

Code of conduct for observers



Electoral observers are essential in ensuring transparency of the electoral process and to enhance its integrity and credibility. By following this Code of Conduct, VEO accredited electoral observers are committed to observing the election impartially and independently of any political party or candidate contesting the election. This Code provides for electoral observers, whether domestic or international who hereby undertake to:

- Familiarize themselves with the laws, rules and regulations governing the elections.
- Comply with all national laws and regulations.
- Wear the identification badge issued by the Vanuatu Electoral Office (VEO) and identify themselves immediately to the PO on entry into the PS, on request from the authorities.
- Switch off mobile phones when entering a PS.
- Not participate in any activity that could lead to a conflict of interest with the duties of an electoral observer.
- Exercise sound judgement and always maintain the highest levels of personal discretion and professional behaviour.
- Display a high level of impartiality, independence, neutrality and objectivity in the conduct of their duties.
- Always act in an unbiased manner.
- Avoid doing anything that could indicate, or be seen as indicating, partisan support for a candidate, political party, political actor or political tendency.
- Not display or wear any partisan symbols, colours or banners.
- Not accept any gift from a candidate, political party, organization or person involved in the election process.
- Not impede or interfere in the electoral process, the voting or counting procedures.
- Refrain from taking pictures inside the PS.
- Not give instructions or interfere with the work of the PO or other electoral staff.
- Refrain from giving advice unless requested to do so by the PO.
- Document visits to the polling and counting stations and report in an objective way.
- Reach judgement on the basis of the accuracy of information and objective analysis.
- Report back on their observations and participate in debriefings if requested.
- Show respect for the people and culture of the country.
- Not communicate with any voter on a matter of partisan significance.
- Not express a view on any subject that is likely to affect the election.
- Ensure that information is collected, compiled and published in a way that is systematic, clear and unambiguous.
- Take necessary action to ensure that all information that is compiled, used or published as part of the observation process is received first-hand and is verifiable.
- Refrain from issuing public statements about their observations and the electoral process until all due process has been followed.
- Refrain from announcing electoral results without the authority of the Electoral Commission.
- 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 observer in the event of a violation of the provisions of the law and the regulations of this code of conduct.

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____