

THE GENERAL LAW FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND VOTERS' REGISTRATION

Law Lr. 91/2020

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

September, 2020

THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALILAND

Having seen: Article 4 (1), Article 9 (1), Article 22 (3), and Article 40, Article 42, Article 42, Article 82, Article 83, Article 111 (2) of the National Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland.

Having seen: The importance of learning from the experience gained from the various previous elections held in Somaliland, which showed the need for strengthening the legal processes facilitating casting of votes by citizens and eliminating the occurrence of multiple illegal voting.

Having recognized: The need to carry out reform, alteration, additions as well as revision on the Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Council election laws as well as the Voter Registration Law.

Having seen: The recommendation of the National Electoral Commission and the Executive Branch to consolidate all election laws and the voter registration law to unite them into the General Law for National Elections and Voters' Registration Law Lr. 91/2020.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Has Hereby Approved:

The General Law for National Elections and Voters' Registration

Law Lr. 91/2020

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CHAPTER 1

PART 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

Title

This Law shall be cited as the General Law for National Elections and Voters' Registration. Law Lr. 91/2020.

Article 2

Definitions

Symbol/Symbols: means a unique logo, sign, or number which identifies one association/party or candidate.

Voter: means the person who fulfills the voting conditions set out in this Law and casts his/her vote.

Elections Stakeholders: means political parties/associations, national electoral Commission, candidates, observers, government, legislative bodies, and the agencies that support the Commission in holding the elections.

Constitution: means the national Constitution of the Republic of Somaliland

Electoral-district: means all the districts in the regions of the Republic of Somaliland that have a local council.

Oath of Secrecy: means the swearing of polling workers to keep the confidentiality of the elections' information.

Voter Registration: means the citizens who register themselves to vote in the election time.

Citizen Registration: means the registration of every Somalilander conducted by the Ministry of interior and the local councils of the districts in the Republic of Somaliland.

Voter Register: means the Register recording the registered voters' names in accordance with the Voter Registration law.

Regional or District Register: means the district or regional level register of identity cards or voter cards.

General Register: means the central Register placed at the Ministry of Interior and the electoral Commission's headquarters, which records all the citizens and voters' names.

Register: means the Register which records the citizens' identity information.

National Elections: means the process in which the voters elect the President, Vice President, Members of the House of Representatives, and Local Councils, the result of which is based on the majority of votes each party has won.

Electoral Region: means an area which covers a number of electoral districts.

Local Council: means the Council that the voters in a district vote to be the district's administration and legislative body.

Polling Station: means the place where a specific number of registered voters cast their vote, as assigned by the Commission.

Observers: means the international or national inspectors accredited by the Commission, who shall check that the election activities are conducted properly.

Remainder: means the number of (*remaining*) votes which amount to less than the total needed for the allocation of one seat.

Voter Card: means the Card issued, after registration, to the voter.

Identity Card: means the Card confirming citizenship.

Commission: means the National Electoral Commission

Seat: means a position to which one person can be elected.

List/Lists: means the names of candidates submitted by an association/party competing in specific elections.

Candidate: means the member nominated by a party/association to run in a specific election.

Citizen: means every person who fulfills the conditions set out in the citizenship law. Law No: 22/2002.

Election Campaign: means the parties' activities and their candidates competing for the voters' support and understanding, in accordance with this Law.

Sequential order: means various things that are connected and are noted in a way that they follow each other sequentially.

Party Agent: means the member which a party nominates as its agent at a polling station.

Ministry: means the Ministry of Interior

Government Officials: means the senior public officers of a rank equivalent to a departmental director or above and the heads of the governmental agencies, as well as the senior officers of the armed forces and the police of a rank equivalent to a commander of a group or of a police station, or above.

Central Office: means the Commission's headquarters to manage the election activities to be carried out by the Commission.

Regional Office: means the Office, set up by the Commission in accordance with this Law, which manages the election activities in the region.

District Office: means the Office, set up by the Commission in accordance with this Law, which manages the election activities in the district.

Polling Station Office: means the station where the citizens cast their votes and the voting activities are managed.

Polling station staff: All workers at the polling station.

Election officers: National Electoral Commission staff at the central, regional, and district offices.

Offense: means any verbal or action against the election procedure and the general security.

Penal Code: means the penal code law approved by the legislative body.

Donation: means any donation whether monetary, material or service which is given to party/association or a candidate with the intention to facilitate election activities and campaign.

PART 2

Article 3

Scope of this Law and General Principles

1. This Law:
 - a) Shall be used for the conduct of the Presidential, House of Representatives, and Local Council elections as well as the overall voting process.
 - b) Shall be used for the conduct of voters' registration.
 - c) Has set out the responsibilities, duties, and authority Independent National Electoral Commission and its election offices.
 - d) Has laid out the offenses that can hinder the electoral process's implementation and voter registration and their punishments.
2. General Principles of this Law:
 - a) The freedom of all citizens to exercise their political rights in accordance with the Republic of Somaliland's Constitution and laws.
 - b) Implementation of a free and fair election, without intimidation, bribe and corruption, conducted independently, fairly, and transparently with accountability.

Article 4

Voter Conditions

1. He/she must be a citizen of Somaliland.
2. He/she must not be aged less than 15 years during the year the elections are being held.
3. He/she must be free and not in prison on the date of the election.
4. He/she must be a registered voter at the polling station he/she is casting his/her vote unless he/she is one of the polling station staff, party agents, and the police officers in charge of the polling station's security.
5. If someone who has not fulfilled the conditions to vote takes a voter card mistakenly, the National Electoral Commission has the authority to stop him from voting after proving that he/she has not met all the necessary conditions to vote.
6. The candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency can vote in any polling station. However, the polling station staff must document such an event. The candidates cannot vote more than one time.
7. The candidates for House of Representatives and Local Councils shall only vote at the polling stations they have registered.

Article 5

Rights of the Voter

Every voter who has met the conditions laid out by this Law has the right to:

1. To cast his/her vote at the polling station, he/she is registered as a voter.
2. The voter outside the country shall cast his/her vote at the Republic of Somaliland's nearest diplomatic Office; if that is impossible, he/she shall reach out to the Commission for advice.
3. Voting shall be personal, free, direct, and secret, and all votes shall be given equal weighting.
4. Each voter shall have only one vote for each election.
5. The members of the Electoral Commission shall not have the right to vote during their tenure; however, they can register themselves as voters.
6. Polling station staff of the Polling Station, Political Party/Political Association agents, and police who are officially assigned for that Polling Station shall have the right to vote in their respective polling station.

Article 6

Timing of the Elections

1. The Commission shall declare the date of elections according to the Constitution and this Law. It shall be one month before the end of the President's, Vice President's, and House of Representatives' term, and the declaration shall be officially published as a presidential decree.
2. The Electoral Commission shall declare the date of the election 120 days before the election day. The President shall issue the decree officially declaring the date of the elections within 15 days upon receiving the Commission's declaration.
3. The Electoral Commission can hold one or more elections at a time if appropriate.
4. Should it become evident that the Presidential Election cannot happen on the previously declared date due to technical reasons or issues outside those laid out in Articles 83 and 42 of the Constitution, the House of Elders, in consultation with the National Electoral Commission, shall decide the term extension.
5. The House of Elders shall decide the extension if the election cannot happen due to the issues laid out in Articles 83 and 42 in accordance with the Constitution.

Article 7

The Right to Stand for Election

1. In accordance with Article 22 of the Constitution and conditions set out by this Law, after the nomination of a party/association, every citizen has the right to stand for the elections of the Presidency, House of Representatives, and Local Councils.

2. The National Parties shall nominate their election candidates in accordance with this Law, fairly, transparently, and serving the objectives of this Law.

Article 8

Public Participation in the Electoral Process

1. The Commission shall take all the necessary steps to ensure the public's participation in the electoral process; the steps may include:
 - a) Devising awareness raising strategy for the voters;
 - b) Ensuring that disabled citizens can actively participate in the electoral process;
 - c) Facilitating anything that the observers may need so that they can carry out their duties in the elections;
 - d) Ensuring that information on the electoral process is readily available without disclosing any confidential data;
2. The Commission shall consult with the election stakeholders regarding their plans for the elections;
3. The Commission may make recommendations towards the Parliament and the Executive Branch regarding election policies and their reforms;

Article 9

Civil Servants & Government Agencies

1. Civil Servants and the officers of the armed forces of any rank shall not be eligible to stand for elections unless they submit official resignation from their respective positions 90 days before the day of the elections.
2. The resignation shall be considered only after their respective Office or agency produces an official document proving their resignation.
3. The official resignation document can neither be denied nor delayed from the candidate.

Article 10

Terms of Office

The term of Office for the elected candidates shall be as follows:

1. 5 years for the President and the Vice-President
2. 5 years for the House of Representatives
3. 5 years for the Local Councils

Article 11

Candidates' Symbols and Sorting of the Names and Symbols of Parties/Associates

1. The National Electoral Commission shall assign the candidates for the House of Representatives and Local Councils their symbols.
2. The Electoral Commission shall carry out a lottery for the parties/associations to assign their symbols and their sequential order in which they appear on the ballot paper and all other election documents.

CHAPTER 2

PART ONE

THE NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Article 12

Structure of the National Electoral Commission

The structure of the Electoral Commission's offices shall be as follows:

1. Central Electoral Office
2. Regional Electoral Office
3. District Electoral Office
4. Polling Station Office

Article 13

Members of the Commission

The Electoral Commission shall consist of 7 members who are as follows:

1. The Commission shall consist of 7 members who are as follows: a)

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and 5 members.

b) The Commission shall elect from among its members the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman.

c) The term of Office of the Commission is 5 years beginning from the date the House of Representatives approves of its appointment, and the term of Office may be renewed.

d) Employees of the state, members of Parliament, members of the Cabinet of Ministers, members of the armed forces, and persons who hold positions in associations/parties cannot become members of the Commission.

2. The Electoral Commission shall be appointed by the President of the Republic of Somaliland after he/she has received the (following) nominations:

- a) 2 members selected by the House of Elders.
- b) 2 members selected by the registered opposition associations/parties.
- c) 3 members selected by the President.

3. The appointment of the Commission shall be approved by the House of Representatives on an absolute majority vote of half of their members plus one, and after the House Internal Affairs Committee has ensured that the appointees fulfill the conditions set out in this Law.

4. The central Office of the Electoral Commission shall have its headquarters in the capital city of Hargeisa.

5. The Commission shall fulfill its duties in accordance with the Constitution and this Law. Commission meetings shall be quorate, and resolutions of the Commission shall be approved on a simple majority vote.

6. The Commission shall have its own bylaws in accordance with this Law.

7. The Commission shall carry out its duties independently and shall not, in the least, be interfered with by anyone.

Article 14

Eligibility Criteria for Membership of the Commission

1. He/she must be a citizen of Somaliland.
2. He/she must be aged no less than 40 years and no more than 70 years.
3. He/she must be a Muslim and must behave in accordance with Islamic religion.
4. He/she must be educated, at least, to university level or equivalent.
5. He/she must not be a member of a political association/party and be independent of all of them.
6. He/she must be renowned for respect, honor, and fairness towards (all) society members.
7. He/she must never have been convicted by a court for a crime.
8. He/she must be physically and mentally able to fulfill his/her duties.

