

**PROCLAMATION NO. 111/1995**

**PROCLAMATION TO ENSURE THE CONFORMITY OF THE ELECTORAL LAW OF ETHIOPIA  
PROCLAMATION WITH THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC  
REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**

WHEREAS, the constituent Assembly, which was elected by direct universal suffrage pursuant to Article 11 of the Transitional Period Charter of Ethiopia, has in its sessions held from 27 October to 8 December 1994, adopted the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia in accordance with which the New Ethiopia shall be directed and administered;

WHEREAS, the Constituent Assembly which adopted the Constitution has given full mandate to the Traditional Government of Ethiopia to hold and conduct the first national and regional elections in accordance the newly adopted Constitution;

WHEREAS, it has been found necessary to redraft, make some amendments on, and re-enact the Electoral Law of Ethiopia Proclamation, which was issued primarily for holding elections to the Constituent Assembly, with a view to making the Electoral Law conform with the requirements of holding national and regional elections to be conducted in accordance with the Constitution;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to re-enact the Electoral Law which was hereof or in force and thereby to provide for on electoral system for the holding of elections which can ensure the establishment of a political order that enjoys the full mandate of the people in accordance with the newly adopted Constitution;

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the Electoral Organ to continue with its mandates in accordance with the Constitution as a non-partisan, free and impartial electoral body with a view to winning the confidence of the people in the electoral process and to define by law its powers and duties;

NOW, THEREFORE, in accordance with the Resolution, on the Transition, of the Constituent Assembly, it is hereby proclaimed as follows:

***CHAPTER ONE***

***GENERAL PROVISIONS***

***1. Short Title***

This Proclamation may be cited as the "Proclamation to make the Electoral Law of Ethiopia Conform with the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia No. 11/1995."

***2. Definitions***

Unless the context otherwise requires, in this Proclamation:

1. "Region" means a specific area comprising of a nation/nationality or a number of nations nationalities as designated under Article 3 of Proclamation No. 7/1992;
2. "Election" means popular elections hold at representative levels for the formation of national and regional organs of state power and their corresponding substitutes;
3. "Constitution Assembly" means the body referred to under Article 11 of the Transitional Period Charter of Ethiopia;
4. "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;
5. "Minority Nationality" means a community determined, by the council of Representatives or its successor, to be of a comparatively smaller size of population than that of other nations/nationalities;
6. "Electoral Roll" means a record wherein voters are registered at polling stations subsequent to the effective date of this Proclamation;
7. "Electors Card" means an identification card issued to an elector upon registration at a polling station;

8. "Political Organizations" means groupings legally promoting their respective Political programme.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL BOARD**

#### **3. Establishment**

The National Electoral Board, (hereinafter referred to as "the Board"), accountable to the Council of Representatives of the Transitional Government of Ethiopia or its successor, is hereby established as an organ for conducting elections and having juridical personality.

#### **4. Members of the Board**

1. The Board shall have seven members to be designated, by the Council of Representatives or its successor, in consideration of national representation, technical competence, integrity and experience.
2. The Chairman of the Board shall be designated by the Council of Representatives or its successor.
3. The Chief Executive of the Secretariat of the Board shall be a non-voting member and secretary of the Board.

#### **5. Powers and Duties of the Board**

1. The Board shall have the following powers and duties:
  - a) to conduct any election carried out in accordance with the supreme law of the country and this Proclamation;
  - b) to issue regulations and directives necessary for conducting elections as under this Proclamation and ascertain the implementation thereof;
  - c) to prepare and distribute documents and provisions necessary for conducting elections;
  - d) to widely provide to the public civic education relating to elections;
  - e) to organize and train the manpower required for conducting elections;
  - f) to analyze the conduct of elections held from time to time, cause studies to be carried out, collect and compile statistical data;
  - g) to submit, to the Council of Representatives or its successor, recommendations concerning improvements on electoral conduct where it finds it necessary;
  - h) to investigate, cancel election results and order re-election where it has evidence to believe that the scope and nature of any fraudulent practice in the course of elections held under this Proclamation is such that it is bound to determine the outcome of the elections;
  - i) to rectify electoral irregularities and decide on complaints submitted to it in accordance with stipulation made under this Proclamation;
  - j) to confirm electoral results and officially announce same;
  - k) to prepare and submit its budget and utilize same upon approval;
  - l) to submit, to the Council of Representatives or its successor, periodic reports on its activities;
  - m) to perform such other duties as help enhance the execution of this Proclamation.
2. The Board shall elect its Vice Chairman from among its members.

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*(Note: This Law has been amended by Proclamation No 438/2005)*

6. *Rules of Procedure of the Board*

1. The Board shall meet, at least, once in a month.
2. There shall be a quorum where more than half of the members of the Board are present at its meetings.
3. Decisions of the Board shall be made by majority vote; in case of a tie, however, the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
4. The Board may draw up its own rules of procedure.

7. *Powers and Duties of the Chairman*

1. The Chairman of the Board shall:
  - a) call and preside over the meetings of the Board;
  - b) ensure the implementation of the decisions of the Board.
  - c) be responsible for the overall supervision of the activities of the Secretariat of the Board.
2. The Vice Chairman of the Board shall:
  - a) discharge the duties of the Chairman in the absence of the latter;
  - b) take over the Chairmanship, until such time as another Chairman is designated in accordance with this Proclamation, in case where the Chairman is unable to discharge his duties for any person whatsoever.

8. *Officials of the Secretariat of the Board*

1. The Board shall have a Secretariat headed by Chief Executive and a Deputy Chief Executive.
2. The Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive shall be appointed by the Council of Representatives or its successor, upon recommendation of the Head of State in consideration of their experience and competence.
3. The Head Office of the Board shall be in Addis Ababa, and it shall have hierarchically organized branch offices as necessary.

9. *Powers and Duties of the Secretariat of the Board*

1. The Secretary of the Board shall:
  - a) direct the Secretariat as its Chief Executive;
  - b) Prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Board, in consultation with the Chairman;
  - c) properly keep the minutes of the Board;
  - d) cause the decisions of the Board to be transmitted to parties concerned;
  - e) employ and administer personnel in accordance with the general directives of the Board and in line with basic principles embodied in public service laws;
  - f) prepare, and submit to the Board, the short and long-term work programme and budget of the Secretariat and utilize same upon approval;
  - g) represent the Secretariat of the Board in dealings made with third parties;

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*(Note: This Law has been amended by Proclamation No 438/2005)*

- h) do all acts as are necessary for conducting elections in accordance with this Proclamation and directives issued hereunder;
  - i) perform day to day electoral functions vested in the Board under this Proclamation.
  - j) forward to the Board matters for its necessary consideration together with his recommendations thereon;
  - k) perform such other duties as the Board may assign to him;
  - l) prepare, and submit to the Board, periodic reports on the activities of the Secretariat.
2. The Chief Executive of the Secretariat of the Board may delegate part of his powers and duties, to other employees of the Board, to the extent necessary for efficient performance.

*10. Powers and Duties of the Deputy Chief Executive of the Secretariat*

The Deputy Chief Executive, being accountable to the Chief Executive, shall:

1. discharge such duties as are specifically assigned to him by the Chief Executive;
2. exercise all the powers and duties of the Chief Executive, in the absence of the latter;

*11. Duties and Responsibilities of Regional Electoral Office Every Regional electoral office shall have the following duties and responsibilities:*

1. to direct, coordinate and supervise elections conducted at the regional level;
2. to organize and direct electoral offices subordinate to it;
3. to follow-up and ensure that documents and provisions necessary for conducting elections are distributed, in due time, to electoral offices concerned;
4. to supervise and ensure that advance preparations on instruction and training required for conducting elections are made at the level of the Region.
5. to supervise that the registration of elections, the nomination of candidates and voting are carried out in accordance with the law;
6. to examine, at the regional level, grievances and complaints arising in connection with the particulars specific under sub-article (5) of this Article and decide on same, in the form of a committee, in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board;
7. to submit reports, to be Secretariat of the Board on the regional electoral process and the results thereof;
8. to collect, and undertake studies on, data relevant to effectively conduct elections and submit periodic reports to the Secretariat of the Board;
9. to perform such other duties as the Board may assign to it.

*12. Other Electoral Offices*

1. Electoral offices at levels lower than the Regional shall be established as necessary;
2. Electoral offices established at levels lower than the Regional shall have, within their respective jurisdiction, the duties and responsibilities specified under Article 11 hereinabove.

**CHAPTER THREE**

**THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, ELECTORAL PRINCIPLES AND CONSTITUENCIES**

**13. Electoral System**

1. Any election shall be based on free, direct and equal popular suffrage.
2. A candidate with more votes received than that by other competitors within the constituency shall be declared the winner.

**14. Electoral Principles**

1. Voting in any election shall be carried out in secret.
2. Any Ethiopian whose electoral rights are not legally restricted shall be eligible to elect or to be elected.
3. No Ethiopian shall be compelled to elect or to be elected.
4. Each vote shall carry equal weight.

**15. Constituencies**

1. For the purpose of holding elections, the territory of the country shall be divided into constituencies by taking the Woreda as a basis and without affecting regional boundaries.
2. Each constituency shall be made up of one hundred thousand inhabitants.
3. Notwithstanding sub-article (1) of this Article minority nationalities believed, by the Council of Representative or its successor, to require separate representation shall be made to elect and send their respective representative.
4. The Council of Representatives or its successor may designate constituencies otherwise than what is stipulated under sub-articles (1) and (2) of this Article.
5. The list of constituencies shall, on the basis of study to be submitted by the Board, be fixed by the Council of Representatives and announced to the public.
6. Only a single representative shall be elected to the Federal Council of Peoples' Representatives from a constituency.
7. Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-article 6 of this Article, for purposes of conducting elections to the Councils of regional; self-governments, the Board shall decide the number of representatives to be elected from a constituency based on the recommendations of the regions concerned.

**16. Universality of Registration**

Any Ethiopian who is 18 or more years old on the date of registration shall be eligible for registration as an elector.

**17. Single Registration**

Any person shall be registered once and at one place only.

**18. Territorial scope**

Registration shall be carried out throughout the territorial space of Ethiopia.

**19. Conditions for Registration**

1. Any person who:

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- a) is an Ethiopian; and
- b) has been residing within the constituency for, at least, two years; may be registered as an elector.

2. The condition specified under sub-article (1) (b) of this Article shall not be applicable to a person who has been outside of the constituency for fear of political persecution, while waging armed struggle against the previous regime or on a duty or study leave.

20. *Restrictions on Registration*

The following shall not be eligible for registration:

1. Notoriously insane persons;
2. persons serving a term of imprisonment as under a sentence;

21. *Process of Registration*

1. Registration shall be carried out at the polling station within the Kebele of the elector's residence.
2. The elector shall be registered in the electoral roll prepared in accordance with Article 29 hereunder.
3. The elector shall be issued with an elector's card in accordance with Article 32 hereunder.
4. The disabled, other than those specified under Article 20 (1) hereinabove, and the blind may be registered accompanied by their assistants.

22. *Personnel for Registration*

Registration shall be carried out by electoral coordinators to be assigned by the Board at every polling station.

23. *Observers*

Legally recognized political organizations and non-governmental bodies may, through their respective representatives, observe the electoral process.

24. *Right of Observers*

Observers shall have the right to go about within polling stations and to request and obtain appropriate information relating to the electoral process.

25. *Duty of Observers*

Observers shall have the duty to refrain from practices that obstruct the proper and efficient carrying out of electoral operations.

26. *Period of Registration*

Registration shall, throughout the national territory, begin and end on dates to be fixed by the Board.

27. *Announcement of the Registration Period*

The Board and electoral branch offices shall, ten days in advance, announce the registration period through the mass media and posted notices.

28. *New Registration Period*

1. Where special circumstances so justify, the Board may fix a new registration period.

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2. In case of force majeure, any eligible elector, as under the terms of this Proclamation, may register in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board.

29. *Particulars of the Electoral Roll*

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

1. serial number of registration;
2. date of registration;
3. full name, including grandfather's;
4. age;
5. sex;
6. Place of birth, Woreda and Region;
7. duration of residence within the constituency;
8. habitual place of residence;
9. registration number;
10. signature or thumbmark during registration;
11. signature or thumbmark during voting;
12. two additional columns for other necessary entries.

30. *Requirement of Identity card*

1. Registration shall be made upon presentation of an identity card or a passport.
2. An identity card or a passport shall, irrespective of invalidity, serve for purposes of registration.
3. In the absence of an identity card, any document, containing a recent photograph, such as a driving licence, a residence certificate, a military discharge document and a refugee's card issued by the UNHCR shall be taken to be sufficient for registration purposes.
4. In the absence of the aforementioned documents, registration shall be carried out upon recognition of the elector's identity by the electoral officials or through traditional means, in the case of rural areas.

31. *Provision of Electoral Roll*

Every polling station shall be provided with its own electoral roll.

32. *Elector's Card*

Any person duly registered shall be issued with an elector's card bearing his name place of birth, designated polling station, registration number and his signature or thumb mark.

33. *Closure of the Electoral Roll*

1. Upon conclusion of registration, the electoral roll shall be marked with closing indications and signed by the electoral officials.
2. Unless otherwise determined by the Board, nothing shall be entered or written in the electoral roll subsequent to its closure.
3. Upon conclusion of registration, the electoral roll shall, within the premises of the polling station, be officially displaced to the public, in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board.

34. *Transfer of Documents*

1. Subsequent to closure of the electoral roll, each polling station shall transfer same, or a copy of it, and other necessary documents to the respective Woreda electoral office, in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board.
2. The Board shall have the necessary documents transferred to it from electoral offices at every level.
3. The mode and time of the transfer shall be in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board.

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*(Note: This Law has been amended by Proclamation No 438/2005)*

35. *Displaying of the Roll*

Upon fulfillment of stipulations under Article 34 (1) hereinabove, every Woreda electoral office shall, within its premises officially display the electoral roll to the public, in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board.

36. *Non-Cancellation of Registration*

Except for persons who are not registered in accordance with Article 29 hereinabove, subject to cancellation following a complaint, notoriously insane or deceased, no registration shall be deleted from the electoral roll.

37. *Cancellation of Registration*

1. Where electors are convicted rendered insane or deceased courts, hospitals and polling stations, respectively, shall have the duty to forthwith report the incident to Woreda electoral offices.
2. In order for incorrect registrations to be dully cancelled, electoral offices at every level shall have the duty to periodically transmit relevant information to the Board.

38. *Criteria for Candidature*

1. Any person registered as an elector shall be eligible for candidature, where he:
  - a) is an Ethiopian;
  - b) is versed in the vernacular of the National Regional of his intended candidature;
  - c) is 21 or more years old on the date of the election;
  - d) has been regularly residing in the constituency of his intended candidature for, at least, five years immediately preceding the date of the election.
  - e) if presented by a political party in his constituency, produces endorsement signatures of not less than 500 people who are certified by the local administration to be residents of the constituency of his candidature, 18 years old or above and not barred by law from voting; or if a private candidate, produces endorsement signatures of not less than 1,000 people who are certified by the local administration to be residents of the constituency of his candidature, 18 years old or above and not barred by law from voting.
2. Person who have been outside of the constituency for fear of political persecution, while waging armed struggle against the previous regime or on a duty or study leave shall be presumed to have fulfilled the residence criteria under sub-article (1) (c) of this Article.

39. *Single Candidature*

Any person shall stand as a candidate only in one constituency.

40. *Nomination of Candidates*

Candidates may be nominated by political organizations or the concerned individuals may present themselves as private candidates.

41. *Endorsement of Candidature*

1. A political organization may not nominated more than one candidate in a constituency.
2. An resident may not sign for the endorsement of more than two candidates.

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*(Note: This Law has been amended by Proclamation No 438/2005)*

**42. *Symbols for Candidates***

1. Candidates shall present symbols of their own choice in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board.
2. Candidates' symbols shall be printed on ballot papers, and on posters as necessary.

**43. *Number of Candidates***

1. The number of candidates running for election in a constituency shall not be more than twelve.
2. Where more than twelve candidates are registered, those twelve with the highest number of endorsement signatures shall be made to stand for election.
3. In case where candidates receive an equal number of endorsement signatures, those to stand for election shall be picked by drawing lots.

**44. *Registration of Candidates***

Any person who meets the candidature criteria specified under Article 38 hereinabove shall, upon presentation of the necessary proof to the Woreda electoral office, have his name entered in the roll for candidates and be issued with a certificate thereof.

**45. *Publication of Candidates***

Subsequent to settlement of disputes on matters of registration for candidature and ascertainment of those confirmed, the list of candidates shall be publicized by the Woreda electoral office, in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board.

**46. *Rights and Duties of Government Employees who Run for Election***

1. Any Government employee may run for election as a private candidate or as a candidate of a political organization, provided, however, that any Government employee serving in any state administration, and any judge, public prosecutor, soldier or policeman shall, unless he is a political appointee, resign from his post if he runs for election as a private candidate or as a candidate of a political organization.
2. Government employees referred to in sub-article 1 of this Article may not, without prejudice to their right to be members of political parties, hold positions of responsibility in the leadership organs of political parties while they are in Government service; and they may not participate in political campaigning through speeches, writings and the like in support of any candidate.
3. Any Government employee in uniform may not participate in party meetings or in election activities with his uniform on.

**47. *Immunities of Candidates***

1. No candidate shall, during the course of the election, be arrested except when having committed, or caught in flagrant delicto for, a serious offence.
2. Where candidates allegedly commit an offence in situations other than those specified under sub-article (1) of this Article, prosecution may be taken against them only after the electoral results are officially announced by the Board.

**48. *Operation of Campaigning Activities***

1. Except for promotion of a wider turnout of the electorate, campaigning activities carried out by candidates and their supporters, in accordance with regulations to be issued by the Board, shall wind-up two days before voting begins.
2. Campaigning activities shall be conformity with relevant provisions hereunder and carried out peacefully and democratically.

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*(Note: This Law has been amended by Proclamation No 438/2005)*

49. *Freedom of Campaigning*

1. Any candidate or a supporter shall enjoy freedom of oral and written expression, assembling supporters, organizing peaceful demonstration and of requesting for and obtaining appropriate information.
2. Freedoms under sub-article (1) of this Article may not be exercised in contravention of the law.
3. In case of liability incurred in the course of campaigning activities, a candidate shall only be held answerable in accordance with the provisions of Article 47 hereinabove.

50. *The Mass Media*

1. Political organizations and sections of the community that are in support of a candidate shall be entitled to equal access to state-owned mass media, including the radio, the television and the press.
2. Candidates shall be entitled to free of air time on the mass media.
3. The mode of utilization shall be in accordance with directives to be issued by the Ministry of Information.

51. *Obligation of Government Organs*

With a view to the effectiveness of campaigning activities, government organs and officials at any level shall have the obligation to promote, both for candidates and their supporters, equal access to such facilities as radio station meeting-halls and newspapers that are under their respective authority.

52. *Injunction to Restrain Unlawful Acts*

1. Where the Board, as a result of its own investigation or complaints submitted to it by private candidates or political parties which have presented candidates, finds sufficient evidence to believe that an act which violates this Proclamation has been committed in the course of elections, it may issue an order of injunction restraining such unlawful act.
2. Where the Board, as a result of its own investigation or complaints submitted to it by candidates or political parties which have presented candidates finds sufficient evidence to believe that the scope and nature of any fraudulent practice is such that it is bound to determine the out-come of the election, it may freeze the election process, invalidate the results of the election and order re-election.
3. For the purpose of implementing the powers vested in the Board under sub-articles 1 and 2 of this Article, the Board shall have power to subpoena any person who is in possession of evidence to appear before it as well as to order the concerned individual or government organ to produce before it any written evidence or any other evidence.
4. Any party may appeal to the competent court against the orders of the Board given under this Article provided, however, that the orders of the Board shall remain valid until they are set aside or quashed by the competent court.
5. The Board may refer to the competent authority for legal action any cases of acts where it believes that they are committed in violation of the Penal Code or are of such a nature as to constitute obstructions of the electoral process.

53. *Places Forbidden to campaigning Activities*

Campaigning activities shall not be carried out in military camps, places of worship, educational institutions during the period of classes and in government or public institutions during working hours.

54. *Establishment of Polling Stations*

1. Polling stations shall be established at locations and under conditions to be determined by the Board and officially announced to the public.

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*(Note: This Law has been amended by Proclamation No 438/2005)*

2. Military camps, police stations places of worship, hospitals, premises where alcoholic drinks are sold, buildings occupied by political or religious organizations and residence premises may not be made to serve as polling stations.

55. *Beginning of Operation of Polling Stations*

1. Polling stations shall begin to operate simultaneously, on a date to be fixed by the Board.
2. In case of compelling circumstances, the Board may fix a different date for the beginning of operation by polling stations concerned.

56. *Voting*

1. Every elector shall vote by appearing in person.
2. Each elector shall only vote once.
3. Unless otherwise determined by the Board voting shall be exercised within a similar time frame.

57. *Freedom of the Vote*

1. The vote shall be free.
2. No one may force elector to reveal, inside or outside the polling station, for which candidate he will vote or has voted.

58. *Requirements for Voting*

Any elector may cast his vote only upon confirmation that he is carrying the elector's card referred to under Article 32 hereinabove and that has not yet voted.

59. *Place of Voting*

Any elector may cast his vote only at the polling station where he had registered.

60. *Voting Hours*

Unless the Board determines otherwise, voting hours shall run from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

61. *Non-Interruption of Voting Operations*

Voting operations may not be interrupted or concluded, otherwise than in conformity with conditions set or decisions made by the Board.

62. *Security of Polling Stations*

1. Persons who are not electors and electors who have already voted, other than those engaged in conducting electoral activities, shall keep out of the vicinity of the polling station.
2. No person may be present within a radius of five hundred meters of the polling station while drunk, carrying a weapon or in any other situation disturbing the peace.
3. For purposes of defending the security of polling stations, electoral offices may request the appropriate body to assign them a police force.

63. *Agents of the Media*

Agents of the media shall be allowed to enter polling stations on condition that they present their credentials and refrain from practices detrimental to voting operations.

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*(Note: This Law has been amended by Proclamation No 438/2005)*

**64. *Modalities of Voting***

1. The elector shall hand his elector's card to the electoral coordinators of the polling station, whereupon they shall proceed to verify his identity by examining the card;
2. After verification of his identity, the elector shall be made to sign in the column of the electoral roll designated for the purpose;
3. Subsequently, the thumb of the elector shall be put into the ink provided for the purpose, after which he shall be handed with a ballot paper and pointed out to the voting booth;
4. In the booth, the elector shall make, with an "X", the square corresponding to the symbol of the candidature for which he wants to vote, fold the ballot paper into halves and introduce it into the ballot box.
5. Electors who are blind or, otherwise, physically disabled may vote accompanied by assistants of their own choice.
6. Illiterate electors shall vote by pressing one of their fingers in the square corresponding to the symbol of the candidature for which they want to vote, after dipping it in the ink made available for this purpose.
7. Where the elector fails to properly make use of the ballot paper, he may return it and cast his vote upon receipt of another; the electoral official shall put a special mark on the returned ballot paper and dispose it into the box provided for this purpose.

**65. *Counting and Announcement of Results***

1. soon after closure of the polls, counting of ballots shall be carried out at polling stations, in accordance with directives to be issued by the Board.
2. Upon completion of counting at the polling station, the ballots shall be sealed and sent to the Woreda electoral office.
3. The results of counting made at a polling station shall be publicized forthwith.
4. Upon receiving ballot papers, Woreda electoral offices shall forthwith carry out counting and publicize the results thereof.

**66. *Official Declaration***

Upon the conclusion of election and collection of the necessary information, the Board shall forthwith issue an official declaration containing the following particulars:

1. the number of registered electors;
2. the number of electors having cast their vote;
3. the number of blank and null ballot papers;
4. the percentage of registered electors having and not having cast their vote;
5. the percentage unregistered electorate;
6. the list of elected candidates and their respective constituency.

**67. *Submission of a Report***

The Board shall submit, to the Council of Representatives or its successor, a detailed report on the process of the election, in general, and the results thereof.

**68. *By-Elections***

Where the mandate of an elected representatives is terminated for whatever reason, by-elections on his replacement shall be held within a period of not more than three months of such termination, unless otherwise provided under the law.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **COMPLAINTS AND DISPUTES ARISING FROM THE ELECTORAL PROCESS**

#### **69. *Complaints Relating to Elector Registration***

1. Where a person is denied of registration as an elector, he shall have the right to lodge a complaint with the electoral office of the polling station, within twenty-four hours or such occurrence, and to receive a determination thereon.
2. Complaint made to the Woreda electoral office, against a determination under sub-article (1) of this Article, shall be decided upon within twenty-four hours.
3. Determination made by the Woreda electoral office shall be final and electoral offices of polling stations shall proceed with operations accordingly.
4. The individual way, upon dissatisfaction with the determination made by the Woreda electoral officers appeal to the Woreda Court.
5. The court receiving appeal, under sub-article (4) of this Article, shall summarily render a decision on the matter in consideration of the time-table of the election.

#### **70. *Complaints Relating to Candidate Registration***

1. Where a person is denied of registration for candidature, he shall have the right to lodge a complaint with the Woreda electoral office, within twenty-four hours of such occurrence, and to receive a determination thereon.
2. Complaint made to the Zonal or Regional electoral office, as the case may be, against a determination under sub-article (1) of this Article, shall be decided upon within forty-eight hours.
3. Determination made by the Zonal or Regional Electoral office shall be final and Woreda electoral offices shall proceed with operations accordingly.
4. The individual may, upon dissatisfaction with the determination made by the Zonal or Regional electoral office, appeal to the Regional Supreme Court.
5. The court receiving appeal, under sub-article (4) of this Article, shall summarily render a decision on the matter in consideration of time-table of the election.

#### **71. *Complaints Relating to Voting***

1. Where an elector is denied of voting, he shall have the right to lodge a complaint with the electoral office of the polling station, within five hours of such occurrence, and to receive a determination thereon.
2. Complaint made to the Woreda electoral office, against a determination under sub-article (1) of this Article, shall be decided upon within twenty-four hours.
3. Determination made by the Woreda electoral office shall be final and electoral offices of polling station shall proceed with operations accordingly.
4. The elector may, upon dissatisfaction with the determination made by the Woreda electoral office, appeal to the Woreda Court.
5. The court receiving appeal, under sub-article (4) of this Article, shall summarily render a decision on the matter in consideration of the time-table of the election.

#### **72. *Complaints Relating to Counting of Ballots***

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*(Note: This Law has been amended by Proclamation No 438/2005)*

1. Any person with grievances on the counting of ballots, and the results thereof shall have the right to lodge a complaint with the Woreda electoral office, immediately upon the occurrence of such event, and to receive a replay thereon.
2. Complaint may be made to the Board upon objection to the replay given under sub-article (1) of this Article.
3. The Board shall examine and render final determination on the complaint.
4. Appeal may be taken to the Central High Court, upon objection to the determination of the Board.

73. *Serious Irregularities of Operation*

Petition may be made to the Central High Court against determinations made by the Board.

**CHAPTER FIVE**

**MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

74. *Budget*

1. The Central Government shall, on the basis of a proposal submitted to it by the Board, make budgetary allocations necessary for conducting elections.
2. The Board shall utilize its budgetary allocations in conformity with financial regulations.

75. *Transfer of Rights and Obligations*

The rights and obligations as well as the assets and liabilities of the National/Regional and Woreda Council Members Electoral Commission, established under Proclamation No. 11/1992, are hereby transferred to the Board.

76. *Conflict with Other Laws*

1. The following are hereby repealed:
  - a) The Electoral Law of Ethiopia Proclamation No. 64/1993;
  - b) The Electoral Law of Ethiopia Amendment Proclamation No. 96/1994.
2. No law which is inconsistent with this Proclamation shall have force or effect in respect of matters provided for in this Proclamation.

77. *Duty to Cooperate*

Any government office, political organization, group, private organization or individual has the duty to cooperate in matters concerning the implementation of this Proclamation.

78. *Penalty*

Any natural or juridical person obstructing the implementation of this Proclamation shall be punishable in accordance with the relevant penal law.

79. *Effective Date*

This Proclamation shall come into force as of the date of its publication in the Negarit Gazeta.

Done at Addis Ababa, this 23rd day of February 1995,

MELES ZENAWI  
PRESIDENT OF THE TRANSITIONAL  
GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA