy before that person votes on his behalf.

5. Proxy nullified on death or cessation of eligibility of voter or his proxy

(1) Where the voter or his proxy dies or ceases to be eligible to vote, a proxy shall become null and void.

(2) The electoral officer shall recover the proxy form.

6. Limitations on voting by proxy

(1) No voter may cast a proxy vote for more than two voters.

(2) If more than two proxies are made out in the name of the same voter the two earliest in time shall be valid.

(3) If more than two proxies issued to a voter bear the same date the voter shall be required by the returning officer at his polling station to choose those two under which he will cast votes and surrender any others.

(4) The electoral officer will cause any voter whose proxy is invalid to be so informed without undue delay.

7. Manner of voting by proxy and casting of own vote

(1) A proxy voter shall vote for the person for whom he is proxy in the same manner as he casts his own vote.

(2) If a proxy voter wishes to cast his own vote he must do it at the same time as he votes as proxy.

(3) When a person votes as proxy he must produce his own electoral card; the proxy form authorising him to vote as proxy; and the electoral card of the person for whom he is voting.

PART 2

FORM A

APPLICATION TO VOTE BY PROXY

To the electoral officer for the ward of

1. I, of being registered to vote at polling station hereby apply for the issue of a proxy to of who is entitled to vote at the same polling station.

2. I cannot attend at the polling station on polling day by reason of –

- *(a) my occupation;
- (b) my health;
- (c) my religion;

.....
.....
.....

**(delete whichever is not applicable and give particulars and details stating how your attendance is prevented)*

3. I enclose a certificate from my –

- *(a) head of department;
- (b) superior officer;
- (c) manager, etc.;
- (d) medical officer;
- (e) dresser or nurse;
- (f) minister of religion, sister;
- (g) other responsible person.

**(delete whichever is not applicable)*

Dated this day of 20

.....
Signature of Applicant

NOTE: THIS APPLICATION MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE APPLICANT'S ELECTORAL CARD.

NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANT TO VOTE BY PROXY
(to be detached from application form and delivered to proxy)

To:

- *1. Your application to vote by proxy has been rejected because
.....
.....
.....
.....
- *2. Your application to vote by proxy has been accepted but the person is not named on the roll for and you are requested to nominate another person who is on that roll.
- *3. Your application to vote by proxy has been approved and the proxy form and your electoral card have been delivered to, or made available for collection by
.....

Date:

Signed:

Electoral Officer

**Delete whichever is not applicable*

FORM B

PROXY FORM

(cover)

Registration area no.

Name

Polling station letter

Polling station name

VALID ONLY FOR THE election

Official stamp and date of voting

PROXY FORM

(Inside page)

Name

First name

Sex

Date of birth or age

Address

*Registered as a voter at

Electoral card no.

IS HEREBY AUTHORISED TO VOTE AS PROXY ON BEHALF OF –

Name

First name

Sex

Date of birth

Address

*Registered as a voter at

Electoral card no.

Given at Date

By Signature of

Electoral officer for

**The proxy must be qualified as a voter and registered on the same electoral register as the voter giving the proxy.*

SCHEDULE 3

(Regulation 16)

ELECTION OF CANDIDATES RULES

ARRANGEMENT OF RULES

1. Polling stations	15. Members of public to be admitted to observe count
2. Polling clerks	16. Counting of votes
3. Authorised representatives of candidates	17. Void ballot papers
4. Equipment at polling stations	18. Recounts
Notice for guidance of voters	19. Declaration of votes and report on voting
6. Opening of polling station	20. Notification of votes cast for each candidate
7. Resolution of difficulties and statement of objections and decisions	21. Declaration by Minister of candidates elected
8. Regulation of admission to polling station	22. Determination of successful candidates
9. Keeping of order in polling station	23. Method of calculation
10. Voting	24. Example of proportional representation
11. Polling clerk's duties in respect of person who has voted	25. Declaration by Minister of election of eldest candidate
12. Replacement of spoilt ballot papers	
13. Report on persons suspected of personation	ANNEX – Example of a system of proportional representation
14. Assistance to disabled voters	

1. Polling stations

(1) The Principal Electoral Officer must determine the number and location of the polling stations in each ward.

(2) The Electoral Office is responsible for the installation of each polling station.

2. Polling clerks

(1) An electoral officer shall appoint such number of polling clerks to assist the returning officer as may be necessary.

(2) The oldest polling clerk shall act as returning officer during the absence or incapacity of the returning officer.

3. Authorised representatives of candidates

(1) A candidate or political party may nominate in writing to the electoral officer not less than 24 hours before polling an authorised representative for each polling station who may attend during voting and counting and who may require any comment, dispute or protest to be included in the report by the returning officer made under rule 19(2).

(2) Subject to subrule (3) the Electoral Office shall issue each authorised representative nominated under subrule (1) with a letter of authority and an identification badge or identification card.

