

No. 05/STAE/X/2011

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY COALITIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF DEPUTIES TO NATIONAL PARLIAMENT

The present code establishes the principles and rules of conduct to be observed by Political Parties and Party Coalitions in the framework of the election of Deputies to the National Parliament of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

Thus, pursuant to subparagraph c) of article 8 of Law No. 5/2006 of 28 December as amended by Law No. 6/2011 of 22 June, and to articles 77.2 and 77.3 of Law No. 6/2006 of 28 December as amended by Law No. 7/2011 of 22 June, the NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION approves the following to have the force of a Code of Conduct:

CODE OF CONDUCT

During the entire electoral process, candidates from Political Parties and Party Coalitions running for National Parliament, their representatives, supporters and sympathisers shall observe the following rules of conduct:

1. Accept and strictly comply with the Constitution, the laws, the regulations and any other normative provisions in force in the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste;
2. Accept the legitimate results of the election or challenge them in the competent court, pursuant to the electoral laws in force;
3. Take part in the electoral process in a peaceful, democratic and transparent manner;
4. Conduct the electoral campaign in a positive manner through their programmes of action and political proposals;
5. Conduct electoral propaganda pursuant to, and within the limits of, the electoral laws and regulations in force;
6. Contribute towards the acquiring by the voters of clear and effective information on their Government programmes and proposals;

7. Contribute so that the voters exercise their right to vote freely and refrain from exercising any type of illegitimate influence upon them;
8. Respect the rights of other Political Parties and Party Coalitions, candidates, thereby enabling the free dissemination of ideas in a pluralistic and free environment;
9. Respect freedom of the press and of all media;
10. Not prevent, by any means whatsoever, other Political Parties, Party Coalitions and their supporters from conducting their electoral propaganda and undertaking the electoral campaign activities they are entitled to;
11. Not impede the right of any voter to participate in any electoral campaign activity undertaken by other Political Parties and Party Coalitions and their supporters;
12. Cooperate with any authority with responsibilities in the electoral process, particularly STAE, CNE, STJ, security forces, electoral officers, electoral monitors, electoral observers (both national and international), and media professionals;
13. Cooperate with other Political Parties and Party Coalitions and respective supporters;
14. Respect the secrecy of the vote;
15. Not obstruct unduly the work of all those individuals with functions in the electoral process;
16. During the electoral campaign, employ a language that contributes towards a peaceful environment, refraining from defaming, threatening, inciting to violence or making gender-based criticism or criticism of a personal nature regarding a person or group of persons, notably other Political Parties and Party Coalitions and their supporters;
16. Respect public and private property, refraining from sticking posters, writing or painting electoral slogans, without due authorisation;
17. Not conduct electoral propaganda in religious places such as churches, mosques, temples or other places of worship;

18. Abstain from the inappropriate use of State property and of civil servants for propaganda and electoral campaign purposes;
19. Not use public office positions as instruments for campaigning;
20. Respect the duties of neutrality and impartiality to be observed by civil servants in general, particularly those belonging to electoral administration or collaborating with them;
21. Respect the dates of the electoral calendar;
22. Undertake to settle any electoral campaign disputes between the candidacies in a peaceful manner and through dialogue;
23. Denounce any conduct that calls into question the observance of the principles and rules contained in the present Code;
24. Not bind the candidacy to any political party, for its expressly prohibited.
25. Not utilise the material defined in paragraph 3 of article 3 of the Regulation for the Electoral Campaign that binds a candidate to a political party for it is expressly prohibited.
26. Ensure that their representative, supporters and candidates delegates comply with and enforce the present Code.

This Regulation shall enter into force on the day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Code of Conduct proposed by STAE.

Dili, 7 October 2012.

Tomás do Rosário Cabral
STAE Director-General