The Ethiopian Electoral, Political Parties Registration and Election’s Code of Conduct Proclamation

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to enable all Ethiopians to exercise their right to self-administration, without any discrimination, through their representatives elected in a direct and free election;

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to ensure the participation of every Ethiopian in an all-inclusive, fair and peaceful elections held at every level on the basis of equal popular suffrage in which Ethiopians freely express their will in a secret ballot;

WHEREAS, it has become necessary that any electoral activity shall be guided by an electoral law that meets international election standards;

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to establish an electoral system that enables political parties with different views to participate by expressing their opinions to the electorate in a lawful and peaceful manner, and that enables the people to elect their representatives based on informed decisions and free expression of their will;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide the right and duty of citizens who form political parties or become members of political parties, and to determine mechanisms for parties to obtain legal personality and
provide basic principles to be followed by the parties in
their operation as organizations;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to regulate the manner
in which political parties can merge, establish fronts or
form coalitions;

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to put in
place a system that enables political parties and
independent candidates contesting in elections to play a
constructive role to ensure a fair, peaceful, free and
democratic elections system;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to issue codes of
conduct for political parties, candidates, members and
supporters of political parties during the elections
period so that the elections are guided by ethical
behavior and are conducted in a free, peaceful, legal,
democratic and credible manner;

WHEREAS, it has become necessary to establish
institutions that give administrative and judicial
decisions on electoral disputes and to determine their
operational procedures;

WHEREAS, by considering the re-establishment of
the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia under
Proclamation No. 1133/2019 to administer elections
impartially;

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with Article
55 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia, it is hereby proclaimed as
follows:

PART ONE
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Short Title

This Proclamation may be cited as “The Ethiopian
Electoral, Political Parties Registration and
Elections’ Code of Conduct Proclamation No.
1162/2019.”

2. Definitions

Unless the context otherwise requires, in this
Proclamation:

1/ “FDRE” means the Federal Democratic Republic
of Ethiopia.

2/ “Constitution” or “Constitutions” means the
Constitution of the FDRE or Regional
Constitutions, respectively.
1/ “Addis” means Addis Ababa. 

2/ “Card” means an identification card issued to a voter upon registration at a polling station. 

3/ “Region” means regions established in accordance with Article 47(1) of the Constitution and, for the purposes of this Proclamation, shall include Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa City administrations. 

4/ “Board” shall mean the National Electoral Board of Ethiopia re-established under Proclamation No. 1133/2019. 

5/ “Election” means general elections, local elections, by-election or re-election conducted in accordance with the FDRE Constitution and Regional Constitutions and other relevant laws. 

6/ “General elections” means the elections of members of the House of Peoples’ Representatives and Regional State Councils conducted in accordance with relevant laws. 

7/ “Local elections” means the elections of representatives to nationalities’ Zone, Zone, Woreda, City or Sub-City or Kebele Councils conducted in accordance with relevant laws. 

8/ “By-election” means elections conducted to fill a vacant council member seat whose mandates are terminated due to recall or any other reason. 

9/ “Re-election” means the rerun of an election upon cancellation of election result by the Board in accordance with the authority entrusted with it under Article 7(16) of Proclamation No. 1133/2019; upon the decision of the Federal Supreme Court to conduct a rerun election based on Article 154 of this Proclamation; or when candidates obtain equal number of votes and it is impossible to determine the winner. 

10/ “Referendum” means voting conducted to assess the public interest or know the public’s decision based on a decision made in accordance with the FDRE Constitution or other relevant laws. 

11/ “Electoral Roll” means a record wherein voters are registered at polling stations to participate as voters for elections at all levels. 

12/ “Voter Identification Card” means an identification card issued to a voter upon registration at a polling station.
13/“Political Party” or “Political Organization” means an entity with a political program established by organized citizens and registered in accordance with this Proclamation to hold political power by contesting in elections at the National, Regional or Local levels.

14/“Political Party Leaders” means members of the executive committee, as appropriate, or political leaders who have similar executive-level authority.

15/“Constituency” means an electoral district established by dividing the nation’s territories in accordance with the law and in a manner conducive for the election administration and for the people to elect their representatives.

16/“Polling Station” means a place where voter registration, voting and counting of votes take place for various levels of elections.

17/“Election Officer” means a person assigned by the Board to administer elections at various levels.

18/“Candidate” means any person registered to compete in an election on behalf of a political party or independently.

19/“Observer” includes both local and international observers.

20/“Local Election Observer” means a legally registered, impartial and not-for-profit, non-Governmental Local Civil Society Organization which the Board has authorized, based on the organization’s request to observe elections through its representatives.

21/“International Election Observer” means a Foreign Government or International, Regional or Sub-Regional Organizations, or Governmental and Non-Governmental agencies operating in or out of the country and invited by the government to observe elections based on international treaties to which Ethiopia is a party.

22/“Stationary Agent” means a person assigned by a political party or an independent candidate to a specific constituency or polling station to observe the election process on-site and ensure that the candidate’s rights are respected.
23/“Mobile Agent” means a person assigned by a political party or an independent candidate to observe the election process by moving around to different polling stations to ensure that the candidate’s respect of rights.

24/ “Grievance Hearing Committee” means a committee established in accordance with this Proclamation during elections to render administrative decisions to complaints lodged at a Regional Branch Office, Constituency or Polling Station level.

25/“Merger” means the formation of a new party by two or more legally registered parties which have dissolved their distinct legal status.

26/“Front” means an alliance formed by two or more political parties following their agreement to have a common name, political program and by-laws without relinquishing their distinct legal status.

27/“Coalition” means a situation where two or more political parties secure coalition certificate during election with the purpose of winning election for a temporary purpose while maintaining their respective legal personalities.

28/“Substitution” means the replacement by a political party of its old name and program by new ones and registers and operates under a new name when the request made to the Board is accepted following the submission of the required information.

29/“Civil Servant” means an individual who has been employed as a permanent staff by the federal or regional government offices; however, it does not include ministers, state ministers and other similar level appointments at the federal and regional level as well as members of the House of Peoples’ Representatives, Regional Councils and House of Federation.

30/ “Person” means a legal or natural person.

31/ Provisions set out in the masculine gender in this Proclamation shall also apply to the feminine gender.
3. Scope of Application

This Proclamation shall be applicable to:

1/ All general elections conducted in Ethiopia and, as appropriate, local elections, by-election, re-election and referendum conducted in accordance with the Constitution; and

2/ Citizens who form a political party, political parties and their leaders, members, agents and representatives, party or independent candidates, and political parties’ fronts, coalitions, or mergers.

PART TWO
ELECTIONS AND ELECTION ADMINISTRATION BODIES

CHAPTER ONE
ELECTORAL SYSTEMS, PRINCIPLES AND TYPES

4. Electoral System

1/ For the House of Peoples’ Representatives’ election, a candidate who gets the highest number of votes among the contestants shall be declared the winner in accordance with the FDRE Constitution, Where, in accordance with regional constitutions, more than one candidate is elected to regional councils, the candidates who get the highest number of votes shall, in the order of their votes, shall be declared winners.

2/ Regional elections laws that pertain to regional council elections shall be in accord with relevant elections provisions of the Constitution and this Proclamation.

5. Election Principles

1/ Any election shall be conducted based on universal suffrage and by direct and secret ballot through which the voters express their will freely without any discrimination and with popular participation.

2/ Any Ethiopian whose electoral rights have not been restricted by law or the decision of a court shall be eligible to vote or to be elected; however, he shall not be forced to vote or be elected.
3. Each vote shall carry equal weight.

4. Each person shall only be allowed to vote by appearing in person.

6. Types of Election

The following are the types of elections conducted in Ethiopia:

1/ General elections;
2/ Local elections;
3/ By-election;
4/ Re-election;
5/ Referendum.

7. General Elections

1/ General elections are elections of members of the House of Peoples' Representatives and Regional State Councils held every five years.

2/ General elections shall be conducted throughout the country simultaneously. However, if the Board deems it necessary, and when the issue is submitted to the House of Peoples' Representatives and is approved, the Board may decide to conduct them at different times.

3/ For the FDRE House of Peoples' Representatives, only one representative shall be elected from each constituency.

4/ The number of Regional Councils' members shall be determined by regional law and more than one representative may be elected from a constituency to the Regional Council. The region's decision to change the number of their council members shall take place six months prior to the commencement of candidates' registration.

5/ Where, a regional council decides, in accordance with Article 61(3) of the Constitution, for the election of members of the House of Federation by direct popular vote, the election shall be held simultaneously with the general elections. In this case, the regional council shall notify its decision to the Board six months prior to the next election day.

8. Local Elections

1/ Local elections are elections held at various levels, in accordance with the law, to elect council members of nationalities’ zone, zone, Woreda, city, sub-city or Kebele.
2/ The number of representatives elected for councils at various level in a constituency for a local election shall be determined by regional laws.

3/ With out prejudice to the provision of sub-article (2) of this Article, the House of Peoples’ Representatives may, in accordance with Article 55 (2) (d) and Article 51 (15) of the FDRE Constitution, pass a legislation related to local elections that sets standards applicable to these elections.

4/ Regional laws that pertain to local elections shall be in accordance with relevant elections provisions of the Constitution and this Proclamation.

5/ With out prejudice to the application of the provision of this Proclamation for general elections, as appropriate, to local elections; the Board shall, based on this Proclamation, issue a directive to determine the establishment of constituencies or polling stations, the assignment of polling officers and observers; voters and candidates’ registration locations and processes; the the number of endorsement signatures for independent candidates and other matters.

9. **By-Election**

1/ By-election shall be conducted:

a) where councils at different levels request the Board to fill vacancies created for various reasons; or

b) where a recall request, lodged in accordance with the law, is accepted;

2/ The Board shall hold by-election within six months from receiving a request.

3/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Articles (1) and (2) of this Article, no by-election shall be held to fill a vacancy of a council whose term ends within a period of six months or less.

10. **Re-Election**

1/ Re-election may be conducted for one of the following reasons:

a) When the Board decides to cancel an election result and order a re-election on the basis of the powers conferred on it by this Proclamation and Proclamation No.
13. Referendum

1/ When an appropriate body decides based on the constitution or other laws, the Board shall organize a referendum to assess public interest or know the decision of the public.

2/ The Board, in consultation with the body which decided the holding of the referendum, shall conduct the referendum by organizing polling stations in a way convenient to execute the referendum.

3/ The Board shall, in consultation with the constitutionally authorized body, determine the polling date, the voters’ criteria to participate in a referendum, the choices to be put on the ballot paper and the types and contents of campaigns relating to a referendum.

4/ Details shall be determined by a directive to be issued by the Board.
CHAPTER TWO
ELECTION ADMINISTRATION LEVELS

12. General

The Board, in accordance with the powers bestowed on it by Article 7 of Proclamation No. 1133/2019, shall:

1/ Establish branch offices at regional and sub-regional levels. Depending on the circumstance of the region, zonal or constituency level branch offices may provide civic and voter education; prepare permanent voters’ roll to be kept in each branch office; and periodically update information; support studies to determine constituencies and carries out other activities necessary for the preparation and coordination of election administration. The Board shall determine the in a directive.

2/ Establish constituencies and polling stations throughout the country.

13. Establishing Constituencies

1/ Constituencies serving for general elections shall be organized as follows:

a) For the purpose of holding elections, without affecting Regional States’ Boundaries, the territories of the country shall be divided into permanent constituencies on the basis of Woreda administration, which may be re-arranged based on the census results;

b) The country shall have one representative per constituency to be elected to the House of Peoples’ Representatives, where the total number of constituencies may not exceed 550; and the constituencies shall be determined on the basis of population and the number of minority nationalities and peoples with special representation. Except in the case of constituencies for the representation of minority nationalities and peoples, population of the constituencies shall be comparable and the highest number average population deviation between constituencies shall not exceed 15 percent;

c)
c) There shall be constituencies for the representation of minority nationalities and peoples whose number is not less than 20 and which are deemed to require special representation in accordance with Article 54 of the Constitution;

d) Minority nationalities which are deemed to require special representation shall be determined by the House of Federation based on clear criteria established in advance. The Board may issue a directive pertaining to these constituencies;

e) Once the list of constituencies is decided by the House of Federation based on the study submitted by the Board, it shall be announced to the public 180 days before the commencement of candidate registration.

2/ Local elections held at different levels shall be conducted by establishing proportional constituencies in accordance with the region’s laws and based on the number of council seats and the voters.

3/ Notwithstanding the criteria set out under Sub-Article (1) of Article 6 of Proclamation No. 1133/2019, the Board, as appropriate, may establish other criteria. Each constituency shall have a three-member Election Administration Committee that fulfills the criteria for membership of the Management Board.

4/ The Board shall make an effort to allocate in every constituency a stationary local or international observer.

5/ The recruitment and assignment process for election officials conducted in accordance with Sub-Article (3) of this Article shall be transparent to political parties and independent candidates contesting in the constituency; and the recruitment of election officials shall ensure gender representation.

6/ Each constituency shall have a Grievance Hearing Committee selected from the public, and this Committee shall include a constituency election executive member as a non-voter and shall have three members who are not members of any political party and who are known for their integrity; and shall consider gender representation.
7/ The Board shall issue a directive pertaining to the selection of members of election administration and Grievance Hearing Committee and the implementation of this provision.

14. **Power and Duties of the Constituency**

Each constituency shall have the following power and duties:

1/ Based on the timetable issued by the Board
   a) distribute election materials to polling stations
   b) register candidates and issue identity card to candidates to those who fulfill the criteria.

2/ Ascertain that documents and election materials that come from polling stations are properly filled; receive and securely keep these items;

3/ Supervise the proper functioning of polling stations;

4/ Decide on grievances and complaints submitted in accordance with the law;

5/ Determine winners by adding up results collected from polling stations, announce to the public the provisional results and complete necessary forms and submit same to the Board;

6/ Dispatch the list of candidates’ agents to polling stations;

7/ Oversee the elections of three members of the constituency Grievance Hearing Committee in accordance with this Proclamation and a directive to be issued by the Board;

8/ Coordinate joint consultation of political parties contesting in the constituency;

9/ Provide quick response or decisions on complaints coming from polling station pertaining to the election process and result;

10/ Issue identification cards to winners of the election in accordance with a directive to be issued by the Board;

11/ Perform other duties assigned by the Board or the Regional Branch Office.

