



C01-ESC-100123

Tuesday 10th January 2023

To The Commissioner
Electoral Supervisory Commission
Port Louis

PROCEDURES FOR ORGANISING A FREE AND FAIR GENERAL ELECTIONS

Dear Commissioner,

The last General Elections have for the first time been criticized with several complaints, petitions, rumours of ill-doings in transport, in T-squaring ballot box, as a few. Our democracy has hence suffered. As a responsible Commissioner, you have the duty to restore trust for the population at large.

Linion Pep Morisien (LPM) is hereby proposing some measures to modernize our democracy whilst being more transparent.

CANONS OF ELECTORAL INTEGRITY

To ensure genuine, credible and Fair Elections, The Electoral Commissioner, Electoral Commission, Electoral Supervisory Commission, the Mauritian Police Force and ICAC shall endeavour:

- a- To make sure that all citizens of the Republic of Mauritius shall have equal rights to participate as voters and candidates.
- b- To protect the secrecy of the votes (from casting to review by any court – Supreme to Privy)
- c- To ensure that all citizens have the same voting power.
- d- The electoral administration must be conducted in a fair, non-partisan manner and in all transparency.

In the present context we humbly request the Commission and the Commissioner (and all other concerned agencies) to refer to 'Database of Obligations for Democratic Elections created by the Carter Center.

- e- To sensitize through seminars attended by representatives of all political parties that public officials must not use their positions for partisan or personal benefit.
- f- To campaign that everyone has the right to freely debate political issues.
- g- To update the code of conduct. In fact, there should be numerous codes of conduct, ex:
 - 1) Electoral Commissioner
 - 2) Members of Electoral Commission
 - 3) Electoral Supervisory Commission
 - 4) Police Force
 - 5) ICAC
 - 6) Candidates
 - 7) Campaign Managers
 - 8) Political Parties
- h- That there is transparency and accountability at all levels, ex:
 - 1) The officers involved in any new setup, whether organization-wise or posting
 - 2) Preparation of list of electors
 - 3) Campaigning for electors to vote (as no campaign so that there is a low turnout. (Nationally of constituency wise) might favour a particular political party/ alliance.

It is clear for Linion Pep Morisien that greater transparency will enhance the credibility of the electoral process and the legitimacy of the results. The perception also will be transformed. If the electoral process for the next General Elections is:

- a) Free and Fair
- b) Fair and accurate
- c) Transparent at all levels (ex: when printing ballot papers is taking place at the Government Printing – checking & auditing whether the Government Printing can deliver the responsibility and under camera withing a minimum scheduled time)
- d) Well monitored (including by the media)
- e) Laws and Regulations are duly enforced.

It will be quasi-impossible for participants to reject the results of the elections or the legitimacy of the newly elected representatives.



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CANONS FOR FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

- 1) On going campaigns for the Commission to register voters. There should not be more than 1% disparity between overall eligible population and the number of registered electors. If the percentage is more than 1%, something is not working.
- 2) On going campaigns using all modern methods for electors to go to vote and recognizing 'vote blanc' when declaring results. No need to change the law for the Commission to do that.
- 3) Printing of ballot papers to be done at the Government in presence of representatives of the press and political parties.
- 4) Ballot papers once printed should be kept under lock & key, cctv cameras and political parties' representatives.
- 5) The ballot papers shall be transferred to each school or voting centers in presence of representatives of political parties, the press and be video recorded.
- 6) Each voting center shall have a special highly secured room to keep the ballot papers (duly signed on the ballot boxes plus waxes) under camera. Representatives of political parties shall be allowed to sleep at the door of the highly secured room.
- 7) The political parties presently sitting at the National Assembly shall vote to amend the constitution so as to disallow the right to vote to commonwealth citizen.
- 8) Hours of voting will be between 8:00 am and 16:00 hours
- 9) More voting centers will be set up to allow people to vote at a centre not far from their homes.
- 10) Every voting center shall have facilities for sick persons | Handicapped persons | Blind persons | Senior Citizens to cast their votes, all these facilities shall be publicized well in advance.
- 11) There will be introduced a new the yard agent and street agent
- 12) The Commission shall establish an office or offices one week or two weeks before General Elections to register voters and complaints
- 13) Political parties present in each room shall affix their stamps at the back of the ballot paper prior to the casting of any vote.
- 14) Each elector will be asked to have their thumbs or any other fingerprinted with indelible ink as in India once he/she has cast his/her vote.
- 15) No mobile phone / camera any other mobile phone shall be allowed in the voting booth
- 16) At 16:00 hours the person responsible of the class will wait on spot in presence of representatives of candidates / political parties for the siren to open the ballot box and organize bundles of 100. Counting on same day.
 - I. - Once completed counting in each class will start independent of each other
 - II. - Each class shall get over with the counting at 7:00 p.m | 19:00 hours at the latest
 - III. - The presiding officer will go to each class accompanied by a representative of each political party to note the class results and will add all the class results after consulting all parties and will officially declare the vote of the particular school or particular voting center including percentage of voters and percentage of vote blanc.
 - IV. The results will be relayed to the Returning Officer
 - V. The returning officer will pronounce the results per constituency at around 9:00 p.m unless there is a serious mishap.



Avek lepep pou lepep

- 17) All the ballot papers shall be transferred to the class - Highly secured and then transferred under video camera and representatives of political parties to special constituency cell at the the special mobile force. A highly secured system shall be installed until the time for electoral petition is over.
- 18) Special seminar shall be organised by the Commission and ESC to sensitize the Police of offences under Representation of Peoples Act.

In addition to above, Linion Pep Morisien will concert will all Political Parties to create for all opposition groups a common 'Electoral Surveillance Opposition Force' and LPM will also create a Transparent Complaints-Website for the opposition parties and the Civil Society.

LPM officially asks the ESC to abandon any idea about setting up their Computer rooms in voting centers and same for any electronic voting systems if this idea is floating somewhere. ESC should communicate officially that there should be NO MORE 'BASES' allowed. Bus Passes should no more be allowed as an ID as there are risks of printing by third parties.

LPM proposes that ESC considers colour-printed ballot papers with photos of candidates and that symbols are reviewed as in modern democracies.

LPM also requests that ESC submits to all Political Parties, an updated Rules & Regulations, whether internal to ESC or for candidates/parties, and no change in any rules shall happen without consulting Political Parties.

The Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) role must be re-defined under ESC during elections period, as we know that political nominees under the so-called Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA). Political Parties sign a contract with the MBC before political broadcast, and ESC must become a party to this contract.

The 'Electoral Surveillance Opposition Force' will be a '*chien de garde*' when required.

Trust is all we need.

For Linion Pep Morisien (LPM)

Rama	Dev	Jose	Raouf	Neena	Jean-Claude	Vasant
Valayden	Sunnasy	Moirt	Khodabacus	Ramdenee	Barbier	Bunwaree