

National Election Authority

Decree No. 9 of 2018 of the National Election Authority

On Regulating the Procedures for Media Coverage of the 2018 Presidential Elections

The President of the Authority

Upon review of the Constitution;
and Law No. 22 of 2014 on Regulating Presidential Elections;
and the Law on Regulating the Exercise of Political Rights promulgated by Law No. 45 of 2014;
and Law No. 92 of 2016 on the Institutional Organization of Journalism and Media;
and Law No. 198 of 2017 on the National Election Authority;
and Presidential Decree No. 503 of 2017 on Establishing the Board of Directors of the National Election Authority;
and Decree No. 1 of 2018 of the National Election Authority on Calling on Voters to Elect the President of the Republic;
and upon approval of the Board of Directors of the National Election Authority in its session held on 8 January 2018

Has decided: Article 1

All print, audio-visual and digital media and certified international media staff may cover the process of voting and vote counting of the Presidential Elections pursuant to the regulations set forth in this Decree.

Article 2

State-owned audio-visual media and press institutions shall maintain equality between candidates when used for electoral campaigning purposes.

The National Election Authority (NEA) may take whatever measures it deems necessary in case of violating the provision of this Article and may, in particular, issue a decree to stop such violation immediately, without prejudice to the provisions of the violator's disciplinary responsibility.

Article 3

The media should make sure that the opinion polls it broadcasts or publishes contain full information on the entity conducting the poll, the entity financing the poll, the questions contained therein, the sample size and place, the survey technique, the method of data collection, date of conducting the poll, the target community and the potential margin of error in the results. It should be pointed out whether or not relative weighting is used. The opinion poll should consider the professional and ethical rules applied in conducting polls and the approval of the competent state authorities to conduct such a poll shall be obtained.

Unofficial Translation- in case of discrepancy between the Arabic and English text, the Arabic text prevails.

It is prohibited to broadcast or publish such opinion polls during the five days preceding election day and until it ends.

Article 4

The media licensed to operate in Egypt should, when covering the elections, take objectivity into account according to the generally accepted professionalism. The media coverage should be focused on highlighting the candidates' platforms. The media should in particular consider the following:

- 1- Do not confuse opinions with news and news with advertisements.
- 2- Disseminate accurate information and disclose the source of information.
- 3- Use headlines reflecting the body of the text.
- 4- Do not publish images irrelevant to the topic covered.
- 5- Do not confuse names, use inappropriate generalization or cut sentences from statements in violation of the context of the statement.
- 6- Do not ask a voter about the candidate whom he/she will elect or has elected.
- 7- Do not conduct any opinion polls outside the polling stations or within the area of the electoral premises.
- 8- Do not compromise the right of any party to respond to or comment on the attack or praise they encounter.
- 9- Do not publish free or paid advertisements for a candidate after the legally prescribed date for campaigning.
- 10- Do not use religious symbols for supporting or rejecting a candidate.
- 11- Do not ask leading questions with clear bias.

Article 5

Each of: The Supreme Council for Media Regulation, the National Media Authority and the National Journalism Authority, shall receive applications for media observation and coverage of the 2018 Presidential Elections from national and private journalism institutions, public and private TV channels and all broadcast, print and audio-visual media and websites under its control.

Article 6

Each of the abovementioned authorities shall send the NEA a statement including the applications and the number of the codes required for each entity, together with a letter showing that the entity is registered at the concerned authority and an approval to grant the necessary authorization for each entity not later than 25/01/2018.

Article 7

International media representatives, either residents or visitors, who are wishing to observe the electoral process and are accredited by the State Information Service (SIS), shall submit applications to the SIS which notifies the NEA of all the received applications before Saturday 13/01/2018.

Article 8

After examining the applications, the NEA shall deliver the non-replicated codes to the authorities mentioned in Article 5 at the NEA headquarters. Journalists and media staff shall register their data not later than 18 February 2018 on the NEA website www.elections.eg.

Article 9

The NEA shall examine the forms received through the website, each form separately. The NEA may decline incomplete forms.

The NEA shall issue the authorizations for the accepted observers no later than 5 March 2018. An official delegate from each of the abovementioned authorities shall receive all authorizations from the NEA headquarters. The media staff are not allowed to visit the NEA headquarters.

Article 10

The authorized media staff and journalists shall comply with all the provisions of the laws, regulations and decrees governing the electoral process and shall cover the elections pursuant to the regulations set forth in this Decree.

Article 11

The media coverage shall be restricted to the journalists and media staff authorized by the NEA. To be able to enter into the polling stations and centers, the NEA authorization should be visibly held and presented, when needed.

Entering into the polling stations, polling centers and general committees shall be based on the permission from the head of the station and in a manner that does not influence the process of voting and counting.

In all cases, it is prohibited to, in any way, interfere in the work of the station, direct remarks or raise objections, obstruct the polling process, influence voters, promote a specific candidate, express personal opinions on the electoral process or seek voters' opinion.

It is also prohibited to hold any interviews or conversation with the polling station employees, candidate agents, observers or voters inside the station.

The presence in any station during the polling process should not exceed 30 minutes. No photos may be taken using any means, unless approved by the head of the station.

In case of overcrowding, the head of the station may reduce the time allowed for journalists and media staff to be present in the polling station to maintain proper functioning.

Article 12

The authorized journalists and media staff may have the right to attend the process of counting in the polling stations and general committees, and announce the numerical count of the results without prejudice to the functioning of the stations.

Article 13

The announcement of the election results shall be prohibited before their announcement by the NEA.

Article 14

Without prejudice to the prescribed penalties, the Authority may revoke the authorization issued for any media staff in case of violating the regulations stipulated in this Decree.

The Authority may revoke the authorization issued for the violator's institution.

Article 15

This Decree shall be published in the Official Gazette newspapers and the competent authorities shall be responsible for its execution.

Issued in Cairo on 21 Rabee Al-Akhir 1439 A.H.
(Corresponding to 8 January 2018 A.D.)

President of the National Election
Authority
Judge/ Lasheen Ibrahim
Vice-President of the Court of Cassation