

**No. 52/STAE/VIII/09**

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS COVERING  
THE ELECTION FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Pursuant to sub-paragraph c), Article 8, of Law No. 5/2006 of 28 December, combined with Article 30 of Law No. 3/2009 of 8 July, THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION approves the following to have the force of a code:

**CHAPTER I  
General provisions**

**Article 1  
Scope**

The present code of conduct shall govern the acquisition of the status, the exercise of the functions, as well as the rights and the duties of media professionals.

**Article 2  
Definition**

For the purposes of the present code, media professionals shall refer to journalists and correspondents of the written press and of the radio and television broadcasting stations, whether public or private, who are covering the electoral process in Timor-Leste.

**Article 3  
Accreditation of media professionals**

1. Media professionals interested in participating in the electoral coverage shall request STAE to grant them specific accreditation enabling them to enter polling centres, polling stations and tabulation stations.
2. Accreditation shall be granted against the filling out of an identification form available at STAE and the presentation of the identification document.
3. National media professionals shall be required to present the voter card and the identification form duly filled out.
4. International media professionals shall be required to present the passport and the identification form duly filled out.

**Article 4  
Rights of media professionals**

In covering the electoral process, media professionals shall have the following rights:

- a) The right of access to electoral information sources, pursuant to the present code;
- b) The right to security conditions guaranteed by the political power to enable them to exercise their functions;
- c) The right to preserve secrecy of the information source, pursuant to the law;
- d) The right to be respected by the candidates and other electoral agents.

### **Article 5** **Right of access**

The right of access provided for in the preceding article shall be exercised in the following terms:

- a) For purposes of media coverage, media professionals shall have the right to accede to places where the electoral process is unfolding, including presentation of candidacies, electoral campaigning activities, voting and tabulation of results;
- b) The right of access shall allow media professionals to assist to the counting of votes and the tabulation of results, without prejudice to the provisions of the ensuing norms.
- d) Prior to initiating reporting in polling centres and polling stations, media professionals shall obtain authorization from the Chairperson of the polling station in order to avoid disturbing normal functioning of the polling centre.

### **Article 6** **Duties of media professionals**

In covering the electoral process, media professionals and media organs shall:

- a) Act with rigour and professionalism, complying with the electoral laws and regulations, and promoting democratic principles;
- b) Contribute to the holding of free and fair elections by promoting the dissemination of news based on concrete facts and on unbiased opinions;
- c) Guarantee equal access to, and exposition of, all candidates;
- d) Confirm all the information to be published, it being possible to demonstrate its veracity at any time, and maintain impartiality and independence in the covering of the facts;
- e) Refrain from interfering in the electoral operations;

- f) Publish complete and accurate electoral information without manifesting preference for any lists of candidacies;
- g) Ascribe collected statements to the respective authors;
- h) Refuse gifts, favors or special treatment from lists of candidacies or their representatives;
- i) Not use aggressive language or language that incites to violence or that discriminates people, namely on the basis of color, race, origin, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, political or religious choice, and mental or physical disability;
- j) During the voting process, within the polling station, media professionals shall not be allowed to collect images and information from voters or to get close to ballot boxes in such a manner as to compromise the vote secrecy.

## **CHAPTER II** **Final provisions**

### **Article 7** **Removal of credential**

In case of violation of any of the principles provided for in the present Code of Conduct, CNE may request STAE to cancel and remove any credential granted to any media professional.

### **Article 8** **Revocations**

Any provision on media professionals for suco elections that is contrary to the present Code of Conduct is hereby revoked.

### **Article 9** **Entry into force**

The present Code of Conduct shall enter into force on the date of its publication.

Code of Conduct proposed by STAE  
Dili, 13 august 2009

Tomás do Rosário Cabral

Director

## CODE OF CONDUCT FOR MEDIA PROFESSIONALS

No.	Name	Signature
1	Faustino Cardoso Gomes	
2	Alcino de Araújo Barris	
3	Joana Maria Dulce Victor	
4	Maria Angelina Lopes Sarmiento	
5	Jose Agostinho da Costa Belo	
6	Silvester Xavier Sufa	
7	Lucas de Sousa	
8	Teresinha Maria Noronha Cardoso	
9	Tome Xavier Jeronimo	
10	Deolindo dos Santos	
11	Vicente F. Brites	
12	Sergio de Jesus F. Da C. Hornai	
13	Father Martinho Germano da Silva Gusmão	
14	Arif Abdullah Sagan	
15	Manuela Leong Pereira	

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**FIRST AMENDMENT TO REGULATION NO. 46/STAE/2009 ON  
PRESENTATION OF CANDIDACIES FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS**

Considering the need to clarify a few procedures for presenting candidacies for community leaders, the following is proposed by STAE and approved by CNE, based on article 21.5 of Law No. 3/2009:

**Article 1**

Subparagraphs d), e) and f), as well as paragraph 5, are added to paragraph 2 of article 4 of the Regulation. They shall now read as follows:

**Article 4 – Presentation of Lists of Candidacies**

1. Candidacies shall be presented to the representative of STAE on the day of the community meeting scheduled for such purpose.
2. In order for it to be considered valid, the lists shall:
  - a) Be complete, with candidates for all members of the Suco Council and respective alternate members, except the *Lian Nain*;
  - b) Contain a candidacy statement with the signature, or the fingerprint, of each candidate and alternate candidate in which they solemnly state their will to run in the elections and their adherence to the code of conduct. They shall also state that they are not barred by any ineligibility and that they are not running in more than one list.
  - c) Be subscribed by at least 1 percent of the voters of the Suco or, in a Suco containing less than three thousand voters, by a minimum of thirty signatures.
  - d) A voter supporting a list of candidacy may only be contained in one list;
  - e) Candidates and alternate candidates cannot appear as supporters in the list of candidacy.
  - f) The list shall contain the following data of the supporting voter:
    - i) Name of the voter;
    - ii) Number of the voter card;
    - iii) Date of birth;
    - iv) Address.

3. All candidates and alternate candidates contained in the lists shall mandatorily be present at the community meeting and shall produce their updated voter identification card to the STAE representative present at the meeting on pain of their candidacy being rejected.

4. Only candidates having passive electoral capacity and who do not incur in any legal incompatibility or have any limit to candidacy shall be able to run.

5. The list of forms prepared by STAE relating to the process of presentation of lists of candidacies is attached as Annex I to the present Regulation.

## **Article 2** **Entry into force**

The present amendment to Regulation No. 46/STAE/09 shall enter into force on the day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

First Amendment to Regulation proposed by STAE.

Dili, 20 august 2009.

**Tomás do Rosário Cabral**  
Director

## **FIRST AMENDMENT TO REGULATION NO. 46/STAE/2009 ON PRESENTATION OF CANDIDACIES FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS**

**Approved in Dili on 20 August 2009  
By the National Electoral Commission**

No.	Name	Signature
1	Faustino Cardoso Gomes	
2	Alcino de Araújo Barris	
3	Joana Maria Dulce Victor	
4	Maria Angelina Lopes Sarmento	
5	Jose Agostinho da Costa Belo	
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## **ANNEX I**

Listo of forms relating to the processo f presentation of lists of candidacies:

- Minutes of the Community Meeting;
- Statement of Acceptation of Candidacy;
- Form of List of Candidacy;
- Form for Registering attendance of candidates to community meeting;
- Claiming against process of nomination of candidates;
- Reply to claims against process of nomination of candidates.