

**Code of Conduct for Candidates for the
Presidency of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste**

No. 93/STAE/II/07

This code is meant to establish the principles and rules of conduct to be followed by the candidates for election to President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

The National Election Commission approves, under Line C, Article A, Law No. 5/2006/ from 28 December 2006, together with Line 2 of Article 67 of Law 7 /2007 of 28 December the following, as a

Code of Conduct:

During the entire electoral process the candidates to the Presidency of the Republic, their representatives and supporters, must obey the following rules of conduct:

- 1) To accept and strictly follow the Constitution, laws, regulations and other official dispositions of the RDTL;
- 2) To accept the legitimate results of the election or to challenge them in the competent court according to the electoral laws;
- 3) To participate in the electoral process in a peaceful, democratic and transparent way;
- 4) To conduct an electoral campaign in a positive way through its programs of action and its political proposals;
- 5) To develop electoral propaganda in the terms and limits and established by electoral laws and regulations;
- 6) To contribute to clear and enlightened information of the citizen electors about the candidacy;
- 7) To contribute so that the citizen electors will be able to vote freely and without exercising any illegitimate influence upon them;
- 8) To respect the rights of other candidates, in order to allow free dissemination of political ideas in a free and pluralistic environment;
- 9) To respect freedom of the press and of all media of social communication;
- 10) To not, by any means, impede any other candidates or their supporters from making their electoral propaganda and electoral campaign activities which are their right;
- 11) To not block the right of any citizen elector to participate in any electoral campaign activity organized by another candidate or his supporters;

- 12) To cooperate with all the authorities that hold responsibility in the electoral process, especially from STAE, the CNE and the Court of Appeals, and well as the electoral officers, candidate delegates, national and international observers, media professionals, as well as the other candidates and supporters, and the security forces;
- 13) To respect the secrecy of the vote;
- 14) To not obstruct or interfere with the work of those who have electoral responsibilities to perform;
- 15) To use, during the campaign, a language that ensures a peaceful environment, free of defamation, non-threatening, not encouraging violence, and without personal criticism towards person or group of people, notably other candidates or their supporters;
- 16) To respect private property, abstaining from sticking posters, writing or painting electoral slogans, without permission of the landlords; or on public property;
- 17) To not conduct electoral propaganda in religious sites, such as churches, mosques, temples or any other place of worship;
- 18) To avoid the inappropriate use State Property or Public Servants on their own electoral propaganda or their campaign purposes;
- 19) To not use public office as instruments of their campaign;
- 20) To respect the obligations of neutrality and impartiality which compel public servants in general, particularly those that work with the electoral administration;
- 21) To respect the dates of electoral calendar;
- 22) Promise to resolve all the possible conflicts in the electoral campaign among candidates in a peaceful way and through dialogue;
- 23) All the candidates promise to denounce any other behaviour that calls into question full observance of the rules and principles in this Code;
- 24) To guarantee that their representatives, supporters and agents acknowledge, comply with and implement this code.

Code of Conduct for Candidates to the Presidency of the RDTL,

Proposed by STAE.

Tomas do Rosario Cabral, Director

Approved in Dili, 7 March 2007

National Election Commission