15. **Establishment of Polling Stations**

1/ The Board shall establish polling stations at locations that take into consideration the special conditions of the disabled and other factors, and
the address of the polling stations shall be announced to the public 15 days prior to the commencement of voter registration.

2/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, the Board may establish mobile polling stations based on the lifestyle of pastoral communities. In this case, the Board shall announce to the public the address of the polling stations established based on the movement pattern of the pastoralists.

3/ The polling stations announced to the public shall serve as the only locations where voter registration, casting and counting of votes take place.

4/ The Board may, if it deems necessary for the election, change the location of polling stations. The public and candidates shall be notified of the changes in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article.

5/ Military camps, police stations, churches, mosques, hospitals, premises where alcoholic drinks are sold, buildings occupied by political or religious organizations and private residences shall not serve as a place where voter registration and voting take place.

6/ The number of voters assigned to each polling station shall not exceed 1500.

7/ There shall not be more than one polling station in an area designated for one polling station.

8/ Each polling station shall, as appropriate, have a committee comprised of five electoral officers who fulfill the criteria set out in Article 6 (1) of Proclamation No. 1133/2019. The head of the polling station shall chair the committee.

9/ The recruitment of election officials conducted in accordance with Sub-Article (8) of this Article shall consider gender representation and the process shall be made known to political parties and independent candidates contesting in the constituency.
10/ Each polling station shall have a Grievance Hearing Committee that is chaired by a member of the Elections Administration Committee selected by the head of the polling station; in addition to the chair, the Grievance Hearing Committee, based on a directive to be issued by the Board, shall have two members, selected from registered voters in the constituency, who are not members of any political party and known to have good ethics and integrity, and shall include one man and one woman. The Board shall determine the in a directive.

11/ The Board shall make an effort to assign at least one stationary local or international observer in each polling station. The allocation of observers shall consider gender representation.

16. **Powers and Duties of Polling Stations**

Each polling station shall have, in accordance with the directive and timetable issued by the Board, the following powers and duties:

1/ Register voters;

2/ Keep election materials dispatched from the constituency;

3/ Conduct elections that protects the secrecy of the ballot in accordance with this Proclamation;

4/ Entertain complaints submitted in accordance with the law;

5/ Count votes and announce provisional results to the public by posting on a notice board;

6/ Ensure proper completion, safeguarding and dispatching of election documents and materials to the constituency;

7/ Cause the selection of two members of the polling station Grievance Hearing Committee in accordance with Article 15 (10) of this Proclamation;

8/ Provide quick responses to grievances and complaints relating to electoral processes and take corrective measures.

9/ Perform other duties assigned by the Board, the Regional Branch Office or the Constituency Electoral Office.
Special Polling Stations

1/ The Board may, for the purpose of enfranchising those living far from their constituency, establish special polling stations at or near the place where the voters are to be found: military who live in camps; civil servants and their family members; citizens attending higher learning institutions; internally displaced citizens; incarcerated citizens whose voting rights have not been stripped off. The Board shall determine the particulars in a directive for these voters, including the place where they will vote, the constituency where their votes are to be counted and other related matters.

2/ The Board, for the voters mentioned in Sub-Article (1) of this Article, may decide to allow them to register and vote earlier than the election day and incorporate the details in the election timetable.

3/ The Board shall conduct a study and submit same to the House of Peoples’ Representatives for a decision on a special procedure to enfranchise citizens residing abroad or for those who cannot vote in their residence for other reasons.

4/ Implementation details shall be determined by a directive to be issued by the Board.

PART THREE
ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION
CHAPTER ONE
VOTERS REGISTRATION

Voter Registration Requirements

1/ Any person may be registered as a voter, who:
   a) is an Ethiopian citizen;
   b) is 18 years old and above on the day of registration; and
   c) has been residing within the constituency for at least 6 months.

2/ The fulfilment of the requirements listed under Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall be verified based on Article 21 of this Proclamation.

3/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, the following shall not be eligible to register as a voter:
19. Registration Timetable

1/ Nationwide voter registration for general elections shall commence and conclude on dates fixed by the Board. The Board shall, before fixing the dates for registration, consult political parties contesting in the elections.

2/ The Board shall indicate the voter registration commencement date in its election timetable and continually announce the date to the public through mass media and advertisements 15 days prior to the commencement of the registration.

3/ The Board may decide a special registration date in case of force majeure.

4/ A person who fulfills the voter registration requirements under this Proclamation but was unable to register because of force majeure may be able to register in a special condition based on the directive to be issued by the Board.

5/ The Board shall issue voter registration timetable for local elections based on the Regional Constitution or other applicable laws. Preparation of the timetable shall be done in consultation with political parties.

20. Place of Registration

1/ Voter registration shall be conducted only at the polling stations established to register voters. It is prohibited to conduct registration outside the polling station, by going door-to-door or moving around.

2/ Notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, in pastoralist areas, voter registration may be conducted by establishing mobile registration stations or conducting door-to-door voter registration as necessary.

3/ Each polling station shall have its own Electoral Roll.
21. The Registration Procedure

1/ A voter may be registered in a polling station where he resides by producing a Kebele identification card or a passport that proves his identity.

2/ The Kebele identification card or passport, even if expired, may serve for the purpose of registration.

3/ In the absence of a Kebele identification card, evidence of identity bearing a recent photograph of the voter, such as a driving license, residence identification card, military discharge document or student identity card, shall be deemed to be sufficient document for registration purpose.

4/ In the absence of evidence of identity provided hereinabove, registration may be carried out: upon recognition of the voter's identity by the registration officers; or, in the case of rural areas, if the voter can be identified through traditional or customary means; and after the incident is recorded in the minutes.

5/ Undocumented voters can be registered based on the testimonies of three individuals, whose long residence in the Kebele where the polling station has been established has been proven and after this event has been recorded in the minutes.

6/ When the voter’s residency requirement cannot be established using one of the criteria stated in this Articles, the registration officers shall determine residency using more than one criterion.

7/ Eligible voters who are frail or blind can register in person with the assistance of their aid.

8/ The name of a person who is eligible to vote shall be entered the electoral roll.

9/ Any person duly registered as a voter shall be issued with a voter registration card bearing his full name including his grandfather’s, the region, zone, Woreda and Kebele where he resides, designated polling station, house number, village or locality, registration number, register’s serial number, electoral roll page, voter's signature, registrar's signature and date of registration.
10/Voter registration shall take place where a minimum of three of election officers are present.

22. **Particulars of the Electoral Roll**

The electoral roll shall have columns for entering the following particulars:

1/ Serial number of registrations;
2/ Registration date;
3/ Full name of voter, including grandfather's;
4/ Date and year of birth;
5/ Age;
6/ Gender;
7/ Disability;

8/ Duration of the residence within constituency (months/years);
9/ Signature or fingerprint on the day of registration;
10/Signature or fingerprint on the day of voting;
11/House number/village or locality-specific name of the area;
12/A column to enter special remarks; in this column, a special remark shall be made for a voter who is missing all fingers;
13/For special polling stations, besides the requirements listed above, a column to enter the voter’s special conditions.

23. **Distribution and Handover of Documents**

1/ The Board, based on the election timetable, shall ensure the timely delivery of the necessary registration documents to polling stations.

2/ The timeline and procedure for the handover of documents used in registration and the electoral roll, including minutes, shall be determined based on a directive to be issued by the Board.

24. **Registration Once and in One Place**

1/ No voter shall be registered more than once in a polling station or in more than one polling station.

2/ A voter shall have only one voter's card.
Any voter whose voter’s card is lost or damaged may apply to the polling station during working hours prior to election day or before the end of voting hours if it is on election day. After verifying the identity of the voter against the voter register and recording the incident in the minutes, the voter may be issued a replacement card or allowed to vote.

25. Closure of the Electoral Roll

1/ Upon conclusion of each day’s registration, the last registered voter’s serial number and date shall be filled in the form prepared for this purpose and signed by polling station electoral officials.

2/ The registration procedures provided in Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall continue until the conclusion of the voter registration period. On the final day of the registration, the electoral officials, upon signing in the open space provided immediately after the last registered voter, shall close the elector al roll.

3/ Unless otherwise determined by the Board, once the electoral roll is closed, no new voter shall be registered; nothing shall be entered or written on it.

26. Displaying the Electoral Roll to the Public

1/ Upon conclusion of voter registration, the electoral roll shall be officially displayed to the public in the premises of the polling station for 10 days.

2/ Representatives of political parties or the independent candidates contesting in the polling station or their agents may inspect the electoral roll upon filing a request to the head of a polling station.

3/ At the end of the elections, the electoral roll shall be deposited in the Board’s regional branch office or a lower level elections office that is close to the polling station.
27. Registration Complaints

Any person or political organization with grievance on the voter’s registration may lodge a complaint along with the reason with the Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee. The Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee shall decide in accordance with Article 152 of this Proclamation.

28. Cancellation of Registration

1/ No person, except when his insanity is verified by an authorized body or by sufficient evidence, registered fraudulently or more than once, deceased, or unless his voting rights have not been restricted by the decision of a court based on relevant law, shall be removed from the electoral roll because of a complaint lodged against him.

2/ When one of the incidents listed in Sub-Article (1) of this Article occurs, courts, hospitals, Idra or other members of the community knowledgeable of the matter are obligated to report the matter to the Board’s regional branch office, the constituency or the polling station within two days of the incident.

3/ The Board’s regional branch office, the constituency or polling station shall, upon receiving evidence in accordance with Sub-Article (2) of this Article, cancel the name of the registered voter.

29. Permanent Electoral Roll

1/ The Board may set the procedures for the preparation of the permanent electoral roll, with periodic updates and revisions, for every constituency.

2/ The electoral roll shall be prepared and regularly revised by the Board’s regional branch offices and lower level offices led by an expert appointed by the Board and in collaboration with the Central Statistics Authority and other relevant institutions.

3/ The Board shall issue a directive pertaining to the preparation, maintenance and revision of the electoral roll as well as the use of technology.
CHAPTER TWO
REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES

30. Location of Candidates Registration
Candidates registration shall be carried out in constituencies at least 90 days prior to the election day and in accordance with the Board’s established timetable for candidate’s registration.

31. Criteria for Candidature

1/ Any person shall be eligible to contest as a candidate who:

a) is an Ethiopian citizen and registered to be elected;

b) is 21 years of age or above on the date of registration;

c) has resided in the constituency of his intended candidature continuously for one year before the election day; or his place of birth is in the constituency of his intended candidature;

d) seeks to contest in a city or Woreda that has more than one constituency and if he has been on a regular work duty for two years in the city or Woreda, then he can choose to contest in any constituency in that city or Woreda;

e) whose electoral rights have not been stripped of by law or the decision of a court;

f) is not declared as incapable of making effective decisions due to insanity verified by an authorized body or by sufficient evidence;

g) has accepted and signed, if an independent candidate himself or if put forward by political party that has put him forward as candidate – the party, the election code of conduct to be issued by the Board in accordance with this Proclamation.

2/ The criteria in Sub-Article (1) (g) of this Article shall not apply to a person:

a) who has been outside of the constituency on a duty or study;

b) who, having been previously elected in the constituency, is already in office.
3/ In addition to the criteria set out in Sub-Article (1) of this Article, an independent candidate shall secure endorsement signature of not less than 5,000 from the constituency’s residents whose age is 18 years of age or above as verified by a local administrator; whose voting rights have not been restricted by law or a court decision or due to insanity. However, the endorsement signature for an independent candidate with physical disability shall not be less than 3,000.

4/ The verification process of authenticity of the endorsement signatures submitted by independent candidates shall be similar to the verification of the authenticity of the endorsement signatures of founding members required for political parties’ registration in accordance with Articles 64 and 65 of this Proclamation.

5/ If an independent candidate has been found submitting fraudulent endorsement signatures from persons who did not express their support, uses fictitious name and signature or does any other act of fraud ascertained based a person’s report or the Board’s investigation, without prejudicing to the punishment based on the criminal law, the candidate’s application shall be rejected or his registration revoked and the person shall be barred for three years from participating as an independent candidate or as a political party leader or member.

32. Candidates Nomination

1/ Any legally registered political party may compete in elections conducted in accordance with this Proclamation by nominating candidates who fulfill the criteria.

2/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, political party candidates, besides fulfilling the criteria outlined in Article 31 (1) of this Proclamation, each candidate competing for a House of Peoples’ Representative seat shall produce 3,000 endorsement signatures from voters residing in the constituency where he is contesting, and a candidate with physical disability shall
To produce 1,500 endorsement signatures, respectively; and a candidate contesting for a regional council seat shall produce 1,000 endorsement signatures and the candidates with physical disability shall produce 750 endorsement signatures, respectively.

3/ The list of political party nominated candidates shall be submitted to the Board by the leader or representative of the political party, front or coalition.

4/ Political party nominated candidates shall present an evidence of nomination by a party and consent of the person to be nominated along with details of candidature.

5/ Front or coalition of political parties shall nominate only one candidate for a single council seat in a constituency.

6/ Any candidate shall register in person. Where the candidate is unable to register in person, he may register through the political party nominating him, provided that the documentary evidences are presented, and where necessary, witnesses ascertain that he fulfills the candidature criteria.

7/ Candidate registration shall be conducted where at least two election officials are present.

33. Civil Servants Contesting Elections

1/ Any civil servant:

a) may contest in an election as an independent candidate or as a member of a political party;

b) contesting in an election shall be granted leave without pay during the campaign period and election time;

c) contesting for council seats at any level is prohibited from using the properties of the employing government office when campaigning during the election time.

2/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, judges, prosecutors, soldiers, the police and other law enforcement forces, security agency workers
and employees of the Board, shall resign from their positions in the event of their nomination as independent or political party candidates.

3/ Judges, prosecutors, soldiers, members of the police and other law enforcement forces, security agency workers and employees of the Board shall not participate in the support of the election of any candidate through speeches, writings and similar activities during the election period.

34. Candidates Signature Endorsement

A resident of a constituency who is eligible to vote shall not provide endorsement signatures for candidates whose number is more than twofold of the seats.

35. Issuance of Candidature Certificate

1/ A candidate identified in accordance with Article 32 shall be entered into the candidate registration form and issued with a candidature certificate.

2/ Candidature certificates of political organization candidates may be given to the candidate or to the nominating organization.