Article 15

Dismissal of Commission (Members)

1. A member of the Commission may be dismissed:
 - a) when he/she breaks one of the conditions of his/her appointment;
 - b) when he/she is unable to fulfill his/her duties because of a lack of capability or ill health;
 - c) when he/she commits acts of wanton behavior, theft, corruption, or similar matters.
2. When it is suspected that the matters set out above have happened, the President shall appoint an investigation committee which shall report on the issues so that he/she can reach a decision thereof.
3. The President has the power to dismiss the Commission provided that the House of Representatives approves of the decision on a simple majority vote.
4. When a vacancy arises in the Commission due to dismissal, death or resignation, it shall be filled in accordance with the procedure adopted when the outgoing member was initially appointed.

Article 16

Powers of the Commission

The Commission shall have the power to:

1. Set the date of the elections, and inform the President so that he/she can issue a Decree;
2. Set the number and the location of the polling stations of the districts and the regions;
3. Appoint, dismiss, or discipline the staff of the Central Office and those of the electoral regions and the electoral districts independently;
4. Plan the budget for administering the electoral activities;
5. Declare the provisional results of the elections of the President and the Vice-President pending their confirmation by the Supreme Court;
6. Inspect the polling stations and any other places connected with their duties either randomly or in a planned fashion;
7. Adjudicate on the disagreements relating to the elections, which have been forwarded to them by their electoral offices;
8. Research how the country can have polling stations where candidates can compete for votes;

9. Register voters before the date of the election.
10. Permit, direct, and organize the international organizations, local NGOs, and other stakeholders interested in the elections.
11. Manage voter awareness-raising activities of the elections.
12. Issue regulations, guidelines, decisions, and codes of conduct that do not contradict this Law and other election laws.
13. Create administrative processes that safeguard, investigate, and monitor that elections code of conduct are followed by associations/parties and candidates and that any entity that breaches the code of conduct has met with the appropriate penalties.
14. Administer election campaigns.
15. Independently administer any contracts concerning voter registration and election material and service according to the contracting policies.
16. Have all the other authorities stated in other effective laws.

Article 17

The budget of the Electoral Commission

1. The Commission shall have its own budget, which is prepared by it and submitted to the President. When an agreement is reached on the budget, it shall be forwarded to the House of Representatives for approval.
2. The Commission shall utilize the elections budget independently and shall submit quarterly accounts to the Comptroller General. The second-in-line election manager shall submit the budget report after the end of Voter Registration or election.
3. The Electoral Commission budget shall be only audited with a Presidential decree considering the National Electoral Commission's impartiality.

Article 18

Elections/Voter Registration Fund

1. This Law establishes the Elections Fund, which shall be administered by the Electoral Commission. This Fund shall hold:
 - b) All the allocated funds for the Commission;
 - a) All the money donated by international donors allocated for the Electoral Commission;
2. The Electoral Commission shall utilize the Fund independently and responsibly and submit quarterly accounts to the Comptroller General.
3. All the monetary fines collected from candidates/parties/associations contesting in the elections shall be directed to the Elections Fund.

Article 19

The Polling Station Office

1. The polling station staff of the election shall include the Officer, deputy officer, checker, and secretary.
2. The Officer, deputy officer, secretary, and checker shall be appointed by the Electoral Commission and can be reshuffled if necessary.
3. If needed in an emergency case, the polling station officer can replace the checker or the secretary during the voting. They can replace the other individuals in the polling station after consulting with the deputy officer.
4. The polling station office is responsible for all election activities in the station.

Article 20

The District Office

1. Each district's main town shall have a district office and shall have an officer, deputy officer, secretary, checker, and two counting staff.
2. The National Electoral Commission shall appoint the Officer, deputy officer, checker, and the two counting staff. The Electoral Commission has the authority for their reshuffling/replacement.
3. The district office is fully responsible for district election operations.

Article 21

The Regional Office

1. Each region's capital shall have a district office and shall include an officer, deputy officer, and secretary, appointed by the National Electoral Commission.
2. The regional election office is fully responsible for district election operations.
3. If necessary, the Electoral Commission has full authority to increase the number of polling station staff operating in one polling station, either at a district or/and regional level

Article 22

National Electoral Commission Staff

1. During election time, the staff recruited by the National Electoral Commission cannot be listed as government workers and shall be independent. They shall be regulated with a separate regulation, which shall be issued by the National Electoral Commission.
2. The staff of the National Electoral Commission is not allowed to commit any action, which could raise suspicions against their impartiality and integrity. They cannot participate in fundraising events for a particular candidate contesting for election, party leader, or anyone with political affiliation.

Article 23

Hiring & Dismissal of District/ Regional Election Officers

1. The National Electoral Commission can dismiss Regional/ District officer if:
 - a) Fails to fulfill his/her duties, as set out by this Law, due to physical or mental illness or incompetency;
 - b) Fails to enact per the roles given as an officer in accordance with this Law, or to be disobedient to the instructions of the Electoral Commission;
 - c) Disregards the borders of polling stations laid by the Electoral Commission;
2. The Electoral Commission is convinced that their lack of integrity & partiality is perceived during the task or for other reasons.
3. The Electoral Commission shall announce the full names, addresses, and jobs of all regional/district officers.

4. After consulting with the Electoral Commission, the regional governor can appoint someone who shall execute their roles on their behalf, as stated in this Article with their supervision.
5. Should any district/regional officer be dismissed from the job due to any of the reasons for elimination, the Electoral Commission can appoint another person who can fulfill the job and the dismissed Officer's roles concerning that election.

Article 24

Election/Registration Offices Staff

1. Members that the Electoral Commission nominates for the election/registration shall be informed at least 15 days before the election date.
2. Any individual who gets nominated for the roles of the election/registration offices cannot resign from the role unless they provide convincing excuses to the Electoral Commission.
3. The nominated members of the election offices of polling stations, district, and region must be taken their oath. The district court shall openly take their oath and in accordance with the following procedure:

"I do solemnly swear to Allah, the Almighty, that I will execute the election tasks with integrity and credibility, and to be impartial and stand neutral on parties/candidates as well as faithfully serve with true allegiance to the law and constitution."
4. The members of the Electoral Commission shall individually take the oath as stated above in front of the Head of the Supreme Court.
5. Members of the armed forces, regional governors, district council members, legislative bodies, and election candidates cannot be nominated for election offices.
6. Polling station staff and election officers of district/regional offices employment period end when the election results are announced. However, the Electoral Commission can extend the period if they need so.
7. The region/district officers cannot be government workers, armed forces, or any. The selection requirements, which shall be selected on, are similar to those of the National Electoral Commission except age, which shall be between 36 and 60 years of age.

Article 25

Election officers Per Diem

1. The election officers' per diem shall be planned by the Electoral Commission and based on the roles and positions of the workers.
2. The poll worker sent outside their hometown shall be allotted to subsistence allowance during the period they are away. The Electoral Commission shall prepare the subsistence allowance.

Article 26

Privileges of Electoral Commission, Candidates & Election officers

1. All the polling station staff operating in election offices, parties' agents stated in this Law, legally enjoy public officer privileges (legal status).
2. Candidates, polling station staff of election offices, and parties' agents cannot be subject to an arrest during the election time unless they are not caught in a felony.
3. The Electoral Commission has privileges similar to those of Cabinet as long as they hold the position. And any dismissal of those privileges shall adhere in accordance with articles 94 (8) and 96 (4) Of the Constitution.

CHAPTER 3

PART ONE

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

Article 27

Regulation Limit

This chapter shall be regulated on Somaliland voters' registration, which is the National Electoral Commission's responsibility.

Article 28

Voters Register of Somaliland

1. The Nation of Somaliland shall have a voter register which contains every legible voter as stated in the Constitution and other state laws.
2. Any citizen who runs for the Presidential election shall be a registered voter.
3. Any citizen who runs for the House of Representatives or Local Council elections shall be registered in the region/district he/she is standing for its representation.
4. The register stated in section 1 of this article must be archived and registered in computerized format and register books and must contain all data/information collected from citizens when they are registered as voters.

Article 29

Register Ownership

1. The Register is national property owned by the Republic of Somaliland.
2. Every political party/association has the right to oversee adjustment, implementation, and registration lists.

Article 30

Implementation of Voter Registration

By utilizing all forms of broadcasting & media existing in the country:

1. All the necessary information and schedules of the voter registration shall be published for public knowledge.
2. It is obligatory to educate citizens and raise public awareness of the importance of voter registration.

Article 31

Illegible Citizens of Voter Registration

Individuals who are illegible to be registered as a voter are as following:

1. Any citizen who is mentally challenged.
2. Any citizen who is convicted, serving a sentence, or awaiting trial.
3. Any individual who is not a citizen of Somaliland.
4. Any citizen whose age is less than 15 years.
5. Any voter who has previously registered himself/herself in another location.

Article 32

Voter Registration Records & Final Lists Release

The National Electoral Commission is responsible for recording, securing, and releasing the final voter registration list six months before every election day.

Article 33

Unauthorized Individual Signatures

Any person who is unable to sign the Registration Form shall affix his/her left thumbprint on it. If he/she is disabled (and is unable to use his left thumb), he/she could use his/her right thumb, but if he/she has neither, he/she shall use one of his/her fingers. If he/she has none of his/her thumbs and fingers, the Registration Officer shall sign, on his/her behalf, and this act shall be recorded in the Registration Form.

Article 34

Registration Equipment Security

1. After the registration activities of each day, all the materials used for the registration shall be returned to the District Office. If the failure is due to negligence or malice, the District Officer shall inform the Electoral Commission as soon as possible and ask them to file charges against the official who committed the offense.

2. Where there is a lack of transport, the Registrar shall be responsible for the registration materials and shall forward them to the District Registrar once the registration is completed. However, the Registration Officer shall be responsible for the recording of all the daily registration activities and the safeguarding of the registers.

3. The daily activities of the registration station shall commence at seven o'clock in the morning and shall end at six o'clock in the evening. If there is a delay, the reason for the delay shall be clearly stated in a report, and, if there is no justification for the delay, action must be taken by the District Registration Officer who shall so report to his/her superior officers. If at six o'clock in the evening, there are still people who have not been registered yet, the relevant provisions of Article 114 shall be followed, and these people shall continue to be registered until all those present (at six o'clock) are dealt with.

Article 35

Writing Style of Citizen Names

The citizen's full name shall be written in Somali and with capital letters, and in consideration for long vowels, and the letters that are doubled, so that no name is written in different ways.

Article 36

Correction of inaccurate particulars

1. Any citizen who sees in the registration list erroneous particulars relating to him must inform the Registration Officer and must note it in, and sign, the appropriate form designed for this purpose. The Officer must correct as soon as possible and must forward a report, through the officers at district and regional level, to the Officer in charge of the Register at the national level.
2. When the period set for amendments and corrections expires, the National Registration Officer shall prepare a detailed report on all the amendments and shall forward this information to the relevant official for endorsement and approval that the amendments be entered in the Register.
3. The National Electoral Commission shall produce the correction procedure inaccurate particulars.

Article 37

The Description of the Voter cards

The Voter card shall be made of a material that does not wear out or disintegrate easily and cannot be amended or forged (hard material).

Article 38

Lost Voter Cards

1. Any person who loses their Voter card or has it damaged may ask the officers responsible for them (for a replacement), and, when so requested, the officers shall, on verifying the reasons for the loss, give the person a new Voter card, which contains the previous particulars and his/her reference.
2. A person whose Card is damaged is entitled, after production of the damaged Card, to its replacement.
3. Any person who finds a citizen Identity Card (ID Card) or a Voter card must take it to the nearest Police station or Local Government office.

Article 39

Protection of the Voter's Particulars

1. The information in the Registers is particularly confidential to the state and to each person who, as a citizen, has registered himself, and therefore:

- a) It shall not, in any manner contrary to the Law, be benefited from nor transferred or amended;
- b) Any person who unlawfully accesses it, gives away, or steals it shall be punished with 3 to 5 years imprisonment.

3. The proceedings of such case(s) shall be conducted under the Criminal Procedure Code.
4. The information about the citizen may be disclosed to the security agencies if the disclosure is necessary for the state's security and public order and the citizens. However, it can only be so disclosed if a law makes it obligatory or a competent court so orders.
5. It is forbidden for the information about the citizens and voters to be forwarded to a foreign country

Article 40

Acquisition of more than one Voter card

1. It is forbidden for any citizen to obtain more than one Voter card.
2. If a citizen obtains fraudulently, amends, (or) forges a Voter card or more, he/she shall incur the punishment set out in Article 147 (5) of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Article 41

Voters' Registration

1. Any individual who wants to be registered as a voter shall carry his/her Identity Card.
2. If certain citizens do not possess an Identity Card, they shall be vetted at the Ministry of Interior's Registration Office.

Article 42

The Procedure of Voters' Registration

1. Only citizens who are on the voters' Register can vote in the country's elections.
2. The National Electoral Commission shall issue the list of registered voters within six months of the registration time.
3. The registration of voters shall have no conditions, such as monetary payments.
4. Unique biometric identification (iris recognition) shall be used for every rightfully registered citizen by the National Electoral Commission. The Commission can add any other modern method they deem appropriate.

Article 43

The Registration Duties of the National Electoral Commission

It shall also be the duty of the National Electoral Commission to ensure the following without prejudice to the responsibilities and authorities set out for it by the other articles:

1. It shall schedule the voters' registration before the elections.
2. The National Electoral Commission is responsible for the organization, implementation, and issuance of the voters' list.
3. The National Electoral Commission shall issue regulations, decisions, procedures, and orders to facilitate the voters' registration.
4. It shall recommence the voters' registration before every election; the Commission shall decide the method and procedure of the recommencement.

Article 44

Announcement of the Commencement of the Voters' Registration

The President shall announce the commencement date of the voters' registration with a presidential decree. He/she shall do this within 15 days of receiving a suggestion from the Electoral Commission.

Article 45

Implementation of the Voters' Registration

1. The National Electoral Commission shall outline in regulation the duration and procedure of the voters' registration.
2. The National Electoral Commission must issue and broadcast the dates allocated for the voters' registration and any other information concerning it that the citizens need to know.
3. The Commission must educate the citizens and spread awareness on the importance of the voters' registration.
4. To accomplish this, the Commission must prepare programs that are part of the registration process designed to teach and raise the public's awareness and prepare them for the voters' registration.

Article 46

Voters' Registration Form

The voters' registration form shall be the basis of the voters' registration with the following information recorded in it:

1. The voter's full name shall be written the same way as it's written in the identification card (if available).
2. Year and place of birth.
3. Gender (Male or Female)
4. The voter's signature or any proof that the voter cannot sign.
5. The voter's registration reference number.
6. Identity Card Number

Article 47

Information on the Voter card

The voters' Card should have the following information:

1. Voter's full name.
2. Voter's photo.
3. The Identity Card number (if available).
4. The voter's registration reference number.
5. Date of birth.
6. Gender (Male or Female).
7. The polling station where the voter will cast their vote.
8. Any other info deemed necessary.

Article 48

Disputes Related to Age Differences

The citizen's age is determined by the period that is written on their Identity Card.

Article 49

Voter Registration Staff

1. To implement the voters' registration, the Commission shall recruit skilled and experienced staff for the registration implementation.

2. The staff to be recruited for the different offices of voters' registration must be Somaliland citizens with no political affiliations. They must be strictly selected based on the experience and knowledge needed to operate.
3. Before recruiting the staff member, the following should be defined/specified:
 - a) The conditions and skills needed for that position;
 - b) The procedure to be followed for the selection of staff;
 - c) Job responsibilities of each person (role) in the Voter Registration process.

Article 50

Procedures and the Voters' Registration Offices

1. The National Electoral Commission shall issue detailed procedures of the voters' registration procedure and district and regional registration offices.
2. The Commission shall also issue regulations stating that the citizen can register themselves for technical reasons in the city or area where they currently reside but can choose the polling station to vote.
3. The Commission shall also issue a regulation stating that the voter can change their polling station before elections.

Article 51

The Political Party Agents to Voters' Registration

1. Each party may appoint agents to the registration offices.
2. The agents shall ensure that the registration process is in accordance with the Laws, there is no discrimination, and that no citizen is denied registration illegally.
3. The agents can record their concerns or requests concerning those issues (if any) and submit them for clarification
4. The Commission shall issue regulations on the conditions for choosing the agents and when to submit their names to the Commission.

Article 52

The Duty of the Voters' Registrar

1. The Registrar shall ask the voter if the information in the citizenship form is valid.
2. The Registrar shall enter the information mentioned above in the voters' registration form and read it to the voter.
3. The voter must sign the voter's registration form or use any other method [such as fingerprints] mentioned in article 33 of this Law.

Article 53

Issuance and Publication of Voter Lists

The National Electoral Commission, based on the registered voters' book, shall issue the lists of voters necessary for the conduct of the election to become an official voter list.

Article 54

Issuance and publication of official voter lists

1. Once all the changes have been recorded, the final list shall be prepared, and it shall be the list that the Electoral Commission shall order to publish all the required lists from as obliged by the laws.
2. The National Electoral Commission shall provide the Ministry of Interior and the political parties with the final voters' list.

Article 55

Distribution of Voter cards

1. The Commission shall issue the Voter card to each registered citizen
2. Suppose the citizen can't be given a voter card due to technical circumstances. In that case, the Commission shall issue an Interim Certificate, pending the resolution of those circumstances.

Article 56

The Technical Committee for Registration Activities

1. To organize the registration process's technical aspects and coordinate the registration activities, the Commission shall appoint a Technical Committee from the National Electoral Commission, the Ministry of Interior, and political parties.
2. The National Electoral Commission shall issue Regulations of the Powers and Duties of the Technical Committee

Article 57

Security and Awareness-raising of the Registration Process

The National Electoral Commission is assisted by the National Security Forces of the Republic of Somaliland through the Ministry of Interior during the registration process.

Article 58

Observers

The National Electoral Commission shall submit the list of local and international observers who will be inspecting the voters' registration process to the Ministry of Interior to facilitate the process of giving them visas.

Article 59

Power to Issue Regulations

The Electoral Commission has the power to issue Regulations, Codes of Conduct, and Directives that do not contravene the Law.

CHAPTER 4

PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ELECTION PROCEDURE

Article 60

President and Vice-president Election Procedure

The President and vice president elections' procedure shall be the ones indicated in Articles 1, 2, 3, and 83 (4) of the Republic of Somaliland's Constitution, and it's the majority system as indicated in the Constitution.

Article 61

Electoral Deposit of the President and Vice President

1. Candidates for the Presidency shall pay a non-refundable election deposit of **Sl. Sh. 150,000, 000 (One Hundred and Fifty Million Somaliland Shillings)**.
2. A candidate for the post of Vice President shall pay a non-refundable election deposit of **Sl. Sh. 100,000, 000 (One Hundred Million Somaliland Shillings)**.

Article 62

Requirements for Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates

Any individual who meets the following criteria set out in Article 82 of the Constitution can be elected for President or Vice President: -

1. He/she must be a citizen of Somaliland and not a citizen of another state but can be a refugee residing in another country.
2. He/she must be a Muslim and practice the Islamic religion.
3. He/she must be forty years of age or older.
4. He/she must be physically and mentally fit to perform his/her duties.
5. He/she must have knowledge and experience in administrative matters (governmental and non-governmental).
6. He/she must not have been convicted of a crime by a Somaliland court.
7. His/her spouse must be Muslim.
8. He/she must be well informed of the country's situation and have been in the country for at least two years before the election date.
9. He/she must register his/her property.
10. Candidates for the President and Vice-President election must be members of a registered or legal party and must be nominated by their party.

Article 63

Submission of Candidate Lists

1. Lists of candidates for President and Vice President shall be submitted to the Office of the Commission before 6 pm on the 45th day before the voting.
2. The party shall submit the candidates for the Presidency and the vice presidency within the period specified in the previous section and shall attach the following details.
 - a) The decision of the party to approve the candidacy of the President and Vice President;
 - b) Proof of the Inland Revenue Office of the Ministry of Finance indicating that they have paid the election deposit;
 - c) A statement in which each selected candidate is stating that he/she has met the requirements for candidacy and is determined to be a candidate for the Presidency;
 - d) A statement of the level of education and qualifications;

- e) A statement stating that there is no law barring a candidate from running for the Presidency;
- f) A statement issued by the party leaders and candidates stating that they will abide by the election laws and code of conduct;
- g) Evidence detailing the assets owned by candidates running for the Presidency;
- h) If the candidate has foreign citizenship, he/she must submit evidence showing that he/she has renounced the foreign citizenship.

Article 64

Candidate Nomination Process

1. A candidate running for President or Vice President's Office shall have the right to resign, provided that he/she submits an official declaration to his/her party and the National Electoral Commission at least 30 days before the election date.
2. The party of which the candidate is running may change their candidate only 20 days before the election.
3. If one of the candidates for the Presidency or Vice Presidency of the political parties dies after the submission of the list of candidates, the party concerned has the right to replace him 20 days before the election date.
4. If the candidate dies or resigns within the last 20 days, the party has no right to replace. Conditions regarding the President or Vice President's Office's vacancy stated in Articles 86 and 89 of the Constitution shall be referred to.
5. If the parties do not replace the candidate whose seat was vacated within the 20 days specified in sections 2 and 3 due to the reasons stated in that section, the vacant candidate's name shall be contested.

CHAPTER 5
ELECTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Article 65

The Right to Participate in the House of Representatives' Election

1. Any party wishing to participate in the House of Representatives' elections shall, within 14 days, notify the Commission that it has received the Commission's notice of the commencement of the elections.
2. The parties shall submit to the Commission the rules for the nomination of candidates on the same day they submit their obtainment of the notice of commencement of the elections as stated in section 1 of this Article.
3. The parties' rules of the selection of candidates shall be in accordant with this Law.

Article 66

Total Number of the House of Representatives Members

The House of Representatives of Somaliland consists of 82 members, who shall be elected by a free and secret ballot general election, as stated by Article 40 of the Republic of Somaliland's Constitution.

Article 67

Terms of Candidacy for the House of Representatives

According to Article 41 of the Constitution, a candidate for the House of Representatives must meet the following requirements:

1. He/she must be a practicing Muslim
2. He/she must be a citizen of at least 35 years of age.
3. He/she must be physically and mentally fit to perform their duties.
4. He/she must at least have a high school diploma or equivalent.
5. He/she must not have been convicted of a criminal offense by a court of Law within the last five years.

6. He/she must be responsible, moral, and ethical.
7. No public servant may stand for election unless they have submitted their resignation before the period stated by Law; the resignation must be accepted.
8. He must sign a declaration of personal candidacy and abide by the electoral and ethical rules.
9. Must pay the required election deposit
10. He/she must be a registered voter in the region in which he/she is contesting.

Article 68

Electoral Deposit of Candidates for the Election of the House of Representatives

Candidates for the House of Representatives shall pay a non-refundable election deposit of SL /Sh 40,000,000 (Forty Million Somaliland Shillings) to the Inland Revenue Office of the Ministry of Finance.

