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I assent.

JIMMY FARRUGIA
Acting President
30th June, 1993

(L.S.)

ACT No. XV of 1993

AN ACT to make provision for the setting up of Local Councils.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

PART I

Title, Commencement and Interpretation.

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Local Councils Act, 1993.

Short Title and
Commencement.

(2) The provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date or dates as the Minister may by notice in the Gazette appoint and different dates may be so appointed for the different provisions thereof.

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

Interpretation.

“advertisement” means any word, letter, model, sign, placard, board, notice, device or representation, whether illuminated or not, in the nature of and employed wholly or in part for the purposes of advertisement, announcement or direction, including any boarding or similar structure used or adapted for use for the display of advertisements;

“Commissioner for Justice” means any person appointed to such office according to section 3 of the “Commissioners for Justice Act”;

Cap 291.

“Council” means a Local Council established under this Act;

“Councillor” means a member elected to a Council under the provisions of this Act;

"Director of Audit" means the Director of Audit appointed in terms of section 108 of the Constitution;

"Electoral Commission" means the Electoral Commission established by section 60 of the Constitution;

Act XXI of 1991.

"Electoral Register" means the Electoral Register published in accordance with the provisions of the General Elections Act of 1991;

"financial year" means the period of twelve months ending on the thirty-first day of March in any year;

"locality" means an area within set boundaries as designated in the Second Schedule to this Act;

"Local Councils' Electoral Register", means the Register to be compiled by the Electoral Commission in accordance with section 5 of this Act;

"Malta" has the same meaning assigned to it by section 124 of the Constitution;

"Mayor" means the Mayor of a Council elected in accordance with section 25 of this Act;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Local Government;

Cap 258.

"population of a locality" means the total number of persons with Identity Cards issued in terms of the Identity Card Act showing them as resident in the locality together with the total number of children under the age prescribed in terms of subsection (1) of section 3 of the Identity Card Act for whom children's allowances are paid within the locality;

"public body" includes a Corporation set up by an Act of Parliament, any Agency that may be set up by the Government and any limited liability company in which the Government of Malta has a controlling interest;

"public officer" shall have the same meaning assigned to it by section 124 of the Constitution;

"public service" shall have the same meaning assigned to it by section 124 of the Constitution;

"secretary" means the person occupying the post of secretary of the Council in accordance with this Act;

"street" includes any road, alley, square, bridge, shore front, quay, or other place of public passage or access;

Act I of 1992.

"structure plan" has the meaning assigned to it by sections 18 and 22 of the Development Planning Act, 1992.

PART II
Constitution of Councils

3. (1) Every locality shall have a Council which shall have all such functions as are granted to it by this Act.

Establishment of Local Councils.

(2) The Council shall be a statutory local government authority having a distinct legal personality and capable of entering into contracts, of suing and being sued, and of doing all such things and entering into such transactions as are incidental or conducive to the exercise and performance of its functions as are allowed under this Act:

Provided that the Council shall not have the power to:

(a) borrow or lend any monies except with the authority in writing of the Minister with the concurrence of the Minister responsible for finance;

(b) enter into any form of commercial partnership in furtherance of its functions or otherwise;

(c) delegate any of its functions in a manner other than that established by or under this Act.

(3) Changes in the boundaries of localities shall be made only in exceptional circumstances and only by the Electoral Commission, after consultation with the Minister, the Local Councils concerned and, wherever possible, with the local residents. The Electoral Commission shall effect such changes through a legal notice in the Gazette.

4. (1) The number of Councillors for each locality shall be determined by the following criteria:

Constitution of the Council.

(a) in the case where the population of a locality is under five thousand, the number of Councillors shall be five;

(b) in the case where the population of a locality is five thousand and over but less than ten thousand, the number of Councillors shall be seven;

(c) in the case where the population of a locality is ten thousand and over but less than fifteen thousand, the number of Councillors shall be nine;

(d) in the case where the population of a locality is fifteen thousand and over but less than twenty thousand, the number of Councillors shall be eleven; and

(e) in the case where the population of a locality is twenty thousand or more, the number of Councillors shall be thirteen.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, the popu-

lation of a locality shall be as defined in section 2 of this Act and as published prior to the election of a Local Council.

(3) The Council shall be presided by a Mayor to be elected from amongst the Councillors in accordance with the Seventh Schedule to this Act.

(4) In localities electing seven or more members, a Deputy Mayor shall also be elected in accordance with the Seventh Schedule to this Act. The Deputy Mayor shall preside in the absence of the Mayor.

(5) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor shall be deemed to be Councillors.

Compilation and
publication of Local
Councils' Electoral
Register.

5. (1) The Electoral Commission shall compile a Local Councils' Electoral Register which shall include all persons who are entitled to be registered as voters for elections of Local Councils in terms of this Act.

(2) The Electoral Commission shall include in the Local Councils' Electoral Register all persons so entitled, independently of whether or not any application to be so registered has been made.

(3) The Electoral Commission shall cause the Local Councils' Electoral Register to be published in the Gazette once a year in the month of November in such form as shall be provided by the Third Schedule to this Act and such Local Councils' Electoral Register shall contain all persons entitled to vote on the last day of October of that year:

Provided that the Commission shall in addition publish the Local Councils' Electoral Register through electronic means:

Provided further that the first Local Councils' Electoral Register shall be published not later than 31 August 1993 and such Register shall contain all persons entitled to vote on 31 July 1993.

Persons entitled to be
registered as voters.

6. (1) Every citizen of Malta whose name appears in the last published Electoral Register and who has not been convicted of any offence connected with the election of members of Local Councils shall be registered as a voter in the Local Councils' Electoral Register.

(2) Persons who are not citizens of Malta shall be entitled to be registered as voters in the Local Councils' Electoral Register provided that:-

Cap. 258.

(a) they are required under the Identity Card Act to be in possession of an identity card and have, in fact, been issued with one;

(b) they are citizens of a country which is a member of the Council of Europe and which is listed in the Ninth Schedule to this Act;

(c) they fulfil the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of section 57 of the Constitution; and

(d) they are not disqualified for the reasons set out in section 58 of the Constitution nor have they been convicted of any offence connected with the election of members of Local Councils.

7. The persons entitled to vote at an election of Local Councils shall be the persons who are registered as voters in that part of the Local Councils' Electoral Register which relates to the locality for which local councillors are to be elected.

Persons entitled to vote in a particular locality.

8. (1) The elections of Councillors shall be held every three years by means of the system of proportional representation using the single transferable vote.

Election of Councillors.

(2) The conduct of the elections shall be the sole responsibility of the Electoral Commission which shall conduct such election and count the votes cast in accordance with the provisions of the Third Schedule to this Act.

(3) If no candidates are nominated to contest the election of a Local Council in accordance with the Third Schedule to this Act, the Minister shall appoint a Committee of Management which shall perform all such duties as are competent on the Council until a new Council is elected:

Provided that the Electoral Commission shall, at a date determined by the Minister, but in any case within twelve months of the date on which the election was due to be held, hold an election for a new Council:

Provided further that any new Council shall serve for such term of office as would have been served by any Councillor who would have been elected in the election for which no candidates had been nominated.

(4) Whenever, in accordance with the Third Schedule to this Act, a co-option has to be effected, such co-option shall be made by the elected Councillors at their first sitting and, if applicable, immediately after having elected the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

(5) If elections for Councillors are due to be held within three months before the holding of General Elections or Referenda, the election of Councillors may be postponed to a date determined by the Minister, but in any case not later than three months following the holding of such General Elections or Referenda:

Provided that, in the event that the elections are so postponed, the term of office of the Councillors in office at the time of such postponement shall be extended by the same period by which the elections are postponed and that of the Councillors subsequently elected shall be reduced by the same period by which the term of office of the previous Councillors has been extended.

(6) Elections shall be held on the second Saturday of March:

Provided that:

(a) The first election for every sixth Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Valletta, shall be held on the twentieth day of November of 1993;

(b) the first election for every sixth Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Mdina, shall be held on the twenty-second day of January of 1994;

(c) the first election for every sixth Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Birgu, shall be held on the nineteenth day of February of 1994;

(d) the first election for every sixth Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Isla, shall be held on the nineteenth day of March of 1994;

(e) the first election for every sixth Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Bormla, shall be held on the sixteenth day of April of 1994;

(f) the first election for every sixth Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Qormi, shall be held on the fourteenth day of May of 1994;

Provided further that the Minister may by order in the Gazette stipulate that an election may be delayed or brought forward by two weeks from the date stipulated above;

Provided further that the second election of:

(a) every third Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Valletta, shall be held on the second Saturday in March of 1996;

(b) every third Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Mdina, shall be held on the second Saturday in March of 1997;

(c) every third Council listed in the Second Schedule, starting with Birgu, shall be held on the second Saturday in March of 1998.

Casual Vacancies.

9. Whenever a casual vacancy occurs in the membership of a Local Council, written notification of such vacancy shall be sent to the Minister and to the Chief Electoral Commissioner by the Secretary within six days after the vacancy has occurred, and a casual election to fill the vacancy shall be held in accordance with the provisions of the Third Schedule to this Act on a day to be fixed by the Electoral Commission being not more than thirty days after the date on which such vacancy has occurred:

Provided that if a casual vacancy occurs as aforesaid within three months before the expiration of the term of office of the Council, no casual election shall be held and the Council shall be deemed to be fully constituted

for the purposes of this Act;

Provided further that no further election shall be held if the term of office of the Council has been extended in terms of subsection (5) of section 8.

10. Until such time as a casual vacancy is duly filled, the Council shall be deemed to be fully constituted for the purposes of this Act and any proceedings, actions and decisions of the Council shall be deemed valid.

Vacancy not to
invalidate proceedings.

11. A person shall be qualified to be elected as a member of the Council of his locality if such person is registered as a voter in the Local Councils' Electoral Register for the locality being contested by such person:

Eligibility for Election
as Councillors.

Provided that in the case of public officers, Estacode may from time to time restrict any class or classes of public officers from contesting the elections for Councillors and that for the purposes of this proviso "Estacode" means the body of regulations from time to time applicable in the public service.

12. No person shall be qualified to stand for election as a member of a Council or to remain a member thereof if:

Persons not qualified
to stand for Council.

(a) he is a member of the House of Representatives;

(b) he is a member of any disciplined force as defined in subsection (1) of section 47 of the Constitution of Malta;

(c) he is a person in the employment of the Council for which elections are to be held;

(d) he is a person who holds any office the functions of which involve any responsibility for or in connection with the conduct of any election of members of the Council or the compilation of or revision of any electoral register;

(e) he is an undischarged bankrupt having been adjudged or otherwise declared bankrupt under any law in force in Malta;

(f) he is interdicted or incapacitated for any mental infirmity or for prodigality by a Court in Malta, or is otherwise determined to be of unsound mind;

(g) he is serving a sentence of imprisonment (by whatever name called) exceeding twelve months imposed on him by any court in Malta or is under such a sentence of imprisonment the execution of which has been suspended;

(h) he is a member of the Judiciary;

(i) he is disqualified from membership of the Council by or under this Act or any other law for the time being in force in Malta;

(j) his name no longer appears in the Local Councils' Electoral Register.

Councillor ceasing to be qualified to stand for Council.

13. (1) No Councillor duly elected shall without his consent be transferred by Government or otherwise placed in a position which disqualifies him from holding the office of Councillor, Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

(2) If a Councillor ceases to be qualified by reason of any provision of this Act, he shall thereupon cease to be a member and the provisions of section 9 shall apply.

Term of office of Councillors.

14. (1) Elected Councillors shall hold office from the first day of the month immediately following their election and they shall remain in such office until the expiration of the term of the Council or until such time as the Councillor shall have resigned or shall have been removed from office before the lapse of the term in accordance with this Act.

(2) Elected Councillors shall, on the termination of their term of office, if otherwise qualified, be eligible for re-election.

(3) The term of office of any person:

(a) elected or co-opted to fill a casual vacancy in a Council; or

(b) elected or co-opted to a Council where that Council's election had been, in whole or in part, postponed for any reason,

shall be the remaining period of the term of office stipulated in section 8.

Penalty for unqualified persons acting as Councillors.

15. (1) A Councillor shall be liable to a fine (*ammenda*) of fifty Maltese liri for every occasion on which he attends a Council meeting knowing or having reasonable grounds to believe that he is disqualified or acting as Councillor when his seat has become vacant:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*ammenda*) of one thousand Maltese Liri for each occasion.

(2) The fine (*ammenda*) contemplated in subsection (1) of this section shall be recoverable by the Minister as a civil debt and paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

(3) A Councillor acting in the manner contemplated in subsection (1) of this section shall be liable to refund any sums disbursed by the Council or any other body on his behalf, or benefits acquired in connection with his office from such time when the cause for disqualification arises.

(4) The foregoing subsections of this section shall be applied and construed without prejudice to any criminal action which may be taken by the competent authorities.

Validity of acts done by unqualified Councillor.

16. (1) Any acts and proceedings entered into by an unqualified person holding the office of Councillor as provided in the foregoing sections

and any obligations binding the Council in consequence thereof shall be honoured by the Council where the person in whose favour such obligation is entered was in good faith.

(2) The Council shall have the right to sue such unqualified person for any damages resulting from any transaction it has to honour unless such Councillor proves that he had acted in good faith.

17. (1) A member of the Council may at any time resign his office by notice in writing signed by him and delivered to the Secretary and his resignation shall take effect from the date of the receipt of the notice by the Secretary and his office shall become vacant as of such date.

Resignation of Council Members.

(2) The Secretary shall act in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of this Act.

18. Councillors shall attend all meetings as provided under this Act and the Minister shall, after he has been informed by the Secretary, by notice under his hand addressed to the Secretary, declare a seat to be vacant on failure of the Councillor to attend six consecutive Council meetings or in the aggregate less than one-third of the meetings called within a period of six months:

Councillors to attend all meetings.

Provided that where the absence is due to a justifiable cause, the Secretary in informing the Minister of the Councillor's failure may also transmit the recommendation of the Council for the Minister not to declare the seat vacant.

19. (1) It shall be the duty of every Councillor who has any pecuniary interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or proposed contract or other matter and is present at any meeting of the Council at which that contract, proposed contract or other matter is, or is to be, considered to disclose openly to the meeting and as soon as practicable after the commencement thereof the nature of his interest and -

Pecuniary Interest.

(a) not to preside over or take any part in the consideration or discussion of, or to vote on any question with respect to, that contract, proposed contract or other matter; and

(b) unless the contract, proposed contract or other matter is under consideration by the Council merely as part of a report of a committee or sub-committee thereof and does not itself become the subject of separate debate, to withdraw from the meeting while that matter is being considered.

(2) It shall be the duty of every Council to record in the minutes of a meeting particulars of any disclosure made to that meeting under subsection (1) and of any subsequent withdrawal from the meeting.

(3) Any person who knowingly acts in contravention of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding one thousand

Maltese liri or fifty per centum of the contract, proposed contract or other matter, whichever is the greater or to both such fine and imprisonment, and any person found guilty of such an offence shall cease to be qualified to hold the office of Councillor for a period of five years from such conviction.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (1) the word "indirect" includes any pecuniary interest which a Councillor may have through his spouse, children, parents, brothers or sisters or through any Company (not being a Public Company) of which he or any one or more of them is a shareholder or through any Company of which he or any one or more of them is a director.

Relatives of
Councillors.

20. (1) Every Councillor shall disclose to the Council in writing any relevant family relationship known to him to exist between himself and any person who he knows either holds, or is a candidate for appointment to, any office under the Council.

(2) All disclosures made under subsection (1) shall as soon as practicable be brought by the Secretary to the notice of the Council and:-

(a) it shall be the duty of the Council to record in its minutes particulars of the disclosure; and

(b) if the Councillor required to make the disclosure is present at any meeting of the Council at which any question relating to or affecting the appointment, remuneration, tenure or conditions of service, promotion, status, conduct, dismissal, suspension, retirement or superannuation of the person to whom he stands in a relevant family relationship is under consideration, he shall withdraw from that meeting while that question is being considered and his withdrawal shall be duly recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of that meeting.

(3) Any Councillor who acts in contravention of subsection (1) or subsection (2)(b) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding three hundred Maltese Liri and, moreover, any person found guilty of such an offence shall be liable to be disqualified from holding office of Councillor for a period of five years from such conviction:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*multa*) of three thousand Maltese Liri.

(4) For the purposes of this section, a relevant family relationship shall be deemed to exist between a Councillor and an officer or candidate if they are husband and wife or if the officer or candidate, or the husband or wife of the officer or candidate, is the

- (a) parent;
- (b) grandparent;
- (c) grandson or granddaughter;
- (d) son or daughter;

- (e) brother or sister;
- (f) uncle or aunt; or
- (g) nephew or niece;

of the Councillor or of the husband or wife of the Councillor.

21. Where a Council supplies to any member of the public attending a meeting of the Council, or supplies for the benefit of the media, copies of the agenda, statements, particulars and copies of other documents, the publication of any defamatory matter contained in the agenda, statements, particulars or documents so supplied shall be privileged unless the publication thereof is proved to have been made with malice.

Immunity from legal proceedings in certain cases.

22. The President shall, by Order in the Gazette acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, dissolve a Council upon:

Dissolution of Council.

- (a) a report of the Director of Audit for persistent breach of financial responsibilities; or
- (b) persistent non regard to the provisions of this Act after formal notice has been given by the Minister; or
- (c) lack of agreement in electing the Mayor; or
- (d) lack of agreement by the Council in approving its annual estimates; or
- (e) a recommendation to that effect in a report by a board appointed under the Inquiries Act.

Cap 273.

23. (1) Upon the dissolution of the Council in accordance with section 22, or if all the elected Councillors have resigned and no other Councillors can be elected in accordance with the Third Schedule to this Act, the Electoral Commission shall, within thirty days, hold an election for a new Council:

Elections to follow dissolution of Council.

Provided that no election shall be held where the remaining term of office of the dissolved Council is less than three months.

(2) The Minister may appoint a Committee of Management which shall perform all such duties as are competent on the Council until a new Council is elected:

Provided that if a Committee of Management is not so appointed, the Secretary shall perform all such duties as are competent on the Council.

(3) The newly elected Council shall hold office for the remainder of the term applicable to the dissolved Council.

24. (1) Councillors elected in accordance with section 8, and Mayors and/or Deputy Mayors elected in accordance with section 25 of this Act shall take and subscribe the oath of office in the form stipulated in the Fifth

Oaths of Office.

Schedule to this Act before any of the Commissioners for Justice who are hereby being empowered to administer such oaths.

(2) Any Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Councillor who undertakes a function incompatible with his oath of office shall be dismissed by the President, acting in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister, unless within thirty days from the receipt of a written notice by the Minister, such member shall have renounced to the incompatible function.

PART III *The Office of Mayor*

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

25. (1) The Council shall in its first sitting after having taken their oath of office proceed with the election of the Mayor and, wherever applicable, the Deputy Mayor of the Council from among its members in accordance with the Seventh Schedule to this Act.

(2) The first sitting of each Council shall be held not later than a week from the first day when the Councillors can hold office in accordance with section 14 of this Act.

Mayor to have representation of Council and to preside meetings.

26. (1) The Mayor shall be the representative of the Council for all effects under this Act and shall preside over all meetings of the Council and supervise all functions of the Council.

(2) The Mayor shall be responsible for the furtherance of the objects and provisions of this Act in the locality and Mayors shall co-operate between themselves for the better welfare of the localities which they represent.

Legal and judicial representation.

27. The Mayor shall have the legal and judicial representation of the Council together with the Secretary and they may sue and be sued on its behalf even where the case refers to acts done prior to the commencement of their term of office or appointment as the case may be.

Term of Office.

28. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall hold office from the day of their election and they shall remain in such office until the expiration of the term of the Council or until such time as the Mayor or Deputy Mayor shall have resigned or shall have been removed from office before the lapse of their term in accordance with this Act.

Vote of no confidence.

29. (1) The Mayor or Deputy Mayor shall cease to hold their office upon a vote of no confidence delivered by a majority of the Councillors.

(2) The motion for the vote shall be notified to all Councillors by means of an agenda after a demand made in writing for such motion has been made by at least one-third of the Councillors.

(3) The motion shall be discussed after at least five days have elapsed from its presentation as provided in subsection (2) of this section but not later than ten days from such date.

30. When a vote of no confidence as provided in section 29 is carried, it shall be communicated to the Minister by the Secretary without delay.

Vote of no confidence to be notified to Minister.

31. (1) On a vacancy in the office of Mayor, or where the Mayor is for any reason unable to perform the functions of his office, the Deputy Mayor, where the office exists, shall perform all such functions until such time as another Mayor is elected from among the Councillors in the first meeting of the Council held after the vacancy.

Casual vacancy in the Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

(2) On a vacancy in the office of Deputy Mayor an election shall be held from among the Councillors at the first meeting of the Council to be held after the vacancy, and the Mayor shall also cast a vote.

(3) In localities where the office of Deputy Mayor does not exist, and the office of Mayor is vacant, the functions of the Mayor shall be temporarily assumed by the oldest member of the Council.

32. (1) The Mayor shall be a part-time official and a Council shall pay to the Mayor such allowance as the Council considers reasonable so however that the allowance shall in no case exceed thirty-three per centum of the honorarium payable from time to time to Members of the House of Representatives.

Remuneration to Mayor.

(2) Subject to subsection (1) of this section all Councillors shall serve on an honorary basis but shall be afforded all such assistance by their employers as is reasonable to allow them to carry out their functions.

PART IV

Functions of Local Councils, Procedure and Meetings

33. (1) Subject to subsection (2) of this Section and to the provisions of any other law for the time being in force, the functions of each Local Council shall be:

Functions of Local Councils.

(a) to provide for the upkeep and maintenance of, or improvements in, any street or footpath, not being privately owned;

(b) to provide for the collection and removal of all refuse from any public or private place, for the maintenance of cleanliness and for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of all public conveniences, dustbins and other receptacles for the temporary deposit and collection of waste, and to ensure that these are accessible to all persons, including persons using a wheel-chair;

(c) to provide for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of children's playgrounds, public gardens and sport, cultural or other leisure centres, and to ensure that these are, as far as possible, accessible to all persons, including persons using a wheel-chair;

(d) to provide and maintain proper road signs and road markings, in conformity with national and international standards, to estab-

lish and maintain pedestrian and parking areas and to provide for the protection of school children in the vicinity of schools;

(e) to propose to and, where applicable, be consulted by any competent authority prior to the competent authority making any changes in traffic schemes directly affecting the locality;

(f) to make recommendations to any competent authority for or in relation to any planning or building scheme and to be a full participant in any decisions on the naming or renaming of streets;

(g) within the parameters of any national plan, to issue guidelines to be followed in the upkeep, restoration, design or alteration of the facade of any building or of any building or any part of a building normally visible from a street, including the type of lighting and materials used, advertisements and shop fronts, and in the case of premises which are open to the public, to ensure that such premises are, as far as possible, accessible to all persons, including persons who use a wheel-chair;

(h) to assist citizens by providing, where applicable in conjunction with any competent authority, information relating to the rights of citizens in general, including information on consumers' rights, transport, communications, tourist facilities, taxation, social security, public health and other matters of public utility and interest;

(i) to advise any authority empowered to take any decisions directly or indirectly affecting the Council and the residents it is responsible for;

(j) as part of a national scheme, to provide in conjunction with any competent authority, for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of creches, kindergartens and other educational services or buildings;

(k) as part of a national scheme, to provide in conjunction with any competent authority for the establishment, upkeep and maintenance of health and rehabilitation centres, government dispensaries, health district offices and homes for senior citizens;

(l) to propose to the Minister responsible for education, persons to be appointed as presidents of primary school councils;

(m) to enter into agreements with any public body or Government Department for the delegation to the Council of any of the functions of that public body or Department:

Provided that any such delegation shall only come into effect after the Minister has made the relevant order in the Gazette;

(n) to perform any other function which shall be delegated to it by the Government through the Minister by means of an order pub-

lished in the Government Gazette;

(o) to provide for all such other works, things, matters and services which are not excluded from a Council's competence by any law for the time being in force nor assigned to any other authority.