36. Announcement of Candidates to the Public

Once the candidates are identified in accordance with this Proclamation, commencing with the end of candidate registration, the constituency election office shall announce to the public the list of candidates.

37. Candidature Symbols

1/ Any candidate may submit his candidature symbol or choose from those prepared by the Board.

2/ Candidates of one political party may use the same symbol at all election levels.

3/ Candidates of a political party competing for council seats shall use the same symbol in all constituencies.

4/ A political party or independent candidate shall be given priority to choose the symbol he used in previous elections.
5/ The Management Board shall give appropriate decision on disputes regarding elections symbols.

6/ Any symbol shall not:

a) be similar to that of other candidates;

b) be in anyway related to anything or condition that may trigger directly or indirectly hatred or conflict between nation and nationality, race or religion;

c) convey a message of war or any unlawful act;

d) have resemblance to the flags or emblems of the Federal or Regional Governments, other political parties’ emblems; flags or emblems of various International Organizations, or Religious Organizations’ symbols;

e) violate public moral, ethics and other related matters.

7/ The Board shall determine in a directive the ballot paper layout of the candidates’ images and symbols, the sequence and related matters in a manner that is clear to political parties and independent candidates.

38. Change and Replacement of Candidature Symbols

1/ The Board may, in accordance with Article 37, order a political party or an independent candidate to change his symbol.

2/ When the Board decides for a change of a candidature symbol, it shall communicate that decision to the political party or the independent candidate within fifteen days after the closing of candidate registration and request him to submit or choose a replacement symbol.

3/ When a political party or an independent candidate is interested in replacing a symbol chosen earlier, the change shall be notified to the Board in writing within ten days after the closing of candidate registration.

39. Withdrawal and Replacement of Candidates

1/ A political party or an independent candidate may withdraw from an election.
A political party candidate who has withdrawn from the election in accordance with sub-article (1) of this Article shall notify his decision in writing to the political party that has nominated him.

A political party may change or replace a candidate only within a week of the withdrawal of the candidate; or where the candidate withdraws after the end of candidate registration period, replacement can be done only during the month prior to voting day. The criteria provided under Article 32 of this Proclamation shall be applicable to the replacement candidate.

**Death of a Candidate**

Where a candidate of a political party dies after the end of the candidate registration time, the political organization of the deceased candidate may replace the candidate within a period of one month prior to voting date.

Where a political party contesting for election has not submitted a replacement in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article, or the political party’s candidate dies in less than a month prior to election day, the election shall continue with the remaining candidates in accordance with the scheduled timetable.

Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, where a political party informs the Board in writing that it cannot replace the deceased candidate, the election shall continue with the remaining candidates in accordance with the scheduled timetable.

Where there is a single candidate in a constituency and that candidate has died, then the election shall be conducted according to a timetable set by the Board to register new candidates.

**Contesting Only in One Constituency**

A person may be nominated as a candidate only in one constituency and only for a single seat for House of Peoples’ Representatives or Regional Council seat;
42. Special Right of Candidates Registered for Election

1/ Candidate registered for election shall not be arrested except in the case of flagrant delicto for a serious offence.

2/ Where the case is not flagrant delicto as stated in Sub-Article (1) of this Article, legal measures may be taken against a candidate who carried out illegal acts only after the elections results are officially declared to the public by the Board.

3/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (2) of this Article, the winner shall be answerable for the crime committed during the election period only if his immunity is set aside by the appropriate council.

CHAPTER THREE
ELECTION CAMPAIGN

43. Conducting an Election Campaign

1/ From the day a candidate received a certificate of candidature until four days to the election day, the candidate on his own or through his supporters has the right to call rallies and organize peaceful demonstrations without the need to request permission from the administration or municipality but by simply sending a written notification and respecting his legal duties. He has also the right to receive information he deems useful for his election contest from the Board.

2/ Election campaigns to be carried out by candidates and their supporters carried out based on the directive to be issued by the Board shall conclude four days prior to the commencement of voting.

3/ Election campaigns shall be conducted by respecting the constitution and other relevant laws, the rights of voters and the right of other candidates to contest in a peaceful and democratic manner.

4/ The rights indicated in Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall not be put in effect other than what is provided in law.

5/ The Board shall issue election campaign code of conduct to ensure that the election is peaceful and fair.
44. Use of the Mass Media

1/ Political parties contesting elections are entitled to equal access to state-owned Mass Media such as Radio, TV and Newspapers.

2/ Candidates shall be entitled to get access to free airtime on state-owned Mass Media.

3/ The use of the state-owned Mass Media shall be carried out in accordance with the allocation directive to be issued by the Board in collaboration with the Ethiopian Broadcasting Authority and with the participation of the contesting political organizations.

4/ The principles pertaining code of conduct and implementation thereof to the use of private and State-Owned Mass Media, Journalists’ coverage of elections News and related matters shall be determined by the directive to be issued by the Board.

45. Obligation of Government Organs

To ensure the success of campaigning activities, government officials at any level shall have the obligation to create conducive conditions for candidates to utilize such facilities as radio and Television Stations, Newspaper, and Assembly Halls under their respective authority without discrimination. The Board shall issue a directive pertaining to its implementation.

46. Places Where Election Campaigns are Prohibited

1/ It is prohibited to carry out elections’ campaigns in the following Locations:

a) churches;

b) mosques;

c) military camps and police stations;

d) within 200-meter radius of educational institutions and their surrounding when school is in session;

e) within 200-meter radius of a permanent or periodic market place in a rural or urban area while trading is officially in progress;
f) governmental and public institutions during regular working hours;

g) places and areas where other public meetings are in progress.

2/ The Board shall determine the particulars in a directive.

CHAPTER FOUR
VOTING PROCESS

47. Beginning of Operation of Polling Stations

1/ Voting shall commence in all polling stations simultaneously on a date the Board sets.

2/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, in case of compelling circumstances, the Board may set different dates for polling stations affected by the circumstance.

3/ In accordance with the directive to be issued by the Board, voting shall begin:

a) In the presence of agents of political parties and independent candidates, members of Grievance Hearing Committee, observers and election officials;

b) The head of the polling station upon showing to the persons stated above Paragraph (a) that the ballot box is empty, after it is sealed by the provided seal, and placed or hung it in front of observers and within close proximity to them and in an open place; and once minutes are recorded about the opening of the poll in the form provided by the Board.

48. Security of Polling Stations

1/ Polling stations shall be made ready prior to election day by providing adequate protection and security.

2/ Except for election officers, agents of political parties and independent candidates, members of Grievance Hearing Committee and accredited election observers, anyone who is not a voter or who has already voted shall not be present in a polling station.
3/ No person shall be found within a radius of five hundred meters of the polling station inebriated, carrying a weapon or in any other condition that disrupts peace. In the event a person is found in such a state, the head of the polling station shall call for the support of security forces and take necessary measures.

4/ The responsibility of ensuring the security of polling stations rests primarily on the head of the polling station. Where the head of the polling station, members of Grievance Hearing Committee or polling station observers deem that a police force is needed to safeguard the polling station, they may make such requests to the appropriate body. However, Grievance Hearing Committee members, observers and political parties and independent candidates’ agents shall make their request through the head of the polling station.

5/ The head of the polling station may order the person who is not authorized to be in the polling station or has attempted to disrupt the electoral process to leave the polling station. Where the person disobeys the order and refuses to leave, the head may call upon the police force to remove him. The police officer upon discharging his duty shall leave the polling station and return to his designated place.

6/ A police or security force or other person, receiving an election security request from the polling station head or chief election executive of the constituency, has the duty to cooperate, respond quickly and enforce the request in line with Article 27 of Proclamation No. 1133/2019.

7/ If a credible report emerges about a person appearing in a polling station in possession of suspicious documents, the person may be searched in the presence of the head of polling station, agents of all political organizations and independent candidates and observers. In the event that the suspicion is proven, appropriate measures shall be taken.
49. **Voting Hours**

1/ Unless the Board decides otherwise, voting hours shall run from 6:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

2/ Where the Board decides special voting hours, it shall announce to the public the special voting hours at least two days prior to the voting day.

3/ Where the voting hour ends, the polling station shall be closed. However, voters queued at the premises of the polling station shall be allowed to vote.

4/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, where the Board is convinced that election’s freeness and fairness will be further promoted, it may extend the voting hours.

5/ No person may be allowed to enter polling stations before the opening and after the closing of polling stations, except electoral officers, members of Grievance Hearing Committee elected from the public, candidates’ agents and accredited election observers.

50. **Casting Vote**

1/ Any voter shall appear in person and cast his vote with full freedom.

2/ Each voter shall cast his vote only once.

3/ While a voter may cast his vote at a polling station where he is registered, he is allowed to cast vote if:

   a) he carries his voter’s card;

   b) his name is listed in the electoral roll; and

   c) it has been ascertained that he has not yet voted.

4/ Unless the Board determines otherwise, all voters shall cast their votes in a similar time frame.

51. **The Voting Process**

1/ Each voter shall hand over his voter’s identity card, along with the document used to register in accordance with Article 21 of this Proclamation, to the electoral officers of the polling station, whereupon they shall proceed to verify his identity by examining information provided.
Upon identifying the voter based on sub-Article (1) of this Article and after ascertaining that the voter has not voted, he shall be made to sign in the column of the electoral roll designated for the purpose.

After the voter has signed on the electoral roll, his thumb, if he doesn't have a thumb any of his other fingers, shall be marked with indelible ink after which he shall be handed with a ballot paper and directed to the voting booth. If the voter doesn't have fingers, the electoral officers shall ascertain that he has not voted already before they allow him to vote, marking with indelible ink on a visible part of his body.

In the voting booth, the voter shall put on the ballot paper an “X,” an unequivocal mark or a thumb mark in the square corresponding to the symbol of the candidate for whom he wants to vote, after which he shall fold the ballot paper and insert it in the ballot box or bag placed in front of the observers and within clear sight.

Illiterate voters shall vote by dipping one of their fingers in the ink made available and pressing the inked finger in the square corresponding to the symbol of the candidate for whom they want to vote.

Where the voter fails to properly make use of or spoils the ballot paper, he may return the spoilt ballot paper and receive a replacement and cast his vote.

The head of the polling station having given special mark or written “spoilt” at the back of the ballot box returned based on Sub-Article (6) of this Article, place it in a place provided for this purpose.

The Board may deploy technology to assist with the voting and, in accordance with Article 58 of this Proclamation, the vote counting processes. This shall be done in consultation with contesting political parties and the particulars shall be determined by a directive to be issued by the Board.
52. Voters Who Need Assistance

1/ The disabled, the elderly and pregnant women shall be given priority during registration as well as voting.

2/ Any voter who needs assistance to put a mark on his ballot paper and insert it into the ballot box has the right to select his own assistant. The election officer, to the extent possible, shall explain to the voter his rights so that he can properly understand and use it. The particulars shall be determined in a directive.

3/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, the person selected by the voter requiring assistant shall be of 18 years old or above and shall not be a candidate or an agent of a candidate.

53. Non-interruption of the Voting Process

1/ The voting process shall not be interrupted or stopped.

2/ With out prejudice to the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article:

a) Where voting is interrupted for any compelling reason, even for a short period of time, and when the electoral officers are convinced that the problem has been resolved, voting may resume immediately once the incident has been recorded in the minute.

b) Where voting cannot be resumed due to force majeure and the problem cannot be resolved, the incident shall be recorded in the minute and voting shall be discontinued where it is; and the matter shall be immediately reported immediately to a higher elections branch office.

3/ A voting process discontinued in accordance with Sub-Article (2) (b) of this Article shall be conducted at another time determined by the Board.

54. Disputing the Right to Vote

1/ An agent of a candidate may, before the issuance of ballot papers to any voter, challenge a person who is in the process of voting on the grounds that he is not eligible to vote or has not been registered to vote in that particular polling station.
4/ The Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee shall, after assessing the complaints made in accordance with the provisions of this Article, notify its decision in writing to the person or body lodging the complaints prior to conclusion of voting.

5/ The head of the polling station shall keep a written record of the complaints submitted in accordance with this Article and responses provided to the complaints.

55. Voting on a Provisional Ballot

1/ Where Grievance Hearing Committee of the polling state is convinced that a person whose right to vote has been challenged in accordance with Article 54 should be allowed to cast a provisional vote, such a person shall cast a provisional ballot in an envelope prepared for this purpose.

2/ A vote cast in accordance with Sub-Article (1) above may be counted or rejected based on a decision made in accordance with Article 153.

56. The Ballot Paper and Ballot Box

1/ The ballot papers to be prepared by the Board for any type of election shall be user friendly and secure against fraud.

2/ The ballot paper to be prepared by the Board shall contain the candidates’ photographs, candidates’ symbols, full names of candidates and names of their political party.

3/ The number of ballot papers the Board sends to each polling station shall be equal to that of registered voters in each polling station, with a few extra ballot papers for contingency.

4/ The Board and electoral officers at every level shall handle the ballot papers with high standard of care and security.
5/ all ballot boxes shall be made from translucent material.

6/ Any transfer of election documents from one person to another shall follow the legal receiving procedures for such transfers. The Board shall determine the in a directive.

CHAPTER FIVE
VOTE COUNTING AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

57. Place of Vote Counting

1/ Vote counting of any election shall take place at the polling station where voting took place.

2/ Notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, the vote counting shall take place at the secretariat of the constituency, where due to disruption of security or other similar compelling reason, such a request is made to the constituency by the polling station electoral officer and the request is granted by the constituency or when electoral officer of the constituency decides.

3/ The vote counting to be conducted at the secretariat of a constituency in accordance with Sub-Article (2) above, shall be made in the presence of agents of candidates, members of the Grievance Hearing Committee elected by the public and election observers.

4/ The Board may issue a directive to determine the implementation of this Article.

58. Commencement and Process of Voting

1/ Upon the closure of polls, the head of the polling station, in the presence of candidates’ agents, Grievance Hearing Committee members elected by the public, election observers and other election officers and after establishing the existence of sufficient natural or artificial light, shall:

a) record the number of ballot paper issued for that polling station;

b) record the number of voters who have cast their votes on that day; and

c) count and record the number of invalid and unused ballot papers.
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60. Conclusion of Vote Counting

Upon conclusion of vote counting at a polling station:

1/ Electoral officers and agents of candidates present shall ascertain that the voting and counting process and the results thereof are valid by signing on the minutes and form designated for this purpose. However, any agent of a candidate who has complaints regarding the process and results may register his complaints on the form and affix his signature thereto.

