

As a member or employee of the National Elections Commission (NEC), I hereby commit to adhere to this Code of Conduct and to the highest standards of conduct and ethics. By signing below, I affirm my commitment to upholding these provisions and contributing to the conduct of democratic, inclusive, transparent, peaceful and credible elections. I am aware that contraventions to the provisions of the Code of Conduct may result in administrative and/or criminal sanctions.

## **Section 1**

### **Values and Principles**

NEC members and employees shall adhere to and comply with fundamental ethical principles and shall, in discharge of their duties, ensure the integrity of the electoral process, respect the rule of law, be impartial and neutral, transparent, and accurate. They shall, for instance, within the conduct of their assigned specific duties:

#### **1.1. Respect the Rule of Law**

- a. Ensure that the legal framework relating to the elections are fully implemented in an impartial and equitable manner;
- b. Ensure that every voter, candidate, political party, member of the press or media and any other electoral stakeholder is treated in a way that is fair and just.

#### **1.2. Impartiality and Neutrality**

- a. Act in a strictly neutral and unbiased manner in every matter concerning a voter, candidate, political party, observer, member of the press or media, and any other electoral stakeholder;
- b. Refrain from any decision or action that could indicate or be perceived as indicating partisan support for a candidate, political party or the government and state authorities at all levels;
- c. Disclose any relationship that could lead to a conflict of interest with their duties as members and employees of the NEC and if required, recuse themselves from the particular situation;
- d. Not accept any gift, hospitality, undue benefit or favour from a political party, organization or person involved in the election process as well as from any other entity;
- e. Reject any improper influence and refrain from accepting directions relating to the performance of their functions from government, state, public officers, political parties, candidates or any other person or entity, unless regulated by law;
- f. Not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to an individual or organization that could potentially influence them in the performance of their duties;
- g. Not participate in any unauthorized activity, including any private activity that could lead to an actual or perceived conflict of interest with their duties;
- h. Not wear, carry, or display any partisan symbols or colors.

#### **1.3. Transparency**

- a. Allow for effective access of electoral stakeholders to documents and information related to the electoral process in a timely manner, in accordance with electoral legal framework;
- b. Provide voters, candidates, political parties and any other electoral stakeholder the legal rationale on which decisions of the election administration are based;
- c. Consult with electoral stakeholders on a regular basis within the conduct of their duties.

#### **1.4. Accuracy**

- a. Ensure that information is collected, compiled, and published in a way that is systematic, clear and unambiguous;
- b. Ensure that all the information compiled, used and published has a sound factual basis.

#### **1.5. Service to Voters**



- a. Strive to provide to voters the service of the highest quality required to enable them to exercise their political rights;
- b. Ensure that voters adequately understand the election process.

## Section 2

### Duties and Responsibilities

#### 2.1. Duties - Members and employees of the NEC shall:

- a. Serve with impartiality and professionalism, in good faith and without favor or prejudice;
- b. Exercise and perform their powers and functions without regard to any improper influence, direct or indirect from any person, authority or entity;
- c. Act at all times in the best interests of the people of South Sudan and not discriminate or accord any undue preferential treatment to any individual or group or otherwise abuse the power vested in them;
- d. Not make public statements in any manner that may jeopardize the credibility, impartiality, independence or integrity of the NEC;
- e. Be guided, in performance of their mandate, by law and the interest of the country, respect and uphold its unity, peace, harmony, integration, democracy, human rights, gender equality and good governance;
- f. Protect confidential information, both written and oral, that the NEC holds and not disclose any information communicated within the NEC without explicit authority;
- g. Carry out their duties with diligence and attend every meeting of the NEC, as required.

#### 2.2. Responsibilities - Member and employees of the NEC shall:

- a. Implement all aspects of the legal framework in an impartial manner;
- b. Strictly respect the electoral procedures as provided for by the legal framework, and comply with NEC regulations, policies and standard operating procedures governing administrative tasks;
- c. Treat every voter, candidate, political party or entity, observer, media representative and any other electoral stakeholder in a respectful, fair, just and impartial manner;
- d. Take all necessary measures to ensure maximum voter participation;
- e. Safeguard the secrecy of the vote during the electoral process, including in polling station;
- f. Assist, when appointed to assist a blind, illiterate, infirm or disabled voter, only to the extent requested by such voter and pay due regard to the right of such voter to choose, mark or otherwise deal with his or her ballot paper personally and in secret;
- g. Secure, properly use and store all election materials as instructed by the NEC;
- h. Commit to provide special assistance, consideration, courtesy and respect to any person who has difficulty or is unable to provide an appropriate identification document, address or whose name is missing, has been removed from the list of voters or whose capacity or entitlement to vote is challenged;
- i. Report any improper influence or misconduct, suspicion or attempt thereof to the respective NEC structure at national, state or other levels, as the case may be;
- j. Attend every electoral training event, as instructed by the NEC;
- k. Recognize the need for and legitimacy of the presence of duly accredited observers, candidate or political party agents, media representatives and other accredited persons throughout the entire electoral period and facilitate and respect their right to submit questions or objections when this is provided for by law or NEC regulations, while maintaining at all times courteous, impartial and independent relationship;
- l. Accept that special conditions or unforeseen events may require them to perform their duties under extraordinary circumstances and may require them to undertake new or additional tasks, that fall within their capacity and the designated duties.

Member/employee of the National Elections Commission (NEC): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of member/employee of the NEC: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_