(2) Arterial and distributor roads determined by the Structure Plan, national monuments, national parks or gardens, industrial estates, ports, airports and other national territories, establishments, buildings and items listed in the Fourth Schedule to this Act are the responsibility of the Government and are totally excluded from the competence of Local Councils.

34. A Council may make, amend or revoke bye-laws for the purpose of carrying out its functions and for the prevention and suppression of nuisances in its locality.

Council to make Bye-laws.

35. (1) At least one week before a Council is due to discuss proposed bye-laws, a notice of the Council's intention shall be given twice in all daily newspapers and once in the Government Gazette. A copy of the proposed bye-laws shall be deposited at the offices of the Council proposing them and shall for at least one hour a day during normal office hours be open to public inspection without payment.

Procedure for making Bye-laws.

(2) A Council shall, on application, furnish to any person a copy of the proposed bye-laws, or of any part thereof, on payment of a reasonable sum not exceeding the price of the Gazette.

(3) The Secretary shall notify the Minister of any bye-laws which the Council proposes to introduce and shall forward a copy of the proposed bye-laws to the Minister four weeks before a Council is due to discuss them.

(4) The Minister may inform the Council whether he intends to propose any amendments to the bye-laws within a week from the day when he receives the proposed bye-laws.

(5) The Minister shall forward to the Council any amendments to the proposed bye-laws within three weeks from the day when he receives the bye-laws proposed by the Council.

(6) The Council shall discuss any bye-laws as soon as may be practicable and shall send the bye-laws as approved by it to the Minister.

(7) The Minister shall have the right to object to any bye-law approved by any Council and shall signify such objection and the justification thereof in writing to the Council within two weeks of receipt of the approved bye-law in terms of subsection (6).

(8) Should the Minister not object to the bye-laws, the Secretary shall cause the bye-laws to be published in the Gazette and they shall come into force one month after their publication or within such shorter period as may be agreed upon between the Council and the Minister. Any such shorter

period shall be specified in the bye-law.

Penalties for contra-
vention of Bye-laws.

36. (1) Except as provided by any other law, a person who contravenes a bye-law shall be guilty of a contravention and shall be liable to the punishment of a fine (*ammenda*) not exceeding thirty Maltese Liri and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine (*ammenda*) not exceeding five Maltese Liri for each day on which the offence continues after conviction:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette prescribe higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*ammenda*) of one thousand Maltese Liri and, in the case of a continuing offence, a further fine (*ammenda*) not exceeding two hundred and fifty Maltese Liri for each day.

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(2) Unless otherwise provided by this section, the contraventions referred to in subsection (1) hereof shall be deemed to be scheduled offences for the purposes of the Commissioners for Justice Act and the provisions of the said Commissioners for Justice Act shall apply "mutatis mutandis" to any proceedings in respect of such contraventions under this Act.

(3) A Commissioner for Justice shall, where he is to consider charges regarding any infringement of any bye-law, sit in the administrative offices of the Council concerned.

(4) The Secretary shall be the prosecutor in any such hearing and shall have the same powers assigned to the Executive Police under the Commissioners for Justice Act. Service of any summons shall be effected by the Secretary in the manner provided in subsection (2) of section 6 of the Commissioners for Justice Act or by the Executive Police as provided in subsection (1) of the said section.

(5) The amount of any fine (*ammenda*) shall be due to the Council of the locality and shall be paid to the Secretary.

(6) The Minister may by Order in the Gazette direct that the provisions of subsections (2), (3), (4) and (5) of this section shall apply to one or more of the offences listed in the Schedule to the Commissioners for Justice Act and whenever any such order is made prosecution in relation to such infringements shall be conducted by the Secretary before the Commissioner for Justice who shall sit in the administrative offices of the Council concerned.

Co-operation with
other Councils.

37. (1) Two or more Local Councils may discharge any of their functions jointly and they may also arrange for the discharge of these functions by a joint committee of theirs or by an officer of one of them.

(2) Local Councils having an arrangement as provided in sub-

section (1) may meet in joint session to discuss the discharge of the functions to which the arrangement relates and all Councillors shall be entitled to participate and vote where required unless the arrangement otherwise provides.

(3) Local Councils may form and belong to an association for the protection and promotion of their common interests as well as belong to international associations of local government authorities.

38. Local Councils shall have the right to challenge in court any decision which in any way interferes with the free exercise of their powers granted by this Act.

Right of Local Councils to a judicial remedy.

39. For the purpose of discharging any functions in pursuance of any matter under this Part of this Act, a Council shall contract out and expose to competition any of the functions assigned to it unless such functions are to be carried out by its own members, any person employed in terms of sections 52 and 53 of this Act or by another Council which has exposed or is to expose the carrying out of the functions to competition.

Competition.

40. (1) Where a Council offers for tender any work related to its functions it shall give notice of its intention by publishing at least once in all daily newspapers, a notice containing the following matters:-

Works contracts: restrictions.

(a) a brief description of the work;

(b) a statement that during a period specified in the notice any person may inspect a detailed specification of the work free of charge at a place and time specified in the notice;

(c) a statement of the period during which the work is to be carried out;

(d) a statement that during that period any person will be supplied with a copy of the detailed specifications on request and on payment of such charge as is specified in the notice;

(e) a statement that any person who may wish to carry out the work should notify the Council of that fact within a period specified in the notice; and

(f) the date and place when all the tenders shall be opened in public.

(2) The Council, or any committee appointed to adjudicate tenders shall:

(a) make available to any interested person, copies of all tenders submitted and accompanying documents at a reasonable price;

(b) appoint a date and place when it will hear submissions from any interested person on all or any of the tenders submitted;

- (c) publish its decisions together with the reasons thereof and provide to any interested person a copy thereof at a reasonable price.

Agency arrangements.

41. With the approval of the Minister, and subject to the provisions of section 39 of this Act, a Council may make arrangements with any public body or government department for the exercise of any functions by the public body or department on behalf of the Council, on such terms as may be provided for by the arrangements.

Arrangements for the supply of goods and services or interchange of staff.

42. Subject to the provisions of section 39 a Council may make arrangements with any other Council or any public body or government department for:

- (a) the supply by one party to the other of any goods;
- (b) the provision by one party to the other of any administrative, professional or technical services;
- (c) the use by one party of any vehicle, plant or apparatus belonging to the other and the placing at the disposal of the first-mentioned party of the services of any person employed in connection with the vehicle, plant or apparatus in question;
- (d) the provision or maintenance by one party of any works, facility, amenity, equipment or thing for the provision or maintenance of which the other is responsible;

on such terms as may be provided for by the arrangements.

Standing Orders.

43. (1) During the meetings the Council shall follow the Standing Orders in the Sixth Schedule to this Act.

(2) Council meetings shall be held at least once a month or at any other shorter intervals as the Mayor may decide. Meetings of the Council may also be called at the request of the least whole number above one-third of the Councillors in office.

Admission of public to meetings.

44. (1) Every meeting of a Council shall be open to the public.

(2) Where at a meeting of a Council the Council resolves itself into committee, the proceedings in committee shall for the purposes of this Act be treated as forming part of the proceedings of the Council at the meeting.

(3) Nothing in this section or in section 46 of this Act shall affect or derogate from any power of excluding persons from a meeting for the purpose of suppressing or preventing disorderly conduct or other misbehaviour at, or disturbance of, the meeting.

Information to be given as to meetings.

45. The Council shall, if so requested and on payment for postage or other necessary expenses which may be incurred for the supply of any such information, furnish -

(a) a copy of the agenda as circulated to members of the Council; and

(b) such further statements or particulars and copies of such other documents as are necessary to indicate the nature of any item included in the copy of the agenda so supplied.

46. The Council shall, so far as practicable, cause to be made available to duly accredited representatives of the media attending for the purpose of reporting proceedings at the meeting reasonable facilities for taking reports of these proceedings and, on payment by those representatives or their media of any expenses which may be incurred, for transmitting such reports to their media.

Facilities for media representatives.

47. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Council may appoint committees for the purposes only of executing its functions.

Committees of Councils.

(2) Committees established under subsection (1) of this section shall consist of a chairman from among the Councillors and not more than four other persons who need not be Councillors.

(3) Committees shall remain in office until they are dissolved by the Mayor or until the term of office of the Council expires.

(4) Members of committees shall not be entitled to any wage, salary or attendance allowances.

(5) The meetings of committees shall be recorded as minutes of the Council and shall be kept in the custody of the Council.

(6)(a) Where a locality includes more than one town, village or hamlet, the Council shall appoint a committee for each town, village or hamlet having a population of more than one tenth but less than one half of the population of that locality to report regularly on the needs of the particular town, village or hamlet for which the committee is appointed.

(b) The Chairman of the committee appointed under paragraph (a) hereof shall be a Councillor and the other members shall be registered voters in the Local Councils' Electoral Register for the particular town, village or hamlet.

(c) The provisions of subsections (3), (4) and (5) of this section shall apply to committees appointed under this subsection.

48. (1) The Council shall have its administrative offices at a place to be selected by it with the approval of the Minister, and these offices shall, as far as possible, be accessible to all persons, including persons using a wheelchair.

Council Premises.

(2) Any meetings of the Council shall be held at the Council's administrative offices:

Provided that the initial meeting place of each Council shall be determined by the Minister.

PART V *Officers and Employees.*

Appointment of
Secretary.

49. (1) Every Council shall, after consulting the Minister, appoint a Secretary of the Council:

Provided that the Minister shall, until the first Secretary is appointed, appoint an Acting Secretary.

(2) The Secretary may be a public officer or he may be appointed from outside the public service.

(3) If the Secretary is appointed from outside the public service, the requirements of subsection (6) of section 110 of the Constitution shall be observed.

(4) Where a Council refuses or fails to appoint a Secretary, the Minister shall appoint an Acting Secretary.

Appointment of
Deputy Secretary.

50. Subject to the provisions of sections 49 and 53, a Council may appoint a Deputy Secretary to exercise the functions of the Secretary whenever the office of Secretary is vacant or the Secretary is for any reason unable to act.

Full-time or part-time
Secretary.

51. (1) A Secretary shall act on a full-time basis only in those localities having a population greater than two thousand persons.

(2) In any other case, a Secretary shall only be appointed on a part-time basis.

Functions of Secretary.

52. (1) The Secretary shall be the executive, administrative and financial head of the Council.

(2) Without prejudice to any provision of this Act, the Secretary shall:

(a) issue all notices, prepare the agenda in consultation with the Mayor and attend all meetings;

(b) draw up the minutes of Council and committee meetings;

(c) submit a detailed annual administrative report to the Mayor;

(d) cause to be submitted to the Council estimates of the income and expenditure of the Council during the next following financial year;

(e) carry out any other duties that may be detailed or delegated

to him by the Mayor or by the Council.

53. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (6) of section 110 of the Constitution, the Council may appoint such other employees as the Council thinks necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Council so however that a Council may not employ more than one person per three thousand residents, where the residents of a locality shall have the same meaning as the population of a locality:

Appointment and
qualification of
Council employees.

Provided that where the population of a locality is less than three thousand, the Council may employ a person on a part-time basis.

(2) The Minister may by regulations prescribe the qualifications to be possessed by, the remuneration payable to and the technical administrative and office procedures to be followed by -

(a) any person appointed to the office of Secretary or Deputy Secretary of a Council; and

(b) any person appointed to such other post as may be prescribed.

(3) The removal from office, suspension or re-instatement, or any withholding of the remuneration, of the Secretary of a Council and of any other employees for whom qualifications are prescribed under subsection (2) shall be subject to the approval of the Minister.

(4) A Council shall not, without the approval of the Minister, remove from office or suspend, or withhold the remuneration of an acting Secretary appointed by the Minister under subsection (4) of section 49.

(5) The Secretary and other employees of the Council shall be appointed for a period of three years and their contract may be renewed for successive three year periods under such terms and conditions as may be prescribed under subsection (2).

(6) Unless there is a Court order to the contrary, information relating to a particular employee or office-holder, former employee or former office-holder, or job applicant shall be treated as confidential and shall not be made available to persons other than the members of the Council, members of staff as delegated by the Secretary, the Minister in the exercise of his functions under this Act and the individual concerned.

54. For the avoidance of doubt it is hereby declared that for superannuation purposes service rendered by a public officer with respect to whose temporary transfer arrangements are in force is service rendered to the department by which he was employed before the transfer and he shall not forfeit any pension, gratuity or benefit under the Pensions Ordinance and the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Act .

Status of public
officers detailed on
duty with Local
Councils.

Cap 93.
Cap 58.

PART VI
Finance

Financial allocation to
Councils.

55. (1) Each year the Minister responsible for finance shall allocate a provision under the Appropriation Act which shall serve for the exercise of the functions of Councils as appear under this Act.

(2) The amount appropriated shall be allocated to each Council on the basis of the formula determined in terms of the Tenth Schedule to this Act.

Annual Budget.

56. (1) Every Council shall not later than two months after its first election and, subsequently once during the month of January in each financial year cause to be submitted to it estimates of the income and expenditure of the Council during the next following financial year.

(2) Not later than fifteen days following the two month period referred to in subsection (1) of this Section and not later than the fifteenth day of February in any financial year, a Council:

(a) shall consider the estimates for the next-following financial year;

(b) may revise the estimates in such manner as the Council thinks fit;

(c) shall approve the estimates, subject to any revision under paragraph (b) of this subsection.

(3) The estimates so approved shall not later than three months from the date of its first election and not later than the last day of March in any financial year be sent to the Minister.

Method of supply of
funds for ordinary
administration.

57. The allocation mentioned in section 55 shall be made available to Councils by the Minister responsible for finance after a written request by the Secretary.

Method of supply of
funds for special
needs.

58. Payments for special needs of a locality or localities shall only be made exceptionally and after a Resolution to that effect has been carried by the House of Representatives.

Three-year business
and financial plan.

59. (1) At the end of the first year of its term, a Council shall prepare and discuss a three year plan on council operation, projects and finances so as to provide a framework for the Council's annual budgets.

(2) The Council shall revise or confirm the three year plan every year during its discussion on its annual budget.

(3) Copies of business and financial plans and revisions thereof, shall be forwarded by the Secretary to the Minister and to the Minister responsible for finance within two weeks of their approval by the Council.

60. A Council shall have the power to raise funds by means of any scheme designed to provide additional funds to those allocated to it under section 55:

Councils may raise additional funds.

Provided that such schemes shall be instituted by bye-laws.

61. The Council shall not authorise any works the value of which exceeds the annual provision allotted to it for that financial year taking into consideration the amount forecast for payment of acts of ordinary administration:

Payments in excess of voted funds.

Provided that where the Council requires authorisation for the approval of any works the cost of which exceeds the value mentioned in this section, it shall, through the Secretary, make the necessary request in writing to the Minister who shall, with the concurrence of the Minister responsible for finance, have the power to issue such authority in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

62. (1) The Minister responsible for finance may approve a supplementary provision to be made available to Councils after due consultation with the Minister if it results that the amount appropriated by the Appropriation Act is insufficient. Such supplementary provision shall nevertheless be allocated to Councils in accordance with the provisions of section 55.

Approval of supplementary funds.

(2) Where Councils receive a supplementary provision in terms of subsection (1) of this section, the Secretary shall prepare the necessary supplementary estimates.

(3) Any monies declared to be a surplus in any financial year shall not be set off against the sum being voted in the Appropriation Act for the next financial year.

63. The Council shall be responsible for the receipt of all monies as are under this Act required but the Council shall have no power to hold or invest in any commercial undertaking or donate any sums to any non-governmental organisation not included in the Eighth Schedule to this Act.

Limitation on investments and donations.

64. Without prejudice to any other provision of this Act, the Minister may, either of his own accord or at the request of the Minister responsible for finance, by notice in writing, require the Secretary to produce such books of account, records and any other document as may appear to him to be necessary without giving any reason for such demand.

Minister may order production of books of account and other documents.

65. (1) The Director of Audit shall appoint persons (to be known as "local government auditors") to audit the accounts of a Local Council subject to such conditions as he may deem fit. The appointment shall be for a period of one year, renewable each year, for a total period of not more than five consecutive years.

Appointment of local government auditors.

(2) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a local government auditor unless he is an individual who holds a warrant to act as auditor issued under the Accountancy Profession Act, or is a partnership of auditors duly registered under the said Act and –

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- (a) in the case of an individual, he is not –
 - (i) a councillor of the locality whose books he is auditing; or
 - (ii) in the employment of the Council of the locality he is auditing; or
 - (iii) related by consanguinity or affinity in the direct line, or, up to the third degree, in the collateral line, to any councillor of that locality;

(b) in the case of a partnership none of the partners is an individual who is not qualified to be appointed as auditor of a Council.

(3) In the exercise of their duties local government auditors shall have access to all books, records, returns and other documents relating to the accounts of Local Councils and may require any person holding or accountable for any such books or documents to appear before them at the audit.

(4) The Director of Audit may appoint, either temporarily or otherwise, persons to assist local government auditors in the performance of their duties.

(5) The remuneration and expenses of local government auditors, including the remuneration and expenses of persons appointed to assist local government auditors, to such amount as is sanctioned by the Director of Audit, shall be paid out of the annual provision made available to the Director of Audit.

(6) Local government auditors shall submit their reports not later than twelve weeks from the end of the financial year to the Director of Audit who shall forthwith transmit copies of those reports to the Minister, the Minister responsible for finance and to the respective Council. The Minister responsible for finance shall cause a copy of each report to be laid before the House of Representatives in the same manner as provided in subsection (5) of section 108 of the Constitution and if the Minister responsible for finance fails to lay any such report before the House of Representatives, the provisions of subsection (6) of section 108 of the Constitution shall apply.

Additional auditing responsibilities.

66. (1) The Minister shall, after consultation with the Minister responsible for finance, prescribe indicators to measure the performance of local council services, where such indicators are to facilitate comparisons of cost, economy, efficiency and effectiveness between Local Councils over time.

(2) In addition to duties specified in terms of or under this Act, local government auditors are required to satisfy themselves that a Local Council has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Regulations by Minister responsible for finance.

67. The Minister responsible for finance may, in conjunction with the

Minister, make regulations under this part of the Act for the purpose of regulating the financial functions of the Council, including the keeping of records and reporting.

68. The provisions of this part of the Act shall not prejudice the power given to Parliament to provide for the establishment of a Contingencies Fund and for authorising the Minister responsible for finance to make advances from the Fund in urgent and unforeseen cases in accordance with section 105 of the Constitution of Malta.

Powers of Minister responsible for finance under the Constitution.

PART VII *Miscellaneous.*

69. (1) The Minister responsible for finance shall, from time to time by warrant under his hand addressed to the responsible public officer, authorise and direct that all such monies as are reasonably required for meeting any lawful expense required to be incurred for the holding of elections of Local Councils be paid out of the Consolidated Fund without any further appropriation under this Act.

Appropriation of monies required to hold Council Elections.

(2) A statement of the expenses so paid shall, so soon as practicable, be laid on the Table of the House of Representatives.

70. (1) Councils shall call a locality meeting which shall be held before the meeting in which the Council will be considering the financial estimates for the next financial year open to persons appearing in the Local Councils' Electoral Register for that locality at least once a year.

Locality Meeting.

(2) The locality meeting shall be held at such place as the Council may determine and which is as much as possible accessible to all persons, including such persons who use a wheel-chair. A notice for such meeting shall be published once in all daily newspapers, and broadcast once on all national radios.

(3) The Mayor shall be the Chairman at such meeting and the Secretary shall make a list of any complaints or suggestions made during the meeting to be discussed by the Council.

71. A Council shall hold a public consultation about any issue which falls within its competence either at its own instance or whenever so requested by the electors listed as voters for the locality in the last Local Councils' Electoral Register:

Public Consultation.

Provided that a petition requesting such consultation has been signed by at least one-fifth of the electors listed as voters for that locality in the last Local Councils' Electoral Register where the population of registered voters is of 3,000 or more, or by at least one-fourth of the said electors where the population of registered voters is less than 3,000.

72. (1) Without prejudice to any power to make regulations conferred by this Act, the Minister may make regulations not inconsistent with

Power of Minister to make Regulations.

or repugnant to this Act, for prescribing any form or procedure for which no express procedure is contained in this Act, and generally for carrying the provisions of this Act into effect.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the Minister may in particular by regulations amend the First Schedule to this Act subject to the provisions of section 74, and from the Fourth to the Ninth Schedule inclusive to this Act and any forms set out therein.

Publication of
population by locality.

73. The Minister responsible for statistics shall publish the population as defined in this Act for each locality once a year in the month of April:

Provided that the first such publication shall be issued not later than 31 August 1993.

Coats-of-arms.

74. (1) Each locality shall have the right to use the coat-of-arms assigned to it under the First Schedule to this Act.

(2) Local Councils shall have the right to petition the Minister for changes in the design of the coat-of-arms after a resolution to that effect has been carried by a two-thirds majority of the Council and the Minister shall consider such request.

(3) The Minister shall thereupon appoint an ad hoc Committee of three persons, one from the Local Council concerned, one representing the Minister and an expert in heraldry to advise him on the proposed changes. The Minister's decision shall be final.

(4) Localities which are historically known as cities shall be distinguished as such by a distinctive mark in their coat-of-arms as shown in the First Schedule to this Act.

(5) Localities may display a square flag showing their coat-of-arms or some other design approved by the Minister.

Seals.

75. (1) Each Council shall have an official seal which shall include the coat-of-arms of the locality for which it is responsible.

(2) Any person making unauthorised use of the seal shall commit an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine (*ammenda*) of fifty Maltese Liri:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*ammenda*) of one thousand Maltese Liri.

Councils may adopt
historical names.

76. A Council may petition the Minister to be allowed to adopt and use any name historically used for representatives of the particular locality, or of a city which forms part of the locality.

Councils not to have
broadcasting facilities.

77. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, Councils shall not have the right to apply for any licence to broadcast any programme.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, "broadcast" has the same meaning assigned to it by section 2 of the Broadcasting Act, 1991 .

Act XII of 1991.

78. Section 26 of the Ġieh ir-Repubblika Act shall be amended as follows:

Amendment to Ġieh ir-Repubblika Act, Cap 251.

(a) in paragraph (d) thereof for the words "of this Act." there shall be substituted the words "of this Act."; and

(b) immediately after paragraph (d) thereof there shall be added the following new paragraph:

"(e) prescribing the insignia of office that may be worn by officers of a local government authority, members of any Organ of the State, or by officers of the Government of Malta whether in local or foreign service or whether belonging to a disciplined force or otherwise."

79. The First and Second Schedules to this Act shall be published with the Maltese text only and such Schedules shall apply also to the English text of this Act.

Publication of the First and Second Schedule to this Act.

FIRST SCHEDULE

(Section 74)

Coats-of-Arms

SECOND SCHEDULE

(Section 2)

Localities and their Boundaries

THIRD SCHEDULE

(Section 5, 8, 9, 23)

Local Councils (Elections) Regulations, 1993

THIRD SCHEDULE

(Section 5, 8, 9, 23)

Local Councils (Elections) Regulations, 1993

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Form of Oath which an Assistant Commissioner may administer to a Voter

Twelfth Schedule:

Declaration of Result of Poll

Thirteenth Schedule:

Return of Election Expenses

Fourteenth Schedule:

Form to be affixed in each Polling Booth

PART I
General Provisions

1. These regulations may be cited as the Local Councils (Elections) Regulations, 1993. Short Title.

2. (1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires: Interpretation.
 - “Act” means the Local Councils Act, 1993;

 - “Commission” shall mean the Electoral Commission established by section 60 of the Constitution;

 - “election” means an election for Local Councils;

 - “Electoral Office” means the Electoral Office established by subsection (1) of section 11 of the General Elections Act, 1991; Act XXI of 1991.

 - “House” means the House of Representatives established by the Constitution;

 - “identity card” means a document which is an identity card for the purposes of the Identity Card Act; Cap 258.

 - “Local Council” shall mean the Local Councils established by the Local Councils Act, 1993;

 - “political party” shall, for the purposes only of regulation 6, mean any person or group of persons who, having contested the general elections for members of the House of Representatives under one name, is represented in the House by at least one member, and in all other cases “political party” shall mean any person or any group of persons contesting the election of a Local Council as one group bearing the same name provided that the rights and obligations of such party shall be limited to the election of the Local Council for which such party is contesting;

 - “polling booth” means the room wherein voters attend on the day of the poll to receive and mark a ballot paper and insert the same in a ballot box;

 - “polling place” means the school, building or other complex or structure wherein one or more polling booths are situated and shall include the grounds, if any, of such complex or structure;

 - “voting document” means the voting document which is to be forwarded to voters in terms of regulation 17 of these regulations.

- (2) Whenever by these regulations a penalty is attached to the performance of any act “before, during or after”, an election, no account shall be taken of anything done earlier than:-

(a) in the case of any election held in consequence of the dissolution of the Local Council in terms of section 22 of the Act, the issue of the Notice setting the date of the election;

(b) in the case of any election held in consequence of the expiry of the term of the Local Council in terms of section 8 of the Act, three months before the date of such expiry.

Extension of periods of time.

3. (1) Where any period of time prescribed by any of the provisions of these regulations for carrying into effect any procedure is in the opinion of the Electoral Commission, insufficient for the purpose, the Electoral Commission may, by notice published in the Gazette, extend such period as it may deem necessary.

(2) Where the first day prescribed for any procedure falls on a Sunday or other public holiday then such period shall commence to run on the first working day following such Sunday or other public holiday.

(3) When the last day prescribed for any procedure falls on a Sunday or other public holiday then such period shall end on the first working day following such Sunday or public holiday and the date of the commencement of any subsequent period which is timed to run from such period shall be deferred accordingly.

Oath to be taken by Commissioners.

4. The Commissioners shall, on their appointment, take before the Attorney General the oath of office set out in the First Schedule to these regulations.

Powers of Commissioners.

5. (1) In the execution of their duties under these regulations, the Commissioners shall, in the absence of any express provision contained in these regulations, do all such things as appear to them to be necessary for the performance of their duties .

(2) In the execution of their duties under these regulations, the Commissioners shall have the powers conferred by law on the Courts of Magistrates for the purpose of enforcing order at their sittings and ensuring the respect due to them.

Party Delegates.

6. (1) Every political party shall have the right to nominate two delegates (hereinafter referred to as the "party delegates") to the Commission.

(2) Party delegates shall represent the political party nominating them with the Commission and shall have the right in general to be informed of all sittings of the Commission and decisions taken thereat.

(3) The party delegates shall notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, have full and free right of access to the Electoral Office, to all records kept therein and to check, verify and obtain any information regarding the work of the Electoral Office; provided that the Commission shall have the right to nominate an official of the Commission to accompany such delegates at all times.

(4) The party delegates shall continue in office until removed by the political party nominating them.

(5) Party delegates shall have the right to seek and obtain from the Commissioners as well as from any other official connected with the running, supervising or security of the elections or of any aspect thereof, information showing whether or not such persons are taking adequate measures to comply with the provisions of these regulations in the forthcoming elections, and the Commissioners or such other persons shall, notwithstanding any other law or regulation, be bound to furnish such information immediately.

(6) Notwithstanding any provision in these regulations granting party delegates and political parties the right to seek and obtain information or their right to be given copies of documents and lists by the Commission or by Government departments, such right shall not include the right of access to medical records or to adoption records of voters and the right to be made aware prior to the day of the poll of security features relating to ballot papers, voting documents and the official mark used by the Commission on ballot papers. Where the information, documents or lists are of a confidential nature the party delegates shall have the same obligations as to secrecy as the person from whom such information, documents or lists are obtained.

(7) Party delegates shall have the right to ask that information, documents and lists which the Commission should forward to them, be forwarded in such electro-magnetic format as the Commission can reasonably supply through the use of its equipment.

PART II

The Local Councils' Electoral Register

7. All provisions contained in the General Elections Act, 1991 and relating to the registration, transfer and cancellations of voters in the Electoral Register established by that Act, as well as relating to the appointment of Revising Officers and appeals thereto shall "mutatis mutandis" apply to the Local Councils' Electoral Register established by section 5 of the Act.

Applicable provisions of the General Elections Act, 1991, Act XXI of 1991.

8. For the purposes of subsection (2) of section 6 of the Act, the form of application for:-

Forms of Schedules.

- (a) registration as a voter;
- (b) correction or transfer;
- (c) correction of designation or address;
- (d) the correction of surname and address in consequence of marriage by female electors;

shall be those set out in the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Schedules respectively.

9. (1) The lists of all persons who are entitled to be registered as

Local Councils' Electoral Register.

voters for the election of Local Councils in accordance with the provisions of the Act, shall constitute the Local Councils' Electoral Register.

(2) The Local Councils' Electoral Register shall be compiled in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

(3) The Local Councils' Electoral Register shall be compiled in such manner that the public may be aware of the persons who are registered as voters, and in such manner to enable the identification of every voter and giving every voter the opportunity to object to the inclusion of any other voter in accordance with the provisions of the Act and these regulations.

Compilation of Local Councils' Electoral Register.

10. (1) The Local Councils' Electoral Register shall consist of as many parts as there are localities, one for each locality, and each locality shall be sub-divided into as many parts as the Commission shall consider necessary or convenient.

(2) The Local Councils' Electoral Register shall, in each section be drawn up in alphabetical order according to the name of each street and voters shall be shown in alphabetical order of surnames under the name of the street where they are registered and against the name of each voter his ordinary place of residence and identity card number shall be shown.

(3) Persons who are not citizens of Malta but who are entitled to be registered as voters in terms of the Act shall be shown in a separate section but in the same order as provided in paragraph (2) of this regulation.

(4) The Local Councils' Electoral Register may also include against the name of each voter any other particulars which may be considered necessary for the proper identification of each voter.

(5) Any printing error in any particular so shown shall not of itself affect a person's entitlement to vote.

Contents of Local Councils' Electoral Register.

11. (1) The Local Councils' Electoral Register shall include all persons who are entitled to be registered as voters in accordance with the provisions of the Act, on the day mentioned in the following regulation.

(2) The Local Councils' Electoral Register shall not include any person who is not entitled to be registered as a voter in accordance with the provisions of the Act, on the day mentioned in the following regulation.

Publication of Local Councils' Electoral Register.

12. The Commission shall cause a revised Local Councils' Electoral Register to be published in the Gazette once a year in the month of November. Such Register shall contain all corrections, additions, transfers and cancellations as on the thirty-first day of October preceding the publication thereof.

Additions, cancellations and corrections by Revising Officer.

13. (1) Any additions, cancellations or corrections to the Local Councils' Electoral Register ordered by a Revising Officer in accordance with the provisions of these regulations shall be published by the Commission in the Gazette and shall form part of the Local Councils' Electoral

Register.

(2) Any additions, cancellations or corrections to the Electoral Register either ordered by the Commission or by a Revising Officer in terms of the General Elections Act, 1991 shall "mutatis mutandis" apply to the Local Councils' Electoral Register.

14. Whenever an election is to be held, the voters shall be those whose names appear in the revised Local Councils' Electoral Register last published, subject to such additions, cancellations or corrections ordered by the Revising Officer, and the Commission shall not have the right to withhold or withdraw any voting document from any voter who is so registered unless such voter has died:

Voters at election to be those in last Local Councils' Electoral Register.

Provided that nothing in this regulation shall entitle any person to vote who has ceased to have the necessary qualifications to vote or relieve such person from any penalties to which he may be liable for so voting. Nor shall anything in this regulation entitle any person to vote unless he satisfies the requirements of these regulations.

PART III

Election Notices, Voting Documents and Ballot Papers

15. (1) Whenever an election is to be held, the Electoral Commission shall issue a Notice, hereinafter referred to as "the Notice" in the form set out in the Sixth Schedule to these regulations.

Election Notice.

(2) The Commission shall issue such Notice at least thirty-five days before the day fixed for the election and shall cause it to be published in the Gazette.

16. On the day following the publication of the Notice, the Commissioners shall further cause a notice or notices to be published in the Gazette stating:

Notice to be published by Commissioners.

(a) the place where, and date and time when, the Commissioners will be in attendance to receive nominations of candidates for election as Councillors, and any objections to such nominations, such place being referred to in the General Elections Act as the Electoral Office. The time during which nominations of candidates for election may be made shall be three days and shall not commence to run before six days from the date of the publication of the notice referred to in this regulation, and the time during which objections to such nominations may be made shall be two days from the expiration of the time fixed for the receipt of nominations;

(b) the places where, and the days and hours when voting shall be held. Voting shall not take place before the expiration of three days from the date of the publication of the notice referred to in paragraph (3) of regulation 24 of these regulations;

(c) the place to which the ballot boxes shall be taken by the Assistant Commissioners after the close of voting, which shall also be the place where the Commission shall store the ballot boxes and count the votes cast, such place being, as far as practicable, in the locality itself and, if possible, the place used as the polling place or one of the polling places in that locality;

(d) the date and time when the ballot boxes shall be opened and the counting of votes shall take place.

Voting Document.

17. (1) Within fifteen days of the publication of the Notice, the Commission shall forward to each voter, whose name appears in the last revised Local Councils' Electoral Register, a document hereinafter referred to as the "voting document" in the form set out in the Seventh Schedule to these regulations and made of such material and in such manner as in the opinion of the Commission provides adequate security against forgery. Voting documents shall be numbered consecutively, each document having such distinctive number stamped on the face of it:

Provided that wherever the Commission is satisfied that a person whose name appears on the Local Councils' Electoral Register is dead, the relative voting document shall not be forwarded, and where such voting document has been forwarded the Commission shall withdraw it:

Provided further that the Commission shall not forward a voting document to any voter in respect of whom the Commission does not possess a photograph, and in respect of such voters the Commission shall follow the following procedure;

(i) within five days of the publication of the Notice, the Commission shall publish in the Gazette a list of the said voters stating their name, surname, place of residence and identity card number;

(ii) the names of such voters shall not be published in the list mentioned in paragraph (5) of this regulation;

(iii) the voting document of such voters shall only be issued if the voter satisfies the requirements of regulation 18 of these regulations and shall be in accordance with the provisions of that regulation.

(2) The political parties shall be granted all reasonable facilities to watch the printing of all voting documents, to check the exactness thereof and generally to ensure that only voting documents of voters entitled to receive them are printed.

(3) The voting documents printed in accordance with the previous paragraph of this regulation shall, until such time as they are forwarded to voters, be kept in boxes sealed with the seal of the Commission. The party delegates shall have the right to affix their own seals to such boxes and to be present whenever such seals are broken. This regulation shall "mutatis mutandis" also apply with regard to the voting documents which remain undistributed, in terms of paragraph (4) of this regulation, when voting

documents are issued in terms of paragraph (6) of this regulation, and to the voting documents which remain undistributed.

(4) The voting document shall be served on each voter by a police officer or by registered post or by any other person appointed for the purpose by the Commission, and such document shall be deemed to have been served by delivery to the person to whom it is addressed, or to an adult person, who either resides at the same address or is in his employment, at the address of the voter as shown in the Local Councils' Electoral Register.

(5) When the Commissioners are unable to effect service of the document aforesaid they shall as soon as possible, and in no case later than three days from the time established in paragraph (1) of this regulation, publish in the Gazette a list containing the names, identity card number and addresses of the persons on whom the voting document has not been served, and shall state the reason why service has not been effected.

(6) Any person on whom the voting document has not been served and whose name appears in the list published in accordance with the preceding paragraph, may up to the Thursday immediately preceding the day of the voting, appear personally before one of the Commissioners or any other person delegated by them and claim delivery of the document:

Provided that the document aforesaid shall not be delivered to him unless he produces his identity card to the Commissioners or the person delegated by them.

(7) Any of the Commissioners or other person delegated by them may examine on oath any person for the purpose of ascertaining his identity and of establishing his claim to receive the document.

18. Where a person whose name appears in the last revised Local Councils' Electoral Register, but not in the list published under paragraph (5) of regulation 17 of these regulations, has not received the voting document or, after the receipt of such document, has lost or destroyed such document such person may not later than 6.00 p.m. of the Wednesday immediately preceding the commencement of voting, appear before one of the Commissioners, and if:-

Special Voting
Document.

(a) he proves his identity by the production of his identity card;
and

(b) makes a declaration on oath before any such Commissioner that he has not received the voting document or that, after the receipt of such document, he has lost or destroyed it, and such further declarations on oath as the Commissioner may require

he shall be given a voting document issued specially for the purpose; and in any such case:

(i) the name of such person appearing on the list referred to in paragraph (1) of regulation 34 of these regulations shall be

marked "SPECIAL"; and

(ii) a list of all the persons to whom a voting document is issued under this paragraph shall be kept at the Electoral Office and shall be open to inspection by any candidate, party agent or party delegate at all reasonable times until the poll closes.

Number of Voting Documents.

19. (1) Not later than the Friday before the start of the poll, the Commissioners shall cause to be published in the Gazette a list indicating the number of voting documents printed, the number distributed in terms of paragraph (1) of regulation 17, the names and addresses of the persons who up to that time have claimed delivery thereof in terms of paragraph (6) of regulation 17, the number of voting documents issued in terms of regulation 18 and the name, address and identity card number of the persons to whom such documents have been delivered, the number and reasons for voting documents withheld and the names, addresses and identity card numbers of the voters concerned and the number of voting documents remaining uncollected and the names, addresses and identity card numbers of the voters concerned.

(2) Any political party shall have the right to nominate representatives to be present during the issuing of the voting documents in terms of paragraph (6) of regulation 17 and regulation 18 of these regulations and for this purpose the said parties shall be provided by the Commission with all such information as is required by them and as they may deem necessary for the better performance of their duties.

Ballot Paper.

20. (1) Three days prior to the commencement of voting, the Commission shall cause to be published in the Gazette the number of ballot papers printed for each locality and the number to be distributed to each individual polling booth.

(2) The Commission shall ensure as far as is practically possible that ballot papers are made of such security paper and carry such markings as to ensure that they may not be duplicated.

(3) The ballot paper of each voter shall consist of a paper in the form set out in the Eighth Schedule to these regulations, containing a list of candidates described by the name (including any nickname), address and profession or occupation as given in their respective nomination paper and as approved by the Electoral Commissioners.

(4) Within each locality candidates shall be arranged by political party and, within each party group alphabetically in the order of their surname. If there are two or more candidates of one party with the same surname, they will be arranged in order of their other name or names.

(5) Every political party contesting the election shall provide the Commission with the names of the candidates contesting the election in its own interest in each locality. Such list shall be conclusive evidence as to whether a particular candidate belongs to that political party.

(6) If supplied by the party to which he belongs, there may be printed on the ballot paper opposite the name of each candidate belonging to that party any badge or device, approved by the Electoral Commission, indicating the political party, if any, to which the candidate belongs, or otherwise calculated to assist the identification of the candidate by the voter.

(7) Parties will be placed on the ballot paper in alphabetical order.

21. (1) On the day or days as near as practicable to the day of voting, the Commission shall prepare in different packets the ballot papers and all other documents and materials to be consigned to the Assistant Commissioners on the day of voting.

Distribution of Ballot Papers.

(2) The Electoral Commission shall retain possession of all packets until the day of the poll when it shall deliver the same to the Assistant Commissioners prior to the start of voting.

(3) Representatives of the political parties shall be granted all reasonable facilities to oversee the printing and checking of all ballot papers, the packing thereof and their distribution to the Assistant Commissioners, and to affix their seals to all packets prepared by the Electoral Commission for delivery to the Assistant Commissioners.

PART IV *Nomination of Candidates*

22. (1) A candidate for election shall be nominated in writing. The nomination paper, which shall be in the form set out in the Ninth Schedule to these regulations, shall be signed by the candidate himself (or, in the event of his absence from Malta, by a duly appointed representative) and by, at least, four voters registered in the locality for which the candidate is nominated. The nomination paper shall be delivered to one of the Commissioners at the Electoral Office by the candidate himself or if he is prevented by illness or absence from Malta by his lawful representative within the period specified in the notice referred to in regulation 16.

Nomination of Candidates.

(2) Immediately after a nomination paper has been delivered to the Commission the name of the candidate shall be posted at the entrance of the Electoral Office with an indication of the locality for which the candidate was nominated.

(3) Objections may be made to a nomination on the ground that the description of the candidate is insufficient to identify the candidate, that the nomination paper does not comply with, or was not delivered in accordance with the provisions of the Act or of these regulations or that the deposit prescribed by regulation 23 of these regulations has not been paid:

Provided that no such objection may be made after the expiration of the time fixed for the making of such objection in the notice referred to in regulation 16.

(4) Every objection shall be in writing and signed by the objector and shall specify the ground of the objection. The Commission itself may lodge an objection.

(5) The Commissioners shall, not later than the day following the expiration of the time fixed for the receipt of objections, decide on the validity of every objection and inform the candidate to whose nomination the objection relates or his lawful representative of their decision and, if the objection is allowed, of the ground of their decision. The decision of the Commissioners, if disallowing an objection, shall be final, but if allowing an objection shall be subject to appeal to the Court of Appeal by writ of summons filed in contestation with the Commissioners not later than twenty four hours after the Commission has communicated its decision to the candidates and the Court of Appeal shall deal with such writ of summons with the utmost urgency.

(6) For the purpose of this regulation, any voter may ask the Commissioners to be allowed to see and examine any nomination paper accepted by them.

Deposit by candidates
at elections.

23. (1) A candidate at any election shall deposit, or cause to be deposited on his behalf, with the Commission, before his nomination can be accepted, the sum of forty Maltese liri, and if he fails to do so, the nomination shall not be accepted by the Commissioners:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify a higher amount which in no case shall exceed three hundred Maltese liri.

(2) If after the deposit is made the candidature is withdrawn in pursuance of the provisions of these regulations, the deposit shall be returned to the person by whom it was made; and if the candidate dies after the deposit is made and before the voting has commenced, the deposit, if made by him, shall be returned to his heirs and if not made by him, shall be returned to the person by whom it was made.

(3) If a candidate who has made the required deposit is not elected, and the number of votes polled by him does not exceed one-tenth of the number of votes polled divided by the number of Councillors to be elected for that locality, the amount deposited shall be forfeited and paid by the Commissioners into the Consolidated Fund but in any other case the amount shall be returned to the candidate, where the candidate is elected, as soon as he has taken the oath as a Councillor, and where the candidate is not elected, as soon as practicable after the result of the election is declared.

(4) For the purpose of this regulation the number of votes polled by a candidate shall be the highest number of votes credited to him at any time during the counting of the votes.

Uncontested and
contested elections.

24. (1) If at the expiration of the time fixed for the receipt of nominations, the number of candidates nominated for a locality is equal to or less than the number of Councillors that the voters in such locality are

entitled to return, the Commissioners shall declare the candidates so nominated as elected Councillors to represent that locality and such return shall be published in the Gazette.

(2) If the number of candidates nominated for a locality is less than that which the voters in that locality are entitled to return, the Commission shall issue a new Notice for the election of Councillors to fill the remaining vacant seats in that locality, and if thereupon no further candidates are nominated, or if the number of candidates nominated is less than the number of vacant seats, the seats thereafter remaining vacant may be filled by the co-option of a Councillor or Councillors by the elected Councillor or Councillors of the locality and the Commission shall not issue a new Notice in respect thereof. The Councillor or Councillors so co-opted must have the qualifications established in section 11 of the Act.

(3) If more than such number of candidates as aforesaid be nominated for a locality, the Commissioners shall cause a notice to be published in the Government Gazette over their signature stating the names of the candidates and the locality for which they have been nominated. No person whose name has not been published in the said notice may be elected as a Councillor.

25. A candidate may, during the time prescribed for nomination, withdraw his candidature by giving notice to the Commission to that effect. Such notice shall be signed by the candidate or if he is absent from Malta, by his duly appointed representative.

Withdrawal of
candidature.

PART V

Assistant Commissioners

26. (1) Subject to the provisions of the following regulations of these regulations the Commission shall appoint as many Assistant Electoral Commissioners hereinafter referred to as "Assistant Commissioners" as may be necessary, to supervise the election in the manner herein prescribed. No Assistant Commissioner shall be appointed to supervise the poll in a locality in which he resides, or in a locality bordering that in which he resides or where he habitually works or exercises his profession or calling.

Appointment of
Assistant Commission-
ers.

(2) The Assistant Commissioners shall take the oath of office as set out in the Tenth Schedule to these regulations, before one of the Commissioners and shall follow the instructions which they may receive from the Electoral Commission for the discharge of their duties.