2/ The votes counted shall be sealed and immediately sent to the constituency together with the polling station results confirmation form, minutes and the polling station results announcement form that have been signed in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article.

3/ A copy of the vote counting results confirmation form shall be issued immediately to the agent of a candidate who has signed the form.

61. Announcement of Results

1/ Results of the vote counting conducted at a polling station shall be posted on a notice board of the polling station within an hour after the conclusion of ballot counting indicating the number of ballot paper issued for that polling station; the number of registered voters in the polling station; number of voters who cast their vote; the number of used, unused, invalid and spoiled ballot papers; and the number of votes obtained by each candidate.
2/ Upon receiving the results of the elections to the House of Peoples’ Representatives and Regional Councils from each polling station, constituency electoral officers shall, in the presence of candidates or their agents, add up and announce the elections results to the public within five days of the conclusion of ballots unless prevented by circumstances that are evidently beyond their control.

3/ Where two candidates receive equal number of votes and it is impossible to determine the winner, a re-election shall be conducted only between the candidates who have received equal number of votes at a later date to be determined by the Board.

4/ The electoral officers of a constituency, concerning the results they announced in accordance with Sub-Article (2) above shall:
   a) issue a copy of result confirmation form to candidates or their agents;
   b) fill in the result announcement form and send a copy to the Board Secretariat as well as to electoral branch offices at every level.

5/ The Board, until it receives all results from each constituency, may announce at its Secretariat provisional results from constituencies for elections to House of Peoples’ Representatives and Regional Councils. The Board shall announce the provisional election results where the final official results have not been determined within 10 days.

6/ The ballot papers cast in each constituency should be sealed and transported to and stored at the nearest Board Office or Regional Board Secretariat.

7/ The Board shall issue a directive pertaining to keeping and disposal of ballot papers after elections.

**62. Official Declaration**

1/ Upon the conclusion of electoral process and collection of the necessary information, the Board, unless prevented by circumstances that are evidently beyond its control, within 10 days after the election day shall make an official declaration containing the following particulars:
a) The number of registered voters;

b) The number of voters that have cast their vote;

c) The percentage of registered voters that have cast their votes and of those that have not;

d) The list of elected candidates and their respective constituency;

e) The list of winner political parties and independent candidates as well as the number of seats they have won for each council;

f) The number of used, unused and invalid ballot papers and the total votes each candidate obtained in each polling station and other relevant information.

2/ With out prejudice to the provisions of Sub-Article (1) above, if complaints lodged on results at constituency level has the effect of delaying the declaration of result, the official declaration of result may be extended up to 20 days.

PART FOUR

POLITICAL PARTIES IN GENERAL

CHAPTER ONE

FORMATION OF POLITICAL PARTY

63. Political Party Formation

1/ Every Ethiopian has the right to form a political party or be a member of a political party.

2/ Every Ethiopian 18 years of age and above has the right to be a member of a National or Regional Party in accordance with this Proclamation.

3/ Notwithstanding the provision of sub-articles (1) and (2), the following persons shall not be members of a political party:

a) Judge;

b) Prosecutor;

c) Member of the defense;

d) Employee of the police force, intelligence units and security forces;

e) The official of the Board and employees.

4/ If the persons listed in sub-article (3) intend to be members of a political party, they shall resign from their government service.
5/ A person who violates sub-article (3) of this Article shall be deemed to have willingly resigned from his government service and the necessary measures will be taken on him by the relevant authority.

6/ A person who has been deprived of his right to vote and be elected by a judicial decision shall not become a member of a political party for the duration of his ban.

64. **Formation of a Nationwide Political Party**

1/ A political party shall be formed as a nationwide political party where:

a) it has at least 10,000 founding members;

b) not more than 40 Percent of its founding members are residents of a single region;

c) the remaining founding members are permanent residents of at least four other regions of Ethiopia; and

d) the number of members registered as founders in each region as laid down in Sub-Article (1) (c) of this Article constitutes at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total founding members.

2/ The founding members specified under sub-article (1) of this Article: must be at least 18 years old; not deprived of the right to vote by law or a court’s decision; their consent to be members of the political party expressed by their signature affixed next to their full name; and must have submitted to the party evidence of their residence in the place of their registration.

3/ The document signed by the founding members in accordance with sub-article (2) of this Article, shall specify the member’s full name, sex, age, Kebele or Woreda, as appropriate special name for their residence area or house number; type of proof of residence, identification number of proof of residence if available, signature and the date of registration as well as the name and signature of the person who took down these particulars.

4/ In accordance with Sub-Article (2) and (3) of this Article the party or the person who presents the party’s document to have the party registered shall attach a statement of oath confirming that
Article 1
The Board shall verify that a registered nationwide Political Party has the requisite minimum number of members specified under Sub-Article (1) of this Article in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article. The Board shall also ensure that the party leadership or members have not been implicated in fraud in the past five years or have not been barred from party leadership or membership.

8. The document signed by the founding members in accordance with the Sub-Article (2) of this Article shall be a document open to the public.

2) if the above-mentioned involvement in fraud has already been registered, the party leadership or members shall be barred from party leadership or membership.

3) if the above-mentioned involvement in fraud is in the process of being investigated, the party leadership or members shall be barred from party leadership or membership.

5) Where a fraudulent registration of a person as a party member (including name and signature) or a fraudulent impersonation of a party registration has been established following complaint by any person or investigation by the Board, without prejudice to the sanctions to be imposed in accordance with the relevant criminal law, the Board may, in collaboration with the body mandated to grant residence in the Gazette, establish a list of persons who have been implicated in fraud.

The Board shall verify that a registered nationwide Political Party has the requisite minimum number of members specified under Sub-Article (1) of this Article in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article. The Board shall also ensure that the party leadership or members have not been implicated in fraud in the past five years or have not been barred from party leadership or membership.
The Board shall verify that a registered community involvement of members of the local shall reflect gender considerations in accordance with Article 64 (4) and (5). If fraudulent information is discovered, evidence of such fraud must be submitted to a court's decision; must have not deprived of the right to vote by law or a court's decision; must have expressed their consent to be members of the political party, and must have submitted to the party proof of their residence in the place of their registration.

The verification of the information about the founding members that the party presents in accordance with Sub-Articles (2) and (3) of this Article and the sanctions to be imposed if fraudulent information is discovered, shall be in accordance with Article 64 (4) and (5).

The recruitment of founding members in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall reflect gender considerations and the involvement of members of the local community.

The Board shall verify that a registered Regional Political Party has the requisite minimum number of members specified under Sub-Article (1) of this Article, based on a members’ list that the party presents every two years.
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<td>7/</td>
<td>The document signed by the founding members in accordance with the Sub–Article (2) of this Article shall be a document open to public.</td>
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<td>8/</td>
<td>Registration requests submitted at any level during any election period shall be addressed before commencement of candidate’s registration and the announcement of the elections timetable if submitted 90 days prior to commencement of voter registration.</td>
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<td>9/</td>
<td>The Board shall issue a directive to determine particulars required to implement Article 64 and this Article.</td>
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**CHAPTER TWO**

**REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTY**

66. Registration

1/ Any political party can operate as a Political Party in Ethiopia only upon registration by the Board and receipt of a certificate of legal personality in accordance with this Proclamation.

2/ A Political Party that has obtained legal personality in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article may enter into a contract with third parties; sue and be sued; to be owner or possessor of a property; sell, exchange, or transfer assets in any other way or execute any other lawful act that is in line with its purpose.

3/ With out prejudice to the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, citizens intending to establish a political party may apply to the Board to be granted a certificate of provisional registration.

4/ The application in accordance with Sub-Article (2) above should be presented with: a written request for registration; meeting minutes with 200 signatures for a Nationwide Party or 100 signatures for a Regional Party; the provisional name of the party to be established; a confirmation to abide by the election law and other relevant laws; and receipt showing the payment of the Board’s service fee.
5/ The Board shall, upon verifying that the documents specified under Sub-Article (4) of this Article have been submitted, issue a provisional registration certificate. The provisional registration certificate is valid for only three months. However, if the applicants present a satisfactory reason, the validity of provisional registration certificate may be extended for additional three months.

6/ A political party that has obtained a provisional registration certificate can use the certificate only for the purpose of conducting activities required by this Proclamation for the registration of the party.

67. Application for Registration of as a Political Parties

1/ Any application for registration of a political party shall be signed by the party leader and submitted to the Board.

2/ The application submitted in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall be accompanied by the following documents:

a) the memorandum of association of the party done in accordance with Article 72 of this Proclamation;

b) the political program of the party done in accordance with Article 73 of this Proclamation;

c) the by-laws of the Political Party prepared in accordance with Article 74 of this Proclamation;

d) the names and addresses of the party leaders, and a document showing their consent to be leaders and endorsed by their signature;

e) the document signed by founding members which will be made available to the public;

f) the document showing that the political party leaders are elected in accordance with the party’s by-law and in a free and democratic process.

3/ Each document provided under the preceding Sub-Article (2) of this Article shall be accompanied by five copies and submitted together with the application for registration.
4/ A party applying for registration shall pay:

   a) registration fee; and
   b) fee for revision of basic documents when required.

5/ Receipt for payment made in accordance with Sub-Article (4) (a) of this Article shall be submitted together with the application for registration.

6/ The amount payable under sub-article (4) of this Article shall be determined by the Board.

7/ The documents of the political party registered in accordance with this Proclamation shall be made available to the public.

68. **The Board’s Responsibility**

1/ The Board shall examine the application for registration based on Article 67 within 21 days; and where a political party has failed to fulfill the requirements, give the party a written notice of 30 days to fulfill the requirements.

2/ Where the Board’s examination of the application as per Sub-Article (1) of this Article shows that the requirements are fulfilled, it shall, within 15 days, make a public announcement on the appropriate Mass Media, its website, social media sites, enquiring of any opposition to the party requesting registration proposed name or symbol or other related issues.

3/ Any person opposing the registration in accordance with Sub-Article (2) of this Article, shall present such opposition to the Board within 14 days from the date of the public announcement. The Board shall not issue registration permit within this period.

4/ The Board may request for supporting documents and information that are necessary for the registration process.

5/ The Board shall, upon receiving the application and supporting documents in accordance with Article 67 of this Proclamation, examine and ascertain the submission of the requisite documents and their authenticity. It shall, after requesting the party to submit a confirmation to
6. The Board, using the appropriate mass media, shall notify the public of the registered political party in accordance with sub-article (5) of this Article.

7. The Board shall, in accordance with Chapter eight of this section, monitor the income source, expenditure list and assets of a Political Party; where illegal acts are found the Board shall take the necessary measures in accordance with this Proclamation.

8. The Board shall submit periodical and yearly reports to the House of Peoples’ Representatives pertaining to:

a) government’s funding of political parties based on Article 100 of this Proclamation and the utilization of the fund; and

b) the overall activity of political parties.

9. The Board shall, upon receiving the audit report as per Article 105 of this Proclamation, publicize it; and where it deems necessary it may order inspection.

69. Political Party Barred from Registration

1. The political party that has submitted a registration application shall not be registered if:

a) its name; abbreviation of its name; emblem; or symbol is culturally and ethically unacceptable in the country; or

b) its name; abbreviation of its name; emblem; or symbol is in use by another party or is similar to that of another party that is likely to result in voters’ confusion; or

abide by the Constitution, this Proclamation, other relevant laws and codes of conduct as well as visiting the party’s head office, process the formalities of registration within 45 days and issue to the applicant a certificate of legal personality.
d) formed for the purpose of pursuing unlawful activities.

d) aims to fulfill its purpose through armed struggle; or

e) it has members with foreign Nationality; or

f) its name; abbreviation of its name; emblem; symbol; founding document or rules aim to foment conflict and violence based on ethnicity, religion and other similar differences and by spreading hatred and enmity among Nations, Nationalities and Peoples; or exclude people from being members or supporters on the basis of ethnicity, religion or identity; or

2/ A party that objects the decision of the Board made in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article may appeal to the Federal High Court within 30 days of receiving such decision. The party that has filed the petition shall be considered as having a legal personality, and the party leader, who was elected based on the party’s by-law and is the signatory of the registration application, shall be deemed to be the party’s lawful representative.

70. Organization or Associations Barred from Registration as Political Party

The following organizations or associations may not be registered as political parties under this Proclamation:

1/ associations or organizations formed for the purpose of carrying on commercial and industrial activities in accordance with the Commercial Code or the Civil Code or other relevant laws;

2/ not for profit or welfare associations or organizations;

3/ Mass Media, Trade Unions and Professional Associations;

4/ Mutual help Associations;

5/ Religious Organizations;

6/ social associations such as idir, equb, and the like.
CHAPTER THREE
DOCUMENTS OF POLITICAL PARTY

71. Document of a Political Party

1/ A political party shall have the following basic documents:
   a) memorandum of association;
   b) political program;
   c) by-laws;
   d) documents related to ownership, property and revenue and expenditure.

2/ A political party that intends to amend the documents listed under Sub-Article (1) from (a) to (c) of this Article shall first notify the Board of its intention. The Board shall, as appropriate, accept and process the request for amendment in accordance with the provisions of Article 68.

72. A Political Party’s Memorandum of Association

1/ Individuals who desire to establish a political party must have a memorandum of association in which they declare the establishment of the political party they want to organize.

2/ A memorandum of association shall include the following particulars:
   a) the full name of the party and its abbreviation;
   b) the emblem of the party;
   c) the objectives of the party;
   d) the party’s assets and source of income;
   e) the day and year of establishment of the party;
   f) the addresses of the party’s head office and branch offices;
   g) the procedures of issuing the by-laws.

3/ The memorandum of association of a political party shall be adopted at the general meeting held to establish the party.