(3) No candidate shall have more than one authorised representative at one polling station but one representative may be authorised for more than one candidate and more than one polling station.

(4) A returning officer shall not permit to remain in a polling station any person who claims to be an authorised representative of a candidate but who cannot produce a letter of authority.

(5) A list of all authorised representatives of candidates shall be displayed at all polling stations.

4. Equipment at polling stations

(1) Each electoral officer shall be provided by the Electoral Office with such number of ballot boxes, ballot papers and envelopes bearing official markings as shall be necessary for them to supply to returning officers for the purpose of carrying out their duties.

(2) Each ballot box shall have 2 padlocks with dissimilar keys and shall be so constructed that when locked ballot papers can be put therein but cannot be withdrawn.

(3) The Electoral Office shall also provide each electoral officer with –

lists of authorised representatives provided for in rule 3(5) for each polling station;

2 copies of the electoral roll for each polling station in which the station is established;

sufficient copies of the electoral laws;

(d) enough polling booths to enable voters to vote in secrecy;

(e) sufficient tally sheets for recording the votes cast for each candidate; and

(f) sufficient numbers of any notices required by law to be displayed in polling stations.

5. Notices for guidance of voters

A notice in legible print giving descriptions in English, French and Bislama for the guidance of voters in voting shall be exhibited inside and outside each polling station.

6. Opening of polling station

The returning officer shall open the polling station over which he presides on polling day and at the time provided for in the notice referred to in rule 8(4) of the Municipal Council Election Rules.

7. Resolution of difficulties and statement of objections and decisions

(1) A returning officer shall endeavour to amicably resolve all difficulties that may arise during the poll giving reasons for his decisions.

(2) A written statement of all authorised representatives' objections and decisions thereon together with any relevant document initialled by the returning officer and a polling clerk shall be included in the report made by the returning officer under rule 19(2).

8. Regulation of admission to polling station

(1) The returning officer shall regulate the number of voters to be admitted to a polling station at the same time and shall exclude all other persons except –

- (a) the polling clerks;
- (b) officials of the Electoral Office;
- (c) candidates and their authorised representatives nominated in accordance with rule 3;
- (d) police officers on duty;
- (e) companions of disabled voters;
- (f) press representatives and other persons authorised by the Electoral Office.

(2) All persons authorised to be in a polling station shall wear an identification badge or carry an identification badge or carry an identification card.

9. Keeping of order in polling station

(1) It shall be the duty of the returning officer to keep order at his polling station.

(2) If a person misconducts himself at a polling station or fails to obey the lawful orders of the returning officer he may by order of the returning officer be removed.

(3) A person removed in accordance with subrule (2) shall not without the permission of the returning officer re-enter the polling station.

(4) The power conferred by this rule shall not be exercised so as to prevent a voter who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling station from having the opportunity of voting at that polling station.

10. Voting

(1) Every voter desiring to vote shall present himself at his allotted polling station. The returning officer or polling clerk shall satisfy himself that –

- (a) the voter is registered on the roll at the station;
- (b) has not already voted; and
- (c) place his signature or initials opposite the name of the voter in the margin of one of the electoral rolls; and

deliver to the voter one ballot paper for each candidate and one envelope.

(2) Immediately on receipt of the ballot papers and envelope a voter shall –

- (a) enter a polling booth;
- (b) record his vote by placing the ballot paper bearing the name and symbol of his chosen candidate in the envelope;
- (c) leave all other ballot papers in the booth;
- (d) present himself to the presiding officer or polling clerk who without touching it shall verify that the voter tenders one envelope;
- (e) place the envelope in the ballot box; and
- (f) leave the polling station without undue delay after the completion of the formalities referred to in rule 11.

11. Polling clerk's duties in respect of person who has voted

After each voter has voted a polling clerk shall –

- (a) in those polling districts where it is required, place an indelible mark on the thumb nail of the voter which shall so far as possible be indelible for the period of the poll;
- (b) stamp and endorse on the electoral card of the voter the date of election;
- (c) place his signature or initials opposite the name of the elector in the margin of the second electoral roll; and
- (d) return the card to the elector.

12. Replacement of spoilt ballot papers

A voter who satisfies the returning officer that he has inadvertently spoilt a ballot paper may on surrendering it obtain another.

13. Report on persons suspected of personation

If before a voter leaves a polling station a candidate or his authorised representative or a polling clerk informs the returning officer he has reasonable cause to believe that the voter has committed the offence of personation and agrees to substantiate the accusation in a court the returning officer shall report the matter to the Principal Electoral Officer.

14. Assistance to disabled voters

- (1) Any person suffering from a physical disability may be granted permission by a returning officer to be accompanied into a polling station by a person of his choice to assist him in voting.
- (2) The granting of permission under this rule shall be recorded in the report made by the returning officer under rule 19(2).