27. (1) Every political party shall, within seven days of publication of the Notice, be entitled to nominate a number of persons, equal to one and a half times the number of polling booths, to act as Assistant Commissioners, and to the extent that such persons have the necessary ability to perform the functions of Assistant Commissioner and are not disqualified from so acting by the provisions of these regulations, the Commission shall appoint Assistant Commissioners from amongst such persons.

Nomination of Assistant
Commissioners.

(2) The Commission shall moreover itself nominate as Assistant Commissioners such number of persons as is necessary in order that in each of the polling booths there be in attendance at all times at least one person nominated by the Commission to act as Assistant Commissioner.

(3) In no case shall there be less than three Assistant Commissioners nominated to supervise the poll in each polling booth and should all or any of the political parties fail to nominate all or any Assistant Commissioners in terms of and within the time established in paragraph (1) of this regulation, the Commission shall itself nominate other Assistant Commissioners in order to ensure that, at least, three Assistant Commissioners are in attendance in each polling booth.

(4) For the purpose of the time established in paragraph (1) of this regulation, the Commission shall not later than two days after the publication of the Notice inform the parties of the number of Assistant Commissioners that each party will be required to nominate.

Disqualifications and
publication of names
of Assistant Commis-
sioners.

28. (1) A person shall not be an Assistant Commissioner if he is a candidate for election to the Local Councils, or is a relative by consanguinity or affinity up to the second degree to any candidate for election, or is manifestly in the opinion of the Commission, after consulting the party delegates unsuitable to perform the functions of Assistant Commissioner.

(2) Within two days following the day mentioned in paragraph (1) of regulation 27 the Commission shall deliver to the political parties a list of all persons nominated to act as Assistant Commissioners indicating their names, identity card numbers, addresses and occupation.

Objections to Assistant
Commissioners.

29. (1) The political parties, not later than two days after the day mentioned in paragraph (2) of regulation 28, shall have the right to object in writing to the Commission with respect to the appointment of any person as Assistant Commissioner on any of the grounds mentioned in paragraph (1) of regulation 28.

(2) Where an objection is received by the Commission in terms of the preceding paragraph of this regulation, it shall, not later than the next following day, call a meeting of the party delegates to discuss such objections.

(3) Any objection made in accordance with the preceding paragraphs shall be determined by the Commission. The determination by the Commission shall be final and binding on all concerned. Where after hearing such objections the Commission determines that a person nominated by a political party to be appointed as an Assistant Commissioner shall not be so appointed, the political party which had nominated that person shall have the right to nominate another person in his stead.

(4) The fresh nominations mentioned in the preceding paragraph of this regulation shall be made immediately after the determination of all the objections: The times mentioned in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this regulation shall apply to objections to persons nominated as Assistant Com-

missioners in terms of paragraph (3) of this regulation, and if any objection is received and upheld by the Commission, the Commission itself shall appoint another person to be Assistant Commissioner in his stead and such appointment shall be final and no objection may be made in respect thereof.

(5) Upon final determination of all objections the Commission shall assign the Assistant Commissioners to the various polling booths; such distribution shall be made in such manner as to ensure that in each polling booth there is, at least, one Assistant Commissioner nominated by the Commission and one Assistant Commissioner nominated by each party contesting the election in that locality:

Provided that where a political party has not nominated a sufficient number of persons to be appointed Assistant Commissioners, the Commission shall only be required to assign, in respect of that political party, such Assistant Commissioners as have been nominated by it and appointed Assistant Commissioners.

(6) The Commission shall, within two days of the final determination referred to in the preceding paragraph, cause a list to be published in the Gazette showing the name, address, identity card number and occupation of each Assistant Commissioner appointed, the polling booths to which each has been assigned, and indicating the Assistant Commissioners who are assigned but held in reserve.

(7) After the final distribution of all Assistant Commissioners and up to the end of voting, the Commission alone shall have the right to substitute Assistant Commissioners and then only for grave and sufficient reasons and in such manner as to ensure that where the Assistant Commissioner substituted is one nominated by a political party, his substitute shall be a person nominated by the same party, provided a sufficient number of Assistant Commissioners have been nominated by that party.

PART VI

Voting

30. (1) Every political party shall have the right to nominate as its agents such number of persons as is equal to the number of ballot boxes and such persons are in these regulations referred to as "party agents".

Appointment of Party Agents.

(2) The party agents so nominated shall have the right to be present in the polling booths prior to the start and at the close of the poll for the purposes provided for in these regulations.

(3) Political parties exercising the right granted to them by paragraph (1) of this regulation shall forward a list to the Commission containing the names of the persons nominated by them as its agents not later than the day appointed for the nomination of Assistant Commissioners in terms of regulation 27 of these regulations.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations, the

political parties may nominate as party agents the same person or persons whom they have nominated as Assistant Commissioners.

Persons guilty of corrupt practices not to be appointed agents.

31. No person shall be appointed party agent who has within seven years previous to such appointment been found guilty of any corrupt practice under these regulations or under the General Elections Act or is determined by the Commission to be manifestly unsuitable to act as such.

Identification of Party Agent.

32. (1) Together with the name, address and identity card number of the party agent, the political party shall forward to the Commission a passport size photograph of the agent, and the Commissioners shall not later than seven days before the start of the voting forward to such agent a tamper proof identity document bearing the photograph of the agent franked with the seal of the Commission and indicating the name, address and identity card number of the agent and by whom he has been nominated. The identity documents as issued shall be progressively numbered and shall be worn in a conspicuous manner by the agent concerned in the exercise of his functions.

(2) Within the time established in the preceding paragraph of this regulation, the Commission shall forward to the political parties and post at the entrance of the Electoral Office a list of the names, addresses and identity card numbers of all party agents nominated indicating with respect to each one of them by whom he has been nominated and the progressive number of the identity document issued to him.

Polling places.

33. (1) The Commission shall, whenever practical, provide not more than one polling place for each locality and shall ensure that, as far as possible, that polling place is within the locality. In each polling place, the Commission shall provide as many polling booths as possible.

(2) The Commission shall, as far as possible, provide facilities so that handicapped persons, including persons in wheelchairs, may vote in comfort.

Polling booths and polling days.

34. (1) (a) In each polling booth a list of voters entitled to vote in that polling booth together with copies of the photograph of each voter shall be kept by the Assistant Commissioners. Every page of such list and every correction or cancellation thereon shall be signed by a Commissioner and a party delegate of each political party, or persons nominated by them in writing.

(b) Copies of such lists without photographs shall be forwarded by the Commission to all political parties contesting the election at least fifteen days prior to the day fixed for voting and the Commission shall keep the political parties informed of all changes effected to such lists. The lists shall identify the polling booth where each voter entitled to vote shall exercise his right to vote, shall list the voters who are to vote in each polling booth in alphabetical order according to the surnames of the voters, assigning to each voter a distinct and consecutive number and indicating the name, surname, address and identity card number of each voter as well as the registered number of the respective voting document of each voter.

(c) The name of every voter who delivers a valid voting document and to whom a ballot paper is delivered by the Assistant Commissioners shall be marked on such list kept for the purpose by the Assistant Commissioners and in such manner as is directed by the Commission.

(2) Voting shall be held on a Saturday. Voting shall start at 7.00 a.m. and shall close at 7.00 p.m.:

Provided that every voter who at the close of time of voting is present in a polling place for the purpose of voting, shall be entitled to receive a ballot paper and to vote:

Provided further that, where the Commission are satisfied that the time allowed for voting has been, or will be, for any reason beyond their control, reduced at all or in any one or more of the places, they may, whether before or after the poll has commenced, extend the time fixed for the poll at such polling place or places so as to make good for the time lost, as aforesaid:

Provided further that, where all persons who have had a voting document delivered to them, such voting document not having been withdrawn, have voted in a polling booth or locality, the Commission may close the voting in that polling booth or locality before the stipulated time.

(3) In each polling booth the Electoral Commission shall provide a number of separate cubicles wherein each voter may record his vote and in each cubicle shall provide such facilities as it deems necessary including, however, a notice in the form specified in the Fourteenth Schedule to these regulations.

35. During the time fixed for voting at any polling place, no person, other than a person waiting to vote, shall loiter within a distance of fifty metres from that polling place nor shall any person within the said distance of fifty metres make political propaganda in any manner. Any club, shop or other public establishment within such distance shall be kept closed on polling day.

Maintenance of order within 50 metres of each polling place.

36. No person shall congregate during voting, in any street, square or other place, leading from the place of residence of any voter to any polling place, in such numbers or otherwise in such manner as to be likely to intimidate any voter, or to obstruct his approach to or from a polling place, or to lead to a breach of the peace.

Maintenance of order outside 50 metres from polling place.

37. The Commission shall on the day of the poll deliver to the Assistant Commissioners for each polling booth one or more ballot boxes, a sufficient number of ballot papers, lists of the voters entitled to vote at that polling booth and other relevant documents and materials.

Ballot boxes and documents for polling booths.

38. (1) Immediately prior to the start of voting the Assistant Commissioners shall, in the presence of any candidate or party agent or party delegate as may be present, check that the ballot boxes consigned to them are empty by opening the ballot box and shall thereupon seal the lid thereof with

Checking of ballot boxes by party agents and party delegates.

the seal of the Commission and allow any candidate, party agent or party delegate to affix his own seal thereto.

(2) For the purpose of this regulation, where the Assistant Commissioners determine that because of lack of space, not all the seals may be conveniently placed, they may direct that not all seals shall be so affixed ensuring however that each political party will be given the opportunity to affix at least one seal on each ballot box.

Voting.

39. (1) Any voter wishing to vote shall attend at the polling booth, specified in the voting document received by him and shall deliver such document to an Assistant Commissioner at such polling booth during the hours appointed for voting.

(2) No person shall be allowed to vote unless he produces and delivers the voting document to the Assistant Commissioners.

(3) No inquiry shall be permitted at the time of voting as to the right of any person to vote, so long as the name of such person is included in the list referred to in paragraph (1) of regulation 34 of these regulations, but the Assistant Commissioners may, before the delivery of the ballot paper to a voter, put to him such questions as they may deem proper to satisfy themselves of the identity of such voter.

(4) The Assistant Commissioners, upon the production and delivery to them of the voting document and having satisfied themselves of the identity of the voter, shall strike out the name of the voter from the list aforesaid and shall deliver to him, after marking it with official marks, a ballot paper. For the purposes of these regulations, "official mark" shall mean the stamp which the Commission shall direct the Assistant Commissioners to use; so however that each political party may direct the Assistant Commissioner nominated by it to use a stamp of its own to mark the ballot papers, provided that an imprint of the stamp so used is deposited with the Commission prior to the start of the poll; such stamp shall not be necessary for the validity of the ballot paper.

(5) The Assistant Commissioners may at their discretion administer an oath to any voter in the form set out in the Eleventh Schedule to these regulations.

(6) Any person refusing to answer any questions put to him under paragraph (3) of this regulation or to take the oath referred to in paragraph (5) of this regulation shall not be permitted to vote.

(7) The Assistant Commissioners shall not refuse a ballot paper to any person whose name is included in the list referred to in paragraph (1) of regulation 34 of these regulations and otherwise satisfies the requirements of this regulation, unless the person so claiming to vote, upon being questioned under this regulation, appears to the Assistant Commissioners not to be the person whose name is on the aforesaid list or to have previously voted at the same election.

(8) The Assistant Commissioners shall keep a written record of the taking of any oath administered to any person under this regulation, and of their refusal to allow any person to vote.

(9) No voter shall be allowed to vote except at the polling booth specified in the voting document produced by him for purposes of voting.

(10) A voter, who has inadvertently spoilt his ballot paper may, on delivering the spoilt ballot paper to the Assistant Commissioner, and proving the fact of inadvertence to the satisfaction of the Assistant Commissioner, obtain another ballot paper in its place and the spoilt ballot paper shall be immediately cancelled.

40. (1) Each voter shall have one transferable vote.

Method of Voting.

(2) A voter, in recording his vote:

(a) must place on his ballot paper the figure 1 opposite the name of the candidate for whom he votes; and

(b) may in addition indicate the order of his choice or preference for as many other candidates as he pleases by placing against their respective names the figure 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 and so on in consecutive numerical order.

(3) A ballot paper shall be invalid in which:

(a) the figure 1 standing alone indicating a first preference for one candidate is not placed; or

(b) the figure 1 standing alone indicating a first preference is set opposite the name of more than one candidate; or

(c) the figure 1 standing alone indicating a first preference and some other number is set opposite the name of the same candidate; or

(d) it cannot be determined with certainty for which candidate the first preference of the voter is expressed; or

(e) any writing or mark is made by which the voter can be identified; or

(f) the official mark as defined in paragraph (4) of regulation 39 is not made.

(4) A voter shall record his vote secretly inside a cubicle in the booth provided for this purpose and constructed in such a manner as not to allow the voter to be seen when marking his ballot paper. After marking his ballot paper the voter shall fold the ballot paper so as to conceal his vote and shall then put the ballot paper in the ballot box in the presence of the Assistant Commissioners.

Illiterate or
incapacitated voters.

41. (1) Any voter who declares to, and shows to the satisfaction of, the Assistant Commissioners that he is unable by reason of blindness, other physical cause or illiteracy to mark his ballot paper, may request an Assistant Commissioner to mark the paper on his behalf indicating for which candidate or candidates he wishes to vote and the order in which he wishes to record his vote:

Provided that the voter may not ask for any particular Assistant Commissioner to mark the ballot paper on his behalf.

(2) The Assistant Commissioners are bound to secrecy with regard to the voting of persons whom they have assisted to vote.

(3) There shall be not less than two Assistant Commissioners present when the vote is being recorded under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this regulation, but no other person shall be allowed in the polling booth.

(4) When an Assistant Commissioner is authorised to assist a voter to record his vote, the Assistant Commissioner shall require such voter to confirm his declaration on oath, and on satisfying himself of the correctness of such declaration he shall record the vote of such voter on the ballot paper, in accordance with the indication made by such voter and following the procedure set down hereunder:

(a) The Assistant Commissioner shall ask the voter: "Which of the candidates do you most desire to see elected?" and shall place the figure 1 on the ballot paper opposite the name of the candidate indicated by the voter.

(b) The Assistant Commissioner shall then ask the voter: "For which of the candidates do you desire to express a second choice?" and shall place the figure 2 on the ballot paper opposite the name of the candidate indicated by the voter.

(c) The Assistant Commissioner shall repeat the operation in reference to a third or any subsequent preference until the voter shall declare that he does not desire to express any further choice.

(d) In order to assist such voters in indicating their preferences, the Electoral Commissioners shall permit the display in the polling places of photographs of the candidates, if the same are supplied by the candidates themselves or by a political party on their behalf. Each photograph may bear, in addition to the name of the candidate represented, the badge and name of the party, if any, to which he belongs.

Such photographs shall be of such size and description as the Electoral Commissioners may require and shall be displayed in such manner as they shall direct and in the order in which the candidates' names appear on the ballot paper.

(e) At the commencement of these operations and at any subsequent stage the Assistant Commissioner shall, if desired by the voter,

read out in the order in which they appear on the ballot paper, the names of all candidates for whom a choice has not already been expressed by the voter.

(f) If any such voter, however, shall request the Assistant Commissioner to read out the names of the candidates of one particular political party only, the Assistant Commissioner shall do so by reading in alphabetical order the names of the candidates who have supplied an indication of their adhesion to that political party and omitting the names of the other candidates.

42. While a voter is recording his vote, the Assistant Commissioners shall keep at sufficient distance so as not to be able to see the vote recorded.

Assistant Commissioners not to see vote recorded.

43. The Assistant Commissioners shall in no case permit any person to take his ballot paper out of the room or out of their sight until it is inserted into the ballot box.

Ballot paper not to be removed from polling place.

44. Saving the provision of regulation 41, no Assistant Commissioner or any other person shall record the vote for any voter, or shall, at any polling place make any suggestion to him directly or indirectly regarding the candidate or candidates for whom he should vote or regarding his choice of preference.

Assistant Commissioners not to make suggestions as to manner of voting.

45. Except where otherwise stated in these regulations the Assistant Commissioners shall not allow any person not being a police officer on duty, or a person lawfully entrusted with some duty in connection with the elections, or a person entitled to vote at that polling place, to enter such polling place; nor shall they permit any voter or other person to remain in the polling place longer than necessary.

No unauthorised person to enter polling place.

46. (1) After the expiration of the time fixed for voting or where, in terms of the proviso to paragraph 2 of regulation 34 voting in a polling booth or a locality has closed, the Assistant Commissioners shall seal the opening of the ballot box, shall place in a packet all unused and spoilt ballot papers and all printed or written records kept by them, affixing their seal thereto, after stating and signing on the said packet the number thereof, and shall place in a separate packet all voting documents delivered to them. The official marks used by the Assistant Commissioners including those used by the Assistant Commissioners nominated by the political parties shall be put in a separate packet which shall be sealed with the seal of the Commission after all Assistant Commissioners have affixed their signature thereto.

Closure of Voting.

(2) For the purposes of the previous paragraph of this regulation the Assistant Commissioners shall physically count and reconcile the number of unused and spoilt ballot papers, the number of persons marked as having voted on the list referred to in paragraph (1) of regulation 34 and the number of voting documents delivered to them.

(3) After the close of the poll and before the ballot boxes are removed from the polling booths, the Assistant Commissioners shall affix a notice on the door of each polling booth and signed by all the Assistant

Commissioners stating the number of voters entitled to vote at that polling booth, the number of ballot papers received by them from the Commission, the number of voting documents delivered to them distinguishing as to whether they are ordinary or special, the number of spoilt ballot papers and the number of unused ballot papers being returned by them to the Commission and the number of persons who have voted in that polling booth. The said notice shall in this regulation be henceforth referred to as the "ballot paper account".

A copy of the ballot paper account shall be delivered by the Assistant Commissioners to each political party by handing it to any candidate, party delegate or party agent representing such party as may be present, and shall also be delivered to the Commission at the place specified in paragraph (c) of regulation 16 of these regulations and the Commission shall immediately thereon provide a copy to the party delegates.

(4) On completion of all the duties mentioned in the preceding paragraph of this regulation, the Assistant Commissioners shall deliver the ballot box or boxes and all documents and packets entrusted to them to the Commission at the place specified in paragraph (c) of regulation 16 of these regulations.

(5) Party delegates, candidates and party agents shall have the right to attend at the reconciliation and sealing of papers and sealing of ballot boxes, mentioned in the preceding paragraphs of this regulation, to affix their own personal seals to the packages containing the papers and to the ballot boxes and shall, subject to the provision of the following paragraphs of this regulation, be granted facilities to watch and accompany the transportation of the ballot boxes from the polling place up to their delivery to the Commission.

(6)(a) No more than one party agent from each political party may be present in each polling booth at any one time during the procedure for the sealing of ballot boxes;

(b) The Assistant Commissioners shall ensure that candidates, party agents or party delegates as may be present shall be called in prior to their starting the procedures outlined in the previous paragraphs of this regulation for the sealing of ballot boxes and packets and reconciliation;

(c) The candidates, party agents and party delegates that may be present shall be granted all reasonable facilities to over see, record and request recounts of all the operations undertaken by the Assistant Commissioners in terms of the previous paragraphs of this regulation and without prejudice to the generality of the above:-

(i) to reconcile the number of persons who have voted as stated in the ballot paper account with the number of persons which the Assistant Commissioners have struck off the list referred to in regulation 34 of these regulations and the number of voting documents received by the Assistant Commissioners;

(ii) to reconcile the names of the voters which the Assistant Commissioners have struck off the list referred to in regulation 34 of these regulations with the names or the voting documents received by them;

(iii) to record the names of the persons who have not voted;

(d) If a vehicle is to be used for the transportation of the ballot box, and after all the procedures indicated in the previous paragraph of this paragraph have been completed, the Assistant Commissioners shall keep the ballot box and all documents and packets in the polling booth until such time as the vehicle designated by the Commission for the transfer of the ballot boxes arrives at the polling place. Any candidate, party agent or party delegate as may be present shall also have the right to remain at such polling booth;

(e) During the transportation from the polling place to the place designated by the Commission for the delivery of ballot boxes in terms of paragraph (3) of regulation 16 no more than one representative from each of the political parties may board the vehicle designated by the Commission for transportation;

(f) The representatives mentioned in the previous paragraph of this paragraph shall be designated by the political parties within seven days of being notified by the Commission of the number of persons to be appointed, and shall be duly authorised by the Commission and shall bear an identification document similar to that required by paragraph (1) of regulation 32 and shall have these names published in terms of paragraph (2) of regulation 32 of these regulations;

(g) If no vehicle is to be used in the transportation of the ballot box, the Assistant Commissioners, accompanied by any candidate, party delegate or party agent as may be present, shall, after all procedures indicated in the previous paragraphs of this regulation have been completed, carry the ballot box and deliver it to the Commission in the place indicated in paragraph (c) of regulation 16 of these regulations.

(h) The refusal by any Assistant Commissioner to sign any declaration or document shall not of itself invalidate the contents thereof.

47. The Assistant Commissioners shall keep order in the polling place under their charge and shall be responsible for any irregularity in the voting in that place in so far as such irregularity could have been prevented by them.

Assistant Commissioners responsible for the maintenance of order.

PART VII

Voting in Retirement Homes

48. For the purposes of this Part, "a retirement home" means such place or places principally used for the care of elderly persons in which at least fifty voters reside and the residents thereof are registered voters for that locality:

Retirement Home.

Provided that the provisions of paragraph (a) of paragraph (3) of regulation 49, of paragraph (b) of paragraph (1) of regulation 50 and of regulation 51 shall not apply to retirement homes not run or administered by the Government.

Sub-committee for retirement homes.

49. (1) Within twenty-four hours of the publication of the Notice for the election of Councillors, the Commission shall form a sub-committee consisting of a Commissioner, who shall act as chairperson, and a representative of each of political parties and shall delegate to the sub-committee the running of the election in all retirement homes.

(2) The sub-committee shall have the duty to ensure that no undue pressure is brought to bear on voters in retirement homes, that proper and adequate facilities are given to all political parties to canvass such voters, that adequate arrangements for voting are made in view of the special needs of such voters and that no political party enjoys any unfair advantage.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of the above provisions, the sub-committee shall ensure that:

(a) immediate steps are taken to temporarily remove and substitute members of staff gravely suspected to have attempted to influence voters;

(b) arrangements are made for the receipt and proper delivery of propaganda material and for canvassing during visiting hours by candidates and political parties contesting that locality;

(c) complaints by political parties and/or candidates are speedily investigated and rectified when found to be justified.

Duties of persons responsible for the administration of retirement homes.

50. (1) Within three days of the publication of the Notice the person responsible for the administration of a retirement home shall send to the sub-committee:

(a) a list of all persons resident at such retirement home, indicating the name, identity card number, last known address, age, ward or room number, name and address of next of kin and whether registered as a voter in the home address or otherwise;

(b) a list of all staff at the retirement home indicating the name, identity card number, address, grade and working hours up to the day following the day fixed for voting.

(2) On receipt thereof the sub-committee shall immediately provide the political parties with copies of such lists.

