

ZANZIBAR ELECTORAL COMMISSION



**GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL AND
INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS**

Zanzibar Electoral Commission

GUIDELINES FOR LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

1. Authority:

This Code is issued under section 130 of the Elections Act, 1984.

2. Definitions:

In these guidelines unless the context otherwise requires:

- (a) "Local Observation" means the Observation of the various stages of the electoral process by local organizations duly recognized for that purpose.
- (b) "International Observation" means the observation of the various stages of the electoral process by international organizations and foreign Governments.
- (c) "Observers" means Local and International Observers.
- (d) "ZEC" means the Zanzibar Electoral Commission.

3. Duration:

- a) The election observation shall commence from the date of accreditation up to the date of submission of report.
- b) These guidelines shall apply only to observers who have been accredited by ZEC.

4. Categories:

- (a) Local observers may fall into three categories, that is to say:
 - (i) Monitoring Organisations created for that purpose.
 - (ii) Civic Organisations like Local NGOs and others.
 - (iii) Religious Organisations.

- (b) International Observers may fall into three categories, that is to say:
 - (i) From the UN, the AU, the EU,SADC, the Commonwealth and other recognized international organizations and their agencies;
 - (ii) International NGOs constituted and operating in any foreign country; and
 - (iii) From foreign governments whether with diplomatic missions in Tanzania or not.

5. Accreditation:

- (a) The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania shall formally extend invitations to observers.
- (b) The sponsoring organizations and governments shall notify the ZEC of their plans and details to send observer teams before the deadline as set by ZEC.
- (c) For a person to be recognized as an observer, that person must be designated in writing by a relevant organization or a foreign government, addressed to the ZEC, disclosing his/her particulars and credentials.
- (d) Each observer will be required to present his/her official credentials to the ZEC before commencing his/her assignment.
- (e) In addition to credentials from the sending organization or government, each observer shall be issued by the ZEC with an accrediting document together with a common and an easily identifiable badge or label to be worn visibly by observer at all times while the observer is exercising the functions of an observer, as the case may be.

6. Requirements:

It would be useful for every observer:

- (i) To have some experience, credibility, reputation for impartiality, independence of mind and objectivity;
- (ii) To be able to speak Kiswahili and/ or English sufficiently;
- (iii) To be conversant with the Zanzibar electoral laws;
- (iv) To have some knowledge and understanding of international standards of determining the freeness and fairness of an electoral process;
- (v) To have some knowledge of history, geography, culture and current political situation of Tanzania Zanzibar; and
- (vi) To respect and abide by the laws of Tanzania and Zanzibar.

7. Background Materials and Briefings:

The ZEC will provide the observers with background materials on various aspect of the country. These will include:

- (a) Information pertaining to the history and geography of Tanzania Zanzibar and the current political development;
- (b) Information on the electoral process including the relevant laws;
- (c) A list of polling centers for the constituencies to be covered by the observer;
- (d) A list of fully registered political parties; and

- (e) The names of the candidates and their respective political parties in their constituencies.

8. Scope of Observation:

The scope of observation shall cover all phases of the election cycle and specifically shall consist among others:

- (a) To assess and evaluate the impartiality and fairness of the ZEC;
- (b) To assess and evaluate the impartiality and legality of the decisions taken by the ZEC in respect of electoral disputes;
- (c) To assess the regularity of voter registration;
- (d) To assess the candidate nomination and registration period;
- (e) To assess the regularity of the election campaign;
- (f) To assess the use of the media by candidates;
- (g) To assess the regularity of the voting and counting process;
- (h) To assess the aggregation of voting at all stages and declaration of the election results;
- (i) To assess the regularity of post election cycle.

9. Rights of Observers:

Observers have the following rights:

- (a) To request for and obtain reasonable information on any aspect of electoral process;
- (b) To have access to any voter registration sites and polling stations during and after polling and to request and obtain information from all person concerned with election processes such as electoral officials, members of legislative bodies and government, security officials, news media personnel; and any other relevant organization and stakeholders;
- (c) To have freedom of movement throughout Zanzibar except Military Installations and other restricted areas according to the law;
- (d) Subject to paragraph 10(e) to communicate freely with representatives of any political party.

10. Obligations

Observers shall have the following obligations:

- (a) To respect and abide by the laws of Tanzania in general and of Zanzibar in particular;

- (b) To exercise their role with impartiality, independence and objectivity to the electoral process and to the political parties;
- (c) To respect the role, status and authority of the election officers and to refrain from interfering or intermingling with their duties;
- (d) To cooperate with elections officials; and
- (e) Ask election official, political party representatives and other observers any question inside the polling stations as long as that does not obstruct the election process.

11.Special Directions to International Observers:

International observers will be required:

- (a) To have a valid visa;
- (b) To comply with health instructions;
- (c) To pay due regard to health tips provided by the ZEC; and
- (d) To follow security precautions which will be provided by the ZEC.

12.Mode of Reporting:

- (a) An observer shall report any irregularity noted in the electoral process to the ZEC or to a Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning Officer who will examine the activities reported as irregular and take corrective measures where necessary.
- (b) The observer mission shall provide copies of their reports not later than three months after the announcement of the results.

13.Code of Conduct for Observers:

All observers must adhere to the following code of conduct:

- (a) Strict impartiality;
- (b) To express any opinion to the press on the electoral process only when authorized by the respective organization;
- (c) Observation missions can issue their recommendation during the different stages of the election process and issue periodic public statements about the electoral process;
- (d) Not to play an executive role or to act as a commission of inquiry; and
- (e) To return any identification material issued to him/her by the ZEC and any other material, which will specifically be required to be returned.

14.Disqualification of the status of an observer:

An observer shall be disqualified from observation if she/he:

- (a) campaigns or displays favoritism for a political party; or
- (b) contravenes any of the guidelines.

15. Commencement and Expiration of the Guidelines:

These guidelines shall come into operation, with respect to any organization, when that organization has accepted the invitation given to it, and shall expire when that organization has submitted its report.

THE END