Article 69

Candidate Selection Process

1. The parties shall select the candidates in a participatory and transparent manner.
2. The party's rules for selecting candidates shall state the process of choosing candidates, the procedure to be followed, and other conditions related to party membership and payment of fees.
3. Each party shall form a committee to select their party's candidates for the House of Representatives' election.
4. The committee members shall be selected under the Constitution of the party. They shall be members of the party and shall have the knowledge and experience necessary to carry out this task.
5. Civil servants, and those of the independent governmental bodies, as well as members of the armed forces, of whatever rank, shall not be eligible to stand for the election of the House of Representatives unless they have submitted their resignation at least 90 days before the Election Day as stated in Article 41 (7) of the Constitution.

6. Such resignation shall be accepted and confirmed in writing by the person who has the power to do so.

Article 70

Disputes Regarding the Selection of Candidates for the House of Representatives.

1. Each party shall set up a Dispute Resolution Committee responsible for adjudicating and deciding disputes within the party relating to the selection and nomination of candidates for the House of Representatives.
2. The Dispute Resolution Committee shall prepare the dispute resolution process and submit it to the Commission.
3. If a candidate or a member of a party is concerned that selecting the candidates is not under the Law, the rules for selecting and nominating the candidates shall be used by the Dispute Resolution Committee to solve the dispute.
4. The Dispute Resolution Committee shall resolve disputes promptly and transparently and provide the parties with an opportunity to present their concerns in writing orally.

Article 71

Parties' Regulations and Guides for the Selection and Nomination of Candidates

1. Any party wishing to participate in the House of Representatives' elections shall prepare and submit to the Commission its Rules of Selection and Nomination of Candidates within 14 days from the date of receipt of the election announcement of the House of Representatives.
2. The rules referred to in section 1 of this Article shall state:
 - a) The process in which the party nominates its candidates;
 - b) The process of selecting candidates;
 - c) Procedure followed in the nomination day;

- d) The powers of the selection and nomination committee.
 - e) Dispute resolution process for the selection and nomination of candidates;
 - f) Any directives issued by the Commission which are in agreement with the laws
3. The Commission shall verify that the rules and regulations submitted by the parties are in accordance with the requirements of this Article; the Commission may order the parties to amend them to ensure that they do not contravene the Constitution and the Law.

Article 72

Submission of the List of Candidates for the House of Representatives' Election to the Commission

1. Each party shall submit its list of candidates to the Commission at least 60 days before the date set for the House of Representatives' election.
2. The list of candidates mentioned in the 1st section of this Article shall be an open list and shall be ordered using sequential order of the candidates' names in the list.
3. The list of candidates mentioned in section 1 must have the following statements attached:-
 - a) A statement signed by the party's selection and nomination committee stating that the selection and nomination of the candidates took place in accordance with this Law;
 - b) Evidence from the Inland Revenue Office of the Ministry of Finance that all candidates have paid the candidacy election deposits;
 - c) A statement in which each selected candidate asserts that they have fulfilled the candidate's requirements and is determined to be a candidate for the House of Representatives;
 - d) Evidence of the level of education and qualifications;
 - e) A statement stating that there is no law barring a candidate from contesting in the House of Representatives' election with the authorized institutions' evidence;
 - f) A statement detailing the assets owned by the candidates of the House of Representatives' election;
 - g) A statement issued by the party leaders and candidates stating that they will abide by the election laws and the election's code of conduct;
4. Any dispute arising from the submission or presentation of a list of candidates from within the party shall be decided by the Dispute Resolution Committee of the party concerned.
5. A candidate running for the House of Representatives has the right to withdraw their candidacy, provided that they submit an official letter to their party and the National Electoral Commission at least 40 days before the election date.

6. The party that the withdrawn candidate was running for may replace only 30 days before the election date.
7. Should one of the candidates of the House of Representatives of the Political Parties dies or resigns after the submission of the list of candidates, the party concerned has the right to replace him 30 days before the date of the election.
8. If the candidate dies or resigns within the last 30 days, the party has no right to replace him.

Article 73

Checking and Replacement of the House of Representatives

Candidates' Failure/Resignation

1. The party's leadership must examine the candidates in a patriotic manner when selecting them. Ensuring that they meet the Law's basic requirements and that they can fulfill the responsibilities of the position they are running for and can create for both the party and the nation a good reputation.
2. The Commission shall, for its part, independently verify that the candidates meet the requirements. If the Commission is satisfied that a member or members in the list do not match the requirements, they shall notify the submitting party within three days. The party must either complete the remaining provisions or replace the member or members within five days, starting from the date they receive the Commission's statement.
3. Should a party fail to complete the candidates' requirements who have not met the requirements or replace them. Only the members who have met the requirements shall run for that party in the election.

Article 74

Announcement of the Final List of Candidates for the House of Representatives and their Symbols

1. The symbols shown in the lists of candidates declared by the associations/parties shall be different from each other.
2. No party shall use a symbol which has been used previously in an election by another party
3. The symbol should be unique and reflect the party's identity but should not feature governmental, tribal, or religious symbols.
4. The Commission shall publish the lists of candidates in each region, clearly showing their parties' symbols.
5. The Commission shall distribute copies of each region's lists of candidates and be posted at all polling stations in that region.

6. The Commission and its offices shall officially publish through various media outlets the lists of party candidates 30 days before the election date and announce every detail to ensure that the public, wherever they are, can safely access the lists of candidates.

Article 75

The Electoral Process

1. The election of the House of Representatives shall be based on a system of proportional representation based on the open list of candidates submitted by the parties participating in the election of the House of Representatives.
2. In the election of the House of Representatives, each region shall be considered an Electoral region.
3. The seats allocated to each electoral region shall be won by the parties as reflected by the votes cast for each party in the region and shall be won by candidates as reflected by the votes cast for each candidate.
4. The voting process shall depend on the open list proportional representation system.

Article 76

Establishment of Polling Stations

1. In the election of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Somaliland, the country shall be divided, in accordance with Article 109 of the Constitution, into electoral regions which shall have the same boundaries as the six districts which existed on 26 June 1960 and which are now the regions.
2. The National Electoral Commission shall establish polling stations before election day
3. The Commission shall announce the designated polling stations and inform the political parties of the designated polling stations' names.
4. In the establishment of polling stations, the Commission may consult with electoral stakeholders such as political parties, the Minister of Interior, and the Regions' Governors.

Article 77

Seats Allocation Procedure

1. To give priority to the national interest to which will be served withholding of an election, the allocation of the seats of the House of Representatives to each region during this election shall only be as follows:
 - a) Marodijeh Region 20 seats
 - b) Togdher Region 15 seats
 - c) Awdal region 13 seats
 - d) Sanag Region 12 seats
 - e) Sool Region 12 seats
 - f) Sahil Region 10 seats
2. Upon completing the polling and counting of each region's total valid votes, the total votes shall be divided by the number of seats allocated for each region, thus arriving at the number of votes required for each seat. After that, the number of seats that each party will get shall be determined.
3. The total votes cast for each party in each region shall then be divided by the number (of votes) required for each seat to arrive at the number of seats each party shall gain in each region.
4. Once the total valid votes for each region are divided by the number of seats for that region, if there is a remainder of votes which are less than the number required to win one seat, the remaining seats will be divided based on the largest remainders of votes for each seat and region separately.
5. Once the activities set out in sections 2 and 3 of this Article are completed, the seats each specific party gains from the total seats for each region shall be allocated amongst the candidates in that party based on a simple majority of the total votes cast for each candidate.

Article 78

Unsuccessful Candidates

1. The candidates in the parties' lists who are unsuccessful in gaining seats shall remain as reserve candidates and shall have the right to fill any seat at the House of Representatives vacated by their party members.
2. Once a member (or members) of the House of Representatives vacate a seat for the reasons set out in Article 50 of the Constitution, the Chairman (Speaker) of the House so declares; the Commission shall substitute the departing member, not later than two weeks, with a reserve candidate of the same party based on the total votes the reserve candidate had gained.
3. If two candidates receive the same number of votes, they shall be ranked in the order in which the party nominated them.
4. If one of the parties with seats in the House of Representatives runs out of reserve candidates, the vacant position shall be filled by the member with the most votes in the other two parties' reserves.

5. If a reserve member leaves his / her party, they lose the reserve right to fill the vacant seats and is filled by the next member in line on the party's reserve list.

CHAPTER 6

PART ONE

LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Article 79

Number of Local Council Members

The number of elected local council members shall be in accordance with the Regions and Districts Law Lr. 23/2019.

Article 80

The Local Council Election Process

1. The local elections shall be based on a "proportional agent system" where the seats are allocated based on the region or district proportion of votes cast for each party.
2. In local elections, each party shall display a list of the candidates standing for election.
3. Each party wishing to participate in the local council elections shall submit a list of the candidates standing for their party. The number of candidates in each list must be the same as the number of seats to be filled at each district written in sequential order based on an open list system. The National Electoral Commission shall give each candidate a unique symbol.
4. The sequential order of the names in the open list Local Council election lists have no legal effect on the election results. The seats allocated to each electoral district shall be won by the parties following the Proportional Representation System. The seats shall be won by candidates as reflected by the votes cast for each candidate.

5. The number of seats won by each list containing the candidates contesting the local council elections shall be allocated based on "proportional agent list system.
6. Voting shall not be held in any district where there is only one list submitted, and there is no contest. The district's seats shall then be allocated following the sequential order in which the candidates were listed in the list submitted by the party, considering the number of seats allotted to that district.

Article 81

Requirements for Local Council Candidate

1. He/she must be a citizen of the Republic of Somaliland.
2. He/she must be a permanent resident of the district in which he or she is running.
3. He/she must be a practicing Muslim.
4. Candidates for local council elections must be at least 30 years old.
5. He/she must be known for responsible and upright behavior in society.
6. He/she must not have been convicted of a crime by a court of Law within the last 5 years.
7. Candidates for Districts grade (A) must provide evidence of taking a bachelor's degree at a recognized university and having work experience of at least 5 years.
8. Candidates for District grades (B&C) must be educated to the secondary school level and have at least 3 years of work experience.
9. Must have been a taxpayer for the last 5 years of the district they are running at.
10. He must own property in the district in which he/she is running.
11. Must be financially self-sufficient.
12. Every candidate running for local council election must be a registered voter in the district they are running at.

Article 82

Associations which fail in becoming Parties

1. Candidates of associations which fail in becoming an approved party who gain seats in the local elections must join one of the three approved parties within six months (6 months) from the date in which the election results are announced by submitting an official statement to the Electoral Commission
2. Associations that do not succeed in becoming an approved party may join any of the three recognized national parties according to the Political Parties and Associations Law Lr. 14/2011

Article 83

Electoral Deposit of Candidates for Local Council Elections

Candidates for positions are each paying a non-refundable election deposit, which is as follows:-

- a) SL.sh. **15,000,000** (Fifteen million shillings) paid by candidates running for grade A Districts.
- b) SL.sh. **7,000,000** (seven million shillings) paid by candidates running for grade B Districts
- c) SL.sh **4,000,000** (Four Million Shillings) paid by candidates for grade C Districts

Article 84

Procedure for Declaration of Candidates

1. The lists of local council candidates shall be submitted to the District Election Offices before 6.00 O'clock in the evening, 75 days before the polling day. The lists shall be accompanied by the attachments set out in this Law.
2. The list of candidates for election to the Local Council shall be declared by the district committee of each association/party and shall show clearly:
 - a) The names of the candidates in full (full names);
 - b) Their places of birth and year of birth;
 - c) If there are candidates whose full names are the same, then they shall be differentiated through the addition of their nick-names (if they have them);
 - d) The list shall also indicate the district in which the candidates are standing for election.
3. The list of candidates shall be accompanied by the following:
 - a) Confirmation of resignation from public service appointments as set out in Article 9 of this Law;
 - b) 4 (four) signed copies (of the list) which show clearly the emblem/symbol of the association/party;
 - c) Declaration by each candidate to the effect that he/she accepts his/her candidacy and that he/she fulfills the relevant conditions;
 - d) Receipts for payment of the candidates' election deposits issued by the Ministry of Finance as set out in Article 83 of this Law.