(3) The administrator of every retirement home shall keep such lists updated and shall immediately send to the sub-committee any amendments thereto and the sub-committee shall immediately inform the political parties of such amendments.

(4) Members of the staff in retirement homes are expressly

prohibited from engaging in propaganda for any political party or candidate and any employee contravening this regulation shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to the penalty of general interdiction for a period of ten years and the provisions of the Probation of Offenders Act and of section 22 of the Criminal Code shall not apply.

Cap 152.
Cap 9.

51. (1) The voting documents of voters registered in retirement homes shall be delivered to the voters personally. The voter may opt to deliver the voting document to the administrator of the home for safe-keeping, and such administrator shall return the same to the voter on the day fixed for voting or on such earlier day as may be requested by the voter.

Voting at retirement
homes.

(2) Voters in retirement homes shall have the option to proceed to the polling place:

- (a) without the assistance of any person;
- (b) with the assistance of members of the staff;
- (c) with the assistance of members of their families;

and it shall be the responsibility of the sub-committee to ascertain the option chosen by each voter.

(3) Voters opting to be assisted by members of the staff shall be accompanied by members of the staff chosen from a pool thereof nominated in equal numbers by all the political parties, such nominations being made at least ten days before the start of the poll. Political parties shall have the right to demand, and the Commission shall have the duty to ensure, that if the ordinary staff at such homes is not sufficient for the purposes of this regulation other persons are transferred to such homes for such purpose.

(4) Voters opting to be assisted by members of the staff or by members of their families shall, notwithstanding any other provision of these regulations be so accompanied up to the door of the relative polling booth.

(5) During the day fixed for voting no person other than members of the sub-committee, members of the staff and relatives of patients who have been previously authorised to accompany voters to vote, shall without the express authority of the Commission, be allowed to enter retirement homes.

(6) Except with the special authorisation of the sub-committee, no voter in a retirement home who has chosen the option to vote on his own or to be accompanied by members of his family may be taken to vote by members of the staff.

52. The sub-committee appointed in terms of regulation 49 of these regulations shall function under the general direction of the Commission and shall be bound to implement the decisions of the Commission.

Direction by Electoral
Commission.

PART VIII
Counting of Votes

Start of counting of
votes.

53. The counting of votes for each locality shall take place at the place and time specified in notices referred to in paragraphs (c) and (d) of regulation 16 of these regulations and shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of these regulations. Counting shall commence for a locality when all ballot boxes for that locality have been deposited in the room designated for the purpose by the Commission, all packets containing the papers and other material used by the Assistant Commissioners have been delivered to the Commission and neither ballot boxes nor packets have been declared to be in a state that gives rise to the suspicion that they have been tampered with.

Tampering with ballot
boxes.

54. (1) Political parties contesting the elections shall have the right to nominate a sufficient number of agents, to be determined by the Commission, to oversee at all times the receipt of the ballot boxes, documents and packets, by the Commission from the Assistant Commissioners and the storage of the said ballot boxes, documents and packets after the receipt thereof. These agents shall henceforth in these regulations be referred to as "delivery agents".

(2) Party delegates, candidates and delivery agents shall have the right to monitor the receipt of the ballot boxes by the Electoral Commission from the Assistant Commissioners and to make representations thereon.

(3) If any of the Commissioners or any party delegate, candidate or delivery agent claims that any ballot box or package is received in a state that it gives rise to suspicion that it may have been tampered with, the Commission shall order such box or packet to be dealt with separately from the other boxes or packets, and shall immediately call a meeting of the Commission and at such meeting the Commission shall have the power to hear such evidence under oath as it deems necessary.

(4) Where the Commission decides that there is no evidence that justifies the suspicion that the box or packet has been tampered with, its decision shall be final and no appeal shall lie therefrom.

(5) Any claim as is referred to in the previous paragraphs of this regulation shall be made as soon as the ballot box or packet is delivered by the Assistant Commissioners to the Commission and for this purpose the Commission shall ensure that the party delegates, candidates or delivery agents are given adequate facilities to attentively inspect the ballot boxes, documents or packets.

(6) It shall be the duty of the Commission to ensure the mathematical accuracy of the ballot paper account and that this tallies with the declared number of voting documents returned by the Assistant Commissioners. Political parties shall have the right to demand that the Commission shall for this purpose open all packets containing voting documents relative to not more than ten per cent of all ballot boxes in order to physically check the accuracy of such returns.

(7) Political parties shall select the ballot boxes in relation to which the packets containing voting documents are to be opened during delivery of the ballot boxes to the Commission and prior to the storage of the ballot boxes.

(8) As each ballot box is received and cleared by the Commission in terms of this regulation it shall be transferred to the room designated by the Commissioners for the storage of all ballot boxes in terms of regulation 16 of these regulations.

(9) As soon as practicable after all ballot boxes have been received and cleared in terms of this regulation and prior to the start of the counting process the Electoral Commission shall publicly declare the total number of votes declared to be cast in accordance with the ballot paper accounts delivered by the Assistant Commissioners as well as the number of votes in each ballot box as resulting from the same account.

(10) The Commission shall preserve until the publication of the official results of the next following election all papers delivered to them by the Assistant Commissioners, as well as the unused ballot papers and the voting documents, in separate sealed packets indicating on each packet the nature of the documents contained therein, and the locality to which they appertain.

(11) On every packet as is referred to in the preceding paragraph there shall be affixed the seal of the Electoral Commission and the signature of at least two Commissioners, and of any party delegate, candidate or delivery agent who may wish to sign it.

55. (1) The Commission shall appoint a number of persons to act as counters, supervisors and calculators to assist it in the counting and transfer of votes within each locality which shall be effected under the direct supervision of the Commission.

Counters, supervisors
and calculators.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1) of regulation 28 of these regulations shall "mutatis mutandis" apply to the office of the counter, supervisor and calculator as it applies to the office of Assistant Commissioner.

(3) A list of the persons appointed as counters, supervisors and calculators shall be published by the Commission in the Gazette, together with the list of persons appointed as Assistant Commissioners and the procedure established for the nomination by political parties and for objections to Assistant Commissioners shall "mutatis mutandis" apply to supervisors and counters.

(4) All counters, supervisors and calculators shall be issued with identity documents specifying the details provided for party agents. The identity documents shall be worn at all times by the counters, supervisors and calculators whilst in the precincts of the building where the counting of votes is held.

(5) The calculators shall perform all mathematical calculations connected with the counting of votes and the Commission shall ensure that the persons so chosen are proficient in mathematical calculations.

(6) Supervisors shall be responsible for a number of counters and shall oversee the opening of ballot boxes, and the sorting and counting of ballot papers for every counting table. The Electoral Commission shall ensure that at all times during the counting of votes there are no less than two supervisors for each counting table and that the political parties are adequately represented in the choice of persons to act as supervisors for each counting table.

(7) Counters shall work under the direction of the supervisors; they shall physically sort and count the ballot papers. The Electoral Commission shall ensure that there are a sufficient number of counters on each counting table to ensure a quick and efficient counting process and that the political parties are adequately represented at all times during the counting of votes in the choice of persons to act as counters at each counting table.

Commissioners may appoint persons to assist them in the counting of votes.

56. (1) The Commission may authorise any one or more of its members or any other person or persons appointed by it to do anything on its behalf in connection with the receipt and storage of ballot boxes and the counting and transfer of votes and anything done by virtue of such authority shall be deemed to have been done by the Commission.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other part of these regulations, the Electoral Commission may for the purposes of the counting of votes appoint any number of Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioners to act on its behalf as the Commission deems fit to supervise the counting of votes within each locality and anything done by the Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioners shall be deemed to have been done by the Electoral Commission.

(3) The Commissioners or any one or more of them shall administer to every person authorised to act for the Commission under the provisions of this regulation, an oath for the faithful discharge of the duties assigned to him.

Candidates and Counting Agents.

57. (1) Unless these regulations otherwise provide, candidates and party delegates shall have free access to the building where the counting of votes will take place, and to the counting hall, at all times.

(2) Every political party shall moreover have the right to nominate a number of agents equal to the number of candidates presented by it to contest the election and such agents shall at all times have access to the said building and to the counting hall at all times. These agents shall henceforth in these regulations be referred to as "counting agents".

The list of such agents shall be presented to the Commission at least twenty-one days prior to the start of the poll; the Commission shall inform the political parties of all the agents so nominated so that the said political parties may have an opportunity to make representations to the Commission

before the same accepts or rejects them; the agents so nominated are to be of good character and acceptable to the Commission and once nominated and accepted by the Commission, may not, for any reason, be changed by the political party nominating them.

The list of such agents shall, at least, seven days prior to the start of the poll, be forwarded by the Commission to the political parties and posted at the entrance of the Electoral Office indicating the name, address and identity card number of each agent and the party nominating him.

(3) The party delegates, candidates and counting agents shall be issued with an identity document and such identity document is to be worn at all times on entry into and inside the building or complex wherein the votes are counted.

58. With respect to the building designated by the Commission for the counting of votes the Commission shall ensure that:

Building where counting of votes will take place.

(a) adequate facilities are provided for media coverage as well as for the political parties;

(b) an area adjacent and communicating with the counting hall shall be provided for the storage of the ballot boxes and that during the time the boxes are stored in such area they shall at all times be visible from all parts of the counting hall;

(c) in the counting hall itself counters shall be separated from the candidates and agents and except in the cases expressly provided for in these regulations, access to the area designated by the Commission for the counting of votes shall only be allowed to candidates and agents with the express consent of the Commission; provided that the party delegates and two substitutes thereof for each locality in which an election is held, previously nominated by such delegates, shall have free access to the counting area at all times;

(d) the disposition of the counting area shall be such that as far as possible all the counting process can be closely viewed by candidates, agents and party delegates;

(e) adequate back up facilities for services failure are provided especially with respect to lighting;

(f) reasonable security measures are taken at all times in and around the building, that entry is restricted to authorised persons only and that no lethal instruments or instruments which may be rendered lethal are introduced in the building;

(g) at least fifteen days before the start of voting the Commissioners shall show the party delegates how they propose to allocate and separate the different areas of the said building and shall consider suggestions made by the said delegates in this regard;

(h) notwithstanding anything else contained in these regulations, the party delegates and their substitutes, shall at all times have access to any part of the building for the purpose of ensuring that the provisions of these regulations are being enforced.

Broadcasting coverage.

59. The Commission shall ensure that as far as practicable full and constant press and broadcasting coverage is allowed of the counting and transfer of votes and for such purpose shall allow entry into the building to *bona fide* press and broadcasting personnel and apparatus.

Extraordinary circumstances.

60. In extraordinary circumstances the Commission may allow entry into the building and the counting hall to such other persons as they think fit but in no case shall entry be allowed to the public generally.

Representations to Commissioners.

61. Notwithstanding anything else contained in these regulations, candidates and the counting agents shall at all times have access to the Commissioners for the purpose of making representations on their own behalf or on behalf of the candidate or party represented by them.

Direction of building.

62. The Commission shall have the sole direction of the building designated for the counting and transfer of votes and shall have the right to give such orders as are necessary for the maintenance of order and security within the building.

PART IX

Ballot Paper Account Reconciliation

Counting of votes.

63. The Commission shall proceed to count all the votes cast in a locality in order to establish the total number of votes cast in that locality.

Removal of ballot boxes from strong room.

64. (1) Prior to the removal of each ballot box from the room designated by the Commission to hold all the ballot boxes in terms of regulation 16 of these regulations, the party delegates or their substitutes shall have the right to examine the seals affixed to each ballot box.

(2) Any objection raised by the party delegates or their substitutes as to the integrity of such seals shall be examined by the Commission whose decision thereon shall be final and not subject to appeal.

Opening of each ballot box.

65. One ballot box at a time shall be opened and prior to the opening of each ballot box the Commission shall cause the ballot paper account for that ballot box to be affixed in such a manner that it may be clearly seen by the candidates and agents and shall show the candidates and agents the seals on the ballot box in order that they may ascertain that such seals are intact.

Objections to opening of ballot box.

66. Any party delegate, candidate or agent may, prior to the opening of the ballot box, make representations claiming that the seals of the box have been tampered with. Where such an objection is made the box shall not be opened until the Commission, after consulting the party delegates or their substitutes, shall have given such directions and taken such measures as it may consider necessary.

67. Where no objections are made and where the Electoral Commission in terms of the previous regulation of these regulations so directs, the ballot box shall be opened and the number of ballot papers contained therein shall be counted, face downwards, to ascertain that the number of votes in that ballot box corresponds to the ballot paper account.

Checking of ballot paper account.

68. Where the ballot papers in the ballot box do not tally with the ballot paper account the attention of the Commission shall be drawn to the fact and the Commission, after consultation with the party delegates, or their substitutes shall give such directions as it may deem fit and such decision shall be final.

When ballot papers do not tally with ballot paper account.

69. Where the ballot papers in the ballot box and the ballot paper account tally, the votes shall be put together and placed in a pigeon hole indicating the number of the ballot box. The pigeon hole and ballot papers must at all times be clearly visible by parties, candidates and agents. The ballot papers in each pigeon hole shall be put in parcels of fifty ballot papers each with any remainder being put at the bottom of the pile and the supervisor shall ensure that each parcel is counted for accuracy by more than one counter.

When ballot papers and ballot paper account tally.

70. The process described in regulations 63 to 69 of these regulations shall be repeated until all ballot boxes have been opened to ascertain that the ballot papers in each box tally with the ballot paper account relative to it.

All ballot boxes to be opened.

71. After all ballot boxes have been opened and reconciled with the relative ballot paper account the Electoral Commission shall prior to proceeding to the sorting of votes declare the total number of votes cast and their distribution by ballot box.

Number of votes cast.

PART X

Counting and Sorting of Votes

72. (1) Ballot papers shall be sorted in accordance with this Part of these regulations.

Sorting of ballot papers.

(2) In this Part unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) The expression "continuing candidate" means any candidate not elected and not excluded from the poll.

(b) The expression "first preference" means the figure "1" standing alone opposite the name of a candidate; the expression "second preference" means the figure "2" standing alone opposite the name of a candidate; and the expression "third preference" means the figure "3" standing alone opposite the name of a candidate, and so on.

(c) The expression "next available preference" means a second or subsequent preference recorded in consecutive numerical order for a continuing candidate, the preferences next in order on the ballot paper for candidates already elected or excluded from the poll being ignored.

(d) The expression "transferable paper" means a ballot paper on which, following a first preference, a second or subsequent preference is recorded in consecutive numerical order for a continuing candidate.

(e) The expression "non-transferable paper" means a ballot paper on which no second or subsequent preference is recorded for a continuing candidate:

Provided that a paper shall be deemed to have become a non-transferable paper whenever:

(i) the names of two or more candidates (whether continuing or not) are marked with the same number, and are next in order of preference; or

(ii) the name of the candidate next in order of preference (whether continuing or not) is marked either by a number not following consecutively after some other number on the ballot paper or by two or more numbers; or

(iii) for any other reason it cannot be determined with certainty for which of the continuing candidates the next available preference of the voter is recorded.

(f) The expression "original vote" in regard to any candidate means a vote derived from a ballot paper on which a first preference is recorded for that candidate.

(g) The expression "transferred vote" in regard to any candidate means a vote derived from a ballot paper on which a second or subsequent preference is recorded for that candidate.

(h) The expression "surplus" means the number of votes by which the total number of the votes, original and transferred, credited to any candidate, exceeds the quota.

(i) The expression "count" means:

(i) all the operations involved in the counting of the first preferences recorded for candidates; or

(ii) all the operations involved in the transfer of the surplus of an elected candidate; or

(iii) all the operations involved in the transfer of the votes of an excluded candidate or of two or more candidates excluded together.

Sorting of ballot papers.

73. The Commission shall cause the ballot papers to be sorted out into parcels according to their first preference recorded for each candidate, rejecting any that are invalid.

74. The sorting of ballot papers indicated in the previous regulation shall be carried out in the following manner: Method of sorting.

(a) the supervisor of each counting table shall take the topmost bundle of ballot papers from each pigeon hole and, in full view of the candidates and agents, place the bundles on a rack to pass to the counters;

(b) when a parcel of ballot papers has been taken from each different pigeon hole and placed on the rack as provided in the previous paragraph of this regulation, the supervisor shall pass to each counter one parcel at a time in order that the ballot papers may be sorted;

(c) the counters shall open each parcel with the ballot papers and ascertain whether each paper is valid or invalid;

(d) if the counters decide that there is a possibility that, for any reason according to the Act or these regulations, a ballot paper may be invalid or if any candidate or agent for the same reason so claims, the counter shall place such ballot paper in a tray marked "dubious";

(e) if the ballot paper is considered as valid the counter shall place the ballot paper in a tray indicating the candidate to which the first preference has been given on that ballot paper.

75. (1) When a counter has so disposed of the parcel of ballot papers mentioned in the previous regulation he shall be given another parcel to sort in the same manner and so on and so forth until all the parcels on the rack have been counted. Continuation of sorting process.

(2) When all the parcels on the rack have been counted the supervisor shall take the next topmost parcel of ballot papers from each pigeon hole repeating the sorting process mentioned in regulation 74 and in paragraph (1) of this regulation and so on and so forth until all ballot papers have, in phases, been removed from the pigeon holes, put on the rack and sorted.

76. (1) Whenever the supervisor in charge of the sorting of votes determines that in the tray marked as "dubious" there are a sufficient number of ballot papers he shall call one of the Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioners to collect such papers. Dubious Votes.

(2) The dubious ballot papers may only be removed from the tray by a Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioner who shall personally take them to a table designated for that purpose.

(3) The Electoral Commission, or the Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioners, shall, after hearing the representations of the party delegates or their substitutes, decide in respect of each paper, whether it is valid or invalid and if they decide that it is invalid they shall so stamp the paper on its face.

(4) The decision of the Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioners shall be subject to an appeal to a member of the Electoral Commission designated to hear such appeals by the Commission and his decision shall be final.

(5) Once all the dubious ballot papers have been declared valid or invalid, they shall be returned by a Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioner who shall pass them on to a supervisor.

(6) The supervisor shall cause the invalid ballot papers to be put in a tray marked "invalid" and the valid ballot papers to be sorted in accordance with the preceding regulations.

Counting papers.

77. (1) The Commission shall then count the number of papers in the tray of each candidate, and credit each candidate with a number of votes equal to the number of valid papers on which a first preference has been recorded for such candidate, and they shall ascertain the total number of valid papers.

(2) When counting the number of papers placed in the tray of each candidate, the supervisor shall direct that such papers be bundled in packets of fifty papers each and that each packet is counted by at least two counters.

Ascertainment of quota.

78. The Commission shall then divide the total number of valid papers by a number exceeding by one the number of vacancies to be filled. The result increased by one, disregarding any fractional remainder, shall be the number of votes sufficient to secure the return of a candidate. This number is herein called the "quota".

Candidate with quota elected.

79. If at the end of any count the number of votes credited to a candidate is equal to or greater than the quota, that candidate shall thereupon be elected.

Transfer of surplus.

80. (1) If at the end of any count the number of votes credited to a candidate is greater than the quota, the surplus shall be transferred, as in this regulation provided, to the continuing candidates for whom the next available preferences have been recorded on the ballot papers in the parcel or sub-parcel received by the elected candidate at that count.

Priority of surplus.

(2) A surplus which arises from any count shall be transferred before a surplus which may arise from a subsequent count.

(3) If more than one candidate has a surplus arising from the same count, the largest surplus shall first be dealt with.

Equality of surplus.

(4) If two or more candidates have each an equal surplus arising from the same count, the surplus of the candidate with the greatest number of votes at the first count at which the candidates in question had an unequal number of votes shall first be dealt with. Where the number of votes credited to such candidates were equal at all counts the Commission shall determine by lot which surplus they will first deal with.

(5)(a) If the votes credited to an elected candidate consist of original votes only, the Commission shall examine all the papers in the parcel of the elected candidate whose surplus is to be transferred.

Original votes only.

(b) If the votes credited to an elected candidate consist of original and transferred votes, or of transferred votes only, the Commission shall examine the papers contained in the last sub-parcel last received by the elected candidate whose surplus is to be transferred.

Original and transferred votes.

(c) In either case the Commission shall sort the transferable papers into sub-parcels according to the next available preference recorded thereon, shall make a separate sub-parcel of the non-transferable papers and shall ascertain the number of papers in each sub-parcel of transferable papers and in the sub-parcel of non-transferable papers.

Papers sorted to next available preference.

(6) If the total number of papers in the sub-parcels of transferable papers is not greater than the surplus, the Commission shall transfer the whole of each sub-parcel of transferable papers to the continuing candidate indicated thereon as the voters' next available preference, and shall set aside as a separate parcel so many of the non-transferable papers as are not required for the quota of the elected candidate. The particular papers set aside shall be those last filed in the sub-parcel of non-transferable papers.

Transferable papers equal or less than surplus.

(7)(a) If the total number of transferable papers is greater than the surplus, the Commission shall transfer from each sub-parcel of transferable papers to the continuing candidate indicated thereon as the voters' next available preference the number of papers which bears the same proportion to the number of papers in the sub-parcel as the surplus bears to the total number of transferable papers.

Transferable papers exceed surplus; proportionate transfer.

(b) The number of papers to be transferred from each sub-parcel shall be ascertained by multiplying the number of papers in the sub-parcel by the surplus and dividing the result by the total number of transferable papers. A note shall be made of the fractional parts, if any, of each number so ascertained.

Ascertainment of number of papers to be transferred.

(c) If, owing to the existence of such fractional parts, the number of papers to be transferred is less than the surplus, so many of these fractional parts taken in the order of their magnitude, beginning with the largest as are necessary to make the total number of papers to be transferred equal to the surplus, shall be reckoned as of the value of unity, and the remaining fractional parts shall be ignored.

Treatment of fractional parts.

(d) If two or more fractional parts are of equal magnitude, that fractional part shall be deemed to be the largest which arises from the largest sub-parcels and if the sub-parcels in question are equal in size, the fractional part credited to the candidate with the greatest number of votes at the first count at which the candidates in question had an unequal number of votes shall be deemed to be the largest. Where the numbers of votes credited to such candidates were equal at all counts the Commission shall determine by lot which fractional part shall be deemed to be the largest.

Equality of fractional parts.

Papers transferred from sub-parcels.

(e) The particular papers transferred from each sub-parcel shall be those last filed in the sub-parcel, and each paper so transferred shall be marked with the number of the count at which the transfer took place.

Exclusion of candidates. One candidate excluded.

81. (1) If at the end of any count no candidate has a surplus and one or more vacancies remain unfilled, the Commission shall exclude from the poll the candidate credited with the lowest number of votes; shall examine all the papers of that candidate; shall sort the transferable papers into sub-parcels according to the next available preferences recorded thereon for continuing candidates; shall transfer each sub-parcel to the candidate for whom that preference is recorded; and shall make a separate sub-parcel of the non-transferable papers.

Two or more excluded.