73. Political Party’s Program

Any political party must have a program in which the political belief it pursues as its objective is formulated and the adoption and amendment of the program shall be done at the party’s general meeting.
74. Political Party’s By-Laws

1/ Any political party must have its own by laws. Such by-laws shall include the following particulars:

- a) conditions for admission and expulsion of members;
- b) details of the right and duty of members;
- c) details of the various organs of the party, the procedure for their election, their tenure and description of their respective functions;
- d) types of membership fees and payment structure as well as the members’ participation level in the party’s activities;
- e) the party’s procedures for convening meetings and passing decisions;
- f) details of measures of procedure and code of conduct applicable to members;
- g) a stipulation that the quorum for the party’s general meeting shall be constituted by at least 5 percent of the minimum number of founding members required in this Proclamation;
- h) a stipulation that the party’s general meeting shall be held at least once every three years;
- i) organizational structure of the party and positions within the party including the establishment and functions of party’s branch offices;
- j) list of matters that require the decision of the party’s general Assembly;
- k) the course of action and decision-making process for forming a merger, coalition, or front with other political parties, as well as for the party’s dissolution;
- l) The procedure for the nomination of party members for national and other various level elections;
- m) The party’s human resource, financial and audit administration process;
- n) The party’s financial and asset administration policy, income mobilization process as well as an explanation of the person or organ of the party mandated to decide on such matters;
o) The procedure for resolving political party’s internal disputes; and

p) details as to the equality of votes between every member of the Political Party.

2/ Any by-law of political party shall not abridge the right of a member of the political party guaranteed to him as citizen or of release him from his duties as a citizen.

3/ The by-law of every political party shall stipulate that the election of its leadership and other officials at all levels must be conducted in a transparent, free and fair manner, where secrecy of the ballot is protected.

4/ Any political party when conducting election for leadership position shall ensure gender representation consideration.

5/ The by-law of every political party shall be consistent with the provisions of Article 75 and from Article 86 to Article 90 of this Proclamation.

6/ When dispute arises between members of a political party regarding the implementation of the by-law of the party and other related issues and an application is made to the Board, it shall establish a panel of experts that shall investigate and provide a recommendation on the matter. The implementation particulars will be determined by a directive to be issued by the Board.

CHAPTER FOUR
RIGHT AND DUTY OF A POLITICAL PARTY

75/ Independence of a Political Party in Respect to its Own Affairs
Every political party:

1/ Shall determine in its by-laws the procedures of adopting and amending its political program and by-laws as well as holding meetings;

2/ In accordance with its by-laws, shall have leading organs to direct, decide and implement its political activity.

76. Establishing Branch Offices

1/ Any Political Party may establish branch offices anywhere within the country for the purpose of carrying out its political activity.
A political party that has branch offices at the National, Regional and Sub-Regional levels shall stipulate in its by-law, the relationship between various branches and their power structure.

77. Exemption from Income Tax

1/ Any political party shall not be liable to pay any kind of income tax on income collected from its members and supporters.

2/ Political party does not have the obligation to collect and transfer to the government, employees’ salaries’ income tax in accordance with the law.

78. Duty to Submit Report

1/ A political party registered in accordance with this Proclamation has the duty to:

   a) Submit an annual report that outlines the number of its members, their gender and age distribution and their place of residence;

   b) At the request of the Board, submit a document showing compliance with the minimum number of members required and other standards set under this Proclamation;

   c) Where it intends to convene a meeting to form a front, merger, or coalition, notify the Board to attend the meeting at least 30 days in advance;

   d) Submit a written report signed by the leader annually or within a timeline determined by the Board, on the party’s assets and liabilities certified, as appropriate, by an auditor or an accountant.

The report provided under Sub-Article (1) (d) of this Article shall disclose the income or asset sources of the political party.

3/ The Board may, after giving a one-month warning for a political party that does not comply with the obligations under Sub-Article (1) take necessary measures in accordance with Article 98 of this Proclamation.

4/ Where the property and debt in accordance with this Articles submitted in writing to the Board by a political party or a leader of a political
party has been found untrue, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 98 of this Proclamation, it shall be liable under the appropriate provisions of the Criminal Code.

5/ A political party that has established branch office in accordance with Article 76 of this Proclamation shall notify in writing the branch office address and leaders or representatives of the office to the Board within one month of establishing the branch office.

79. Duty to Provide Information

1/ A political party has an obligation under this Proclamation to give a written information in certified documents when requested by Board.

2/ When a political party convenes a general meeting, it has to notify 30 days in advance for a Board representative to attend the meeting.

3/ Where a political party required to give information in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article is unwilling to provide such information or gives intentionally untrue information, the Board shall take measures stipulated under Article 98(1) (d) of this Proclamation.

80. Notification of Management Members

1/ Any political party, when it elects new leaders, shall notify the Board in writing within one month.

2/ When a political party that loses leading members for various reasons and such number is below 50%+1, the party shall elect in their replacement within 30 days. The party shall inform this incident within a month to the Board.

81. Keeping Documents of Political Parties

1/ Any political party shall have the duty to keep proper record of the matters provided under chapter eight sub-section two of this Proclamation such as, books of account, certificates of donation, ownership deed.

2/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, based on the reasons of space constraint and manpower shortage, books of accounts aged over 10 years may be disposed.
3. With out prejudice to the provision of Sub-Article (1) and (2) of this Article, every political party shall keep other documents of the party properly.

82. **Political Party Annual Audit**

1. Any political party must keep properly its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities records, bank statements and documents. The Board will issue a directive to determine the titles and details that these documents must contain.

2. Unless stated otherwise in this Proclamation, every political party shall commission within three months of the end of the budget year, an external auditor whose professional competency has been approved by the mandated body; an accountant who has taken a professional oath; or a Board appointed auditor to conduct the financial audit and submit to the Board an audit report.

3. Where its financial position for the budget year preceding the one to be audited is less than Birr 300,000 (Birr three hundred thousand), the political party can assign an accountant who has taken a professional oath to conduct the annual financial audit and submit the report to the Board.

4. Where its financial position for the budget year preceding the one to be audited is more than Birr 300,000 (Birr three hundred thousand), the political party can engage a certified external auditor, or an auditor assigned by the Board to conduct the annual audit and submit the report to the Board.

5. The external auditor, provided in Sub-Article (2) and (3) of this Article, shall be appointed by the political party executive organ.

6. As appropriate, the Board may request the Auditor General to investigate financial documents of any political party.

83. **Rights of Auditor or Accountant**

The auditor or accountant auditing a political party’s finances has the right to request for, and examine any document related to the assets and properties of the political party.

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84. A Person Incapable of Appointment as Political Party Auditor or Serving as an Accountant

Whosoever served or is serving a political party in the capacity of a lawyer, an employee, a Board member, or in any manner that may cause conflict of interest, shall not be engaged as the political party auditor or accountant.

85. Procedure of Auditor of Political Party

1/ A political party’s auditor or accountant and the professionals they engage to assist with the work shall perform their work ethically, honestly and independently.

2/ The auditor’s audit or the accountant’s investigation report shall be submitted in writing to the political party leaders.

3/ The certificate of professional competence of the auditor or the accountant shall be attached to the audit report to be submitted by a political party.

86. Designation and Emblem of Political Party

1/ The designation of any political party shall not be similar to or create confusion with the designation of another political party and shall be the sole designation of the party.

2/ The emblem and symbols of the party:
   a) Shall not be similar with the emblems and symbols of other political parties;
   b) Shall not create hatred and conflict among Nation, Nationalities, Race, Religion;
   c) Shall not convey messages of war and other unlawful acts;
   d) Shall not be similar with the symbols or emblem of Ethiopia or with those of the various international organizations or with the symbols of religious organizations;
   e) Shall not be against public morality or ethics or other similar interests.
CHAPTER FIVE

RIGHT AND OBLIGATION OF MEMBERS OF A POLITICAL PARTY

87. Political Party’s Participation Right

Any member of a political party shall have, in accordance with the by-laws of the party, the right to participate in the meetings of the party, to express freely his views and comments, to elect or to be elected.

88. Membership Dues

A member of a political party may pay membership dues periodically to the political party in accordance with the by-laws or decisions of the political party.

89. Expulsion from Membership

1/ A member of a political party may be expelled from membership in accordance with the by-law of the political party.

2/ A member aggrieved by the party’s decision to expel him, may take his grievance to the various levels established according to the party’s by-laws.

90. Membership

1/ Any political party shall have members including the founders and members admitted after the formation of the party.

2/ A person cannot be a member of more than one political party at the same time.

3/ Any member or leader of a political party may at any time withdraw membership by notifying the party in writing. If the person is a member of the Federal or State Council, in addition to the party, the person must notify his party membership withdrawal to the council where he is a member.

4/ A party or a council who received a party membership withdrawal notification in accordance with Sub-Article (3) of this Article must notify the matter to the Board within 15 days. Upon receiving the notification, the Board shall delete the name of the member from the party’s membership list.

5/ With out prejudice to the provision of this Proclamation on coalition, merger and succession of political parties, if a member or
leader of political party establishes another political party; participates or joins in the process of establishing another party; publicly advocates the establishment of another political party; or promotes the program, interest and policy of another party; the person shall be deemed as withdrawing from his existing party even if he does not submit a withdrawal request according to Sub-Article (3) of this Article and his party and the Board will take measures stipulated in sub-article 4 of this Article.

6/ Membership of a political party may not be devolved by succession or by any other manner to another person and shall be limited to its members.

7/ Any member of political party may withdraw his membership at any time.

8/ The by-laws of a political party may not contradict the provisions of this Chapter.

CHAPTER SIX
MERGER, FRONT FORMATION, COALITION, AND SUBSTITUTION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

91. Political Parties Merger

1/ Two or more political parties registered in accordance with this Proclamation may merge and form a political party.

2/ Political parties interested in merging in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall submit their request in writing to the Board two months prior to the issuance of timetable for local or general elections; the registration shall be in accordance with the provisions of this Proclamation.

3/ The application for merger shall consist of the following:
   a) Each political party, in accordance with its by-laws, should provide a decision that demonstrates the party’s assembly acceptance of the merger;
   b) The parties’ written agreement outlining the details of the merger; and
   c) The new designation for the merged political parties, and the documents listed under Article 67 of this Proclamation.
4/ When the Board accepts the application for merger is in accordance with this Proclamation, then the Board shall:

a) Cancel the registration certificate of each political party requesting the merger and register the new party within one month in accordance with this Proclamation;

b) Order the transfer of each political party’s property, funds and other necessary documents to the party created by the merger within six months.

5/ The political party created by the merger shall fulfill, as necessary, the requirements of Article 64 or Article 65 of this Proclamation.

6/ If a political party is charged with crime that can potentially deregister or dissolve the party, the party may not merge before a decision is given on the charge or the case is closed.

92. Effects of Merger of Political Parties

1/ With out prejudice to Article 91(4) of this Proclamation, the new political party created from the merger:

a) shall be the successor of the merged political parties;

b) the right and duty of the merged political parties shall be transferred to it;

c) shall submit report on the past financial activity of the merged political parties, when requested by the Board;

d) shall execute or cause the execution of decision or right or disputes of civil or administrative body pending at court previously concerned with each or either political party of the merger, excluding the criminal charges stated under Article 91(6).

2/ The new political party created from the merger and registered in accordance with this Proclamation shall submit to the Board within six months of its registration, a financial report in accordance with Article 112 and 114 of this Proclamation showing the asset, property and debt generated by the merger.
3/ A member of the merged political parties who is serving in an elected office at any council level and does not want to continue as a member of the new merged party shall be deemed as an independent elected official for the rest of electoral period.

93. Formation of Front

1/ Two or more political parties that have their own programs, by-laws and members may form a common front.

2/ The application to form a front shall include the following:

a) a decision expressing acceptance of the front formation by the assembly of each party;

b) a written agreement between the parties with details about the front to be created; and

c) the name of the front, and where appropriate, the documents listed under Article 67 of this Proclamation.

3/ Political parties interested in forming a front in accordance with sub-article (1) of this Article shall submit their request in writing to the Board; the registration shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of this Proclamation by the Board.

4/ The Board by accepting the request of front formation applicant full filled the condition listed above:

a) without canceling the certificate of registration of member parties of the front, the Board shall give another certificate of registration to the front within one month;

b) With out prejudice to the assets and properties of each of the front’s political party, the front shall have its own asset and property.

94. Political Parties Coalition

1/ Two or more political parties registered in accordance with this Proclamation may, for a limited period and specified objectives, form a coalition to work Nationwide or at Regional level.
Political parties interested in working in a coalition in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article must submit their application to the Board two months prior to the issuance of timetable of the general or local elections.

Political parties interested in working in a coalition shall submit to the Board a written application attached with a document expressing the agreement of each political party’s respective top leaders. The Board, when it accepts the application in accordance with this Proclamation, shall give temporary certificate.

Political parties interested in working in a coalition shall submit to the Board a document consisting of the points of agreement concerning their common activity.

Notwithstanding the provision of this Article, each political party of the coalition shall retain its independent legal personality.

Any political party may register as a new political party by changing its name and program upon the decision of the party assembly.

The right and duty of the dissolved political party shall be transferred to the newly established political party in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article.

The newly replaced political party shall be registered in accordance with this Proclamation.

A political party may be cancelled for one of the following reasons:

1/ when the party, in accordance with its by-laws, requests to be canceled;

2/ when the Board decides based on this Proclamation; or

3/ the cancellation of the registration of the political party is ordered by a court based on this Proclamation.
97. **Canceling Registration upon the Request of the Political Party**

1/ A political party may, in accordance with its by-laws, request in writing for the Board to cancel its registration.

2/ The application for cancellation presented in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall be signed by the party leader.

3/ The political party shall attach the following particulars with its application to the Board as referred in Sub-Article (1) of this Article:

   a) the political party’s audit, asset and property report; and
   b) the document in which the assembly of the political party decided to dissolve the party.

4/ The Board shall make a public announcement of the cancellation application submitted by a political party, through various advertisement means, to enable any person who has an objection to such application or a right’s claim, to present his objection.

5/ A person who has an objection in accordance with Sub-Article (4) of this Article, shall present the objection to the Board within 15 days from the date of announcement; the Board shall not cancel the political party within this period.

6/ In accordance with this Article, and within 30 days after conclusion of the time period outlined in Sub-Article (5) of this Article, the Board shall notify in writing to the party that requested cancellation that the political party has been cancelled in accordance with its request; The public shall be notified of the party’s dissolution.