15. Members of public to be admitted to observe count

A returning officer shall allow as many members of the public to observe a count as can do so without hindering counting.

16. Counting of votes

(1) Immediately after a poll is closed the returning officer shall administer the counting of the votes which shall be done by –

- (a) opening the ballot box or boxes;
- (b) the returning officer removing all envelopes from each box;
- (c) the returning officer taking the ballot papers from the envelopes;
- (d) the returning officer reading out the name on each ballot paper;
- (e) the polling clerks recording the number of votes cast for each candidate on 2 tally sheets provided for that purpose.

(2) If the number of envelopes is found to be more or less than the marginal signatures or initials made in the roll in accordance with rule 11(c) the discrepancy shall be stated in the report provided for in rule 19(2).

17. Void ballot papers

Any ballot paper which –

- (a) by any writing or mark thereon identifies the voter;
- (b) is not in an envelope or is in a non-official envelope; or
- (c) is in an envelope containing more than one ballot paper;

shall be void and not counted.

18. Recounts

On the close of counting or on a recount a candidate or his authorised representative may request the returning officer to conduct a recount and further recounts but the returning officer may refuse to do so if in his opinion the request is unreasonable.

19. Declaration of votes and report on voting

(1) When a returning officer is satisfied that the count or recounts are complete he shall declare counting of votes completed and formally announce the votes cast for each candidate.

(2) Immediately after declaring the counting of votes completed the returning officer shall complete the official report on polling which shall state –

the number of registered voters;

the number of voters who voted;

- (c) the number of void ballot papers;
- (d) the number of valid votes cast for each candidate;

- (e) such other matters as these rules provide shall be included; and
 - (f) such other matters as the Principal Electoral Officer shall direct may be included.
- (3) The report shall be made in duplicate in French, English or Bislama.
- (4) It shall be signed by the returning officer and the polling clerks. It shall be countersigned by such of the candidates as may be present at the count.
- (5) After it has been signed the report shall be placed in a sealed envelope.
- (6) The returning officer shall also seal in separate packets the counted and void ballot papers and endorse on each packet –
- a description of its contents;
- (b) the date of polling; and
 - (c) the name and number of the polling station.
- (7) The packets referred to in subrule (6) shall, immediately after they have been sealed and endorsed, be signed on the outside by the persons referred to in subrule (4).
- (8) The report and the sealed packets referred to in subrule (6) shall be delivered to the electoral officer responsible for the ward in which the poll was taken by the returning officer or by a person instructed by him.

20. Notification of votes cast for each candidate

When an electoral officer has received all the reports provided for in rule 19 including reports from any polling stations where a new poll has been held he shall notify the Minister of the number of votes cast for each candidate in the wards for which he is responsible.

21. Declaration by Minister of candidates elected

The Minister shall as soon as practicable after receiving notification in accordance with rule 20 from all electoral officers announce for each ward –

- (a) the number of votes cast for each candidate; and
- (b) the name of each candidate elected in accordance with rules 22, 23 and 24.

22. Determination of successful candidates

A system of proportional representation shall be used to determine which candidates shall be declared elected.

23. Method of calculation

The following calculations shall be carried out separately for each ward –

- (a) the total number of votes cast shall be divided by the number of seats contested. The result, calculated to 2 decimal places, will indicate the number of votes required to secure one seat and shall be known as the “electoral quotient”;

Party A	$\frac{772}{353} = 2.19$	2 remainder 66
Party B	$\frac{413}{353} = 1.17$	1 remainder 60
Party C	$\frac{119}{353} = 0.34$	0 remainder 119
Party D	$\frac{108}{353} = 0.31$	0 remainder 108

Party A wins 2 seats clear
Party B wins 1 seat clear

Remaining seat goes to Party C with a remainder of .34 (or 119 votes) although No. 3 candidate of Party A has 1 more vote than the one candidate of Party C.

Further example (with a tied vote)

Candidate Number	NO. OF VOTES OBTAINED				Total Votes Cast
	Party A	Party B	Party C	Party D	
1	400	240	119	119	
2	210	162			
3	120				
4	42				
Totals	772	402	119	119	1412

Electoral quotient $1412 \div 4 = 353.00$

Party A	$\frac{772}{353} = 2.19$	2 remainder 66
Party B	$\frac{402}{353} = 1.14$	1 remainder 49
Party C	$\frac{119}{353} = 0.34$	0 remainder 119
Party D	$\frac{119}{353} = 0.34$	0 remainder 119

Party A wins 2 seats
Party B wins 1 seat

Remaining seat must go to the elder of the candidates of C or D.

Table of Amendments

6	<i>Amended by Order 9 of 1997</i>
7	<i>Amended by Order 9 of 1997</i>
20	<i>Repealed by Order 8 of 1993</i>
27(1)	<i>Amended by Orders 38 of 2004, 9 of 2006</i>
Sched 3, s.1	<i>Substituted by Order 11 of 2001</i>