(2) If the total of the votes of the two or more candidates lowest on the poll is less than the number of the votes credited to the next highest candidate the Commission may at the same count exclude those candidates from the poll and transfer their votes as in this regulation provided.

Selection of candidate for exclusion.

(3) If, when a candidate has to be excluded, two or more candidates have each the same number of votes and are lowest on the poll, the candidate with the lowest number of votes at the first count at which the candidates in question had an unequal number of votes shall be excluded, and, where the numbers of votes credited to those candidates were equal at all counts, the Commission shall decide by lot which shall be excluded.

Last vacancies.

82. Notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations:

(1) If at the end of any count the number of elected candidates is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, no further transfer of votes shall be made.

(2) If on the exclusion of a candidate or candidates the number of the then continuing candidates is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the continuing candidates shall thereupon be elected and no further transfer of votes shall be made.

Procedure in transferring votes. Papers transferred.

83. (1) Whenever any transfer is made each sub-parcel of papers transferred shall be placed on the top of the parcel, if any, of papers of the candidate to whom the transfer is made, and that candidate shall be credited with a number of votes equal to the number of papers transferred to him.

Non-transferable papers set aside.

(2) Non-transferable papers, except such as in the transfer of a surplus may be required for the quota of the elected candidate, shall be set aside as a separate parcel together with any parcel of non-transferable papers already set aside.

Papers retained for quota.

(3) On the transfer of the surplus of an elected candidate, all papers not transferred to continuing candidates and not set aside as provided in the preceding paragraph of this regulation shall be placed together in one parcel as the quota of the elected candidate and the parcel shall be marked with the name of the elected candidate.

84. Any candidate or agent may, at the end of any count, request the Commission to re-examine and re-count all or any of the papers dealt with during that count, and the Commission shall forthwith re-examine and re-count accordingly the papers indicated without making any alterations in the arrangements of the papers in the various parcels save where such alteration may be necessary in consequence of any error discovered in the re-count; the Commission may also at their discretion re-count papers either once or more often in any case in which they are not satisfied as to the accuracy of any previous count; provided that nothing herein shall make it obligatory on the Commission to re-count the same papers more than once.

Partial re-counts.

85. (1) Upon an election petition the Court may direct the total or partial re-count of the ballot papers and the result of the election to be ascertained in accordance with these regulations.

Election petitions.

(2) On any re-count, subject to such modifications as may be necessary by reason of any order of the Court, each paper originally declared valid shall, whenever any transfer of votes takes place, follow the same course as at the original counting of the votes.

86. (1) If any question shall arise in relation to any transfer of votes, the decision of the Commission whether expressed or implied by their acts, shall be final unless an objection is made in writing by any candidate or agent before the declaration of the poll, and in that event the decision of the Commission may be reversed upon an election petition.

Decision of returning officers on transfer.

(2) If any decision of the Commission is so reversed, the transfer in question and all operations subsequent thereto shall be void and the Court shall direct what transfer is to be made in place of the transfer in question, and shall cause the subsequent operations to be carried out and the result of the election to be ascertained in accordance with these regulations.

87. The declaration of the result of the poll shall include a record of any transfer of votes made under these regulations, and of the total number of votes credited to each candidate after any such transfer, and shall be in the form shown in the Twelfth Schedule to these regulations, or in a form to the like effect.

Result of poll. Form of declaration.

PART XI

Casual Vacancies

88. In the event of a vacancy in a Local Council the Commission shall, within three days from the date of the notification by the Secretary of the Council, give notice, to be published in the Gazette, of an election to fill the seat vacated.

Notice of vacancy.

89. Within five days after the publication of such notice any person who:

Nominations.

(a) at the election held immediately prior to the occurrence of the said vacancy was a candidate nominated for election as a Council-

lor for that locality in respect of which the vacancy has arisen, and did not withdraw from the election and was not elected, and

(b) is still qualified to be so elected,

may with his consent, be nominated as a candidate for the said vacancy.

Notice of valid nominations.

90. Within three days after the last day fixed for the receipt of nominations, the Commission shall decide on the validity of the nominations, and shall publish in the authorised form, the names and description of the persons validly nominated, and the locality the seat whereof is to be filled.

If two or more nominations, ballot papers of vacating councillor are examined.

91. If there are any valid nominations, the Commission shall, within four days, proceed to examine the ballot papers in the sealed parcel of the vacating councillor and the following provisions shall apply:-

(1) All candidates for the locality at the election shall be deemed to be candidates excluded from the poll except those who have been validly nominated for the vacant seat.

(2) The papers preserved under seal in accordance with these regulations in the parcel of the vacating Councillor shall be examined and transferred to the validly nominated candidates first available in order of preference shown upon such papers, and each validly nominated candidate shall be credited with one vote in respect of each paper transferred.

(3) In any case where there is only one validly nominated candidate, if such candidate is credited with votes in number equal to or exceeding half the number of papers in the parcel of the vacating Councillor, he shall be declared elected.

(4) In any case where there are two or more validly nominated candidates, the Commission shall exclude from the poll the candidate credited with the lowest number of votes and shall transfer his votes according to the next available preferences shown upon the ballot papers for the continuing candidate or candidates. The process of excluding the candidate lowest in the poll and of transferring his votes according to the next available preferences shall be continued until there is only one candidate remaining. If such candidate shall have then been credited with votes in number equal to or exceeding half the number of papers in the parcel of the vacating Councillor, that candidate shall be declared elected:

Provided that if at any time any candidates shall have been credited with votes exceeding the combined total of votes of all other candidates, and at the same time equal to or exceeding half the number of papers in the parcel of the vacating Councillor, he shall be declared elected without further transfer.

Vacancy filled by co-option in special cases.

92. (1) If a vacancy occurs in a seat which has been filled in accordance with this Part of these regulations, or in the eventuality mentioned in paragraph (1) of regulation 24 of these regulations, or if on a vacancy occurring no candidate is validly nominated, or if after examination of the ballot papers of the vacating Councillor no candidate secures election, the

vacancy shall be filled by co-option in accordance with subsection (4) of section 8 of the Act.

(2) In filling a vacancy by co-option, regard shall be had to the representation as nearly as may be of the interests and opinions represented and held by the vacating Councillor.

PART XII *Illegal Practices*

93. A contract whereby any expenses are incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of an election shall not be enforceable against a candidate at such election, unless made by the candidate himself.

Making of contracts in respect of election expenses.

94. (1) Except as permitted by or in pursuance of these regulations, no payment and no advance or deposit shall be made whether before, during or after such election, in respect of any expenses incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of such election, otherwise than by the candidate; and all money provided by any person other than the candidate for any expenses incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of the election, whether as gift, loan, advance or deposit, shall be paid to the candidate and not otherwise:

Payment of expenses.

Provided that this regulation shall not be deemed to apply to any sum disbursed by any person out of his own money for any expense legally incurred by himself and not exceeding two hundred and fifty Maltese liri, if such sum is not repaid to him;

Provided further that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher sums which in no case shall exceed five hundred Maltese liri.

(2) A statement of the particulars of any payments so made by any other person in terms of the previous paragraph of this regulation shall be sent to the candidate within the time limited by these regulations for the sending in of claims and shall be accompanied by a receipt.

(3) A person who makes any payment, advance, or deposit in contravention of this regulation or pays in contravention of this regulation any money so provided as aforesaid and any candidate who, having been aware of such payment, advance or deposit, knowingly benefits from the same, shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

95. (1) Every payment made by a candidate in respect of any expenses incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of an election shall, except where less than twenty-five Maltese liri, be vouched for by a bill stating the particulars and by a receipt:

Periods for sending in claims and making payments for election expenses.

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher sums which in no case shall exceed one hundred Maltese liri.

(2) Every claim against a candidate at an election in respect of any expenses incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of such election, which is not sent in to the candidate within the time limited by these regulations, shall be barred and shall not be paid; and subject to such exception as may be allowed in pursuance of these regulations, a candidate who pays a claim in contravention of this regulation shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

(3) Except as by these regulations permitted, the time limited by these regulations for sending in claims shall be thirty days after the day on which the candidate returned is declared elected.

(4) All expenses incurred by or on behalf of a candidate at an election, which are incurred on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of such election, shall be paid within the time limited by these regulations and not otherwise; and, subject to such exception as may be allowed in pursuance of these regulations, a candidate who makes a payment in contravention of this provision shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

(5) Except as by these regulations permitted, the time limited by these regulations for the payment of such expenses as aforesaid shall be forty days after the day on which the candidate returned is declared elected.

(6) If the candidate in the case of any claim sent in to him within the time limited by these regulations disputes it, or refuses or fails to pay it within the said period of forty days, such claim shall be deemed to be a disputed claim.

(7) The claimant may, if he thinks fit, bring an action for a disputed claim in the competent Civil Court; and any sum paid by the candidate in pursuance of the judgment or order of such Court shall be deemed to be paid within the time limited by these regulations.

(8) On cause shown to the satisfaction of the competent Civil Court, the Court on application by the claimant or by the candidate may, by order, give leave for the payment by a candidate of a disputed claim, or of a claim for any such expenses as aforesaid, although sent in after the time in this regulation mentioned for sending in claims, or although the same was sent in to the candidate.

(9) Any sum specified in any such order may be paid by the candidate, and when paid in pursuance of such leave shall be deemed to be paid within the time limited by these regulations.

Petty Expenses.

96. (1) Any person may, if so authorized in writing by the candidate pay any necessary expense for stationery, postage, telegrams, and other petty expenses to a total amount not exceeding that named in the authority, but any excess above the total amount so named shall be paid by the candidate.

(2) A statement of the particulars of payments made by any person so authorized shall be sent to the candidate within the time limited by these regulations for the sending in of claims, and shall be vouched for by a

bill containing the receipt of that person.

97. (1) Subject to such exception as may be allowed in pursuance of these regulations, no sum shall be paid and no expense shall be incurred by a candidate at an election, whether before, during, or after an election on account of or in respect of the conduct or management of such election, in excess of five hundred Maltese liri or ten Malta cents for every registered voter in the locality contested by the candidate whichever is the higher:

Expenses in excess of maximum to be illegal practice.

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher sums which in no case shall exceed one thousand Maltese liri or twenty Malta cents for every registered voter in the locality contested by the candidate whichever is the higher.

(2) In the case of candidates standing for election in the same locality as members of the same political party, the expenses of such candidates may be added together and there shall not be deemed to have been a contravention of this regulation unless the aggregate expenses of such candidates, when added together, exceed either the sum of five hundred Maltese liri multiplied by the number of such candidates or the sum of twenty thousand Maltese liri, whichever is the smaller:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher sums which in no case shall exceed either the sum of one thousand Maltese liri multiplied by the number of such candidates or the sum of forty thousand Maltese liri, whichever is the smaller:

Provided further that if the aggregate of such expenses exceeds either of the sums aforesaid, the expenses of each such candidate shall be separated from the expenses of the others and the provisions of paragraph (1) of this regulation shall apply.

(3) Any candidate who knowingly acts in contravention of this regulation shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

98. (1) No payment or contract for payment shall, for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate at any election, be made on account of the conveyance of voters to or from the poll, except for the hiring of vehicles.

Certain expenditure to be illegal practice.

(2) Subject to such exception as may be allowed in pursuance of these regulations, if any payment or contract for payment is knowingly made in contravention of this regulation either before, during, or after an election, the person making such payment or contract shall be guilty of an illegal practice, and any person receiving such payment or being a party to any such contract, knowing the same to be in contravention of this regulation, shall also be guilty of an illegal practice.

99. (1) No person shall, for the purpose of promoting or procuring the election of a candidate at any election, be engaged or employed for payment or promise of payment for any purpose or in any capacity whatever, except for a reasonable number of assistants and professional persons, having

Certain employment to be illegal.

regard to the area of the locality and the number of voters on the Local Councils' Electoral Register for such locality.

(2) Subject to such exception as may be allowed in pursuance of these regulations, if any person is engaged or employed in contravention of this regulation, either before, during or after an election, the person engaging or employing him shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

Saving for creditors.

100. The provisions of these regulations prohibiting certain payments and contracts for payments, and the payment of any sum, and the incurring of any expense in excess of a certain maximum, shall not affect the right of any creditor, who, when the contract was made or the expense was incurred, was ignorant of the same being in contravention of these regulations.

Return and declaration respecting election expenses.

101. (1) Within sixty days after the date of the publication of the result of an election in the Gazette, every candidate at that election shall transmit to the Commissioners a return of his election expenses, containing the particulars specified in the Thirteenth Schedule to these regulations, signed by the candidate. In the case of the candidate's absence from Malta the duties imposed on him may be performed by a duly appointed representative.

(2) Every such return shall contain a statement of all payments made by the candidate, or by any persons on behalf of the candidate, or in his interest, for expenses incurred on account of, or in respect of, the conduct and management of the election, and a further statement of all unpaid claims in respect of such expenses, of which he is aware.

(3) The return shall be accompanied by declarations to be made on oath by the candidate before a Magistrate, Commissioner for Justice or a Commissioner in the form contained in the Thirteenth Schedule to these regulations.

(4) If any candidate acts in contravention of the requirements of this regulation, he shall, subject to the provisions of regulation 107, be guilty of an illegal practice.

Publication of notice in respect of return of election expenses.

102. When any return of election expenses and the declarations made in respect thereof have been lodged with the Commissioners, the Commissioners shall, as soon as may be, cause a notice of the date on which the return and the declarations have been lodged, and of the time and place at which they can be inspected to be affixed in some conspicuous place in the Electoral Office and to be published in the Gazette, and any person shall be entitled, on payment of a fee of one Maltese lira, to inspect any such return or declarations and, on payment of a fee of one Maltese lira for every folio of 120 words, to obtain a copy or copies of any part thereof.

Punishment on conviction for illegal practice.

103. (1) Any person committing an illegal practice shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding five hundred Maltese liri and shall in consequence of such conviction become incapable, during a period of four years from the date of conviction, of being registered as a voter or voting at any election or of being elected a Councillor, and if before that date

he has been elected a Councillor, his election shall be vacated from the date of such conviction:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (multa) not exceeding three thousand Maltese liri.

(2) No prosecution for an illegal practice shall be instituted without the sanction of the Attorney General.

PART XIII *Corrupt Practices*

104. Any person who at an election held under the Act applies for a ballot paper in the name of some other person, whether that name be that of a person living or dead, or of a fictitious person or, who having voted once at any such election, applies at the same election for a ballot paper in his own name, shall be guilty of the offence of personation.

Personation.

105. (1) Any person who corruptly by himself or by any other person, either before, during or after an election, directly or indirectly, gives or provides, or pays wholly or in part the expense of giving or providing any food, drink, entertainment, or provision to or for any person, for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person to give or refrain from giving his vote at the election, or on account of such person or any other person having voted or refrained from voting or being about to vote or refrain from voting at such election, shall be guilty of the offence of treating.

Treating.

(2) Every voter who corruptly accepts or takes any such food, drink, entertainment, or provision shall also be guilty of the offence of treating.

106. Every person who directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes use of or threatens to make use of any force, violence, or restraint, or inflicts, or threatens to inflict, by himself or by any other person, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage, harm, or loss upon or against any person in order to induce or compel such person to vote or refrain from voting, or on account of such person having voted or refrained from voting at any election, or who by abduction, duress, or any fraudulent device or contrivance, impedes or prevents the free exercise of the franchise of any voter or thereby compels, induces, or prevails upon any voter either to give or refrain from giving his vote at any election, shall be guilty of the offence of undue influence.

Undue influence.

107. The following persons shall be deemed guilty of the offence of bribery:

Bribery.

(a) every person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives, lends or agrees to give or lend, or offers, promises or promises to procure, or to endeavour to procure, any money or valuable consideration to or for any voter, or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person, in

order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election under the Act;

(b) every person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, gives or procures, or agrees to give or procure, or offers, promises or promises to procure or to endeavour to procure any office, place or employment to or for any voter or to or for any person on behalf of any voter or to or for any other person in order to induce any voter to vote or refrain from voting, or corruptly does any such act as aforesaid on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election under the Act;

(c) every person who, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, makes any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement, or agreement as aforesaid, to or for any person in order to induce such person to procure or endeavour to procure the return of any person as a Councillor, or the vote of any voter at any election under the Act;

(d) every person who, upon or in consequence of any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement, or agreement, procures or engages, promises or endeavours to procure, the return of any person as a Councillor or the vote of any voter at any election under the Act;

(e) every person who advances or pays or causes to be paid any money to or for the use of any other person, with the intent that such money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election under the Act; or who shall knowingly pay or cause to be paid any money to any person in discharge or repayment of any money wholly or in part expended in bribery at any such election;

(f) every person being a voter who, before or during any election under the Act, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives, agrees, or contracts for any money, gift, loan, or valuable consideration, office, place or employment, for himself or for any other person, for voting or agreeing to vote or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at any such election;

(g) every person who, after any election under the Act, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, receives any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or refrained from voting or having induced any other person to vote or to refrain from voting at any such election.

Punishment and
incapacities for corrupt
practice.

108. (1) Any person who commits the offence of personation, treating, undue influence, or bribery or aids, abets, counsels, or procures the commission of the offence of personation, and any candidate who knowingly makes the declaration, as to election expenses required by regulation 101, falsely, shall be guilty of a corrupt practice and shall be liable, on conviction, in the discretion of the Court, to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding one thousand Maltese liri, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to

both such fine (*multa*) and imprisonment, and shall in consequence of such conviction become incapable, for a period of seven years from the date of his conviction of being registered as a voter or voting at an election under the Act, or of being elected a Councillor, and if at that date he has been elected Councillor, his election shall be vacated from the date of such conviction:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*multa*) of ten thousand Maltese liri.

(2) No prosecution for a corrupt practice shall be instituted without the sanction of the Attorney General.

(3) For the purposes of this Part of these regulations, references to "voting" or to "refraining from voting", or to "giving" or "refraining from giving a vote", shall include references to "voting" or "refraining from voting" in a particular way.

PART XIV

Excuse for Corrupt and Illegal Practices

109. The election of a candidate, who has been guilty of the offence of treating and undue influence, and illegal practice, or of any such offences, in reference to such election shall not, by reason of such offences, be declared void, nor shall the candidate be subject to any incapacity under these regulations, if the Court is satisfied after giving the Attorney General an opportunity of being heard that the candidate has proved:-

Reasons exonerating candidates in certain cases of corrupt and illegal practices.

(a) that no corrupt or illegal practice was committed at such election by the candidate and the offences aforesaid were committed contrary to the orders and without the sanction or connivance of such candidate; and

(b) that such candidate took all reasonable means for preventing the commission of corrupt and illegal practices at such election; and

(c) that the offences aforesaid were of a trivial, unimportant and limited character; and

(d) that in all other respects the election was free from any corrupt or illegal practice on the part of such candidate.

110. Where, in any proceedings, it is shown to the Court by such evidence as seems to the Court sufficient:-

Power of Courts to except innocent act from being illegal practice, etc.

(a) that any act or omission of a candidate at any election, or of any other agent or person, would, by reason of being the payment of a sum or the incurring of expense in excess of any maximum amount allowed by these regulations, or of being a payment, engagement, employment, or contract in contravention of these regulations, or of otherwise being in contravention of any of the provisions of these

regulations, be but for this regulation an illegal practice; and

(b) that any such act or omission arose from inadvertence or from accidental miscalculation or from some other reasonable cause of a like nature, and in any case, did not arise from any want of good faith,

and under the circumstances it seems to the Court, after giving the Attorney General an opportunity of being heard, to be just that the candidate at the said election and other agent and person or any of them, should not be subject to any of the consequences under these regulations, the Court may allow such act or omission to be an exception from the provisions of these regulations which would otherwise make the same an illegal practice, and thereupon such candidate, agent, or person shall not be subject to any of the consequences under these regulations of the said act or omission.

Authorized excuse for non-compliance with provisions as to return and declaration respecting election expense.

111. (1) Where the return and declarations respecting election expenses of a candidate at an election have not been transmitted as required by these regulations, or being transmitted contain some error or false statement, then if the candidate in any criminal or civil proceedings under these regulations proves to the satisfaction of the Court that the failure to transmit such return and declarations, or any of them or any part thereof, or any error or false statement therein, has arisen by reason of his illness, or by reason of inadvertence, or of any reasonable cause of a like nature, and not by reason of any want of good faith on the part of the candidate; the Court may, after giving the Attorney General an opportunity of being heard, make such order for allowing an authorized excuse for the failure to transmit such return and declarations, or for an error or false statement in such return and declarations, as to the Court seems just.

(2) Where in any proceedings it appears to the Court that any person has refused or failed to make such return or to supply such particulars as will enable the candidate to comply with the provisions of these regulations as to the return and declaration respecting election expenses, the Court, before making an order allowing the excuse as in this regulation mentioned, shall order such person to appear, and shall, unless he attends, and shows cause to the contrary, order him to make the return and declaration, or to deliver a statement of the particulars required to be contained in the return, as to the Court seems just, and to make or deliver the same within such time and to such person and in such manner as the Court may direct, or may order him to be examined with respect to such particulars, and in default of compliance with any such order, such person shall be guilty of an illegal practice.

(3) The Court may allow the excuse conditionally upon the making of a return and declaration in a modified form or within an extended time, and upon the compliance with such other terms as to the Court, seem best calculated for carrying into effect the objects of these regulations; and an order allowing an authorized excuse shall relieve the candidate from any liability or consequences under these regulations in respect of the matter excused by the order.

(4) The date of the order, or if conditions and terms are to be

complied with, the date at which the applicant fully complies with them, is referred to in these regulations as the date of the allowance of the excuse.

PART XV

Grounds for Avoiding Elections

112. The election of a candidate as a Councillor is avoided by his conviction for any corrupt or illegal practice.

Avoidance by
conviction of
candidates.

113. The election of a candidate as a Councillor shall be declared void on any of the following grounds which may be proved to the satisfaction of the Court namely:

Avoidance of election
on other grounds.

(a) if by reason of general bribery, general treating, or general intimidation, or other misconduct, or other circumstances, the majority of electors were or may have been prevented from electing candidates whom they preferred;

(b) non-compliance with the provisions of these regulations relating to election if it appears to the Court that the election was not conducted in accordance with the principles laid down in such provisions and that such non-compliance affected the result of the election;

(c) that a corrupt practice or an illegal practice was committed in connection with the election by the candidate;

(d) that the candidate personally engaged a person as a canvasser or agent knowing that such person had within seven years previous to such engagement been found guilty of a corrupt practice;

(e) that the candidate was at the time of his election a person disqualified for election as a Councillor.

PART XVI

Publication of Results in each Locality

114. (1) The Commission shall, not later than on the working day following that on which the result of the counting of the votes has been ascertained, publish a declaration containing the names of the candidates elected in each locality and such other particulars as the Commission may consider necessary.

Publication of result of
election and of
counting details.

(2) The Commission shall deposit the declaration aforesaid with the Minister and shall cause a copy of such declaration to be published without delay in the Gazette.

