



VOTING PROCEDURES

14th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

SATURDAY 8TH APRIL 2017

Appointment of Tellers:

Tellers will appointed by the National Council.

Voting on motions at the meeting:

All members of the National Council are entitled to one vote and voting must be in person. Voting on motions at the meeting will be by show of voting cards unless a secret ballot is called for and accepted by at least one third of those members present and voting. The Chairman will call on the members of National Council to raise their voting cards firstly in favour of the motion/resolution and then for those against. He will determine whether or not there is a clear majority in favour of or against a motion and will, if he deems it necessary, ask the tellers to count the votes. The Chairman will again call on those in favour to raise their cards and those against, and the tellers will count the voting cards held up and pass the result to the National Secretary, who will call the result when asked to do so by the Chairman. All motions at the meeting are passed by simple majority – except in the vote for the holding of a secret ballot or for voting on the motions to change the Constitution. In the event of equality of votes the Chairman shall have the casting vote whether or not he exercised an original vote.

Voting in Elections:

All members of the National Council will receive a Ballot paper upon checking in. Voters indicate their first choice by writing 1 opposite their first choice and if so desired 2 opposite their second choice, 3 opposite their third choice and so on.

Votes will be cast in the designated areas of the National Council venue between 10:30 – 12:30 on Saturday 8th April 2017.

Voters having filled out their ballot paper will place them in ballot boxes that will be placed in designated areas of the National Council venue.



Counting the votes

When polling is over, all the ballot boxes are taken to the counting area. Each candidate can nominate an observer to be present in the count room while the count is ongoing.

The boxes are opened and the ballot papers are then sorted into piles of ballot papers for each candidate.

Spoiled papers are rejected. A paper is spoiled if it does not indicate a clear choice or if anything is written on the ballot paper by which the voter can be identified. The total valid poll therefore, is the total number of votes minus the number of spoiled papers.

The quota

When the papers have been counted and sorted, the quota is calculated by dividing the total valid poll by one more than the number of seats to be filled, ignoring any remainder and then adding 1 vote.

Surplus votes

If a candidate receives more than the quota on any count, the surplus votes are transferred to the remaining candidates in proportion to the next available preferences indicated by voters (i.e., the next preference on each vote for a candidate who has not been elected or eliminated).

Where a candidate is elected at the second or at later count, only the votes that brought him/her over the quota are distributed in ratio to the remaining candidates.

Elimination

Where there is no surplus for distribution or the distribution of the surplus is prohibited, the next step is the elimination of the lowest candidate. Two or more of the lowest candidates must be excluded together where it is clear that they cannot possibly be saved from elimination in the long run. Where a candidate is eliminated, all of his/her votes are transferred to the next available preferences on them.

Counting continues until all the seats have been filled. The last seat can be filled either by a candidate(s) exceeding the quota or by a candidate(s) being elected without reaching the quota because it is clear that he/she is ultimately going to be elected.