

# Code of conduct for local and international media representatives



Local and international media must subscribe to the principles of democratic elections, and in so doing will respect electoral laws, strive to maintain public confidence in the electoral process, and uphold the democratic rights of the citizens of Vanuatu.

- Media representatives shall respect and adhere to the principles and rules of conduct set out in this Code and actively promote adherence to the Code on the part of other members. The Presiding Officer is entitled to check accreditation cards before allowing journalists to enter the PS. The PO regulates and facilitates the work of media representatives inside the PS. Media representatives shall adhere to the following standards:
- Professionalism: Media representatives should be professional in their coverage of the electoral process, commit to neutrality, objectivity and credibility and refrain from publishing news that may invoke hatred, racism or tribal disputes.
- Compliance with the law: Journalists and media representatives shall adhere to the laws and regulations issued in this regard as well as to the present Code of Conduct for journalists issued by the VEO.
- Accuracy: Journalists and media representatives shall seek accuracy in the information they provide to the public regarding the electoral process by ensuring that information is obtained from reliable sources.
- Wear the VEO accreditation badge and display it clearly while inside PSs.
- Conduct themselves in ways that uphold the integrity of, and the public's respect for, the electoral system
- Refrain from displaying colours, symbols or slogans that are similar or identical and could indicate, or be seen as indicating, partisan support for a candidate, political party, political actor or political tendency.
- Refrain from creating any disturbance inside PS and leave when it is crowded or instructed by the PO.
- Refrain from observing how a voter has marked a ballot paper or interfere with the secrecy of the voting process, e.g. photographing the voters' choice.
- Refrain from obtaining or recording the personal information of voters.
- Refrain from interfering in the electoral process and from influencing the decisions of voters.
- Refrain from using VEO accreditation cards for purposes other than those specified, and from giving the card to anyone other than the person to whom it was issued.

The VEO reserves the right to revoke the accreditation of any media representative or journalist in the event of a violation of the provisions of the law and the regulations of this code of conduct.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_