(3) Every candidate whose name is published in the Gazette in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1) of regulation 24 or who is declared elected in accordance with the provisions of this regulation shall be considered to be a Councillor of that particular locality.

(4) The Commission shall publish in the Gazette not later than seven days after the end of counting a declaration of the result of the election which declaration shall include a record of the total votes cast, the total valid and invalid votes, the total votes credited to each political party, the quota, the first preference credited to each candidate, any transfer of votes made, and of the total number of votes credited to each candidate after any such transfer, and any such other information as the Electoral Commission may consider necessary. Such declaration shall be in such form as the Electoral Commission may determine as likely to impart easily all the information likely to be required by the public.

Preservations of documents.

115. (1) The Commission shall preserve until the publication of the official result of the next following election all used ballot papers in separate packets, as follows:-

- (a) the spoilt ballot papers;
- (b) the invalid ballot papers;
- (c) the papers at the completion of the counting in the parcel of each elected candidate and of each non-elected candidate whose papers have not been transferred;
- (d) all the non-transferable papers not retained in the parcel of an elected candidate.

(2) The Commissioners shall endorse on each packet a description of its contents, the date of the election and the locality to which they relate.

(3) The Commission shall further preserve for the same period a copy of the declaration of the result of the count and of any document showing the operations of the transfer of each surplus.

(4) Party delegates, candidates, and counting agents shall have the right to affix their seals and signatures to such packets.

Power of Court to order unsealing of packets.

116. It shall be lawful for the Constitutional Court before which any question is brought as to the right of any person to be or to remain an elected Councillor and for any Court before which any proceedings are commenced in accordance with the provisions of the Act or these regulations to order the opening of the packets referred to in paragraph (1) of regulation 46 and in regulation 115 and the production of one or more of the documents therein contained under such conditions and precautions as may be necessary to maintain the secrecy of the voting consistently with the due administration of justice.

PART XVII

Penal Provisions

Penalty for giving false information.

117. Any person who knowingly makes or subscribes to a false

declaration or otherwise gives false information in connection with the registration, transfer or cancellation of any voter shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations and shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding fifty Maltese liri or to both such imprisonment and fine:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*multa*) not exceeding five hundred Maltese liri.

118. Every person who misconducts himself in any polling place or contravenes any of the provisions of regulation 35 or 36 of these regulations or takes part in any public meeting or public demonstration held in contravention of any of the provisions of these regulations, or fails to obey the lawful order of the Assistant Commissioners or other lawful authority in relation to an election, shall on conviction be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding fifty Maltese liri:

Penalty for misconduct in polling places, etc.

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*multa*) not exceeding one hundred Maltese liri.

119. (1) Every person who:

Penalty for offences in respect of nomination, etc.

(a) forges or fraudulently defaces or fraudulently destroys any nomination paper or delivers to the Commissioner any nomination paper knowing the same to be forged; or

(b) forges or counterfeits or fraudulently defaces or fraudulently destroys any voting document or ballot paper or the official mark on any ballot paper; or

(c) without due authority supplies any voting document or ballot paper to any person; or

(d) forges or counterfeits or is in unlawful possession of any stamp or seal used by the Chief Electoral Commissioner or the Election Commissioners or the Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioners or the Assistant Commissioners;

(e) is in unlawful possession of any voting document or ballot paper; or

(f) fraudulently puts into any ballot box anything other than the ballot paper which he is authorized by law to put in; or

(g) fraudulently takes out of the polling place any ballot paper; or

(h) without due authority, destroys, takes, opens or otherwise interferes with any ballot box or packet of ballot papers then in use for the purpose of the election,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding five hundred Maltese liri or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*multa*) not exceeding three thousand Maltese liri.

(2) Every person who aids or abets the commission of an offence under this regulation or attempts to commit any such offence shall be liable, on conviction, to the punishment provided for the offence.

Infringement of
secrecy as to manner
of voting.

120. Every Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioner and every Assistant Commissioner who shall reveal the manner of voting of any voter when such manner of voting shall have come to his knowledge in the course of the exercise of his functions under these regulations shall be guilty of an offence, and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding one hundred Maltese liri or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one month or to both such fine and imprisonment:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*multa*) not exceeding five hundred Maltese liri.

Prohibition of
activities capable of
influencing voters
immediately before the
election.

121. (1) During the day on which an election for Councillors is held and during the day immediately preceding such an election, no person shall hold a public demonstration or shall address any public meeting or any other gathering whatsoever in any place or building accessible to the public, or on the broadcasting media, on any matter intended or likely to influence voters in the exercise of the franchise, or publish or cause to be published any newspaper, printed matter or other means of communication to the public containing any matter aforesaid, or issue or cause to be issued any statement or declaration on any matter aforesaid or knowingly distribute any newspaper, printed matter, or other means of communication, or any statement or declaration as aforesaid, and any person acting in contravention of any of the provisions of this regulation shall be liable on conviction to a fine (*multa*) not exceeding five hundred Maltese liri or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment:

Provided that the Minister may, from time to time, by notice in the Gazette specify higher penalties which in no case shall exceed a fine (*multa*) not exceeding three thousand Maltese liri.

(2) Every person who aids or abets the commission of an offence under this regulation or attempts to commit any such offence, shall be liable on conviction to the punishment provided for the offence.

Competent Courts.

122. (1) All questions regarding the right of any person to be or remain a Councillor shall be referred to and decided by the Constitutional Court.

(2) Any criminal proceedings for offences under these regulations shall be brought before the Courts of Magistrates and subject to the

following provisions of this regulation, the provisions of the Criminal Code shall apply to any such proceedings. Cap 9.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Probation of Offenders Act, a person who commits any offence under these regulations shall be convicted and sentenced in respect of that offence and may not be placed on probation or discharged under that Act. Cap 152.

(4) Every decision of the Courts of Magistrates in respect of an offence under these regulations, may, in all cases, be appealed against by the Attorney General and by the party convicted.

PART XVIII

Saving as to Right of Political Parties

123. The non-exercise by any political party, delegate, candidate, agent or any person nominated for appointment by a political party, of any right, power or privilege granted by these regulations shall not of itself invalidate any action or procedure in respect of which the right, power or privilege has been granted by these regulations. Non-exercise of certain rights.

124. The political parties shall have the right to ask that information, documents and lists which the commission should forward to them, be forwarded in such electro-magnetic format as the commission can reasonably supply through the use of its equipment. Right to information in electro-magnetic format.

FIRST SCHEDULE

(Regulation 4)

Form of Oath of Office to be taken by the Election Commissioners

I, ..., *Chief Electoral Commissioner/Electoral Commissioner do swear/affirm that I will faithfully perform the duties of Commissioner to conduct the election of Local Councils according to law.
(So help me God.)

* *delete where necessary*

SECOND SCHEDULE

(Regulation 8a)

Form of Application for a Person who is not a Citizen of Malta
for Registration as a Voter for Local Councils

To the Electoral Commission, Valletta, Malta

Surname I.D. Card No.

Name

Place of birth

Date of birth

Nationality Passport Number

Place of ordinary residence

Name of town or village

Street and number of premises

.....

.....

Name and surname of applicant's father

His place of birth His nationality*

* (if applicant's father is dead, give his nationality at the time of his death)

Name and maiden surname of applicant's mother

Her place of birth Her nationality**

** (if applicant's mother is dead, give her nationality at the time of her death)

I hereby apply to be registered as a voter for

(1) in accordance with the Local Councils Act, 1993, to be registered as a
voter for the election of Councillors.

Date

Signature or mark of applicant

(1) Insert name of locality.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Remarks

...../...../.....

Vtd.

Chd.

THIRD SCHEDULE

(Regulation 8b)

*Form of Corrections or Transfers (Local Councils)
for a Person who is not a Citizen of Malta*

To the Electoral Commission

I (1) I.D. Card No.
formerly residing at (2), do hereby give
notice that I have transferred my residence to (3)
.....

Date
Signature or mark of applicant (4)

.....
Signature and I.D. of witness

Address of witness

- (1) Name and surname (also nickname, if any).
- (2) Former address as shown on the Local Councils' Electoral Register.
- (3) Present address.
- (4) Should applicant be unable to write, the person filling in the form is to affix his or her signature and furnish his or her full address and I.D. Card No. below applicant's mark.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 8c)

*Form of Application for a Person who is not a Citizen of Malta
for the Correction of Designation or Address (Local Councils)*

To the Electoral Commissioner

My name (and/or my address*) appearing in the Local Councils' Electoral Register under (1) has been wrongly designated and I hereby apply that my name (and/or my address*) be corrected as follows (2).....

Date
Signature or mark of applicant (3)

.....
Signature and I.D. of witness

Address of witness

(*) Cancel the words which do not apply.

- (1) Locality, full address and I.D. Card No. as shown on the Local Councils' Electoral Register.
- (2) State correction desired to be made.
- (3) Should applicant be unable to write, the person filling in the form is to affix his or her signature and furnish his or her full address and I.D. Card No. below applicant's mark.

FIFTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 8d)

*Form of Application by Female Electors who are not
Citizens of Malta for the Correction of Surname
and Address in Consequence of Marriage (Local Councils)*

To the Electoral Commission

As (1) on the I married (2) I.D. Card No.
I (3) I. D. Card No. for-
merly residing at (4) and registered
as an elector under that address, do hereby apply that my surname (and/or
address*) be now shown as follows (5)

Date
Signature or mark of applicant (6)

.....
Signature and I.D. of witness

Address of witness

* Cancel the words which do not apply.

- (1) Date of marriage.
- (2) Name, surname in full and I.D. Card No. of applicant's husband.
- (3) Maiden surname (also nickname, if any) and I.D. Card No. of applicant.
- (4) Address as shown on the Local Councils' Electoral Register.
- (5) Present address.
- (6) Should applicant be unable to write, the person filling in the form is to affix his signature and furnish his full address and I.D. Card No. below applicant's mark.

SIXTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 15)

Form of Notice by the Electoral Commission

The Electoral Commission established in terms of section 60 of the Constitution hereby notifies that in virtue of the provisions of the Local Councils Act, 1993, an election is being held in the locality/localities of* on Saturday, ...

.....
Chief Electoral Commissioner

* *complete as necessary*

SEVENTH SCHEDULE
(Regulation 17)
Form of Voting Document

BIEX TIVVOTA			
RITRATT	NUMRU TAL-KARTA TA' L-IDENTITA ISEM U INDIRIZZ <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"><tr><td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">TWELID</td><td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px;">SESS</td></tr></table> Fejn Tivvota LOKALITA Nru. ta' Registrazzjoni KUMMISSJONARJU ELETTORALI	TWELID	SESS
TWELID	SESS		

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 20)

Form of Ballot Paper

No. of Councillors to be elected Locality		
Mark order of preference in spaces below	Badge of Candidate	Names of Candidates
		PARTIT TAL-FJURI
		JONES , (John Jones, of 52 Old Bakery Street, Tartani, Director)
		MAGRO , (William David Magro, of 10 Tower Road, Tartani, Chef)
		MUSCAT , (Francesco Muscat of 1 St. Paul's Str. Tartani, Driver)
		VELLA , (James Vella, of 5 Garcin Street, Tartani, Architect)
		WILLIAMS , (Francis Williams of 85 Church Street, Tartani, Chemist)
		PARTIT TAL- GHASFUR
		AZZOPARDI , (Spiro Azzopardi, of 18 Marina Street, Tartani, Tailor)
		BORG , (Assuero Borg, of 69 G Barbara Street, Tartani, Clerk)
		CASSAR , (Lela Cassar, of "Dolores", Main Street, Tartani, Housewife)
		MIZZI , (Glormu Mizzi, of 70 Two Gates Street, Tartani, Advocate)
		ZARB , (Fortunat Zarb, of 15 Fountain Street, Tartani, Bank Clerk)
		PARTIT TAS-SIGAR
		AZZOPARDI , (Reginald Azzopardi, of 165 St. Dominic Street, Tartani, Clerk)
		ZAMMIT , (Lawrence Zammit of "Josdor", 188 Bwieraq Street, Tartani, Chemist)
		KANDIDATI INDIPENDENTI
		BUHAGIAR , (George Buhagiar, of 23 Republic Street, Tartani, Merchant)
		GALEA , (Ninu Galea, of 67 Rjallu Alley, Tartani, Painter)

NINTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 22)

Form of Nomination Paper

To the Election Commissioners

We, the undersigned, being voters entitled to vote at an election of Local Councils and being registered on the Local Councils' Electoral Register for

(1) , do hereby nominate

(2) as a candidate

for the said locality and in the interests of the (3)

I, (2) residing at
 consent to the above nomination and that my name on the ballot paper be
 indicated as (4)

Date

.....

Signature of candidate
 (or of lawful representative
 as the case may be)

- (1) Name of locality.
- (2) Name, surname, address, and I.D. Card No. and occupation of person nominated.
- (3) Name of political party.
- (4) Surname and name.

TENTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 26, 56)

*Form of Oath to be taken by Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioners
and Assistant Electoral Commissioners*

I, ..., Principal Assistant Electoral Commissioner/Assistant Electoral Commissioner* duly appointed to supervise the taking of the poll at the election of the Local Council of swear/affirm that I will faithfully perform the duties of such office according to the provisions of the law, and to report by letter addressed to the Minister any irregularity observed by me in the conduct of the election.

I also swear/affirm to maintain secrecy regarding the vote given by any elector which may become known to me. (So help me God.)

Date Signature
I.D. Card No.

* *delete as necessary*

ELEVENTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 39)

*Form of oath which an Assistant Commissioner
may administer to a Voter*

I, (1) of
(2) do swear/affirm that I am the same person whose name appears as A.B. in the Local Councils' Electoral Register and that I have not already voted either here or elsewhere at this election for Local Councillors. (So help me God.)

Date Signature or mark of voter
Sworn/Affirmed before me this day of

.....
Signature of Assistant Election
Commissioner

1. Name in full.
2. Address and I.D. Card No. of voter.

TWELFTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 87)

Declaration of Result of Poll

Name of Locality

Election of Councillors for the above Locality in the year

We, the undersigned, being the Electoral Commissioners at the poll for the election of Councillors for the said Locality held on the day of of the year, do hereby give notice that the result of the Poll and of the transfer of votes is as follows:

Number of valid votes

Number of councillors to be elected

Quota (number of votes sufficient to secure election of a candidate)

Names of Candidates	1st Count	2nd Count		3rd Count		4th Count		5th Count		6th Count		Names of Candidates Elected
	Votes	Transfer of	Result	Transfer of	Result	Transfer of	Result	Transfer of	Result	Transfer of	Result	
Non-transferable papers												
Total		—		—		—		—		—		

And we do hereby declare the said
duly elected Councillors for the said Locality.

Dated this day of of the year

.....
Electoral Commissioners

THIRTEENTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 101)

Return of Election Expenses

1. Under the head of receipts there shall be shown the name and description of every person (including the candidate), club, society or association from whom any money, security, or equivalent of money was received in respect of expenses incurred on account of or in connection with or incidental to the election, and the amount received from each person, club, society or association separately.

2. Under the head of expenditure there shall be shown:

- (a) the personal expenses of the candidate incurred or paid by him;
- (b) the name, the rate, and total amount of the pay of each person employed as an agent, assistants or professional people;
- (c) the travelling expenses and any other expenses incurred by the candidate on account of agents, assistants or professional people;
- (d) the travelling expenses of persons, whether in receipt of a salary or not, incurred in connection with the candidature and whether paid or incurred by the candidate or the person so travelling;
- (e) the cost whether paid or incurred, of:
 - (i) printing;
 - (ii) advertising;
 - (iii) stationery;
 - (iv) postage;
 - (v) telegrams;
 - (vi) rooms hired either for public meetings or as committee rooms;
- (f) any other miscellaneous expenses, whether paid or incurred.

Note:

- 1) All expenses incurred in connection with the candidature whether paid by the candidate or any other persons, or remaining unpaid on the date of the return, are to be set out.
- 2) For all items over twenty-five Malta cents unless from the nature of the case (e.g. postage) a receipt is not obtainable, vouchers have to be attached.
- 3) All sums paid out, but for which no receipt is attached, are to be set out in detail with dates of payments.
- 4) All sums unpaid are to be set out in a separate list.

FORM OF DECLARATION BY CANDIDATE

I, ..., being a candidate
for election in the locality of, do hereby swear/
affirm that the above return of election expenses is true to the best of my
knowledge and belief, and that, except the expenses therein set out, no
expenses of any nature whatsoever have to my knowledge or belief been
incurred in connection with or for the purposes of my candidature.

.....
Candidate

Sworn/Affirmed before me

.....
Magistrate/Commissioner for Justice/Commissioner of Oaths

FOURTEENTH SCHEDULE

(Regulation 34(3))

Form to be affixed in each Polling Booth

DIRECTIONS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE VOTER IN VOTING

1. Vote by placing the figure 1 opposite the name of the candidate you most desire to see elected.
2. You are invited (and it is advisable to place the figure 2 opposite the name of your second choice, the figure 3 opposite the name of your third choice, and so on.
3. It is advisable to go on numbering the candidates in the order of your preference until you are indifferent as to the candidates whom you have not marked.
4. If you do not place the figure 1 on your ballot paper or if you place the figure 1 (indicating a first preference) and some other figure opposite the same name, or if you place the figure 1 opposite the name of more than one candidate, your ballot paper will be invalid and will not be counted.
5. Do not vote with an X.
6. If you inadvertently spoil a ballot paper you may return it to the Assistant Commissioner, who will, if satisfied of such inadvertence, give you another paper.

FOURTH SCHEDULE

(Section 33)

*Items excluded from responsibility of Local Councils**Industrial Areas:*

Attard Industrial Estate	Limits of Attard
Bulebel Industrial Estate	Limits of Żejtun
Hal Far Industrial Estate	Limits of Birżebbuġa
Kordin Industrial Estate	Limits of Paola
Luqa Industrial Estate	Limits of Luqa
Marsa Industrial Estate	Limits of Marsa
Mrieħel Industrial Estate	Limits of Birkirkara
Ricasoli Industrial Estate	Limits of Kalkara
San Ġwann Industrial Estate	Limits of San Ġwann
Xewkija Industrial Estate	Limits of Xewkija
Mosta Technopark	Limits of Mosta
Gozo Crafts Village	Limits of Għarb
Ta' Qali Crafts Village	Limits of Attard
Malta Drydocks	Bormla
Malta Freeport	Limits of Birżebbuġa
Malta Shipbuilding	Limits of Marsa
Delimara Power Station	Limits of Marsaxlokk
Marsa Power Station	Limits of Marsa
Airport	Limits of Luqa
Bus Terminus	Valletta
Albertown Reverse Osmosis Plant	Limits of Marsa
Ċirkewwa Reverse Osmosis Plant	Limits of Mellieħa
Għar Lapsi Reverse Osmosis Plant	Limits of Siggiewi
Pembroke Reverse Osmosis Plant	Limits of Pembroke
Tigne' Reverse Osmosis Plant	Sliema
Gas Installation	Limits of Birżebbuġa
Petroleum Installation	Limits of Birżebbuġa
Sant' Antnin Solid Waste Plant	Limits of Marsaskala
Sant' Antnin Sewage Plant	Limits of Marsaskala
All the Ports listed in the First Schedule to the Maritime Authority Act, 1991.	

Act XVII of 1991.

Social and Health Centres:

University of Malta	Msida
Craig Hospital	Rabat, Gozo
Gozo Mental Hospital	Rabat, Gozo
Mount Carmel Hospital	Limits of Attard
St Luke's Hospital	Piet
St Vincent de Paul Hospital	Limits of Luqa
Sir Paul Boffa Hospital	Floriana
Zammit Clapp Hospital	San Ġiljan
Magħtab Dumping Site	Limits of Naxxar
Wied Fulija Dumping Site	Limits of Żurrieq
Government Ministry Buildings (ex Beltissebh)	Floriana

Marsa Sports Complex	Limits of Marsa
National Swimming Pool	Limits of Marsaskala
Ta' Qali National Football Stadium	Limits of Attard
Ta' Qali Basketball Pavilion	Limits of Attard
Kordin Sports Complex	Limits of Paola
Tigne' Football Ground	Sliema
University Sports Complex	Msida
Bidnija Shooting Range	Limits of San Pawl il-Baħar
Gozo Sports Complex	Rabat, Gozo
Military Shooting Ranges	Limits of Pembroke

Cemeteries:

Addolarata Cemetery	Limits of Paola
Ta' Braxia Cemetery	Limits of Hamrun
Kalkara Cemetery	Kalkara
Msida Bastions Cemetery	Floriana
Mtarfa Cemetery	Limits of Attard

Parks and Heritage Sites:

(Forts and fortifications to include moats, glacis and those components of the forts or fortifications which though not obvious are part of them)

Buskett	Limits of Siggiewi
Ta' Qali	Limits of Attard
Ghadira	Limits of Mellieħa
Simar	San Pawl il-Baħar
Comino	
Cominotto	
Filfla	
Fungus Rock	
Manoel Island	
St Paul's Islands	
Ġgantija	Limits of Xagħra, Gozo
Haġar Qim	Limits of Qrendi
Birgu Fortifications	
Bormla Fortifications	
Cittadella Fortifications	Rabat, Gozo
Floriana Fortifications	
Mdina Fortifications	
Senglea Fortifications	
Valletta Fortifications	
Fort Manoel	
Fort Ricasoli	
Fort St Angelo	
Fort St Elmo	
Cottonera Lines	
Victoria Lines	
City Gate	Valletta
Portes des Bombes	Floriana
Wignacourt Aqueduct and Fountain	
All archaeological sites registered with the Museums Department	

Gardens and Monuments:

Independence Arena	Floriana
The Mall	Floriana
Lower Barrakka Gardens	Valletta
Upper Barrakka Gardens	Valletta
Argotti Botanical Gardens	Floriana
Rundle Gardens	Rabat, Gozo
San Anton Palace Gardens	Attard
Verdala Palace Gardens	Siggiewi
Independence Monument	Floriana
Great Siege Monument	Valletta
Siege Bell Monument	Valletta
War Memorial	Floriana
RAF Memorial	Floriana
Sette Giugno Monument	Valletta
31 March 1979 Monument	Birgu
Enrico Mizzi Monument	Valletta
Gorg Borg Olivier Monument	Valletta
Pawlu Boffa Monument	Valletta
Christ the King Monument	Floriana
Dun Mikiel Xerri Monument	Valletta
Anton Buttigieg Monument	Hamrun
Manwel Dimech Monument	Valletta
Spencer Monument	Hamrun
Queen Victoria Monument	Valletta
Manoel de Vilhena Monument	Floriana

Roads:

The arterial and distributor roads determined by the Structure Plan.

FIFTH SCHEDULE

(Section 24)

Oath of Office of Councillors/Mayor/Deputy Mayor

I, ... duly elected Councillor for the locality of
..... solemnly swear/affirm that I will faithfully and conscientiously perform my duties as Councillor/Mayor/Deputy Mayor* in accordance with the provisions of The Local Councils Act, 1993 and the Constitution of Malta.

