



République Démocratique du Congo
Commission Nationale Indépendante

CENI

CENI

VERSION ENGLAISE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS FROM THE POST-VOTER REGISTRATION PERIOD



4471, Boulevard du 30 Juin, Kinshasa/Gombe



Ceni RDC

Le production de ce document a été effectuée par la fondation internationale pour les systemes électoraux, **IFES** en sigle



Fondation Internationale
pour les Systèmes Electoraux



République Démocratique du Congo
Commission Electorale Nationale Indépendante

CENI

4471, Boulevard du 30 Juin, Kinshasa/Gombe



Ceni RDC

Q1. After voter registration, CENI says it is cleaning up the electoral roll/voters register? What does this mean?

A/ It's an operation that consists of deleting from the voters register, a person who has registered more than once (and keeping the last registration), removing foreigners and unauthorized minors and keeping only those who are eligible to vote.

Q2. How many multi-registration have the CENI removed from the voters register?

R/ 2.235.798

Q3. What will happen to people deleted from the voters register on polling day?

A/ Their names will not appear on the voters' list; the voters' list will be published in each registration center.

Q4. During the registration process, it seems that in some registration centers, photo of photos were taken instead of capturing photos of physical persons. How are you going to identify the photo of photos?

A/ CENI uses the Mega Matcher server, which directly identifies the photos and classifies them in a different register.

Q5. Does CENI have data protection software?

R/ Yes. Personal data is protected.

Q6. Between now and the election date, can I change my polling center? How and when?

A/ No, you cannot change your polling center. However, party agents and observers may vote at their place of assignment. Candidates, their substitutes and their wives may vote by proxy, provided they notify the CENI office 15 days before the elections.

Q7. How can I find out and check that my name is on the final voters register?

A/ You can check on the final lists which will be exhibited 30 days before the start of the election campaign.

Q8. If my name is misspelled in the final file, can it be corrected? Is there a deadline for correction?

A/ The best option was to check your details during registration to correct any mistakes, because it's difficult to do so on the final register. But you can ask for the errors to be corrected when identity cards would be issued by ONIP.



Q9. What happens if I fail to register?

A/ If you fail to register, you won't be able to vote. But you can register on the day you submit your nomination if you're a candidate.

Q10. How do I get a new card if I lose my voter's card?

A/ The first place to go is a police station or community centre, where you can report the loss and obtain a procès-verbal de perte (report of loss) from an OPJ. You should then take this certificate to the CENI branches and provincial executive secretariats to request a new card (duplicate).

Q11. Can a Congolese residing abroad who is in the DRC on voting day, vote?

A/ Yes, if they have an exemption and has personally notified the CENI office 15 days before voting.

Q12. It seems that some foreigners have registered. How will CENI detect them and what solution will you apply to eliminate them from the voters register?

A/ The question of nationality does not fall within the mandate of CENI. It is therefore difficult for CENI to detect foreigners. CENI relies on the citizenry as a stakeholder in the process to denounce foreigners who have registered. However, CENI continues to work on improving its control mechanisms.

Q13. Has CENI been able to identify unauthorized persons who have found with registration kits?

A/ Yes, CENI has identified them and judicial processes have started to prosecute them. It should be noted that this is not an matter for CENI to deal with, but for the Ministry of the Interior.

Q14. What is the fate of the agents who enrolled minors?

A/ Some have been dismissed and others are in prison.

Q15. How will CENI obtain the names of agents who have committed offenses?

R/ CENI has the possibility of obtaining all the information on kit users (names, times, places where the kit was used, etc.). This will make it possible to track them down and act accordingly.

Q16. What sanctions does CENI plan to impose on the heads of its branches who have prevented observers from carrying out their work?

A/ CENI was unaware of this situation and is asking the public to work with it to provide information in real time in order to improve the quality of services. As a stakeholder in the process, the population also has a role to play and to assume responsibilities.



Q17. How does CENI intend to resolve the problems of faded photos or errors on voters' cards?

A/ It is important to acknowledge that CENI has done its best to obtain compliant equipment based on available resources. Not all cards have faded photos. However, for those whose photos are faded or even blurred, CENI suggests that these people consider making duplicates of their cards and taking advantage of this opportunity to request for corrections.

Q18. When will CENI's temporary agents be paid?

A/ CENI acknowledges having experienced some delays, but payments are in progress.

Q19. After receiving my voter's card, is it still important to continue with other stages of the electoral process?

A/ Yes, the holder of the voter's card has the right to continue with the other stages by becoming a candidate in the upcoming elections, a national observer and an agent for his/her political party and/or by voting for the candidates of his/her choice.

Q20. What is the deadline for submitting candidacies?

A/ Candidate applications will be accepted as follows:

- from June 26 to July 15, 2023 for members of national parliament ;
- August 3 to August 22, 2023 for communal councillors for provincial assemblies;
- September 1, 2023 for aspirants for president of the Republic.

Q21. Can people who have registered abroad apply here?

A/ Yes, Congolese who have been registered abroad can tender in their candidate nomination in-country at any level.

Q22. Who can be a candidate in the elections?

A/ Any Congolese who has full civil and political rights, is of the required age on the closing date for candidate nomination, has a voter's card and the required level of education or professional experience in the political, administrative, economic and socio-cultural fields.

Q23. Is there a penalty if a citizen refuses to vote?

A/ No. The person is free to vote or abstain, but voting is a civic duty.



Q24. Will one day really be enough to vote throughout the DRC?

A/ Yes, but if it rains or if something happens at the voting center, CENI could extend the voting hours.

Q25. Can a person submit in his/her nomination as an independent candidate?

A/ Yes, he/she can submit his candidate nomination because the law allows him/she to do so.

Q26. What are the grounds for in-admissibility or rejection of a candidacy?

A/ A list or candidacy is declared inadmissible when :

- It includes the names of one or more persons prohibited by law from standing for election;
- The lists of the political party/political grouping have not reached 60% of the seats provided for in the electoral district;
- It is composed of the name of a candidate in several electoral districts for the same position;
- It exceeds the number of candidates fixed in an electoral district.

Q27. I've got my card, but I'm told there won't be an election. What should I do?

A/ As a citizen, I must ensure that I follow all the steps set out in the electoral calendar and seek additional information from CENI.

Q28. Will there be a special line for people with disabilities on polling day?

A/ No, there won't be a special line, but people with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women and nursing mothers will be given priority.

Q29. Some members of one community have registered in the neighboring electoral district. What should we do about this?

A / Community members who register in the neighboring electoral district will be required to vote in the electoral district where they registered.

Q30. Can I give a proxy to someone to vote in my place if I'm unable to attend?

A/ No, the electoral law does not allow general proxy voting.

Q31. Speaking of visually impaired or blind people, how will they be reassured of the reliability of the person appointed as their guide on voting day?

A/ Visually impaired or blind people must be assisted by a trustworthy person of their choice.



Q32. Will there be a special session for indigenous peoples who have not yet registered?

A/ No. As soon as the electoral file has been cleaned up, it will be sent to parliament. We can no longer continue with voter registration.

Q33. Did CENI take into account the populations of territories in conflict during the registration process?

A/ Yes, they were taken into account in accessible territories only. CENI has held discussions with the elected representatives of these territories and hopes to find a more lasting solution. But it should be noted that managing the country's security situation does not fall within CENI's mandate. CENI cannot endanger the lives of its staff nor those of the civilian population.

In inaccessible territories, if the situation does not change, CENI would propose an approach similar to that of previous electoral cycles. In other words, if approved by parliament, we would keep 8 seats in Rutshuru and 7 seats in Masisi as in 2006, 2011 and 2018.

Q34. The President of the Republic and the Chairman of CENI have recently said that the elections could run into problems if the security situation does not improve in certain areas. In that case, do you think the elections will take place in 2023?

A/ We need to put these statements into context. As far as CENI is concerned, respecting the constitutional deadline is an obligation of result, and CENI is working to ensure that the elections take place on December 20, 2023.

Q35. What happens when the number of registered voters per electoral district is low in relation to the number of seats to be allocated?

A/ The consequence is a reduction in the number of seats in the electoral district concerned.

Q36. Are we going to use voting machines for the December 2023 elections?

A/ Yes, voting machines will be used for the 2023 elections. They are now called electronic voting devices - EVDs.

Q37. What's the next step after registration and cleaning up the electoral roll/register?

A/ The next step is for parliament to pass the law allocating seats to the electoral district/constituencies. It's called "the law on the distribution of seats", which has been passed.