98. **Canceling Registration of Political Party Upon the Decision of the Board**

1/ The Board may cancel the registration of a political party for one of the following reasons:

   a) the political party has not notified the Board without appropriate reason and in accordance with the provisions of this Proclamation when it changes its name,
Where the Board is of the opinion that a political party has contravened the provisions of this Proclamation to the same degree as those listed under Sub-Article (1) of this Article, it shall issue the party a written warning requesting it to rectify the situation within one month. If the political party fails to comply with the warning, the Board may, where appropriate, grant a 30 days extension by the Board, where the political party fails to submit to the Board annual performance, audit, or other periodical reports required in accordance with this Proclamation within the stipulated timeframe and having been granted a 30 days extension by the Board, fails to submit the same without sufficient reason;

d) the political party fails participate for two successive elections at general or local elections;

e) the political party has been registered by fraud, knowingly or when it should know presents false information or when requested in accordance with this Proclamation submits false information to the Board.

f) With out prejudice to the provisions of other relevant laws, if the party has been engaged in violent rebellion, crimes related to corruption or fraudulent activities.

2/ Where the Board is of the opinion that a political party has contravened the provisions of this Proclamation to the same degree as those listed under Sub-Article (1) of this Article, it shall issue the party a written warning requesting it to rectify the situation within one month. If the political party fails to comply with the warning, the Board may, where appropriate, cancel the registration of the party.

3/ The Board shall, before taking a decision against a political party in accordance with this Article, give such party the opportunity to present its defense. The Board may, prior to cancelling the registration of the political party, may decide to suspend the party.
4/ A political party that objects the decision of the Board in accordance with this Article may appeal within 30 days to the Federal High Court.

99. Effect of Cancellation or Dissolution of Political Party

1/ Where a political party is dissolved by a decision made by the party itself, the Board or a court decision, the party or the party leaders shall not operate in the name of the party starting on the effective date of the dissolution.

2/ Where a political party is dissolved by a decision made by the party itself the Board or a court decision, the property of the party shall be expended to cover its debt.

3/ Where the political party has no liabilities or there remains an amount after covering the debt as referred in sub-article (1) of this Article, the remaining fund or property shall be expended, upon the order of the Board, on civic and voter education.

CHAPTER EIGHT
SOURCE OF INCOME AND PROPERTY AFFAIRS OF POLITICAL PARTIES

SUB-SECTION ONE
SUPPORT GRANTED FROM GOVERNMENT

100/ Government Funding Amount and Eligibility Criteria

1/ To enable political parties to conduct legal operations and carry out their obligations, the Board shall seek approval of the FDRE House of Peoples’ Representatives, government’s support to parties, based on the criteria established under sub-article 2 this Article.

2/ The amount of financial support that a political party receives, in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article, shall be determined by a directive to be issued by the Board based on the following criteria:

a) the number of votes it wins at Federal and State Council elections;

b) the income it receives from members and supporters;

c) the number of female candidates it nominates;
d) the number of female members of the party and the number of females in leadership positions;

e) the number of people with disability candidates that it nominates; and

f) the number of people with disability members of the party and the number of people with disability in leadership positions.

3/ Notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-Article (3) (a) of this Article, a party shall not receive government funding if it receives less than 0.25 percent of the total number of votes for the House of Peoples’ Representatives or less than 0.5 percent of the total votes cast for the State Council. However, this minimum percentage requirement shall not be applicable to parties established to represent minority Nations or Nationalities.

4/ In addition to the financial support stated above, the government may provide support in kind or service donation.

5/ Independent candidates shall receive government funding based on a directive to be issued by the Board.

101. Source of Government Support

The support granted by the government comes from:

1/ government allocation;

2/ support or aid received from foreign, domestic or any other body.

102. Principle

1/ The government support for political parties shall be rendered equitably and without discrimination in accordance with this Proclamation.

2/ Political parties shall, to demonstrate that the support granted by the government has been utilized properly and for the intended purpose, follow principle of transparency and accountability.

103. The Management and Distribution of Government Support

1/ The financial support provided by the government in accordance with Article 100 (2) shall be managed and distributed by the
Board. The Board shall keep information necessary for this purpose.

2/ The government’s annual financial support shall be made in two installment payment.

3/ Political parties shall submit their request for financial support before Meskerem 30, so that the amount they will receive for the financial year can be calculated and allocated in accordance with Article 100 (2). The Board shall determine the amount to be allocated to political parties up to Nehase 30.

4/ The Board shall allocate the appropriate amount to a party that has submitted a request in accordance with Sub-Article (3) based on the timetable submitted by the party. The Board shall however, before granting the party the financial support for the coming financial year, request and examine the financial statements for government funding for the previous year and ascertain that there are no anomalies. The Board may extend by one month the timeframe for the party to submit the financial record investigation report.

5/ The support granted to political party in accordance with this Proclamation shall be denied:

a) When the political party fails to meet one of the requirements for eligibility for government funding shall lose the support;

b) shall stop utilizing the support from the date it fails to meet the eligibility requirements;

c) shall refund the support from the date it fails to meet the requirements;

d) notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-Article (4) (b) and (c), the Board may allow the party to withhold part of the fund it requires to meet contractual obligations entered prior to the time it failed to meet the requirements for state funding ended.
104/ The Rule Applicable to the Support Granted to Political Parties

1/ Political parties shall submit a report, certified by an auditor or an accountant, with details of government grant support utilized listed under expenditure heading.

2/ The Board shall issue a directive on the use and refund of unused government grants to political parties.

105. Political Party’s Books of Account

1/ Any political party shall:
   a) deposit the government grant support in a locally opened, separate bank account;
   b) transact the account in accordance with the relevant law;
   c) keep the granted support in specific books of account by listing under every expenditure heading; and
   d) submit an annual audit report, certified by an auditor or an accountant, in accordance with the financial law, specifying the amount granted by the government in the budget year and the for which the money has been expended.

2/ The political party shall forward its comment on the audit report as to whether the audit has been conducted outside the scope of the law and directive.

3/ The Federal Auditor General may at any time inspect political parties concerning the utilization of the government support grants.

106. Responsibility and Penalty

1/ Where any political party utilizes the government grant outside the purpose of the support, fails to submit report on time, submits a false financial document, or is in default on its grant’s obligation:
   a) the support for the party may be reduced or terminated;
b) any political party or person found guilty in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article may be penalized in accordance with the appropriate criminal law; and

2/ The Board may request a political party to return the amount of expenditure not utilized properly through a court suit or set-off.

107. Submission of Audit Report to the House of Peoples’ Representatives

1/ The Board shall, within a month after the end of the budget year, submit a report to the House of Peoples’ Representatives on the support granted to political parties. The report shall include:

a) the total amount of government support allocated to political parties and any other sources in the budget year;

b) the amount of support allocated to each political party in the budget year;

c) the amount of expenditure in the budget year by each political party as allowed by law; and

d) the balance of account resulted in the budget year.

2/ The Board shall send the report mentioned in Sub-Article (1) of this Article to the Auditor General as well.

3/ The Auditor General shall, within 60 days of receiving the audit report, attach the report along with related financial analyses and send it to the House of Peoples’ Representatives.

SUB-SECTION TWO

SOURCE OF INCOME

108. Political Party’s Source of Income

1/ The income source of a political party may be:

a) membership dues collected from members;

b) donations or grants by Ethiopian Nationals or Companies controlled by Ethiopians in accordance with the limit to be set by the Board based on a study the Board conducts;

c) government grant and support to be provided in accordance of Article 100 of this Proclamation.
2/ With out prejudice to the provision of this Article, a political party, to enhance its financial position, may organize fundraising conferences and events, as well as sell its paraphernalia, research findings, booklets and magazines.

3/ Notwithstanding the provision of Article 66(2) of this Proclamation, a political party which has attained legal personality shall not directly or indirectly engage in commercial and industrial activities.

4/ The Board shall issue a directive to determine the particulars of this Article.

109. Prohibited Donation or Grant

1/ Any political party is prohibited from accepting gift or donation from the following persons or bodies:

   a) foreign national institutions or corporations;

   b) foreign governments or foreign political party;

   c) welfare organizations or non-governmental organizations;

   d) religious organizations;

   e) prisoners servicing sentence;

   f) an organized group or person planning to assume state power outside the provisions under the Constitution;

   g) organization designated as a terrorist;

   h) With out prejudice to the provision of Article 111(2), gifts or donations from unknown sources;

   i) full- or semi-governmental developmental organizations; and

   j) gifts or donations from anybody or person hoping to execute future objective or envisages to execute future object.

2/ Where a political party in any way receives a gift or donation prohibited under Sub-Article (1) of this Article, the party shall return the donation or grant to the Board together with related information within 21 days from the date it received the donation or grant.
Where a political party is found to have received money or any property in the form of donation, gratuity, inheritance or proceeds from commercial and industrial activities, or in any other way, the Board shall issue a fine. The party may also be held liable under the appropriate criminal law.

### SUB-SECTION THREE

**RECORD, BOOK KEEPING AND AUDIT**

#### 111. Political Party’s Records and Audit

Any political party shall keep an accurate and permanent record appropriately at its head office, which includes the following matters:

1/ Any in-kind or monetary contribution, donation and pledged contribution or donation;

2/ Financial statement consisting the following:

   a) Income statement outlining the political party’s different sources of income;

   b) The name of the person who made a contribution, donation or pledge of more than Birr 5000;

   c) The pledged contribution or donation, along with the timeline for the fulfillment; and

   d) The general financial activities of the political party.

3/ List of the fixed assets of the political party, and when and how it came to own these assets;

4/ The party’s detailed debt; and

5/ Other relevant information required by the Board.

#### 112. Books of Account

1/ Any political party shall have an accounting procedure relating to its income and expenditure.

2/ The procedure of account of income and expenditure of every political party shall be in accordance with the generally accepted practice of accounting.
3/ Any member of a political party shall have a right to seek, at any time, information concerning the income and expenditure accounts of his political party.

4/ Any political party shall have the responsibility to demonstrate to the Board that its expenditures are spent for its political objective.

113. Annual Audit Report

1/ Any political party shall undertake financial investigation annually by its auditor. Starting from 6 months after registration, the political party shall submit its audit report to the Board on the third month after the end of each budget year.

2/ Any political party submitting the annual audit report to the Board shall include:
   a) a list of the sources and amounts of income;
   b) a list of expenditures under the expenditures title;
   c) a list of movable and immovable properties and liabilities;
   d) bank statements; and
   e) a document signed by the political party leader and containing the seal of the party seal to authenticate the content of the document.

3/ The party shall submit to the Board the details of the abovementioned income, expenditure, asset and debt with corresponding analysis.

4/ Without prejudice to the provisions of this Proclamation, every political party shall prepare and officially issue annual audit reports. Such annual audit reports shall be one inspected and accepted in accordance with this Proclamation.

5/ Where a political party fails to submit the report in accordance with the provisions of sub-article (1) of this Article, or if the Board has reason to doubt the authenticity of the report, the Board may assign an external auditor to inspect the account.
### PART FIVE

**ELECTION OBSERVERS, CANDIDATES’ AGENTS, JOURNALISTS AND VOTER EDUCATION**

114/ **Election Observers**

1/ Interested local election observers may observe the electoral process by obtaining the Board’s observer accreditation to be issued based on their request.

2/ International observers may observe the electoral process upon the invitation of the government.

3/ An international observers’ group or organization observing elections according to Sub-Article (2) of this Article shall take an observers’ accreditation from the Board.

4/ Election observers who have received observers’ accreditation shall demonstrate their acceptance of the Board’s election observers’ code of conduct through signatures of the organizations and their respective representatives.

5/ The Board shall, in consultation with accredited observers, deploy observer groups.

115. **Local Election Observers**

1/ The Board, when presented with a request to observe elections, shall ascertain that the requesting organization:

   a) is a local civil society organization with a legal personality;

   b) is non-partisan, not-for-profit and not part of a government organ;

   c) leaders and board members are not members of any political party;

   d) That the individuals to be deployed are capable of impartially observing elections; upon verifying this and the organization’s capacity as well as ensuring by the signatures of the organization and representatives its acceptance of the election observers’ code of conduct the Board prepared, it shall issue observer accreditation;
e) The Board shall issue a directive to determine the particulars of sub-articles “a” to “d” of this Article.

2/ Where the Board rejects a request to observe elections on account of unfulfillment of the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, it shall notify in writing the decision to the applicant within 30 days of receiving the request. An applicant aggrieved by the decision of Board may appeal to the Federal High Court within 14 days.

3/ Where an election observer is engaged in activities in violation of the code of conduct and the commitments it made, the Board may, according to the circumstance of the case, issue warning to the organization and its representative, pointing out the error and telling them to make amends or may suspend the individual or the organization from observing the election.

116. Right of Election Observers

1/ A representative of an accredited election observation organization has the right to move around in the polling station to monitor the election process; and request and obtain appropriate information. The observers have the right to look at the election materials and observe the voting and counting processes.

2/ Election observers have the right to report to the Board Secretariat any irregularities they observed or encountered in the election process. The particulars shall be determined in a directive to be issued by the Board.

117. Duty of Election Observers

1/ An election observer who has received an accreditation from the Board shall:

a) Carry his accreditation card and display it upon request;

b) Abide by instructions of election officials;

c) Refrain from any act which may obstruct the proper and efficient conduct of the election process;

d) Respect code of conduct enacted by the Board; and

e) Prepare and submit a detailed report to the Board.
2/ With out prejudice to the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, an international observer may, in accordance with the directive to be issued by the Board, observe the election process impartially and by abiding by the laws of the country, international agreements and the Board’s direction.

118. Political Parties and Independent Candidates’ Agents

1/ Any political party which has fielded candidates in an election to monitor the election process may:

a) assign two stationary agents, who shall work in turns, to its constituency election office; and

b) assign two stationary agents, who shall work in turns, to each of the polling stations in his constituency;

2/ Any independent candidate may:

a) assign two stationary agents, who shall work in turns, to his constituency election office; and

b) assign two stationary agents, who shall work in turns, to each of the polling stations in his constituency;

3/ Each political party or an independent candidate may assign not more than seven mobile agents to a constituency.

119. Presenting the Agents

1/ Any political party fielding candidates or any independent candidate shall submit to his constituency electoral office a written list of the names of the stationary and mobile agents, including the substitutes, seven days prior to election day. The constituency chief electoral administrator shall, within two days of receiving the list, provide to the political party a letter containing the list of the agents.

2/ The constituency electoral office shall, in due time, notify the polling stations the stationary and mobile agents assigned to their polling station.

120. Rights of Agents

Any stationary agent of a candidate in his assigned location has the right to:

1/ Monitor the election process, submit complaints at every level and obtain information;
2/ Record his observations during the election process and request explanations from polling station election officials;
3/ Get appropriate information regarding the elections process;
4/ Carry out his legal responsibility as an agent without any influence.
5/ The Board shall determine the particulars in a directive.