* *Delete where necessary*

SIXTH SCHEDULE

(Section 43)

Standing Orders

1. (1) The Mayor shall chair meetings of the Council.

Chairing of Meetings.

(2) In the absence of the Mayor the person presiding the meeting shall exercise all the functions of the Mayor according to these Standing Orders.

(3) The procedures to be followed in the conduct of meetings of committees of the Council shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be those outlined in these Standing Orders.

(4) Any reference in these Standing Orders to a Councillor or a member of a Council shall be construed as reference to a Mayor or Deputy Mayor as the case may be unless the contrary intention appears.

2. (1) The quorum necessary for the transaction of business of the Council shall be the least whole number above fifty per cent of the number of Councillors in office and not debarred by reason of a declared interest.

Quorum.

(2) If a quorum is not present when the Council meets or if during a meeting the number of Councillors present and not debarred by reason of a declared interest falls below the quorum, the business not transacted at that meeting shall be transacted at the next meeting or on such other day as the Mayor may fix.

3. (1) Except where otherwise provided by these Standing Orders, members shall vote by show of hands.

Voting.

(2) If a member so requests, the Secretary shall record the names of the members who voted on any question so as to show whether they voted for or against it.

(3) The person presiding may give an original vote on any matter put to the vote, and in the case of an equality of votes may give a casting vote even though he gave an original vote:

Provided that the person presiding shall not give a casting vote if there is an equality of votes in an election for Mayor.

(4) Where more than two persons have been nominated for any position to be filled by the Council and of the votes given there is not an absolute majority of the Council as constituted in favour of one person, the name of the person having the least number of votes shall be struck off the list and a fresh vote taken, and so on until such majority of votes is given in favour of one person.

4. At the first meeting of the newly elected Council the business shall be:

First Meeting of the Council after Election.

(a) To elect a Mayor, and/or Chairmen of committees or sub-committees as required.

(b) To receive the Mayor's and/or Chairmen's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received.

(c) In the ordinary year of election of the Council to fill any vacancies left unfilled at the election by reason of insufficient nominations.

(d) To decide when any declarations of acceptance of office which have not been received shall be received.

(e) To elect a Deputy Mayor where such office exists.

(f) To appoint committees.

Order of Business.

5. After the first business has been completed, the order of business, unless the Council otherwise decides on the ground of urgency, shall be as follows:

(a) To read and consider the Minutes:

Provided that if a copy has been circulated to each member before the meeting, the Minutes may be taken as read.

(b) After consideration, to approve that the Mayor sign the Minutes as a correct record.

(c) To deal with business expressly required by law or regulation to be done.

(d) To dispose of business, if any, remaining from the last meeting.

(e) To receive such communications as the Mayor may wish to lay before the Council.

(f) To answer questions from Councillors.

(g) To receive and consider reports and minutes of committees.

(h) To receive and consider reports from officers of the Council.

(i) To authorise the sealing of documents.

(j) To authorise the signing of orders for payment.

(k) To consider resolutions or recommendations in the order in which they have been notified.

- (l) To deal with any other business specified in the summons.
6. A motion to vary the order of business on the ground of urgency:- Motion of Urgency.
- (a) may be proposed by the Mayor or by any member and, if proposed by the Mayor may be put to the vote without being seconded, and
- (b) shall be put to the vote without discussion.
7. Except as provided by these Standing Orders, no resolution may be moved unless the business to which it relates has been put on the Agenda by the Secretary or the mover has given notice in writing of its terms and has delivered the notice to the Secretary at least six days before. Resolution to be put on the Agenda.
8. (1) The Secretary shall date every notice of resolution or recommendation when received by him, shall number each notice in the order in which it was received and shall enter it in a book which shall be open to the inspection of every member of the Council. Duties of Secretary in connection with Resolutions.
- (2) The Secretary shall insert in the summons for every meeting all notices of motion or recommendation properly given in the order in which they have been received unless the member giving a notice of motion has stated in writing that he intends to move at some later meeting or that he withdraws it.
9. If a resolution or recommendation specified in the summons is not moved either by the member who gave notice of it or by any other member, it shall, unless postponed by the Council, be treated as withdrawn and shall not be moved without fresh notice. When Resolution is to be treated as withdrawn.
10. If the subject matter of a resolution comes within the province of a committee of the Council, it shall, upon being moved and seconded, stand referred without discussion to such committee or to such other committee as the Council may determine for report: Resolution falling within the province of a Committee of the Council.
- Provided that the Mayor, if he considers it to be a matter of urgency, may allow it to be dealt with at the meeting at which it was moved.
11. Every resolution or recommendation shall be relevant to some subject over which the Council has power or which affects its locality. Resolutions to be relevant.
12. Resolutions dealing with the following matters may be moved without notice:- Resolutions moved without notice.
- (a) To appoint a Mayor or a person to preside the meeting in the absence of the Mayor.
- (b) To correct the Minutes.
- (c) To approve the Minutes.

- (d) To alter the order of business.
- (e) To proceed to the next business.
- (f) To close or adjourn the debate.
- (g) To refer a matter to a committee.
- (h) To appoint a committee or any members thereof.
- (i) To adopt a report.
- (j) To authorise the sealing of documents.
- (k) To amend a resolution.
- (l) To give leave to withdraw a resolution or an amendment.
- (m) To extend the time limit for speeches.
- (n) To silence or eject from the meeting a member named for misconduct.
- (o) To invite a member to declare an interest in the subject matter under debate.
- (p) To give the consent of the Council where such consent is required by these Standing Orders.
- (q) To adjourn the meeting.

Questions.

13. (1) A member may ask the Mayor and/or the Secretary any question concerning the business of the Council, provided notice of the question has been given to the person to whom it is addressed before the meeting begins.

(2) No questions not connected with business under discussion shall be asked except during the part of the meeting set aside for questions.

(3) Every question shall be put and answered without discussion.

No discussion on Minutes except on accuracy.

14. No discussion shall take place upon the Minutes except upon their accuracy. Corrections to the Minutes shall be made by resolution and must be initialled by the Mayor.

Rules of Debate.

15. (1) A resolution or amendment shall not be discussed unless it has been proposed and seconded, and, unless proper notice has already been given, it shall, if so required by the Mayor, be reduced to writing and handed to him before it is further discussed or put to the meeting.

(2) A member when seconding a resolution or amendment may.

if he then declare his intention to do so, reserve his speech until a later period of the debate.

(3) A member shall direct his intervention to the question under discussion or to a personal explanation or to a question of order.

(4) An intervention by a mover of a resolution shall not exceed ten minutes, and no other intervention shall exceed five minutes, except by consent of the Council.

(5) An amendment shall be either:-

(a) To leave out words.

(b) To leave out words and insert or add others.

(c) To insert or add words.

(6) An amendment shall not have the effect of negating the resolution before the Council.

(7) If an amendment be carried, the resolution, as amended, shall take the place of the original resolution and shall become the resolution upon which any further amendment may be moved.

(8) A further amendment shall not be moved until the Council has disposed of every amendment previously moved.

(9) A member, other than the mover of a resolution, shall not, without leave of the Council, speak more than once on any resolution except to move an amendment or further amendment, or on an amendment, or on a point of order, or in personal explanation, or to move a closure.

(10) A member shall be heard forthwith when he intervenes to make a point of order or a personal explanation. A personal explanation shall be confined to some material part of a former intervention by him which may have been misunderstood.

(11) A motion or amendment may be withdrawn by the proposer with the consent of the Council, which shall be signified without discussion, and no member may speak upon it after permission has been asked for its withdrawal unless such permission has been refused.

(12) When a resolution is under debate no other resolution shall be moved except the following:-

(a) To amend the resolution.

(b) To proceed to the next business.

(c) To adjourn the debate.

(d) That the question be now put.

(e) That a member named be not further heard.

- (f) That a member named do leave the meeting.
- (g) That the resolution be referred to a committee.
- (h) To adjourn the meeting.

Member to remain seated.

16. A member shall remain seated when speaking unless permitted to stand by the Mayor.

Rulings given by Mayor.

17. Rulings given by Mayor.

(1) The ruling of the Mayor on a point of order or on the admissibility of a personal explanation shall not be discussed.

(2) Members shall address the Mayor.

(3) If two or more members wish to intervene, the Mayor shall call upon one of them to speak first.

(4) Whenever the Mayor or a member is speaking during a debate all other members shall be seated and silent.

When the Mayor shall put certain Motions.

18. At the end of any intervention a member may, without comment, move "that the question be now put", "that the debate be now adjourned" or "that the Council do now adjourn". If such motion is seconded, the Mayor shall put the motion but, in the case of a motion "to put the question", he shall do so only if he is of the opinion that the question before the Council has been sufficiently debated. If the motion "that the question be now put" is carried, he shall call upon the mover to exercise or waive his right of reply and shall put the question immediately after that right has been exercised or waived. The adjournment of a debate or of the Council shall not prejudice the mover's right of reply at the resumption.

Adjournment and subsequent Proceedings.

19. Where a meeting is adjourned the subsequent proceedings shall be deemed to be part of the original meeting and no new notices or agendas need to be issued except a notification to members not present of the date of the continuation of the meeting.

Disorderly Conduct.

20. (1) No member shall at a meeting disregard the ruling of the Mayor, wilfully obstruct business, or behave irregularly, offensively, improperly or in such a manner as to scandalise the Council or bring it into contempt or ridicule.

(2) If, in the opinion of the Mayor, a member has broken the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order, the Mayor shall express that opinion to the Council and thereafter any member may move that the member named be no longer heard or that the member named do leave the meeting, and the motion, if seconded, shall be put forthwith and without discussion.

(3) If either of the motions mentioned in paragraph (2) is disobeyed, the Mayor may suspend the meeting or take such further steps as may

reasonably be necessary to enforce them.

21. The mover of a resolution shall have a right to reply immediately before the resolution is put to the vote. If an amendment is proposed the mover of the amendment shall be entitled to reply immediately before the amendment is put to the vote. A member exercising a right of reply shall not introduce any new matter. After the right of reply has been exercised or waived, a vote shall be taken without further discussion.

Right to Reply.

22. A member may, with the consent of his seconder, move amendments to his own resolution.

Alteration of Resolution.

23. (1) A decision (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least two members of the Council, or by a resolution moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee.

Rescission of previous Resolution.

(2) When a special resolution or any other resolution moved under the provisions of paragraph (1) of this Standing Order has been disposed of, no similar resolution may be moved within a further six months.

24. Any resolution which is moved otherwise than in pursuance of a recommendation of the committee responsible for finance or of another committee after recommendation by the committee responsible for finance and which, if carried, would, in the opinion of the Mayor, substantially increase the expenditure upon any service which is under the management of or reduce the revenue at the disposal of any committee, or which would involve capital expenditure, shall, when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council, and any committee affected by it shall consider whether it desires to report thereon (and the committee responsible for finance shall report on the financial aspect of the matter).

Resolutions on Expenditure.

25. (1) A document shall not be sealed on behalf of the Council unless its sealing has been authorised by a resolution.

Sealing of Documents.

(2) The Council's Seal shall alone be used for sealing documents. It shall be applied by the Secretary in the presence of two Councillors who shall sign the document as witnesses.

26. (1) The Council may at its first meeting, or at any other time, appoint such committees as are necessary, and subject to any provision in any law or regulation:-

Committees.

(a) may appoint persons other than members of the Council to any committee; and

(b) may subject to the provisions of Standing Order 23, at any time dissolve or alter the membership of a committee.

(2) The Mayor shall be an ex officio member of every committee.

Summoning of
Committee.

27. The Chairman of a committee may summon a meeting of that committee at any time. An additional meeting shall also be summoned on the requisition in writing of the Mayor or not less than a quarter of the members of the committee. The summons shall set out the business to be considered at the special meeting and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

Quorum of Committees.

28. Except where ordered by the Council in the case of a committee, the quorum of a committee shall be the least whole number above fifty per cent of the number of members of the committee not debarred by reason of a declared interest.

Sub-Committees.

29. (1) There shall be sub-committees, whose name, and number of members, and the bodies to be invited to nominate members shall be determined by the Council.

(2) The Secretary shall inform the members of every sub-committee of the terms of reference of the sub-committee.

(3) A sub-committee may make recommendations and give notice thereof to the Council.

(4) A sub-committee may consist wholly of persons who are not members of the Council.

Voting in Committees
or Sub-Committees.

30. (1) Members of committees or sub-committees entitled to vote shall vote by show of hands.

(2) Chairmen of committees and sub-committees shall in the case of equality of votes have a second or casting vote.

Presence of Councillors at Committee or Sub-Committee Meetings.

31. A Councillor who has proposed a resolution which has been referred to any committee or sub-committee of which he is not a member, may explain his resolution to the committee or sub-committee but shall not vote.

Accounts and Financial
Statement.

32. (1) Orders for the payment of money shall be authorised by resolution of the Council and signed by two Councillors.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this Standing Order or by any other law or regulation, all accounts for payment and claims upon the Council shall be laid before the Council.

(3) Where it is necessary to make a payment before it has been authorised by the Council, such payment shall be certified as to its correctness and urgency by the Secretary. Such payment shall be authorised by the committee or sub-committee, if any, having charge of the business to which it relates, or by the Secretary with the approval of the Mayor.

(4) All payments ratified under paragraph (3) of this Standing Order shall be separately included in the next schedule of payments laid

before the Council.

33. (1) Canvassing of members of the Council or of any committee, directly or indirectly, for any appointment under the Council shall disqualify the candidate for such appointment. The Secretary shall make known the purport of this paragraph of this Standing Order to every candidate.

Canvassing of and
Recommendations by
Members.

(2) A member of the Council or of any committee shall not solicit for any person any appointment under the Council or recommend any person for such appointment or for promotion; but, nevertheless, any such member may give a written testimonial of a candidate's ability, experience or character for submission to the Council with an application for appointment.

34. (1) A Councillor may for the purpose of his duty as such (but not otherwise), inspect any document in possession of the Council or a committee, and if copies are available shall, on request, be supplied for the like purpose with a copy.

Inspection of Documents.

(2) All Minutes kept by the Council and by any committee shall be open for the inspection of any member of the Council and the public.

35. No member of the Council or of any committee or sub-committee shall in the name of or on behalf of the Council:

Authorised Activities.

(a) inspect any lands or premises which the Council has a right or duty to inspect; or

(b) issue orders, instructions or directions;

unless authorised to do so by the Council or the relevant committee or sub-committee.

36. (1) Bye-laws shall be enacted in both the Maltese and the English languages and, if there is any conflict between the Maltese and the English texts of any bye-law, the Maltese text shall prevail.

Bye-Laws.

(2) Draft bye-laws shall include the title, the objects and reasons, short marginal notes, sections, sub-sections, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs individually numbered.

(3) Draft bye-laws duly signed by a proposer and a seconder shall be put on the agenda of a Council not less than four weeks and not more than eight weeks from the date on which they have been received by the Secretary.

(4) The Secretary shall, on receipt of draft bye-laws, cause a copy thereof to be transmitted or delivered to each Councillor in both languages. Should the Minister forward to the Council any amendments to the proposed bye-laws, such amendments shall likewise be transmitted or delivered to each Councillor by the Secretary forthwith:

Provided that the draft bye-laws or any amendments thereto shall be transmitted or delivered to each Councillor in type-written or printed form.

(5) When draft bye-laws are brought up for discussion by the Council, the proposer shall summarise the objects and reasons for the motion in an intervention which shall not exceed five minutes. No debate shall be held on the motion and the Chairman of the meeting shall bring the objects and reasons of the draft bye-laws to a vote.

(6) Once the objects and reasons have been approved, the Council may at the same sitting proceed to discuss the draft bye-laws section by section allowing for the draft bye-laws and any amendments thereto to be approved by a majority of those present:

Provided that amendments to the draft bye-laws shall be relevant to the subject matter of the bye-laws.

(7) On the approval of all sections by the Council, the Mayor may order that, in the case where amendments have been made, a newly typed version be produced and shall cause a copy thereof to be transmitted or delivered to each Councillor.

(8) At the next meeting of the Council the members present shall, without debate, approve or not approve the bye-laws.

(9) Draft bye-laws which are not approved by the Council or which are objected to by the Minister shall not be tabled again before a period of six months from the date when they have been objected to or not approved as the case may be.

Consultations.

37. (1) Should the Council be consulted by the Planning Authority or by any other competent authority about an application or applications for planning or any other permission, the Secretary shall, as soon as the request is received, enter in a book kept for the purpose the following particulars of each consultation:-

- (a) the date on which the request was received;
- (b) the name of the authority consulting the Council;
- (c) the name of the applicant;
- (d) the place to which it relates; and
- (e) a summary of the nature of the application.

(2) The Secretary shall refer every request for consultation to the Mayor within forty-eight hours of receiving it.

(3) The Mayor may act in conformity with delegated powers from the Council or shall refer the request to the Council or a committee of

the Council previously empowered by the Council to handle such requests.

38. The Council shall follow such tendering procedures as the Minister may from time to time by regulations prescribe. Tendering Procedures.

39. The Council shall deal with complaints of maladministration allegedly committed by the Council or by any officer or member in the manner which the Minister may by regulations prescribe. Code of Conduct on Complaints.

40. A copy of these Standing Orders shall be given to each member by the Secretary upon delivery to him of the member's declaration of acceptance of office. Standing Orders to be given to Members.

SEVENTH SCHEDULE

(Section 4, 25)

Election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor

Part I

Voting Procedure

1. At the meeting at which the Mayor and/or Deputy Mayor is/are to be elected Councillors shall forthwith proceed with the election procedure in accordance with the Standing Orders.

2. The Councillors shall elect the Mayor and, where applicable, the Deputy Mayor by separate secret ballot.

3. Nominations shall not be made and a Councillor shall vote by writing, on the ballot paper, the name of the Councillor who is his or her choice for Mayor or Deputy Mayor.

4. Whereafter the third ballot no Councillor has obtained a majority of the votes cast, subsequent ballots shall be held between the Councillors who had been voted for in the third ballot until one of them receives a majority of the votes cast:

Provided that where there are more than two candidates, the person receiving the least number of votes at each subsequent election shall be eliminated.

5. The Secretary shall cause the name of the elected Mayor and, where applicable, of the Deputy Mayor to be published in the Government Gazette together with the date of the election.

6. The ballot papers shall remain sealed and archived in the Council premises by the Secretary under his seal.

Part II
Form of Ballot Paper

BALLOT PAPER
FOR THE
ELECTION OF MAYOR

Write the name of the Councillor who is your choice for Mayor

Official Stamp
Date
Signature of Secretary

BALLOT PAPER
FOR THE
ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Write the name of the Councillor who is your choice for Deputy Mayor

Official Stamp
Date
Signature of Secretary

EIGHTH SCHEDULE

(Section 63)

Approved Non-Governmental Organisations

1. Angel Fish Swimming Club
2. Angela House - Guardamangia
3. Association for the Transport of the Maltese Sick and Poor to Lourdes
4. Association of Speech Therapists
5. Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus
6. Caritas National Council
7. Central Office of the Diocesan Commission for Children's Homes
8. Cini Institute - St Venera
9. Dar il-Wens
10. Dar tal-Providenza - Siggiewi
11. Diabetes Association (Malta)
12. Din l-Art Helwa
13. Dyslexia Association
14. Fatima Working Girls' House - Sliema
15. Federation of Societies for the Handicapped
16. Fra Diegu - Hamrun
17. Friends of Attard Hospital Society
18. Għaqda Frangiskana għall-Għomja
19. Għaqda Ġenituri Tfal Handikappati
20. Għaqda għat-Tfal u Żgħażaġħ Neqsin mis-Smiegħ
21. Għaqda Handikappati Għawdxin
22. Għaqda Hbieb ta' l-Isptar Monte Carmeli
23. Għaqda Hidma Filantropika
24. Għaqda tal-Hemofilja
25. Għaqda ta' Schizophrenia
26. Għaqda Żgħażaġħ Handikappati
27. Girl Guides Association
28. Good Shepherd Institute-Balzan
29. Gozo Association for the Deaf
30. Hbieb ta' Ċentru Hidma Soċjali
31. Hospice Movement
32. Jesus of Nazareth - Żejtun
33. Kummissjoni Hidma għall-Morda u Handikappati
34. Lourdes Home - Għawdex
35. Malta Anti-Cancer Society
36. Malta Catholic Action
37. Malta Community Chest Fund
38. Missionaries of Charity of Mother Theresa
39. M.M.D.N.A.
40. Muscular Dystrophy Group
41. Oratorju Maria Immakulata - Mosta
42. Ospizio San Giuseppe - Żebbuġ
43. Physically Handicapped and Deaf Sub Aqua Club
44. Physically Handicapped Rehabilitation Fund
45. Playing Fields Association
46. Salesian Boys Brigade
47. Societas Doctrinae Christianae (M.U.S.E.U.M.) Female Section

48. Societas Doctrinae Christianae (M.U.S.E.U.M.) Men's Section
49. Society for the Blind
50. St Francis De Paul Institute - Birkirkara
51. St John's Ambulance
52. St Joseph Home - St Venera
53. St Joseph Home - Żabbar
54. St Joseph Home - Żejtun
55. St Joseph Institute - Cospicua
56. St Joseph Institute - Ghawdex
57. St Paul's Home - Hamrun
58. St Therese Children's Home - Żurrieq
59. The Foundation for Respite Care Services
60. The Holy Family Home - Naxxar
61. The Meat Fund
62. The Scouts Association
63. The St Jeanne Antide Welfare Campaign
64. Ursoline Creche - Sliema
65. Ursoline Creche - Tarxien
66. Ursoline Creche - Valletta
67. Żghażaġġ Haddiema Nsara

NINTH SCHEDULE

(Section 6)

*List of Member Countries of the Council of Europe
whose nationals are entitled to vote
in Local Council Elections*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

TENTH SCHEDULE

(Section 55)

Financial allocation to Councils

Monies appropriated for Local Councils in terms of section 55 shall be allocated to each Council as follows:

where S_n is the allocation which will be received by locality (n)

$$S_n = \{0.75 \times S_t \times P_n/P_t\} + \{0.25 \times S_t \times A_n/A_t\}$$

and where :

S_t is the total appropriation made by the Minister responsible for finance in terms of section 55;

P_n is the population of locality (n); provided that for the purposes of this formula each locality shall be assumed to have a population of at least 1,000;

P_t is the population of all localities added together; provided that for the purposes of this formula each locality shall be assumed to have a population of at least 1,000;

A_n is the surface area under the responsibility of locality (n); provided that for the purposes of this formula national territories marked on the maps in the Second Schedule to this Act shall be excluded;

A_t is the surface area under the responsibility of all localities added together; provided that for the purposes of this formula the national territories marked on the maps in the Second Schedule to this Act shall be excluded.

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No.149 of the 14th June, 1993.

LAWRENCE GONZI
Speaker

RICHARD J. CAUCHI
Clerk to the House of Representatives