4. Any disagreements within an association/party about the declaration and submission of a list of candidates shall be resolved by the dispute resolution committee of that association/party.
5. A candidate running for the local Council has the right to withdraw his/her candidacy, provided they submit an official letter to his/her party and the National Electoral Commission at least 40 days before the election date.
6. The candidate running for the party may be replaced with another candidate only 30 days before the election.
7. Should one of the candidates of the House of Representatives of the Political Parties die after the submission of the list of candidates, in that case, the party concerned has the right to replace them 30 days before the election.
8. No party/association has a right to replace a candidate in the local council elections in the last 30 days before the election.

Article 85

Announcement of the Final List of Candidates for the Local Council Election and their Symbols

1. The symbols shown in the lists of candidates declared by the associations/parties shall be different from each other.
2. No party shall use a symbol which has been used previously in an election by another party
3. The symbol should be unique and reflect the party's identity but should not feature governmental, tribal, or sectarian symbols.
4. The Commission shall issue lists of candidates of each district clearly distinguishing between the symbols of their parties.
5. The Commission shall distribute copies of the lists of candidates of each district and be posted at all polling stations in that district.
6. The Commission and its offices shall officially publish through the different media outlets the lists of party/association candidates 40 days before the election date to ensure that the public, wherever they are, can safely access the lists of candidates.

Article 86

Selection and Dispute Resolution of Local Council Candidates

All matters relating to the selection and resolution of disputes arising from the nomination of local council candidates shall be in accordance with Articles 70, 71, 72, 73, and 74 of this Law.

Article 87

Failed Candidates

1. The candidates in the parties'/associations' lists who are unsuccessful in gaining seats shall remain as reserve candidates and shall have the right to fill any seat at the local councils vacated by their party members.
2. Once a member (or members) of the local Council vacates a seat owing to the reasons detailed in the local council laws, and the local council chairman declares so, the Commission shall substitute, within no more than two weeks, the departing member with a reserve candidate of the same party based on the total votes the reserve candidate has gained.
3. If two candidates receive the same number of votes, they shall be ranked in the order in which the party nominated them.
4. If one of the parties with seats in the local Council runs out of reserve candidates, the vacant position shall be filled by the member with the most votes in the other two parties' reserves.
5. If a reserve member leaves their party, they lose the reserve right to fill the vacant seats and is filled by the next member on the party's reserve list.
6. The party/association's reserve members may not leave their party except for the last (6) six months.

CHAPTER 7

ELECTION PROCEDURES

PART 1

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

Article 88

The Beginning and End of the Election Campaign

1. Election campaigns shall start when announced by the Commission before polling day, and shall finish 48 hours before the polling day.
2. The National Electoral Commission shall determine the duration of the election campaign by assessing the current situation and are obliged to give the competing parties/associations an equal number of days.
3. The election campaign schedule shall be issued by the Electoral Commission, based on the type of election.

Article 89

The Holding of Meetings and Demonstrations

1. The National Electoral Commission shall prepare and issue a schedule of rallies and demonstrations planned for parties with an equal number of days.
2. The Ministry of Interior, the Governors of the Regions, and the Districts shall be obliged to abide by the Electoral Commission's schedule during the election campaign.
3. No more than one demonstration can be held in a town or village in any one day

Article 90

Display of Boards

1. Board displays, election campaign leaflets, and campaign messages of a party/association/candidate can be approved or banned by the national electoral Commission if they are against the Rules and the Ethics; no fees shall be charged for these submissions.
2. No election campaign boards or leaflets shall be displayed at mosques, government offices, transport, diplomatic missions, national electoral commission centers, international organizations, community organizations, educational institutions, etc.

Article 91

Weapons and Military Uniforms

No weapons, military uniforms, or similar materials may be carried or worn in election campaign meetings or demonstrations.

Article 92

Campaign Activities

1. Campaign activities may include:
 - a) Demonstrations;
 - b) Rallies in public places;
 - c) Use of media such as advertisements, articles, photos, and use of social media;
 - d) Distribution of campaign materials;
 - e) And any other function of a party or candidate designed to attract supporters;
 - f) Conduct campaign-related surveys;
 - g) Meetings in meeting places.

2. Every candidate, party/association, and agent of any party/association shall have the right to campaign in public places to gain support during the election campaign except in areas where the Law forbids it.
3. The Commission may prevent the holding of a planned rally if it deems the rally a threat to the city's security.
4. The Commission shall justify the objection stated in section 3 of this Article.
5. The Commission may not misuse the powers of resistance provided for in this Article
6. If a party/association is concerned about the validity or legitimacy of a Commission's resistance decision. In that case, it may request a review of the Court that has the power to uphold or amend the Commission's decision.
7. The police shall ensure the safety and security of the election campaign rallies.

PART 2

CAMPAIGN BUDGET

Article 93

Regulation of Election Campaign Finances

1. The time limit shall be at least 120 days before the election period, and the Commission shall publish it in an official publication and limit the election expenses.
2. Electoral Expenditures refer to the expenses incurred by parties/associations and candidates, reasonably, in the elections, costs incurred in the election campaign of a party or candidate to gain support, expenses used in the election campaign in goods or services; any special expenses for candidates and party leaders, any costs given to the Auditor General or a candidate, or expenses incurred in recounting the recounted votes.
3. Authorized persons include those mentioned in Article 95 of this Law.

4. Article 94

Prohibition of Use of Public Property

1. Unless he/she is a Somaliland citizen or a permanent resident, no person shall financially contribute to any political party/ association or candidate running for Office.
2. Neither parties/associations nor candidates may use public funds for election campaigns
3. Public property can be used for campaigning only if:

- a) Special financial allocations are made for political parties/associations equally;
 - b) A regulation for the State-run National Media, governing the National Media by the National Parties / Political Parties equally, is set.
1. Government officials may not use public funds for election campaign purposes.
 2. The Heads of State shall work with the Commission to ensure the implementation of this Article and that public funds are not used in any way for the election campaign.

Article 95

Authorized persons for the collection of contributions

1. Campaign contributions can only be collected or used by a person delegated by the party/association or candidate.
2. No unauthorized person shall collect or use any contributions as clarified in this Article.
3. Parties/associations shall register with the Commission the persons authorized to collect and use the contributions.
4. Parties/associations shall open a campaign account at the Central Bank of the Republic of Somaliland, whose details they shall provide to the Commission.
5. Political parties/associations shall prepare a guide on how they will implement this Article.

Article 96

Sources of Election Campaign Funds

1. : Campaign funding opportunities include:
 - a) The membership fee of the party/association paid by the members of the party/association;
 - b) The fees charged by the party/association to the party members and candidates;
 - c) Legal Contributions allowed by this Law;
2. Legal contributions include:
 - a) Contributions from legal sources in accordance with this Law;
 - b) Funds raised from fundraising events held by parties/associations for campaign purposes;
 - c) Non-cash legal goods or services received in accordance with this Law;
 - d) The debt incurred by the party in accordance with this Law
 - e) Funds outside of Resources

Article 97

Funding not included in the Campaign Financial Resources

1. The assets of the party such as materials and services shall not be added to the resources used for the election campaign and shall not be part of the total contribution of the party/association if they are
 - a. Equipment and services of the party/association at its headquarters and regional and district offices;
 - b. candidate-specific equipment and services for election campaign;
 - c. The assets transferred by a political party to a political party which it joined.

Article 98

Election Expenses

1. Election expenses include any expenses used for the election incurred by a candidate or party/association or other person authorized to incur those expenses. These costs include but are not limited to: -
 - a) Expenditures used for the media so that the party/association or candidate's campaign reaches the public;
 - b) Cost of holding meetings and rallies;
 - c) Publication of election-related materials and campaign materials;
 - d) Administrative expenses;
 - e) Any other expenses issued by the Commission in a regulator.

Article 99

Transparency with Campaign Finances

1. Each party/association shall submit to the Commission a comprehensive report stating the revenue made and expenses incurred as a result of the election campaign within 90 days from election day.
2. The Commission shall prepare and submit to the parties/associations the procedure for preparing the parties/associations' accounts.

PART 3

VOTING PROCEDURES AT ELECTION OFFICES

Article 100

Contracts for Provision of Electoral Equipment and Materials

1. To avoid corruption, personal interests, and injustice, the Commission shall offer contracts to supply electoral equipment and materials through competitive tendering.
2. The Commission shall enter into a comprehensive agreement with the successful bidder, which shall set out the delivery time, delivery method of the equipment and materials, and the payment method.
3. The members of the Commission, their families or businesses, and all employees of the Commission, their families, and businesses, shall not be awarded such contracts, nor shall they benefit, in any way, using their powers.

Article 101

Election offices' Equipment/Materials

1. The National Electoral Commission shall provide complete polling equipment for each polling station.
2. The Commission shall prepare the necessary materials for the Central Office of each district/region.
3. The equipment of each election office shall be placed in a separate container. The container should be locked and sealed. The Commission shall send the materials along with the ballot boxes to the District / Regional Offices at an appropriate time, which shall forward them to the polling stations.
4. The Commission shall base the number of ballot papers at the polling station on the number of registered voters at the polling station as per the official list of voters plus the number of people operating at the polling station. These consist of polling station staff, party/association agents at the polling station, and the police force officially responsible for maintaining the polling station's electoral system order.
5. The National Electoral Commission, having assessed the needs of the regional offices, district offices, and polling stations, shall have the power to increase, decrease, or add new necessary equipment to the polling stations, and shall I issue it in a decision.

6. The Commission shall issue regulations on the items needed at every polling based on the election circumstances.

Article 102

Ballot papers

1. Ballot papers shall have the symbols of the associations/parties printed on them. Each symbol must have space for the voters to mark.
2. The Electoral Commission shall determine the other characteristics of the ballot paper and the procedure for displaying the candidates' symbols and names for the Presidential, House of Representatives, and Local Council elections.
3. If two or more elections are to be held simultaneously, the ballot papers shall be of different colors.

Article 103

Official Lists and Polling Stations Adjustment

1. Each polling station must have at least two closed-in voting booths intended to secure voter privacy when marking the ballot to cast their vote.
2. Ballot boxes must be situated in a visible position or before the desk of the polling station officer.
3. The lists of the people registered in the same polling station shall be sorted based on the first letter of their first names in alphabetical order; if their first names are identical, then their second name shall be sorted; if their second names are identical, then their third name, if their third names are identical then their fourth name, or any other sorting procedures issued by the National Electoral Commission on a guideline.

Article 104

Notification of the Candidates List

1. The copy stated in Articles 74, and 85 of this Law shall be posted on a visible place either inside or outside both the election office and the polling station.
2. The copy of the notification stated in Articles 74, and 85 of this Law shall be published outside and inside the election office in a visible place.

Article 105

Distribution of Election Equipment

1. The district office shall ensure that all the necessary equipment is delivered to each polling station not later than 12 hours before the election day.
2. The National Electoral Commission shall dispatch all the electoral equipment to the district office not later than 4:00 PM the day before the election.
3. If suitable to the needs, any polling station shall be given: a)
A copy of polling station staff names;
b) A copy of party/association agents who shall be present at the polling station.
4. All party/association agents, election observers, press, and polling staff shall carry their IDs provided by the National Electoral Commission.

PART 4

INITIATION OF POLLING STATION TASKS

Article 106

Polling Station

1. The polling station officer, upon receiving the equipment stated in Article 105, shall:
 - a) Establish the polling station and inform the polling station's deputy officer, secretary, and validator they are the polling station staff and explain their roles to them.
 - b) Verify the agents from parties/associations who are permitted to witness the election process are present.
 - c) Upon verifying that equipment boxes are sealed, open the boxes and ensure that equipment is complete before the presence of polling station staff and parties/associations' agents.
 - d) Upon checking that ballot boxes are sealed in the presence of polling station staff and parties/associations' agents, unseal the ballot boxes and stamp the ballot papers with the polling station stamp and place it under protection. No individual other than those assigned to the polling station shall be present at the time except international and local election observers.
 - e) Check that notice of the voting guidelines and candidates list are posted on their assigned places.
 - f) Confirm that all the necessary voting equipment are assembled according to the election law for the effective implementation of the election.
2. The polling station officer shall record that all the above-stated steps have been taken.

3. The polling station's stamp and the number of voting papers the station has received must be clearly defined in writing.
4. He must take the signatures of polling station staff and parties/associations' agents, denoting that all requirements are met.
5. Upon confirming that all the above stated are implemented, the polling station officer shall declare that the voting begins.
6. If political parties/associations fail to appoint agents to a particular polling station, the election process would not be affected; polling station staff would carry on their work, which shall be recorded.
7. The National Electoral Commission shall issue guidelines detailing the polling station's tasks, based on which polling station staff shall be trained on.

Article 107

Authorities of the Polling Station Officer

1. The polling station officer is obligated to keep the order at all times during the election. Police can take orders from the polling station officer if they want someone out of the polling station or capture somebody who committed illegal offenses against the election process or mentally challenged.
2. The police are not allowed to enter inside the polling station unless ordered by the polling station officer.
3. Police officers, government officials, polling station staff, parties/associations' agents, international and local election observers shall enact the polling station officer's requests to guarantee that votes are cast with no bother and that polling station staff' desks or near the polling station are not being jammed.
4. The polling station officer and members of the national, regional, district-level Election Commission have the right to exercise the authorities stated in this article.

Article 108

Responsibilities of Polling station staff

The National Electoral Commission shall issue the responsibilities and the roles of all polling station staff on a guideline in which polling station staff shall be trained on.

Article 109

Parties/associations' Agents

1. Party/association Central Committees or their regional/district committees can appoint agents to any polling station where they have candidates. They can also replace their agents if absent.
2. Agents appointed by parties/associations shall be in attendance when the polling station is under operation, propose any concerns or complaints they have (if any), which shall be recorded.
3. The parties/associations' names shall be sent to the National Electoral Commission offices nationwide not later than 20 days before election day. The National Electoral Commission offices shall give each party/association agent written permission to access and operate their appointed polling station.
4. Parties/associations' agents shall be selected in accordance with these conditions stated below:
 - a) Shall be Somaliland citizen.
 - b) Shall be not less than 25 years in age as of the day of the election.
 - c) Shall be able to write/read.
 - d) Shall be decent with upright behavior.
 - e) Shall be compliant with the laws and bylaws concerning their responsibilities.

Article 110

Polling Station Access

1. The polling station shall only be accessed by polling station staff, parties/associations' agents, voters, and those permitted by the National Electoral Commission, including local and international observers.
2. Voters are entirely barred from bringing guns, of any kind, to the polling station. The polling station shall only be accessed by one voter at a time, sorted based on their arrivals. If a disabled voter, pregnant woman or mother with a child, elder voter, or a poll worker wants to exercise their vote, they shall be prioritized.

Article 111

Tasks before Voting

1. The voter shall submit their Voter card to the polling station deputy officer to verify the Voter card's validity by checking the information written on the Card and confirm if the photo and the Card bearer match by looking into the Biometric Identification through the eyes. The polling station deputy officer shall also verify that permanent ink is sprayed on the voter's left little finger if not having, their right little finger if not having, any visible body part. Upon verifying all the above stated, the Voter card shall be

submitted to the polling station secretary. At the same time, parties/associations' agents are given a chance to notice the Card if they are in attendance.

2. Once the polling station secretary finds the voter's name on the register's list in the polling station and ensures that the number of the Voter card and that on the list matches, the voter shall place their left thumb-signature on the allotted space in the voters' list.
3. Underline the voter's name and other personal information written in the voter's cell in the list using a ruler and pen, and ensure that the voter name and information are readable after being underlined.
4. Once the steps stated in the above sections are completed accordingly, and polling station staff and the parties/associations' agents are satisfied with that, the ballot paper can be cut for a voter to vote
5. The National Electoral Commission must limit the number of voters designated to vote in each polling station and divide up the number if more voters register, which surpasses the limit set by the Commission, considering that all voters must cast their votes during the election day.
6. Should there be a use of modern equipment for facilitating the voting procedure, the National Electoral Commission shall issue a regulator and guideline that fully details how the modern equipment should be operated on.

Article 112

Voters Who Cannot Vote

1. Only the voter who arrives at the polling station and is compliant with the voting conditions shall cast their vote.
2. Should there be any disabled individual or illiterate voter who decides not to vote because of their illiteracy, the polling station officer shall permit them to be assisted by someone they entrust to help the voter cast their vote.
3. Should there be a very old voter and unable to recognize where to mark on the ballot paper, the polling station officer shall permit someone they entrust or a poll worker to help the voter cast their vote. Parties/associations' agents shall be allowed to see the voter's marked choice.
4. The polling station secretary shall record why the voter was assisted to cast their vote and the voter and the individual who provided such assistance.

PART 5

VOTING OPERATION

Article 113

Voting Procedure

1. Upon concluding the tasks stated in Article 111, the polling station officer shall:
 - a) Hand the ballot paper to the voter while ensuring that the paper trail is being left on the election book and the election stamp of the polling station is on the ballot paper taken by the voter.
 - b) Hand the Voter card to the polling station checker.
2. If the voter notices that the ballot paper is incomplete, damaged, or not stamped before they vote, they shall return the ballot paper and inquire about another one; the incident shall be recorded.
3. The voter shall enter the voting booth to mark the ballot paper and vote.
4. Using the available marking pen, the voter shall mark the allotted space on the ballot paper for the party/association/candidate of their choice, fold up the ballot paper, and leave the voting booth.
5. Upon doing so, the voter shall place their ballot paper in the ballot box.
6. The voter shall, then, come to the polling station checker and present his/her Voter card to be checked, after that the checker shall put indelible ink on their left little finger if the voter does not have left little finger then their right little finger if they do not have that too then their ring finger, etc. If the voter is armless, then the indelible ink shall be put on any visible part of their body.
7. After that is done, the checker shall give the voter their Voter card, and the voter shall immediately leave the polling station while maintaining discipline.
8. Anyone among polling station staff, parties/associations' agents in the polling station, and police officers responsible for securing the election procedure of the polling station can cast their votes (in accordance with the sections of 1 to 6 in this article) as soon as the polling station is being set up, and the polling station staff, as well as the parties/associations' agents, check together that the Voter card is valid and has not been used to cast a vote before, the form prepared by the National Electoral Commission shall be filled:
 - a) Voter's full name;
 - b) The number and the name of the voter's registered polling station;
 - c) The number and the name of the voter's voting polling station;
 - d) Voter role in the polling station;
 - e) The voter's left thumb signature shall be placed on the required position of the form;
 - f) The number of the ID Card assigned to him by the Commission (Except the police officers)

9. The Voter cards of anyone mentioned in the 8th section of this article shall be handed to the polling station officer, who shall only give back the Voter cards once the polling station's voting operation is officially concluded.
10. The polling station officer shall supervise the polling station staff' tasks, propel them to do their tasks accordingly, and take full control of the polling station's smooth run.
11. The polling station officer has the full authority to order the voter's removal who roams around the polling room and reclaim the voter's ballot paper. The voter shall be allowed to vote and receive their ballot paper once all lined-up voters cast their votes.
12. Should a voter bring a Voter card to a polling station where they are not registered, the polling station deputy officer shall give the voter information about their registered polling station.
13. Should any voter bring the Voter card of another person or forged ballot papers which are different or additional to those officially used during the election, the polling station officer must claim the Voter card as well as the forged ballot papers and order the voter's arrest so that charges shall be filed against them, and the incident must be recorded.

Article 114

Voting Time

1. The voting operation shall be concluded within a day, starting from 7:00 O'clock in the morning and finishing at 6:00 O'clock in the evening.
2. Should there are any voters on a queue, voting shall continue even after 6:00 PM until no voter is left.
3. Once it is 6:00 O'clock in the evening, the police officers shall not allow anyone to join the queues and shall permit only those in the queues at the time to proceed to the polling station to vote.
4. The National Electoral Commission shall decide on the polling stations that encounter any particular shortcomings on the election day.

Article 115

Decision Making on Polling station Complaints

1. The polling station staff shall temporarily take a decision on any complaints (if any), including those made verbally, and any disagreements on the polling station's operation. All complaints and disputes shall be written and recorded.
2. Should there any insecurity that endangers polling station staff and voters, the polling station officer shall temporarily close the polling station and inform the district/regional/national electoral commission as soon as possible.

3. Special guideline issued by the National Electoral Commission shall detail the procedure of electoral complaints.

PART 6

VOTES COUNTING

Article 116

The Tasks before Votes Counting

1. Once all lined-up voters cast their votes, the polling station officer shall loudly declare that the voting is closed.
2. Once the polling station officer collects all the papers and other equipment unnecessary for counting from the desk, they shall get into the following tasks:
 - a) Checks the voters' total number by comparing the ballot papers and thumb signatures on the voting book;
 - b) Collects unused ballot papers and places them in the first envelope;
 - c) Confirms, signs, and places the invalid ballot papers, returned by the voters or being seen by the polling station staff, in the second envelope;
 - d) Fills the polling station's register, particularly the part preceding vote counting, and gets the polling station staff and parties/associations' agents' sign there.

Article 117

The Task of Votes Counting

1. Prior to votes counting, the polling station officer shall ensure if there are any ballot papers which were not being adequately placed in their allotted boxes (ballot papers which were not placed to their allotted box significantly when one or more different elections take place at once) to refrain from losing the votes of citizens. If the polling station officer notices a ballot paper which is mistakenly put in the wrong box, in that case, they shall remove the ballot paper, record that incident, check if the polling station's stamp is stamped on the ballot paper as well as the polling station's serial number, and place it in its accurate election envelope. Once votes counting has finished, they shall be added to the count.
2. Once the polling station officer has finished the tasks stated in article 116, they shall begin counting the ballot papers in the ballot boxes. For that to be implemented, the polling station deputy officer shall get one ballot paper, at a time, from the ballot box and hand it to the polling station officer who shall unfold

the ballot paper and loudly announce to which/whom party/association/candidate vote went to. The polling station deputy officer shall pass the ballot paper to the checker (polling station secretary), who shall let the parties/associations' agents see it. Upon doing that, the polling station secretary (checker) shall put the ballot paper to the allotted box, particularly to the third election envelope, correspondent to the party/association/candidate who got the vote.

3. It's utterly forbidden that any new ballot papers be taken out of the ballot box unless the preceded ballot paper has been counted. The task, however, shall only be managed by the polling station staff.
4. Once the polling station officers have finished the votes counting task, they shall check if the total number of the ballot papers in the polling station, and the total votes obtained by parties/associations, the total number of disputed votes, the total number of invalid votes, the total number of unused ballot papers match total sum as set out in article 116 of this Law.
5. The polling station officer, once they prove and sign that accordingly, shall:
 - a) Place the invalid ballot papers in the fourth election envelope.
 - b) Place the disputed ballot papers in the fifth election envelope.
 - c) And finally, place the counted valid ballot papers in the third election envelope, which are to be sealed together based on which party/association/candidate that votes went to.
6. Should there be any extra ballot papers in the ballot box or different ones from those officially used in the election, for instance, they do not have the polling station stamp, the polling station's serial number or are different in design; the polling station staff shall take them out while showing them to parties/associations' agents and recording the incident accordingly.
7. Should there be more than one election happening simultaneously, the votes' counting shall be prioritized based on the election's hierarchy, starting with Presidency/House of Representatives/Local Council.

Article 118

Polling Station Votes Recount

1. The polling station officer can order the ballot papers to be recounted should parties/associations' agents inquire. Votes recount shall only take place at once.
2. Should the polling station officer refuse votes recount, the parties/associations' agents in the polling station or the parties/associations' agents to the district can submit a complaint, and votes recount shall take place at the District office.
3. The polling station officer can, on their own, order ballot papers to be recounted should the votes exceed the total number of the registered voters in the polling station or calculation mistakes have been made.
4. The votes recount shall be done in accordant with the standard way of votes counting. The period of votes recount shall precede the signing of the polling station result form.

Article 119

Vote Counting Conclusion

1. Once the polling station officer concludes the task of votes count stated in the articles of 117 and 118, they shall declare the total number of voters, the total number of valid votes, and the total number received by each party/association candidate.
2. In avoidance of any negligence to citizens' votes, the parties/associations' agents shall sign the polling station result sheet or submit a written letter detailing the reasons they obstruct to sign it and be placed in the sixth election envelope with other existent complaints.
3. Details of what is inside the election envelopes shall be written on the covers of envelopes.
4. The tasks of votes count shall be concluded consecutively with nonstop and no interruption.
5. The written records show the tasks above.
6. The National Electoral Commission shall issue a complete guideline of the votes counting and conclusion procedures stated by this Law.

Article 120

Invalid/Disputed Votes

1. The ballot papers shall be invalid when counting if:
 - a) Ballot papers are different from the official ballot papers issued by the Electoral Commission for the election;
 - b) Polling station election stamp is not stamped on the ballot paper;
 - c) There are skillfully written marks or lines on the ballot paper which are not intended to be written on the ballot paper;
 - d) The party/association/candidate that the voter voted for cannot be identified on the ballot paper;
 - e) The voter had marked more than one party/association logo on the ballot paper.
 - f) The voter had marked more than one candidate logo from different parties/associations on the ballot paper;
 - g) The voter had marked more than one candidate logo within the same party/association on the ballot paper. The vote shall be recorded for the party/association and added to the party/association's total votes/association, not for a specific candidate.
2. The vote can be invalid once all polling station staff and parties/associations' agents agree so. If they do not agree, the ballot papers shall be recognized as disputed and shall be dealt with in accordance with Article 120 of this Law.
3. The district office shall decide on the disputed ballot papers in the attendance of parties/associations' agents and district-level candidates.

Article 121

Polling Station Written Records

1. The polling station votes result shall be documented on the official National Electoral Commission form, which comprises an original sheet and the necessary copies. The polling station officer shall announce:
 - a) The total number of voters of the polling station;
 - b) The total number of invalid votes;
 - c) The total number of disputed votes;
 - d) The total number of valid votes;
 - e) The total number of valid votes won by each contestant parties/associations/candidates.
2. The polling station's original result sheet stated in the first section of this article shall be placed in the seventh election envelope and handed to the district election officer.
3. Two copies of the polling station's result sheet shall be placed in the eighth election envelope, which is to be put in the box where sealed envelopes and the remained election materials, stated in Article 118 of this Law, are placed. They shall be transferred to the district office, and parties/associations' agents shall be given one copy.

Article 122

Equipment Transport and Transfer

1. The polling station officer accompanied by at least one poll worker and police officers offering protection shall take the written records and other election envelopes of the polling station and hand them over to the district office without delay.
2. The parties/associations' agents shall have the election materials and result in company and attendance once they are handed to the district office unless they do not choose otherwise.
3. Once the district office receives the election envelopes, they shall ensure that the election envelopes are adequately sealed. The district election officer shall provide the document for proving that the election materials were handed over.

PART 7

THE TASKS OF DISTRICT, REGION, AND CENTRAL OFFICES FOR VOTES COUNTING AND THE RESULT ANNOUNCEMENT

Article 123

The Task of District Election Office

1. Once the district election officer receives the materials and equipment stated in article 122 of this Law, he/she shall:
 - a) Instruct the polling station deputy officer, checker, secretary, and votes counting workers to prepare for their tasks;
 - b) Call agents of the parties/associations with candidates in the district and whom the National Electoral Commission has permitted their presence at the polling station;
 - c) Unseal the election envelope, which includes the original election result form and other materials while checking it, was priorly sealed and had the signatures and polling station's stamp on it;
 - d) Once the polling station officer and the polling station staff and parties/associations' agents check that the election boxes are properly sealed, the polling station officer shall unseal the election boxes, remove the election material inside and confirm they are complete;
 - e) Once the polling station officer and the polling station staff and parties/associations' agents check, they shall also check if election envelopes are adequately sealed. The polling station officer shall open the election envelope, which includes the polling station stamp, and check that all inside documents are stamped with the stamp number on them.

2. The district office shall check that all documents and election envelopes stated in Articles 116,117,119, and 120 of this Law are complete.

Article 124

Local Council Election Votes Counting and the Result Announcement

1. The district election officer, once they receive the local council election material stated in article 122, shall:
 - a) Count and add together all the votes from every polling station across the district;
 - b) Check the invalid votes from all district polling stations;
 - c) Decide on disputed votes;

- d) Count the valid votes that each party/association/candidate received from the district election;
- e) Mathematically divide the entire district valid votes by the number of district council seats and get the total seats won by each party/association;
- f) Check the number of local council seats allocated to each party/association;
- g) Announce the names of elected candidates, sorted in accordance with total votes won by each;
- h) The district election results shall be announced in front of the masses, and the elected candidates' names are posted on the district office's election board.

Article 125

Submission of Records

1. Election operation records, stated in Articles 122 and 123, shall be written on the National Electoral Commission forms and shall include the necessary copies as decided by the Commission.
2. The copies of the records shall be distributed in accordance with the instructions stated in Articles 122 and 124 of this Law.

Article 126

Announcement of Local Councils Election Decision

The district office shall announce the district election's decision by indicating, in writing, the Local Council's elected candidates' names, and this list shall be posted on the Local Council office of the district. A copy of that shall be submitted to the central office of the National Electoral Commission.

Article 127

Addition of Votes of Presidential and House of Representatives Elections

The district election officer, in Presidential and House of Representatives elections, shall:

- a) Count and add together all casted votes from the polling stations;
- b) Check the invalid votes cast in the polling stations;

- c) Decide on the disputed votes, as stated set out in Article 120 of this Law;
- d) Add together all the votes won by each party/association which has candidates in the district;
- e) Submit the election results and the complaints (if any) to the regional office and central election office;
- f) The district office prepares the records of Presidential and House of Representatives elections' results and is written on the National Electoral Commission forms;
- g) Provide a copy of the district election result form to district-level parties/associations' agents;

Article 128

The Tasks of Regional Local Council Election Office

1. Once they receive the written records from polling stations, the election results from the region's districts and the total number of votes received by each party/association shall check the election results in a number.
2. The regional office shall take decisions on any outstanding complaints or disputes submitted to them, in the attendance of parties/associations' agents. They shall add together the election results of districts of the region and release:
 - a) The total number of votes cast in all districts of the region;
 - b) The total number of invalid votes from all districts of the region;
 - c) The total number of invalid votes from districts of the region;
 - d) The number of votes received by each party/association.
3. The regional office shall submit to the central election office if any complaints are written in the NEC forms. They shall also submit the election results being written on the forms. A copy of the above shall be given to regional level parties/associations' agents.

Article 129

The Tasks of the Regional House of Representatives Election Office

1. Once they receive copies of written records of polling stations and the election results from the districts of the region, the regional election office shall cautiously check the total of the vote results of all districts in the region.
2. Once the task stated in section 1 is done, the regional office shall calculate the total sum of votes received by each candidate/party/association and precisely settle the calculation of votes received by each party/association.
3. If the regional election officer notices that the district office's documents are numerically incorrect, they shall request written clarification of the district office's mistake and correction.

4. The regional office shall approve the district office's correction once they are convinced with it; otherwise, they shall take the legal options as instructed in the commission's guidelines.
5. Once they are convinced with the tasks done, the regional election officer shall prepare written references using suitable forms to detail the tasks. The forms shall include the original copy and the other necessary copies to be sent to the National Electoral Commission's central office to be submitted to the Supreme Court.
6. A copy shall be given to each party/association contested in the election of the region.

Article 130

Announcement of Initial Results of House of Representatives Election

1. In the attendance of appointed members of the National Electoral Commission to that region and regional level agents of parties/associations, the regional election officer shall release the region's initial election results and the elected candidates.
2. The region's election results shall be released in a summarised way showing the total of regional votes cast, the total of valid votes, the total invalid votes, and the total votes exclusively received by each party/association.
3. A copy of the region's election results shall be submitted to the National Electoral Commission's central office, and the three parties/associations shall be given one copy each.
4. If the open-list procedure is used, the regional governor shall announce the elected candidates and how allotted candidates are sorted in the reserve list in accordance with the process stated in this Law.

Article 131

Submission of Records

1. Election operation records stated in Articles 113, 114, and 117, shall be written on the National Electoral Commission forms and shall include the necessary copies as decided by the Commission.
2. The copies of the records shall be distributed in accordance with the instructions stated in articles 114 and 117 of this Law.

Article 132

The Tasks of Regional Presidential Election Office

1. Once they receive the copies of the reference of total votes from the region's districts, the regional election office shall cautiously check the total calculation of votes from all districts in the region.
2. Decide on any existing complaints.
3. Submit the total votes result and unsolved complaints to the National Electoral Commission central office.
4. The regional office shall:
 - a) Write the region's election result record in the form stated in Article 131 (2), which contains the original copy and other necessary copies;
 - b) The copies of the region election result forms and the original election result sheets from districts of the regions shall be submitted to the Nation Electoral Commission;
 - c) Provide a copy to each of the parties/associations' agents at the regional election office;

Article 133

The Tasks of the Central Office of the House of Representatives and Local Council Elections

1. The National Electoral Commission, once they receive all the records of local councils and House of Representatives elections, shall check the numbers are mathematically correct, take decisions on complaints, and nationally announce the election results based on each region/district.
2. The National Electoral Commission shall, once they accredited the election results received from regional and district election offices, prepare the necessary records, and provide a copy to each of the parties/associations and mandated court.

Article 134

The Tasks of the Central Office of the Presidential Election

1. The central office of the National Electoral Commission, once they receive the election materials and records stated in Article 131 of this Law, shall:
 - a) Order the staff and the secretary to prepare for the election task.
 - b) Call the parties/associations' agents to be in attendance during the task.

- c) Check together that election envelopes are appropriately sealed, and then open the election envelopes to remove the materials from inside.
 - d) Check together that election envelopes are appropriately sealed, and then open the election envelopes to check whether all records are complete.
2. The central office of the elections shall check that they received the written records, stated in article 131 of this Law, as required from the district/ regional election offices.

Article 135

Announcement of Presidential Election Result

The central office of the National Electoral Commission, once they receive from the district/regional election offices, shall:

1. Take decisions on complaints and disputes concerning voting and vote counting.
2. Count and add together the valid votes and the invalid votes from regional election offices.
3. Upon checking and coming to the conclusion that the election has been held in accordance with the Law, the Chairman of the National Electoral Commission shall temporarily announce the results of the Presidential election.
4. Once the National Electoral Commission has announced the election result, they shall submit an official copy of the result to the Supreme Court.

Article 136

Inauguration of Elected Members of the House of Representatives

1. Upon the election result's official announcement, the Supreme Court shall schedule a date for elected members to take the oath within 7 days, starting from the day the election results were officially announced. The elected members shall be sworn in accordance with Article 129 of the Constitution.
2. The Inauguration event shall be directed by the Head of Supreme Court, as stated in article 44 section 3 of the Constitution.

Article 137

Inauguration of Elected Members of the Local Councils

1. Upon the official announcement of the election result, the Regional Court shall schedule a date for elected members to take the oath within 14 days, starting from the day the election results

were officially announced. The elected members shall be sworn in accordance with the Constitution.

2. The Inauguration event shall be directed by the Head of the Regional Court under which jurisdiction the district falls.

Article 138

Inauguration of Elected President and Vice-president

Inauguration of Elected President shall take place in accordance with the instructions stated in the articles of 84 and 129 of the Constitution.

Article 139

Code of Conduct, Electoral Disciplinary Committee, and Conflict Resolution

The National Electoral Commission shall issue the Code of Conduct of election as well as the Registration and Press Codes of Conduct during the election/registration. The NEC shall also nominate the electoral disciplinary committee and conflict resolution upon making consultations with electoral processes' stakeholders.

CHAPTER 8

FELONIES AND OFFENSES AGAINST ELECTORAL LAW AND PROCEDURE

Article 140

Abidance of Election Laws and Procedure

1. The general duty of abidance: Safeguarding the security and abiding by the election law and procedure is obligatory to each Somaliland citizen and any individual inside Somaliland during the election.
2. General Obstruction Felony: Any individual who intentionally obstructs the election process, offenses this Law, articles of this Law, or sections of this Law has committed a felony.
- 3.

Article 141

The General Felonies about Public Rallies

Any individual who commits or enforces the commitment of any action against the electoral process, starting from the date that election day is scheduled until the day after the election day, intending to obstruct a public rally concerning the election has committed a felony and shall be subject to 1 year or 2 years of imprisonment in addition to an estimate monetary fine between 2 million up to 3 million Somaliland Shillings.

Article 142

Representation

Any individual who impersonates or fraudulently represents any member of the National Electoral Commission members, the National Electoral Commission workers, polling station staff, registered party/association agent, candidate agent, election observers permitted by NEC, or police officers entrusted to guard polling stations has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 3 months up to 6 months imprisonment and an estimated monetary fine between 2 million up to 3 million Somaliland Shillings.

Article 143

Bribery

1. Any individual who bribes voters directly or indirectly during the election day to obstruct them from voting or propel them to vote for a particular party/association/candidate has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 6 months up to 2 years of imprisonment along with an estimated monetary fine between 500 thousand up to 2 million Somaliland Shillings.
2. Accepting bribe: Any voter who receives a bribe, stated in the above section, directly or indirectly has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 6 months up to 2 years of imprisonment along with an estimated monetary fine between 500 thousand up to 2 million Somaliland Shillings.

Article 144

Coercion and Deception

Any individual who coerces or manipulates a voter not to vote at all or not to vote for a specific party/association/candidate, citing for baseless conspiracies like ballot is insecure, has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 3 months up to 6 months of imprisonment and an estimated monetary fine between 2 million up to 3 million Somaliland Shillings.

Article 145

Felonies Concerning Polling station staff

1. Any poll worker who facilitates any form of fraud, particularly that of the election result, has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 3 years up to 5 years of imprisonment as well as an estimated monetary fine between 1 million up to 5 million Somaliland Shillings.
2. Any poll worker who intentionally destroys, conceals, or fades marks in the ballot papers or the election materials, has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 1 year up to 2 years of imprisonment as well as an estimated monetary fine between 1 million up to 3 million Somaliland Shillings.

Article 146

Felonies Concerning Vote Casting

1. Any individual who brings a Voter card which is not correspondent to them or additional fake ballot papers with the intention to cast an illegal vote has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 1 year up to 2 years of imprisonment and an estimated monetary fine between 2 million up to 3 million Somaliland Shillings.
2. Any individual who reserves voter cards of others intending to take advantage of them during election day illegally has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 6 months up to 2 years of imprisonment as well as an estimated monetary fine between 500 thousand up to 2 million Somaliland Shillings.
3. Any individual who forges, distributes, takes, or illegally uses fake Voter card or mock ballot papers, has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 3 years up to 6 years of imprisonment and an estimated monetary fine between 5 million up to 10 million Somaliland Shillings.
4. With absolute forbiddance, any political campaign, obstruction of voting, bribery, acts of threatening, or insecurity against the electoral process to take place at the polling station. Any individual who

commits any of those shall be subject to 6 months up to 6 years of imprisonment as well as an estimated monetary fine between 1 million up to 3 million Somaliland Shillings.

5. Any individual who uses force or threatens polling station staff to propel them to commit fraud or stop the task has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 6 months up to 5 years of imprisonment as well as an estimated monetary fine between 1 million up to 5 million Somaliland Shillings.

Article 147

Felonies Concerning Voter Registration

1. Any individual who registers more than once or fakes their personal information has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 3 months of imprisonment and a monetary fine of 1 million Somaliland Shillings.
2. Any individual who registers more than once shall have their 'right to vote' taken away until the next registration.
3. Any individual who is not a Somalilander citizen and tries to register or takes the voter card has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 6 months up to 2 years of imprisonment and shall be deported once they finish their time in jail. The Voter card shall be destroyed as well as their names are removed from the system of registration.
4. Any official working on the registration and offenses the Law shall be subject to 3 years up to 5 years of imprisonment.
5. Any individual who forges the voter card and voter register shall be subject to 3 years up to 5 years of imprisonment.

Article 148

Felonies Concerning Misdeeds during Campaign

Any individual who commits any offenses against the norm and Islamic religion while campaigning for a particular party/association has committed a felony. They shall be subject to 1 year up to 2 years of imprisonment as well as an estimated monetary fine between 1 million up to 3 million Somaliland Shillings.

Article 149

The Disciplinary Measures against Electoral Law and Procedure Offenses

1. The National Electoral Commission has full authority to issue a code of conduct compliant with this Law.
2. Should there any individual who has committed offenses against the electoral law and procedure, they must be punished as stated in this Law and the discipline code.

3. Should the National Electoral Commission see it as necessary, they can request the prosecutor to begin an additional investigation and file charges while citing their initial investigation.

Article 150

The Offenses Concerning Election Laws and Procedure

1. The National Electoral Commission is fully responsible for the electoral process. They have the full authority to hear and act upon the electoral complaints about offense against election laws and procedures.
2. Once it is evident that an offense against the Electoral Code of conduct has been made, they shall impose disciplinary measures in accordance with, and as stated in this Law.
3. Should the offense be not stated in this Law, or concerning a felony, or poses a danger to the electoral process, the National Electoral Commission shall order that the necessary measures be taken such as an arrest and conviction in accordance with the Penal Code.
4. When making the order stated in section 3 of this Article, the National Electoral Commission shall submit their initial report to the prosecution while adding to their proposed disciplinary action.

CHAPTER 9

ELECTION LAWSUITS

Article 151

The Presidential Election Lawsuits

1. The Supreme Court has the full mandate to any lawsuits and complaints about the presidential elections, and these lawsuits shall be filled within 7 days, starting from the day that the election results are announced. Should there be any delays, the lawsuit shall be disregarded.
2. The Supreme Court shall take its decision on the election lawsuits within 10 days.
3. Once the Supreme Court receives the written records from the National Electoral Commission's central office and checks that the presidential election result is mathematically and legally correct.
4. The Supreme Court has full authority to issue these orders:
 - a) To alter the status of specific votes if shreds of evidence are found.
 - b) To overturn the whole election result and order another election to be held in accordance with the state laws.

Article 152

House of Representatives Lawsuits

1. The Supreme Court has the mandate to any lawsuits about House of Representatives election.
2. Any candidate who has any concerns and complaints about the election results shall file their complaint at the Supreme Court within 14 days, starting from the day of the official election result announcement.
3. To decide on the submitted complaints, the Supreme Court has full authority to:
 - a) Order the checking of specific ballot papers, or recount particular region, district, or polling station ballot papers.
 - b) Call witnesses or request certain documents to be brought before the court.
 - c) Facilitate the public to attend the hearing.
4. The Supreme Court has full authority to order the following:
 - a) Changes to be made on how seats were allocated based on votes before.
 - b) Overturn the election result of a particular region/district and order election to be held again in there.
5. The decision of the Supreme Court is final, and no appeal can be made against it.
6. The head of the Supreme Court shall say the sections stated in this article during the hearing.
7. The Supreme Court shall conclude its decisions on lawsuits within 30 days, starting from the day the court announced the official result.

Article 153

Local Council Election Lawsuits

1. The head of the regional court shall confirm and approve the results of the local councils' election. They shall decide on disputes or complaints that arose during the election and received from the district election office.
2. The regional court has the mandate for any lawsuits concerning local council election. For a lawsuit to be valid, it shall be filed within 7 days, starting from the day the district office announces the results. Any lawsuit after that period shall be regarded as null and void.
3. The regional court shall announce its decision within 30 days, starting from the day the lawsuit was filed.

4. Any party/association that is not satisfied with the court decision shall file their appeal once the court announces its ruling. They shall prepare their appeal in writing within 3 days, starting from the day court announced its decision.
5. The regional court shall submit its appeal to the Supreme Court within 2 days. Should any party/association fail to file an appeal on the day of the court decision, they shall not have any right for their lawsuit to be submitted to the Supreme Court.
6. Any appeal of the regional court's decision shall go to the Supreme Court, which has to make its final ruling and result within 30 days.

CHAPTER 10
EXCLUSIVE ARTICLES

Article 154

Regulations

1. The National Electoral Commission has the authority to issue regulations, Codes of Conduct, Guidelines, Training Manuals, and Awareness-raising Activities about election procedures and election law in accordance with this Law.

2. State media shall broadcast all the Regulators, Guidelines, Instructions, and Results released by the National Electoral Commission.

Article 155

Dismissal

1. This Law dismisses any pre-existing election and voter registration laws that reference Law Lr. 20/2001, Law Lr. 20-2/2005, and Law Lr. 37/2007 except Citizenship Registration within Law Lr. 37/2007.
2. There shall be no dismissal to the existence of all the articles of Law Lr. 37/2007 until the new Citizenship Registration Law comes into existence.

Article 156

Implementation

This Law shall be implemented once the legislative bodies (House of Representatives and the House of Elders) have approved it. The president has signed and has been officially broadcasted by state media.

Mr. Abdirizak Saed Ayanle

Secretary-General of the House of Representatives

Mr. Ahmedyasin Ali Ayanle

Acting Speaker of the House of Representatives