121. Duty of Agents

Any stationary or mobile agent shall:
1/ Abide by the head of the polling station’s orders;
2/ A Candidate Agent have to abide by the head of the polling station’s orders and Refrain for any act that disrupts the election process;
3/ Present his credentials when asked by an authorized body;
4/ Respect the electoral law;
5/ Refrain from advising or influencing voters on their decision who to elect when he follow up election precess activity;
6/ Not possess, pick or tamper with election materials or engage in acts that destruct the materials;
7/ Refrain from acts that intimidate the head of the polling station or election officials or disrupt their work;
8/ Not enter the ballot casting area; and
9/ Sign and abide by the agents’ code of conduct to be issued by the Board.

122. Absence of an Agent

1/ No candidate or his agent shall request for the annulment of the electoral activities conducted in his absence from his assigned place due to his own failure.
2/ Notwithstanding the provision of Sub-Article (1) of this Article, where it is established that the agent’s absence was a result of an obstacle deliberately designed to hinder his presence, the activities carried out in his absence may, on his request, be reviewed and decided upon, as appropriate, by the constituency or polling station grievance hearing committee.

123/ Issuance of Accreditation Cards

The Board shall prepare and issue accreditation cards to stationary and mobile agents, journalists and election observers.

124/ Civic and Voter Education

1/ The Board shall provide civic and voter education by devising a strategy of creating election related awareness and adopting various engagement approaches.

2/ The Board shall issue accreditation to registered civic society organizations and educational institutions to conduct civic and voter education. The particulars shall be determined by a directive to be issued by the Board.

3/ Education and training provided, in accordance with this Proclamation, by the Board or through institutions and organizations accredited by the Board, shall be based on curriculum developed by the Board.

125. Issuance of Accreditation

1/ When an organization planning to provide voter education applies for an accreditation, the Board, prior to providing accreditation, shall ascertain that the organization:

a) is a legally registered, local civil society organization or an accredited higher learning institution;

b) fulfills the established voter education criteria;

c) has the capacity to discharge its responsibilities;

d) is independent of any political activity;
e) And after ensuring that the requesting organization and its representatives have accepted and signed the code of conduct for voter education, issue a voter education accreditation.

2/ The Board shall not issue an accreditation to any organization that does not fulfill the criteria in Sub-Article (1) of this Article; shall notify the applicant in writing the decision to reject the accreditation application along with the reasons. Any organization or a higher learning institution aggrieved by the decision of the Board may appeal the Federal High Court.

3/ Where any accredited institution violates the code of conduct and operates outside its duties, the Board may, as appropriate, issue a correction warning to the organization and its representative or take measures including cancellation of accreditation.

126. Responsibilities of Journalists

1/ A journalist planning to cover the election process shall bring an ID Card indicating his status and a support letter from his employing media institution to cover the election process. Any journalist intending to report from within 200 meters of a polling station shall obtain authorization from the Board prior to election day.

2/ Any journalist engaged in activities stated in the provisions of Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall refrain from any act that interferes with the voters’ decision and polling officers’ duties.

3/ Any journalist shall respect the Board’s election coverage code of conduct to be issued in a directive in accordance with provisions of this Article.
PART SIX
ELECTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT
CHAPTER ONE
ELECTORAL CODE OF CONDUCT PROVISIONS

127. Principle

1/ The legitimacy of a government elected in a multiparty democratic election shall rest on the following principles:

a) The voters are able to make an informed decision based on comprehensive information provided during the electoral campaign regarding the policies of political parties and characters of candidates; and when they are able to decide based on their own free will; and

b) When voters are able vote freely, without any interference, fear, pressure, undue influence as well as without bribery and other inducements.

2/ All parties shall, in good faith, work to ensure that:

a) The principles of the electoral code of conduct are respected;

b) Elections are recognized as expressions of the free and legitimate decision of the people;

c) The decision of the voters is respected by all.

3/ In any matter relating to the election process, parties and independent candidates shall conduct their activities in accordance with the provision of this Proclamation.

128. Abiding by the Ethical Provisions of the Proclamation

1/ Any political party or independent candidate:

a) Shall conduct his activities in accordance with the provisions of this Proclamation;

b) Shall take appropriate measures to ensure that its leaders, officials, candidates and members do not infringe this Proclamation;

c) Shall take appropriate measures to prevent party officials, candidates and members from committing any acts in contravention of this Proclamation and restrain supporters...
from engaging in activities that are prohibited by this Proclamation;

d) Shall impartially implement the provisions of this Proclamation when communicating their objectives and programs to the public.

2/ To ensure that its members and supporters abide by the provisions of this Proclamation, a party shall educate them in accordance with the plan to be developed by the Board as well as take other appropriate measures.

3/ The Board shall issue a directive that detail out how political parties should teach ethical conducts and communicate their positions as well as how they should use social media.

129. Rules of Election Campaign

1/ Any Political party shall:

a) Respect the rights and freedoms of all other parties to organize election campaigns and disseminate their political views and principles without fear;

b) Conduct itself in a manner that respects the rights of other parties, voters and other members of the community;

c) Respect the freedom of the mass media;

d) Respect competing parties' voter outreach efforts; and

e) Contribute to ensure all citizens who wish to participate in political process and who are eligible to vote and be elected can do so freely.

2/ Any political party shall not:

a) Harass or obstruct private or government journalists who are engaged in their professional activities; engage in activities that in any way disrupt, destroy or frustrate the election campaign of other parties or cooperate in such acts;

b) Hinder the smooth distribution of election handbills, leaflets or posters of other parties and candidates;
c) Deface or destroy or otherwise prevent the visibility or legibility of the posters of other political parties or candidates;

d) Have its leadership, members or supporters stop, disturb or agitate against or otherwise hamper other political party from staging a public demonstration, meeting, rally or march;

e) Prevent any person from attending the political rallies of another party; or

f) Incite and agitate its supporters to commit any of the acts prohibited under this Part.

130. The Election Process

Any political party shall:

1/ In cooperation with election officials, ensure the voting process is conducted in a peaceful manner, without any interference in the right of voters, and in a free, fair and democratic way;

2/ Make a contribution to ensure the safety of electoral officials before, during and after election day;

3/ Respect and cooperate with accredited observers and officials;

4/ Respect and support the upholding of the secrecy of the ballot;

5/ Refrain from acts that control polling stations by force or secure votes through illegal means;

6/ Refrain from disturbing or unduly interfering with the work of election officers or the voting or vote counting processes; and

7/ Not provide false information to voters which implies violation of the secrecy of the ballot.
### 131. Accepting Election Result

1/ Any political party or independent candidate shall accept the outcome of an election that has been certified by appropriate authorities.

2/ Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article (1) of this Article, any political party or independent candidate may present any grievances to the appropriate body in accordance with the law.

3/ Any political party or independent candidate may, after the Broad announces the provisional results, provide official statements to the Mass Media to express his opinions or complaints on the election process and results.

4/ The content of the statement issued in accordance with sub-article (3) of this Article shall focus on the grievance points and be limited to existing situation at the time of the delivery of the statement.

5/ Any statement on election results issued by a political party or independent candidate shall be free from language that incites conflict or disparages a contesting party as well as an individual.

### 132. The Peacefulness and Content of the Language to Be Used in Election Campaigns

1/ Any political party shall:
   a) Organize and conduct election campaign in a manner that contributes to the peacefulness and success of the overall campaign, voting, vote counting and post-election processes;
   b) Conduct itself with a sense of responsibility and dignity befitting its status.

2/ Any one delivering a speech at a public rally may not:
   a) Use inflammatory or defamatory language; or
   b) Use language that in anyway incites violence or increases threat to individuals or groups.
3/ No political party shall publish or distribute any pamphlets, newsletters or posters containing inflammatory language or material that blatantly or covertly incites violence or encourages such acts through mass media.

133. Inappropriate Use of Symbols

Any political party shall not:

1/ Imitate the emblems or candidature symbols of other parties;

2/ Steal, remove, disfigure or destroy political or campaign materials of other parties; or

3/ Incite its supporters to commit any of the acts prohibited under this Part;

134. Prohibition of Intimidation and Incitement of Violence

1/ Any political party, accepting the prohibition of any form of intimidation or harassment, shall:

a) Issue instructions that expressly prohibit any act of intimidation, humiliation or harassment by party officials, candidates, members and supporters against any person at any time;

b) Denounce as well as educate members against all violence and violence inciting acts;

c) Condemn as well as educate against officials, candidates, members or supporters’ destructive or violent acts or threats that invite violence; and

d) Respect the rights, property and interests of other individuals as well as parties.

2/ The leader of any political party shall instruct the party’s officials, candidates, members and supporters not to bring along any traditional or modern weapons to any political rally, meeting, march or demonstration.
Any political party:

1. May not engage in or permit any act of violence;
2. Shall do everything under its power to prevent the destruction of any public or private property; and
3. May not encourage its supporters to commit any of the acts prohibited under this Part.

135. Abuse of Power

1. Any political party may not:
   a) Use its position of power, special opportunity or influencing ability to offer bribes or penalties or use any other illegal acts to further its political interest; or
   b) Use Federal, Regional, Municipal or other public resources for campaign purposes other than those allowed by the election laws.

2. In this section, “a position of power, special opportunity or influencing ability” includes parental, familial, governmental, police, local armed militia as well as military, traditional or customary authority.

136. Corrupt Practices

Any political party shall not:

1. Coerce, offer bribe or offer other inducements to voters so they can vote for or against a particular party or candidate, or to abstain from voting;
2. Coerce, offer bribe or offer other inducements to influence whether a person becomes a candidate or withdraws from an election;
3. Any government official or civil servant uses his official time, responsibilities and resources to promote candidates or discourage other candidates from promoting themselves through...
137. Continued Communications

1/ Any legally registered political party may undertake its activities by forging an enduring relationship with other parties.

2/ Political parties may, preserving the provisions of this Proclamation, form a joint forum to discuss issues of mutual interest during electoral campaign period or any other time.

CHAPTER TWO

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STAKEHOLDERS

138. Responsibilities of Political Parties and Candidates

1/ Every political party and candidate shall make an effort to popularize this Proclamation among the voters; in particular, by educating this Proclamation to its candidates, members and supporters, it shall ensure that it is understood and respected by all.

2/ Every political party, in the election process, shall support and promote efforts to educate voters the provision of this Part.

3/ Every political party and candidate shall:

a) Abide by this Proclamation; and

b) Provide leadership to its candidates, officials, agents, members and supporters to comply with this Proclamation and take appropriate measures that ensure compliance.

4/ Every political party and candidate shall have the duty to publicly declare that everyone has the right to:

a) Freely express his political belief and opinions;

b) Debate and challenge the political views and opinions of others;

c) Publish and disseminate his own campaign materials;

d) Display banners, billboards and posters;


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<td>Political parties and candidates shall publicly declare their commitment to abiding by the Proclamation.</td>
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<td>Political parties and candidates shall publicly condemn any action that may harm or undermine the conduct of free and fair elections.</td>
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### 139. Responsibilities of the Board and Other Election Officials

1/ The Board shall familiarize this Proclamation among governmental and other institutions that have direct or indirect roles in the election process.

2/ The Board has the responsibility to disseminate the provisions of this Part to all concerned bodies.

3/ Election officials at all levels shall provide training on the Proclamation to raise awareness for all concerned persons.

### 140. Role of Other Organs

1/ The Board shall support the media in their effort to educate the public about the provisions of this Part.

2/ Institutions accredited based on the directive to be issued by the Board shall teach the contents of this Proclamation.

### 141. Council of Political Parties

1/ Political parties contesting in elections may establish a joint council to help them enforce this Proclamation and other common agenda; amicably resolve various implementation, democracy, human rights issues that may arise during the election process; and discuss issues that help promote supremacy of the rule of law in Ethiopia.
Political parties shall determine the organizational structure, procedures and operating procedure of the joint council. However, the organization and procedures of the joint council established by political parties shall not contradict the provisions of this Proclamation.

CHAPTER THREE
ETHICAL MISCONDUCT AND APPLICABLE MEASURES
SUB-SECTION ONE
ETHICAL MISCONDUCT

142. Bribery and Abuse of Power and Force

Any political party, independent candidate, Coalition, Front, Alliance, Movement; and party leader, official, candidate, member, agent or representative of a party who:

1/ Offers or receives any kind of inducement or bribe;
2/ Interferes or disturbs the process of voting or counting;
3/ Coerces, offers bribe or influence by other means to induce voters to vote for or against a particular party or candidate or to abstain from voting;
4/ Controls polling station by force or tries to obtain votes illegally;
5/ Abuses power by offering a bribe, threatening a penalty or uses any other means of intimidation;
6/ Coerces, offers bribes or use any other means to influence whether a person becomes a candidate or withdraws from an election;
7/ A civil servant or a government official, uses his official time, responsibilities and resources to promote candidates or discourage other candidates from promoting themselves through legal means;
8/ Uses public property for election campaigns; shall be deemed to have committed an act of ethical violation.
143. **Obstruction of Election Campaign through Intimidation and Disturbances**

Any political party, independent candidate, Coalition, Front, Alliance, Movement; and party leader, official, candidate, member, agent or representative of a party who:

1/ interferes in the election process through pressure and undue influence;

2/ intimidates or threatens other political parties not to share their views freely;

3/ in any way prevents or hampers the activities of political parties or voters;

4/ creates obstacles or chaos to prevent campaigns, meetings, discussions or any training or education;

5/ disturbs or prevents the process of voting;

6/ prevents or disturbs stopes, weakens the campaign of other political parties or candidates;

7/ obstructs the conduct of rallies, meetings, marches or demonstrations or prevents others from participating in such activities;

8/ insults, belittles or hampers the rights of voters;

9/ fails to cooperate, despite being in a position to do so, in efforts during the election process to ensure the security of election officials and candidates;

10/ in any manner prevents the voters from registering or voting;

11/ violates the secrecy of the voting process or fails to ensure its observance;

12/ abuses its right by lodging false and exaggerated complaints under the pretext of violation of this Proclamation; shall be deemed to have committed ethical violation.

144. **Disseminating Information that Destabilizes Peace and Security During the Election Process**

Any political party, independent candidate, Coalition, Front, Alliance, Movement; as well as any party leader, official, candidate, member, agent or representative of a party who:
1/ delivers a speech that destabilizes the peaceful conduct of election campaigns, foments violence, incites clashes or triggers threats;

2/ distributes pamphlets, newsletters or posters containing language or material that overtly or covertly incites violence; or

3/ provides false information by stating that the voting process does not maintain secrecy of the ballot;

shall be deemed to have committed an act of ethical violation.

145. Disrupting the Election Campaign of Other Parties or Candidates

Any political party, independent candidate, Coalition, Front, Alliance, Movement; as well as any party leader, official, candidate, member, agent or representative of a party who:

1/ prevents a political party from recruiting a member or an opening office, prevents opened offices from operating freely by creating overt or hidden chaos, or in any manner disrupts the election activity of a party or a candidate;

2/ hinders the dissemination and visibility, defaces or prevents the posting and sharing of another party’s publication, campaign flyers or posters;

3/ imitates or uses the logo or symbols of another party; or

4/ steals, disfigures or destroys campaign materials of another party;

shall be deemed to have committed an ethical violation.

146. Failure to Cooperate with Journalists and Election Observers

Any political party, independent candidate, Coalition, Front, Alliance, Movement; as well as any party leader, official, candidate, member, agent or representative of a party who:

1/ encroaches the freedom of the press;

2/ harasses or obstructs journalists during electoral process; or
147. Failure to Popularize the Code of Conduct and to Condemn Illegal Acts

Any political party, Party Coalition, Front, Alliance, Movement as well as political party leader who:

1/ fails to publicly condemn any act of violence or acts which incite violence carried out by its members, candidates or leaders;

2/ fails to issue a directive that clearly restrains leaders, candidates, members and supporters from intimidating others at any time;

shall be deemed to have committed acts of ethical violation and will be subject to the Board’s measures and if the act is punishable by other laws, the Board shall refer the matter to the relevant body.

SUB-SECTION TWO
MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY DIFFERENT ORGS

148. Measures to be Taken by the Board

With out prejudice to the provisions of other laws and to the Board’s authority to refer to the prosecutor offenses depending on the gravity of the offense in accordance with Part Six sub section one of this Proclamation, the Board may take the following measures on those who committed the act:

1/ Give official warning to the person or political party who committed the act;

2/ Partially or fully suspend the candidate or party who committed the act from using the media for a short period of time;

3/ disrespects or fails to cooperate with accredited election observers;

shall be deemed to have committed an ethical violation.

shall be deemed to have committed acts of ethical violation and will be subject to the Board’s measures and if the act is punishable by other laws, the Board shall refer the matter to the relevant body.
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5/ Suspend the political party from running for elections. The Board, depending on the gravity of the offense and after taking the abovementioned measures on the person who committed the act, may also refer the matter to the prosecutor.

149. Lodging Complaints

A party aggrieved by the Board’s decision on the ethical violations outlined in Article 148 may apply to the Federal High Court.

150. Court Decisions

The Court shall render appropriate decisions on matters it receives at first instance level or an appeal made against the decision of the Board in accordance with Article 148 of this Proclamation.

SECTION SEVEN

GRIEVANCES AND DISPUTES ARISING IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

151. Principle

1/ The Board shall organize, at every level, the establishment of Political Organizations’ Joint Forum that would enable resolutions of disputes related to the election process through dialogue and agreement.

2/ Political Organizations’ Joint Forum shall serve as a platform at which parties resolve inter-party disputes through dialogue.

3/ Dispute resolution efforts initiated within Political Organizations’ Joint Forum shall be based only on the consent of interested parties.

4/ The members of the Joint Forum or their respective members’ right to lodge complaints to the appropriate grievance hearing body established under this Proclamation is guaranteed.

5/ Without prejudice to the provision of this Proclamation, the composition, responsibility and procedure of the grievance hearing committee to be established at various levels shall be determined by a directive to be issued by the Board.
6/ A decision-making body to which disputes or petitions are submitted under this Section shall promptly settle disputes based on the elections timetable to ensure that the electoral process is conducted in a free, fair and peaceful way.

7/ Any grievance as well as any decision on the grievance shall be made in writing.

8/ Grievance hearing organs shall give proof about its receipt of the grievance application by providing a document that shows the date and time of receipt of the application.

9/ The Board shall put in place a system in electoral offices at every level to give a timely decision on complaints submitted.

10/ The Board may establish an inquiry council, composed of professionals from relevant disciplines, which investigates facts, evidences and legal issues and comes up with a recommendation that helps the Board to render decision on application presented in the election process.

11/ The Board or electoral officers at every level may order any person or government body to produce evidence necessary for the resolution of disputes submitted or appear in person and give the necessary explanation or produce the required information.

12/ Where the Board learns or receives a complaint supported by credible evidence that a criminal act that obstructs the election process has been committed or is being committed, it shall refer the case to appropriate authority for a legal action and follow up the matter.

13/ Any person who has not submitted his complaint within the period specified in Articles 152 to 155 shall be barred from submitting his complaint.

14/ Election benches shall be organized, as necessary at different levels of regional and Federal Courts one month prior to the commencement of voter registration.
15/ The Board, in consultation with relevant Federal and Regional Judicial Administration Commissions, shall cause the organization of election benches and availability of sufficient judges for the election benches established under Sub-Article (14) of this Article.

16/ The Board, in cooperation with the federal and regional Supreme Courts, shall make sure that judges assigned to the election benches organized in accordance with Sub-Article (15) of this Article receive sufficient training.

152. Disputes Arising During Voter Registration

1/ Any person prevented from registering as a voter is entitled to present his grievance to the Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee and get decision.

2/ Any person or a Political Organisation protesting that a person who has no eligibility or right to register as a voter has been registered has the right to submit its protest to the Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee and get a decision.

3/ Grievances under Sub-Articles (1) or (2) of this Article shall be presented from the commencement of the voter registration day until the end of the public display of the electoral roll.

4/ The Grievance Hearing Committee of Polling Station shall examine the submitted complaint and give its decision in writing within five days.

5/ In the event that the Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee fails to give its decision within five days on the complaint presented to it in accordance with Sub-Articles (1) or (2) of this Article, the complainant is entitled to submit the same to the Constituency Grievance Hearing Committee within five days and get a decision.

6/ A complaint objecting the decision of the grievance committee of the polling station shall be submitted to the Constituency Grievance Hearing Committee within five days of the decision.

7/ The Grievance Hearing Committee of the constituency shall examine the objection and give its decision in writing within five days.
8/ If the Grievance Hearing Committee of the constituency did not give its decision within five days or if the complainant is aggrieved by the decision of the Committee, he is entitled to apply within five days to the competent federal or regional Court. The Court to which the application is made shall, having ordered the production of evidences and after examining same shall give its decision.

9/ The polling station shall carry out its activities based on the decision given by the Grievance Hearing Committee of the constituency.

153. **Complaints Relating to Candidate Registration**

1/ Any person or political party denied of registration for candidature shall have the right to lodge a complaint to the Constituency Grievance Hearing Committee and get a decision.

2/ Any individual or Political Organisation that objects to the registration of a candidate shall have the right to lodge a complaint to the Constituency Grievance Hearing Committee and get a decision.

3/ Complaints presented based on sub-articles (1) or (2) of this Article can be lodged from the date of commencement of candidate registration until the date of public announcement of registered candidates.

4/ The Grievance Hearing Committee of the constituency shall investigate and give its decision in writing on the complaint submitted to it within five days.

5/ In accordance to Sub-Article (4) of this Article, a candidate of a political party or an independent candidate aggrieved by the decision of the Grievance Hearing Committee of the constituency may apply to the Grievance Hearing Committee to be established in Regional Branch Office within seven days.

6/ The Regional Branch Office Grievance Hearing Committee shall be chaired by the head of the Regional Branch Office and shall have two other members who are appointed in accordance with a directive to be issued by the Board.

7/ The Grievance Hearing Committee of the Regional Branch Office shall give decision in writing within seven days on appeals submitted to it.
8/ The aggrieved party has the right to appeal to the Regional Supreme Court where the Grievance Hearing Committee of the Regional Branch Office fails to give decision within seven days, or it is dissatisfied with the decision of the Committee. The Court, having ordered the production of evidences necessary for its decision and after examining same, renders decision within 15 days.

9/ The constituency shall carry out its activities based on the decision given by the Grievance Hearing Committee of the Regional Branch Office.

154. Complaints Related to Voting

1/ Where a voter is denied of voting, he shall have the right to promptly lodge a complaint with the Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee and get a decision.

2/ The Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee may:
   a) investigate the matter and allow the voter to cast his vote; or
   b) allow temporary voting and refer the case to the Constituency Electoral Office for a decision.

3/ A vote cast in accordance with Sub-Article (2) (b) of this Article shall be made invalid unless the complainant presents to the constituency electoral office, before the tabulation of votes is completed, a decision from the Constituency Grievance Hearing Committee or a competent Federal or Regional Court confirming his right to vote.

4/ Any person who cast a temporary vote in accordance with Sub-Article (2) (b) of this Article and is dissatisfied by the decision of the Constituency Grievance Hearing Committee may immediately submit his application to the competent federal or regional court. The court may order the stay of the vote count until it hands down its decision on the matter.

5/ Any person objecting to the voting right of a voter has the right to lodge his complaint at various levels and get decision in accordance with what is provided hereinabove.
155. Complaints Relating to Vote Counting and Results

1/ Any political organization, independent candidate or agent who has complaints on the vote counting and results may immediately submit its or his complaint to the Polling Station Grievance Hearing Committee and get a decision in accordance with Article 58 (4) of this Proclamation. A party aggrieved by the decision of the committee may apply to the Grievance Hearing Committee of the constituency within two days.

2/ The Constituency Grievance Hearing Committee shall investigate the complaint submitted to it in accordance with Sub-Article (1) of this Article and give decision within two days.

3/ Any complainant dissatisfied by the decision given in accordance with Sub-Article (2) of this Article may file his petition with the Board within five days of receiving the Committee’s decision. The Board shall investigate the complaint and give decision within 10 days.

4/ A complainant dissatisfied by the decision of the Board in accordance with Sub-Article (3) of this Article may file complaint to the Federal Supreme Court within 10 days of receiving the Board’s decision. The Court shall request and review all necessary evidences and give its decision on the matter.

5/ The Federal Supreme Court shall give its decision on the complaint submitted to it in accordance with Sub-Article (4) of this Article no later than one month.

6/ While the review of complaints and appeals related to vote counting and results submitted in accordance with the Sub-Articles of this Article are ongoing, the Constituency Grievance Hearing Committee, the Board or the Federal Supreme Court may order the announcement of election results of the constituency or constituencies that are subject of on-going disputes.

PART EIGHT
PROHIBITED ACTS

156. General

With out prejudice to the provisions of Ethiopian Criminal Code pertaining to offenses against public elections and voting, committing acts prohibited under this Section is punishable by law.
157. Acts Prohibited During the Elections Period

1/ Any person or organization, without the consent of the Board, found printing, duplicating, forging any election document and material or found to have possessed or distributed such document and material shall be punishable with imprisonment or a fine.

2/ On election day, acts other than voting and carrying out lawful activity, engaging or participating in political activity, publishing or duplicating elections results at prohibited or inappropriate time, or committing offenses provided below is punishable with a fine from Birr 80,000 to Birr 100,000 or a simple imprisonment from one to three years.

3/ Any person who:
   a) Attempts to interfere in the impartiality of the Board or election officials, particularly if he gives or attempts to give bribe or makes a promise;
   b) With the intention of disrupting or interrupting the election or exerting undue influence on the election process or the result outcome and distributes or attempts to distribute false information which incites hatred or fear or affects the election result;
   c) Violates secrecy of the ballot.
   d) Violates prohibitions with regard to voting and elections material
   e) Disrupts the undertaking of the Board and election officials; or
   f) Violates prohibitions pertaining to political activities or elections result announcement; or the right of voters or parties.

is punishable with fine from Birr 30,000 to Birr 50,000 or simple imprisonment of not less than six months or not exceeding one year.

4/ Any person who intentionally:
   a) impedes or obstructs the Board, the chief election official, Board staff when he is exercising his authority or carrying out his duties; or
b) interrupts the Board’s meeting; or in any condition commits inappropriate act in these places; or
c) commits an act of violence with a view of exerting undue influence on the duty place of the Board or decision or order to be given on a pending case.

is punishable with fine not exceeding Birr 30,000 or simple imprisonment not exceeding one year.

158. Removing of Election Advertisement

Whosoever has, from the commencement of the election up to the official announcement of results, damaged, removed or torn apart a candidate’s poster or election advertisement shall be punishable with fine or imprisonment not exceeding one year.

159/ Prohibition of Promoting Agenda through Illegal Means

1/ Organizing, training, or forcibly recruiting people or group with a view of instilling agenda of a political party through force or intimidation is punishable by law.

2/ Any person or group who assisted or cooperated in the acts in Sub-Article (1) of this Article shall be punished by the appropriate law.

PART NINE
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

160. Transitory Provisions

1/ The Provisions of of Article 100 2(a) of this Proclamation shall come into effect during the budget year following the federal and regional parliamentary elections that will take place after the entry into force of this Proclamation.

2/ Any political party registered before the coming into effect of this Proclamation shall be required to fulfil the requirements set out in this Proclamation according to the timetable established by the Board.

3/ A political party that fails to comply with the requirements stated in Sub-Article (2) of this Article within the timeline set by the Board may face the Board’s measures, including cancellation of registration.
### 161. Duty to Cooperate

Everyone has the duty to cooperate to implement this Proclamation.

### 162. Repealed Laws

1/ The following laws are hereby repealed by this Proclamation:

- b) The Amended Political Parties Registration Proclamation No. 573/2008
- c) The Electoral Code of Conduct for Political Parties Proclamation No. 662/2009

2/ Any law which contradicts this Proclamation shall not be applicable on matters covered by this Proclamation.

### 163. Power to Issue Regulation and Directive

1/ The House of Peoples’ Representatives may issue regulations to implement this Proclamation.

2/ The Board may issue directives to implement this Proclamation.

### 164. Effective Date

This Proclamation shall come into force from the date of its adoption by the House of Peoples’ Representatives the 24th day of August 2019.

Done at Addis Ababa, this 16th day of October, 2019

SAHLE-WORK ZEWDE

PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA