

Date Printed: 01/06/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_15
Tab Number: 45
Document Title: ELECTORAL LAW
Document Date: 1989
Document Country: NIC
Document Language: ENG
IFES ID: EL00414



law/NIC/1489/003/eng

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Department of State

INCOMING
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OMB-01 SIL-01 INRE-00 ACDA-12 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01
C-01 SSE-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /055 W

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P 250023Z MAR 89

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7724

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 33 MANAGUA 01664

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN
ELECTORAL LAW

REF: MANAGUA 1181

1. THE SPANISH TEXT OF THE NICARAGUAN ELECTORAL
LAW WAS TRANSMITTED BY REFTEL. THE INFORMAL
EMBASSY ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE LAW FOLLOWS
BELOW IN PARAGRAPH TWO.

2. BEGIN TRANSLATION:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF NICARAGUA

HEREBY INFORMS THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE THAT:

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

ACTING UNDER POWERS BESTOWED UPON IT:

HAS APPROVED

THE FOLLOWING ELECTORAL LAW

TITLE I
CHAPTER I
THE ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 1. THIS LAW OF CONSTITUTIONAL RANK, REGULATES
THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES OF:

- 1) THE PRESIDENCY AND THE VICE PRESIDENCY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA.
- 2) REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
- 3) DELEGATES TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT.
- 4) MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE AUTONOMOUS
REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST.
- 5) MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

LINewise, THIS LAW WILL REGULATE PLEBISCITES AND
REFERENDUMS AND THE EXERCISE OF THE CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO
ORGANIZE OR AFFILIATE WITH POLITICAL PARTIES TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, TO EXERCISE VOTING
RIGHTS AND TO APPRE TO POWER

ARTICLE 2. THE ELECTORAL POWER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE

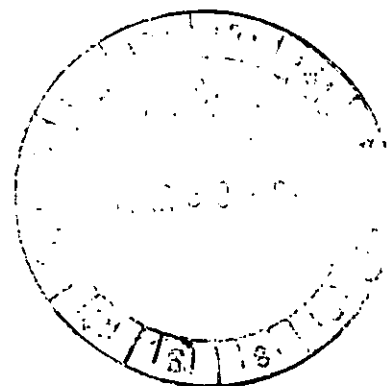
ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF ELECTIONS
FOR THE POSITIONS INDICATED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE OF
THIS LAW, AS WELL AS FOR PLEBISCITES AND REFERENDUMS.
THIS IS TO BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLITICAL
CONSTITUTION, THE LAWS GOVERNING THIS MATTER, AND THE
REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 3. THE DATES FOR THE ELECTION PERIOD OR
CAMPAIGN WILL BE SET BY LAW. BASED ON THE DATE SET BY
LAW TO BEGIN CAMPAIGNING, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL
WILL HAVE THE FIRST 30 DAYS, WITHIN THE 90 DAY TIME
FRAME SET FOR THE CAMPAIGN, TO SET THE DATE FOR
ELECTIONS, WHICH WILL BE ON A SUNDAY. ACCORDING TO THE
LAW, PLEBISCITES AND REFERENDUMS WILL BE HELD ON THE DAY
SPECIFICALLY DETERMINED VIA LEGISLATIVE DECREE. THE
DATE FOR ELECTIONS TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT
WILL BE SET VIA THE TREATY WHICH WILL CONSTITUTE THE
PARLIAMENT.

ARTICLE 4. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL PREPARE
A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR EACH ELECTION INCLUDING, AMONG
OTHER THINGS, THE TIME FRAME FOR REGISTRATION OF
CANDIDATES AND OF VOTERS, AS WELL AS THE DATES FOR
CAMPAIGNING AND THE DATE FOR VOTING.

THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL CAN CHANGE OR MODIFY THE
ELECTORAL SCHEDULE, PARTICULARLY ELECTORAL TIME PERIODS
AND ELECTORAL TERMS, AS IS DEEMED NECESSARY.

TITLE II



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C-01 SSE-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /055 V

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7725
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGDV, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

- THE ELECTORAL POWER
- CHAPTER I
- THE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS
-

ARTICLE 5. THE ELECTORAL POWER IS COMPOSED OF THE
FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- 1) THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.
- 2) THE ELECTORAL COUNCILS.
- 3) THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS.

ANY OTHER ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED IN THE
PRESENT LAW.

ARTICLE 6. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL IS COMPOSED
OF FIVE (5) MAGISTRATES WITH ALTERNATES WHO WILL BE
ELECTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM SLATES PROPOSED BY
THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC (NOTE: A SLATE IS COMPOSED
OF THREE CANDIDATES). THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL SELECT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, FROM
AMONG THE FIVE MAGISTRATES ELECTED.

TO PROMOTE THE PRINCIPLES OF PLURALISM STATED IN THE
POLITICAL CONSTITUTION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
WILL REQUEST THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL
PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO SUBMIT A
LIST OF NAMES TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SLATES REFERRED TO
IN THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC IN TWO OF THE SLATES WILL
TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE PROPOSALS MADE BY THE
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, EXCLUDING THE
RULING PARTY, AND WILL RANK THE PARTY CANDIDATES
PREFERABLY IN THE SAME ORDER IN WHICH THE PARTIES WERE
ELECTED (BY PERCENT OF TOTAL VOTE) IN THE LAST ELECTION
HELD FOR SUPREME AUTHORITIES.

THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES WILL HAVE
FIFTEEN DAYS TO SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSALS. IF THE PARTIES
DO NOT SUBMIT PROPOSALS DURING THIS TIME, THE PRESIDENT
OF THE REPUBLIC WILL PRESENT THE FIVE SLATES OF
CANDIDATES FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

ARTICLE 7. TO BE A MAGISTRATE OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL
COUNCIL, A CANDIDATE MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING

PREREQUISITES:

- 1) BE A NICARAGUAN CITIZEN.
- 2) BE ABLE TO FULLY ENJOY HIS CIVIL AND POLITICAL
- RIGHTS.
- 3) BE 25 YEARS OF AGE.

ARTICLE 8. THE POSITION OF PERMANENT MAGISTRATE OR
ALTERNATE TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL MAY NOT BE
FILLED BY AN ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR BY A
PERSON WHO HOLDS A PUBLIC POSITION WITH THE EXCEPTION OF
TEACHERS OR PHYSICIANS.

PERMANENT MAGISTRATES OR THEIR ALTERNATES CANNOT BE
APPOINTED IF THEY ARE RELATED BY MARRIAGE IN THE SECOND
DEGREE OR BY BLOOD IN THE FOURTH DEGREE.

ARTICLE 9. THE PRESIDENT AND OTHER MAGISTRATES OF THE
SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL PERFORM THEIR DUTIES FOR
A PERIOD OF SIX YEARS, BEGINNING ON THE DATE ON WHICH
THEY ARE INSTALLED. DURING THIS PERIOD THEY WILL ENJOY
THE PRIVILEGE OF IMMUNITY.

ARTICLE 10. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL HAVE THE
FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) ORGANIZE AND CONDUCT ELECTIONS, PLEBISCITES OR
REFERENDUMS, AS ESTABLISHED BY THE POLITICAL
CONSTITUTION AND THE LAW.
- 2) APPOINT MEMBERS OF THE OTHER ELECTORAL BODIES AS
ESTABLISHED IN THIS LAW.

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C-01 SSE-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /055 W
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P 250032Z MAR 89

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7726

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

- 3) PREPARE THE ELECTORAL SCHEDULE.
- 4) ENFORCE CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL DISPOSITIONS CONCERNING THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.
- 5) INVESTIGATE AND RESOLVE QUESTIONS AS A COURT OF LAST RESORT ON THE RESOLUTIONS PASSED BY THE LOWER ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND ON CLAIMS OR ALLEGATIONS PRESENTED BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 6) PASS APPROPRIATE MEASURES THAT WILL GUARANTEE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.
- 7) DEMAND FROM THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES, A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR POLITICAL PARTIES PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTIONS.
- 8) MAKE THE FINAL VOTE COUNT FOR THE ELECTIONS, PLEBISCITES AND REFERENDUMS AND MAKE THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULTS.
- 9) FORMULATE REGULATIONS FOR THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.
- 10) PERFORM ANY OTHER RESPONSIBILITY ASSIGNED BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS.

ARTICLE 11. THE PERMANENT AND ALTERNATE MAGISTRATES OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL ASSUME THEIR DUTIES BY BEING SWORN IN BEFORE THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DURING A FULL SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY.

ARTICLE 12. IN CASE OF THE ABSENCE OF ANY OF THE MAGISTRATES, HIS DUTIES WILL BE ASSUMED BY HIS ALTERNATE. IF HIS ABSENCE IS PERMANENT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WILL SEND TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY A THREE CANDIDATE NOMINATION SLATE FROM WHICH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL SELECT THE PERSON WHO WILL ASSUME THE PERMANENT POSITION, AS ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLE 6 OF THIS LAW.

DURING THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL WILL BE HELD, BY ONE OF THE MAGISTRATES CHOSEN BY THE COUNCIL BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITY.

IN CASE OF PERMANENT ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT, HIS REPLACEMENT WILL BE SELECTED AS STATED IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS ARTICLE. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL DESIGNATE THE MAGISTRATE WHO WILL HOLD THE PERMANENT POSITION OF PRESIDENT.

IN CASE OF PERMANENT ABSENCE OF THE ALTERNATE, THE REPLACEMENT WILL BE SELECTED AS PROVIDED BY ARTICLE 6 OF

THIS LAW.

ARTICLE 13. A QUORUM OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL BE COMPOSED OF THREE OF ITS FIVE MEMBERS. DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THOSE PRESENT. IN CASE OF A TIE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL HAVE TWO VOTES.

THE MAGISTRATES CAN JUSTIFY THEIR VOTE THROUGH A WRITTEN STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE APPENDED TO THE MINUTES. THE COUNCIL WILL APPOINT, AT THE PRESIDENT'S SUGGESTION, AN ACTING SECRETARY OF THE COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 14. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS THE ELECTORAL SCHEDULE AND ELECTORAL ETHICS WITH THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES BEFORE MAKING ANY RESOLUTION, AS WELL AS ANY ALLOTMENTS TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS LAW. IT WILL ALSO DISCUSS ANY OTHER MATTER WHICH MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE.

CHAPTER II

THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL
AND THE MAGISTRATES

ARTICLE 15. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL ARE:

- 1) TO PRESIDE OVER THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL AND CALL THE COUNCIL INTO SESSION BY HIS OWN INITIATIVE OR AT THE REQUEST OF THREE OF ITS MEMBERS.

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C-01 SSE-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /055 V

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7727
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E. O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

- 2) TO PERFORM OFFICIAL AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.
- 3) TO COMPLY WITH AND ENFORCE THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.
- 4) TO ADMINISTER THE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS AND COORDINATE ITS ACTIVITIES.
- 5) TO CREATE ASSISTANT STAFF POSITIONS AND MAKE OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS TO THESE POSITIONS.
- 6) ANY OTHER RESPONSIBILITY CONFERRED BY THE LAW AND THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 16. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OTHER FOUR MAGISTRATES:

- 1) TO PARTICIPATE IN COUNCIL SESSIONS AND TO MAKE DECISIONS ORALLY AND BY NOTE.
- 2) TO ASSIST THE PRESIDENT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTIES AS WELL AS THOSE DUTIES WHICH COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS MAY ASSIGN.

CHAPTER III
THE ELECTORAL COUNCILS

ARTICLE 17. IN THE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION THERE WILL BE NINE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCILS EACH COMPOSED OF A PRESIDENT AND TWO MEMBERS, WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE ALTERNATES, APPOINTED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

IN THE APPOINTMENT OF ELECTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POLITICAL PLURALISM ESTABLISHED IN THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 18. TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE AND FOR ANY OTHER ELECTORAL REQUIREMENTS, THE FOLLOWING ELECTORAL REGIONS ARE ESTABLISHED:

- 1) REGION I - THE DEPARTMENTS OF NUEVA SEGOVIA, MADRIZ AND ESTELI.
- 2) REGION II - THE DEPARTMENTS OF LEON AND CHINANDEGA.
- 3) REGION III - THE DEPARTMENT OF MANAGUA.
- 4) REGION IV - THE DEPARTMENTS OF GRANADA, MASAYA, CARAZO AND RIVAS.

- 5) REGION V - THE DEPARTMENTS OF CHONTALES AND BOACO; AS WELL AS THE MUNICIPALITIES OF RAMA, NUEVA GUINEA, MUELLE DE LOS BUEYES, BOGANA DE PAIWAS AND EL ALMENDRO.
- 6) REGION VI - THE DEPARTMENTS OF MATAGALPA AND JINOTEGA.
- 7) REGION VII - THE ATLANTIC COAST'S NORTH REGION.
- 8) REGION VIII - THE ATLANTIC COAST'S SOUTH REGION.
- 9) REGION IX - THE DEPARTMENT OF RIO SAN JUAN.

ARTICLE 19. THE PRESIDENT AND THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCILS MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 7 AND 8 OF THIS LAW.

ALTERNATES WILL ASSUME THEIR DUTIES ON THE COUNCIL DURING THE TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT ABSENCE OF ITS PERMANENT MEMBERS.

THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL REPLACE THE PRESIDENT, PERMANENT MEMBERS OR ALTERNATES OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL WHEN THEY ARE ABSENT FOR A DEFINITE PERIOD OF TIME.

ARTICLE 20. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCILS ARE:

- 1) TO APPOINT AND ALLOW THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS TO ASSUME THEIR DUTIES.
- 2) TO LISTEN AND RESOLVE THE COMPLAINTS, OBJECTIONS AND PETITIONS FILED AGAINST THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS.
- 3) TO VERIFY THE VOTE COUNT OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS.

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7728
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

- 4) DELIVER CREDENTIALS TO THE POLL WATCHERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES AND ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS.
- 5) ANY OTHER TASK ESTABLISHED BY LAW OR BY ANY RESOLUTION MADE BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 21. A QUORUM OF AN ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL BE FORMED BY A MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS. DECISIONS WILL BE MADE WITH THE AGREEMENT OF TWO MEMBERS. IN CASE OF A TIE, THE PRESIDENT WILL VOTE TWICE.

ARTICLE 22. THE PRESIDENT WILL CALL ELECTORAL COUNCIL MEETINGS, WILL PRESIDE OVER THE MEETING AND WILL REPRESENT THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL. HE WILL MANAGE THE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION IN THE CORRESPONDING REGION AND WILL PROPOSE TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL THE CANDIDATES FOR APPOINTMENT AS THE COUNCIL'S STAFF.

ARTICLE 23. IN CASE OF THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, HIS DUTIES WILL BE ASSUMED BY HIS ALTERNATE.

CHAPTER IV ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS

ARTICLE 24. SUFFICIENT ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN EACH ELECTORAL REGION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE ELECTION AND THE VOTE COUNT. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL SET THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF EACH ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD. THE JURISDICTION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN AN ADMINISTRATIVE RESOLUTION BEFORE THE ELECTORAL PROCESS BEGINS.

ARTICLE 25. THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS WILL BE COMPOSED OF A PRESIDENT AND TWO MEMBERS WITH ALTERNATES. THEY MUST MEET THE QUALIFICATION ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLES 7 AND 8 OF THE ELECTORAL LAW, EXCEPT THAT THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT IS 18.

ARTICLE 26. THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT

BOARDS WILL BE APPOINTED BY THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF THE RESPECTIVE REGION AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) THE PRESIDENT AND ONE MEMBER, WITH THEIR ALTERNATES, WILL BE SELECTED BY VOTE OF THE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL.
- 2) THE OTHER MEMBER WITH HIS ALTERNATE WILL BE PROPOSED BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES REPRESENTED IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. THE LACK OF NOMINEES FROM THE POLITICAL PARTIES FOR ONE OR MORE BOARDS WILL NOT PREVENT THE FORMATION OR OPERATION OF THE BOARDS.

ARTICLE 27. A QUORUM OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS IS FORMED BY A MAJORITY OF ITS MEMBERS. THE VOTES OF TWO MEMBERS WILL MAKE A DECISION. IN CASE OF TIE, THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TWO VOTES.

ARTICLE 28. THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS ARE TO:

- 1) QUALIFY CITIZENS AS VOTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW AND TO AUTHORIZE REGISTRATION OF QUALIFIED CITIZENS.
- 2) GUARANTEE THE RIGHT TO VOTE.
- 3) RECEIVE THE VOTING BALLOTS.
- 4) COUNT THE VOTING BALLOTS.
- 5) GUARANTEE AN ORDERLY ELECTORAL PROCESS AT THE VOTING STATION, BOTH IN VOTER REGISTRATION AND IN VOTING.
- 6) RECEIVE AND PROCESS APPEALS AND CLAIMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY LAW.
- 7) ACCEPT ANY OTHER RESPONSIBILITY AS ESTABLISHED IN THIS LAW OR IN THE RESOLUTIONS MADE BY THE SUPREME

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ELECTORAL RIGHTS OF THE CITIZENS

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C-01 SSE-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /055 W
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P 250823Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7729
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: M/A
TAGS: PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

TITLE III
THE POLL WATCHERS
CHAPTER I

ARTICLE 29. EACH POLITICAL PARTY, ALLIANCE OR ASSOCIATION OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, WITH CANDIDATES REGISTERED WITH THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, HAS THE RIGHT TO NAME A POLL WATCHER AND ALTERNATE TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, THE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCILS AND THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS FOR THE REGISTRATION PERIOD, VOTING PROCESS AND VOTE COUNT.

THE APPOINTMENT OF POLL WATCHERS MUST BE DONE FIFTEEN DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION PERIOD AND MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE APPROPRIATE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATION.

FAILURE TO APPOINT ONE OR SEVERAL POLL WATCHERS TO ONE OR MORE OF THE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS WILL NOT PREVENT ITS OPERATION.

ARTICLE 30. POLL WATCHERS NAMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE, WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO:

- 1) BE PRESENT AT THE ELECTORAL COUNCILS DURING THE VOTE REGISTRATION, ELECTIONS AND VOTE COUNT PERIODS.
- 2) BE PRESENT AT THE PLACE WHERE EACH ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD OPERATES DURING THE REGISTRATION, VOTING AND VOTE COUNT PERIODS.
- 3) BE PRESENT AT THE NATIONAL DATA PROCESSING CENTER OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WHILE VOTING DATA IS BEING PROCESSED FROM THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS AND THE ELECTORAL COUNCILS.
- 4) MAKE APPEALS AS PERMITTED IN THIS LAW.
- 5) IF DEEMED NECESSARY COMMENT ON AND SIGN THE REPORTS OF THE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS. REFUSAL TO SIGN ANY OF THESE REPORTS WILL REQUIRE A WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM THE POLL WATCHER EXPLAINING HIS REASON FOR REFUSING TO SIGN THE REPORT. THE SIGNATURE OF THE POLL WATCHER IS NOT A REQUIREMENT FOR THE VALIDITY OF THESE REPORTS.
- 6) ANY OTHER DUTY AS PRESCRIBED BY THE LAW AND BY THE RESOLUTIONS MADE BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

TITLE IV
THE CITIZENS
CHAPTER I

ARTICLE 31. THE UNIVERSAL, EQUAL, DIRECT, FREE AND SECRET VOTE IS A RIGHT OF NICARAGUAN CITIZENS. THIS RIGHT MUST BE EXERCISED AS ESTABLISHED BY THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION AND THE LAW. NICARAGUAN CITIZENS MAY VOTE AT AGE SIXTEEN.

ARTICLE 32. TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY, A CITIZEN MUST:

- 1) BE FULLY ENTITLED TO HIS RIGHTS.
- 2) BE REGISTERED IN AN ELECTORAL RECORD.
- 3) FOLLOW THE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THE ELECTORAL LAW AND REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

CHAPTER II
THE REGISTRATION OF CITIZENS

ARTICLE 33. NICARAGUAN CITIZENS MUST REGISTER AT AN ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD AS ESTABLISHED IN THIS LAW DURING THE TIME SCHEDULED FOR THAT PURPOSE BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL. NO REGISTRATION WILL BE ACCEPTED EXCEPT DURING THE SCHEDULED PERIOD.

ARTICLE 34. NICARAGUANS WHO DO NOT MEET THE REQUIRED AGE TO VOTE BY THE REGISTRATION DATE, BUT WHO WILL BE OF AGE BEFORE OR ON ELECTION DAY, HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS ESTABLISHED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE.

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7730
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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AMEMBASSY CARA. :

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ARTICLE 35. VOTING REGISTRATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD LOCATED IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF THE CITIZEN'S PERMANENT RESIDENCE, ALTHOUGH THE CITIZEN MAY BE TEMPORARILY RESIDING IN ANOTHER AREA. MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY FORCES WILL REGISTER AT THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD LOCATED IN THE AREA WHERE THEY ARE ON MILITARY DUTY.

THE MEMBERS, AS WELL AS POLL WATCHERS AND ASSISTANTS OF AN ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD WILL REGISTER AT THE SAME PRECINCT WHERE THEY PERFORM THESE DUTIES.

ARTICLE 36. THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS WILL OPERATE AT THE LOCATIONS, ON THE DATES, AND AT THE TIMES SET BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL FOR VOTING REGISTRATION.

ARTICLE 37. VOTING REGISTRATION MUST BE DONE PERSONALLY AND CANNOT BE DELEGATED TO ANOTHER PERSON. TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND TO VERIFY THEIR AGE, INDIVIDUALS MAY PRESENT:

- 1) BIRTH CERTIFICATE.
- 2) SOCIAL SECURITY CARD (CARNET DEL INSSB).
- 3) DRIVER'S LICENSE.
- 4) PASSPORT.
- 5) ANY OTHER IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.

THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO DO NOT HAVE ANY TYPE OF DOCUMENT TO IDENTIFY THEMSELVES, CAN PRESENT TWO CAPABLE WITNESSES WHO WILL ATTEST TO THEIR IDENTITY AND AGE UNDER OATH. VOTING REGISTRATION WILL BE SUPPORTED BY THE SIGNATURE AND FINGER-PRINTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL. FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT SIGN THEIR NAMES, THEIR FINGER PRINTS WILL SUFFICE. IN CASES IN WHICH A PERSON IS MISSING HIS UPPER EXTREMITIES, A WRITTEN STATEMENT WILL BE MADE INDICATING THIS PARTICULAR CONDITION.

EVIDENCE PRESENTED WILL BE EVALUATED BY THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD WHICH WILL EITHER ACCEPT OR DENY THE REGISTRATION.

ARTICLE 38. EACH INDIVIDUAL WILL BE REGISTERED IN THE ELECTORAL RECORDS BOOK THAT WILL BE KEPT BY EACH ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD. THESE BOOKS WILL BE PROPERLY MARKED, INDICATING THE NAME, LOCATION AND NUMBER OF THE VOTING PRECINCT.

ARTICLE 39. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WILL ENTERED IN THE ELECTORAL RECORDS BOOK:

- 1) FIRST AND LAST NAME OF THE VOTER.
- 2) DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH.
- 3) SEX.
- 4) PERMANENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND HOME ADDRESS.
- 5) SIGNATURE AND FINGER-PRINTS. IF UNABLE TO SIGN, FINGER PRINTS WILL SUFFICE. IF MISSING UPPER EXTREMITIES A WRITTEN STATEMENT MUST BE MADE OF SUCH CONDITION.
- 6) INDICATE IN A SPECIAL BLOCK IF IN THE PAST THE CITIZEN VOTED.
- 7) TYPE OF IDENTIFICATION THE INDIVIDUAL PRESENTED.

ARTICLE 40. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THE ELECTORAL RECORD BOOK WILL BE KEPT. ONE COPY WILL BE FILED WITH THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL AND THE OTHER FILED WITH THE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 41. THE REGISTRATION AND VOTING DATES WILL BE WRITTEN DOWN IN THE ELECTORAL RECORDS BOOK; THE OPENING AND CLOSING DATES OF THE RECORD WILL BE DULY NOTED AND SUPPORTED BY THE SIGNATURES OF THE BOARD MEMBERS AND ANY POLL WATCHERS WHO WISH TO SIGN.

ARTICLE 42. AT THE END OF EACH REGISTRATION DAY, THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS WILL PUBLISH BY MEANS OF

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7731
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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POSTERS AFFIXED ON THE WALLS AT THE VOTING PRECINCT, THE LIST OF THOSE WHO REGISTERED TO VOTE THAT DAY. THE POSTERS WILL BE DISPLAYED FOR 10 DAYS. THE POSTER WILL LIST THE REGISTRATION NUMBERS AND THE FIRST AND LAST NAMES OF REGISTERED CITIZENS.

ARTICLE 43. THE INDIVIDUALS WHO REGISTERED TO VOTE WILL RECEIVE A VOTER REGISTRATION CARD WHICH LISTS THE FOLLOWING PERSONAL INFORMATION:

- 1) FIRST AND LAST NAME.
- 2) AGE AND SEX.
- 3) HOME ADDRESS.
- 4) ADDRESS AND NUMBER OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD WHERE THE VOTER IS REGISTERED.
- 5) REGISTRATION NUMBER.
- 6) A BLANK SPACE INDICATING WHETHER HE HAS VOTED.
- 7) SEAL AND SIGNATURE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD.

ARTICLE 44. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES, MAY TECHNICALLY IMPROVE THE FORMAT, DESIGN AND CODING OF THE ELECTORAL RECORD BOOKS.

CHAPTER III THE REVISION OF REGISTRATION AND RESOURCES

ARTICLE 45. THE ELECTORAL RECORD BOOKS WILL BE SENT BY THE INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS TO THE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL, ONCE REGISTRATION HAS CONCLUDED. THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL FOR EACH DISTRICT OR PRECINCT WILL ROUTINELY OR AT THE REQUEST OF AN INTERESTED PARTY, EXAMINE THE ELECTORAL RECORD BOOKS AND CORRECT THEM IF NEEDED.

ARTICLE 46. INTERESTED PARTIES MAY REQUEST THE APPROPRIATE ELECTORAL COUNCIL TO CORRECT REGISTRATION ERRORS, WRONG INSERTIONS AND OMISSIONS.

ARTICLE 47. FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE, AN INTERESTED PARTY MAY BE THE LATER - "SELF" POLITICAL PARTIES, OR ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION.

ARTICLE 48. WHENEVER THE PARTY CONCERNED APPEALS TO THE APPROPRIATE ELECTORAL COUNCIL FOR EITHER THE INCLUSION OR EXCLUSION OF A VOTER FROM THE RECORD BOOK, THIS REQUEST MUST BE IN WRITING AND FILED WITH THE COUNCIL ITSELF OR THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD, WITHIN THE TEN DAYS FOLLOWING THE END OF THE REGISTRATION PROCESS. THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD MUST SUBMIT THE APPEAL TO THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL WHICH MUST RESOLVE THE CASE WITHIN FIVE DAYS AFTER RECEIVING IT.

ARTICLE 49. IF AN INDIVIDUAL'S VOTER REGISTRATION CARD IS DESTROYED, LOST OR CONTAINS ANY ERRORS, THE VOTER MUST REQUEST A REPLACEMENT OR A CORRECTION FROM HIS REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL. THE COUNCIL WILL RULE ON THE MERITS OF THE REQUEST IN THREE DAYS. APPLICATIONS FOR REPLACEMENT CARDS OR FOR CORRECTIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BEGINNING 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION DATE.

TITLE V THE POLITICAL PARTIES CHAPTER I GENERAL PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 50. NICARAGUAN CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE POLITICAL PARTIES OR TO AFFILIATE THEMSELVES WITH POLITICAL PARTIES IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS, TO EXERCISE VOTING RIGHTS AND TO ASPIRE TO POWER.

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7732
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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ARTICLE 51. POLITICAL PARTIES ARE LEGAL ENTITIES FORMED BY NICARAGUAN CITIZENS. THEY WILL HAVE THEIR OWN PRINCIPLES AND POLITICAL PROGRAMS, AND WILL BE RULED BY THEIR OWN STATUTES AND REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION AND TO THE LAWS.

CHAPTER II
THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

ARTICLE 52. POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO:

- 1) FREELY ORGANIZE THROUGHOUT THE NATIONAL TERRITORY.
- 2) PUBLISH THEIR PRINCIPLES AND POLITICAL PROGRAMS WITHOUT ANY IDEOLOGICAL RESTRICTION EXCEPT THOSE PROHIBITED IN THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION.
- 3) CAMPAIGN.
- 4) ESTABLISH THEIR OWN INTERNAL STATUTES AND REGULATIONS.
- 5) EXPRESS THEIR OPINION CONCERNING PUBLIC EVENTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.
- 6) APPOINT AND REPLACE REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES TO THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 7) NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS.
- 8) HAVE THEIR OWN LEGACY.
- 9) FORM ALLIANCES AMONG THEMSELVES.
- 10) MEET PRIVATELY AND ORGANIZE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS.
- 11) COLLECT FUNDS NECESSARY FOR THEIR OPERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS LAW AND OTHER LAWS RELATING TO THIS MATTER.

ARTICLE 53. POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE THE DUTY TO:

- 1) COMPLY WITH THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS.
- 2) BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE OF NICARAGUA AND DEFEND THE SOVEREIGNTY AND RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE.
- 3) COMPLY WITH THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL AND OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 4) URGE AND PROMOTE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AREAS.
- 5) PRESENT TO THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES LISTS OF THEIR NATIONAL DIRECTORATE, REGIONAL, DEPARTMENTAL AND MUNICIPAL ORGANIZATION AND, CHANGED IN THESE ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS MODIFICATIONS MADE TO STATUTES AND REGULATIONS MUST BE PRESENTED.
- 6) BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR ACTIONS TAKEN IN ALLIANCE WITH

OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, AND OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES THAT ARE UNDERTAKEN WITH THEM.

CHAPTER III
THE ASSEMBLY OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

ARTICLE 54. THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IS THE CONSULTING BODY OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES; POLITICAL PARTIES DULY CONSTITUTED WILL HAVE THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO JOIN THE ASSEMBLY THROUGH DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES.

ARTICLE 55. THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE COMPOSED OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH POLITICAL PARTY WITH LEGAL STATUS AND A MEMBER WHO WILL PRESIDE OVER THE ORGANIZATION ELECTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM A LIST OF THREE NAMES SENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL BE ELECTED FROM AMONG POLITICAL PARTY DELEGATES TO THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES.

THE SECRETARY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE SELECTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FROM THE DELEGATES TO THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ORDER OF RESULTS OF THE PREVIOUS IMMEDIATE ELECTION OF THE SUPREME AUTHORITIES, EXCLUDING THE GOVERNMENT PARTY.

EACH MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE HIS RESPECTIVE ALTERNATE.

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7733
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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ARTICLE 56. THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES HAS THE DUTY TO:

- 1) ANALYZE AND EXPRESS OPINIONS ON REPORTS SUBMITTED BY THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 2) RESPOND TO CONSULTATIONS MADE BY THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES OR BY ANY OTHER GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTION.
- 3) ELECT FROM WITHIN ITS OWN STRUCTURE FOUR MEMBERS TO THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND REPLACE THEM WHEN THEY NO LONGER REPRESENT THEIR RESPECTIVE POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 4) APPROVE THE EXPENSE BUDGET OF THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 5) APPROVE ITS INTERNAL REGULATIONS.

ARTICLE 57. THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL MEET UPON REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OR UPON REQUEST OF TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

ARTICLE 58. A QUORUM OF THE ASSEMBLY IS COMPOSED OF MORE THAN ONE-HALF OF ITS MEMBERS. DECISIONS WILL BE MADE BY A VOTE OF ONE-HALF PLUS ONE OF THE MEMBERS PRESENT AT THE QUORUM.

CHAPTER IV
THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES

ARTICLE 59. THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL BE COMPOSED OF:

- 1) THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES WHO WILL ACT AS PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.
- 2) FOUR MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES, INCLUDING ITS VICE PRESIDENT AS STATED IN ARTICLES 55 AND 56 OF THIS LAW.
- 3) SIX MEMBERS ELECTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, INCLUDING THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES SECRETARY AS STATED IN ARTICLE 55 OF THIS LAW.

THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL HAVE ALTERNATES.

ARTICLE 60. THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL MEET UPON REQUEST OF ITS PRESIDENT. A QUORUM WILL CONSIST OF SIX OF ITS MEMBERS. DECISIONS WILL BE MADE UPON THE VOTE OF MORE THAN HALF OF THE QUORUM. IN CASE OF A TIE, THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TWO VOTES.

THE PRESIDENT MAY CONVENE THE COUNCIL UPON REQUEST OF MORE THAN ONE-HALF THE QUORUM.

ARTICLE 61. THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES HAS THE DUTY TO:

- 1) GIVE LEGAL STATUS AS A POLITICAL PARTY TO THOSE GROUPS WHO MEET THE REQUIRED STANDARDS AND COMPLY WITH THE PROCESSING AS ESTABLISHED IN THIS LAW.
- 2) CANCEL OR SUSPEND THE LEGAL STATUS OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN THOSE CASES ESTABLISHED BY THIS LAW.
- 3) CERTIFY THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVES OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 4) SETTLE CONFLICTS CONCERNING THE LEGITIMACY OF REPRESENTATIVES AND DIRECTORATES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DOCUMENTATION IN POSSESSION OF THE COUNCIL AND UPON A HEARING OF THE DISPUTE PRESENTED BY THE RESPECTIVE PARTIES.
- 5) SUPERVISE AND RESOLVE QUESTIONS ARISING FROM LEGAL DISPOSITIONS CONCERNING COMPLIANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES WITH THEIR OWN STATUTES AND REGULATIONS.
- 6) SEND TO THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES FOR ITS APPROVAL THE EXPENSE BUDGET OF THE COUNCIL.

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P 250023Z MAR 89
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7734
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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- 7) CONVENE THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 8) APPROVE ITS INTERNAL REGULATIONS.
- 9) ANY OTHER ITEM AS CONFERRED BY THE LAW.

ARTICLE 62. THE POLITICAL PARTIES MAY APPEAL TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WITHIN A PERIOD OF FIVE DAYS THE FINAL RESOLUTIONS OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES CONCERNING 3 DEPUTES LISTED IN NUMBERS 1, 2, 3, 4 AND 5 OF THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE.

CHAPTER V

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL HAVE AN ALTERNATE WHICH CAN BE REPLACED AT ANY TIME.

ARTICLE 64. IN CASE OF THE TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES, THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL TAKE OVER.

IF THE ABSENCE IS PERMANENT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WILL SEND TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY A LIST OF THREE NAMES FROM WHICH THE ASSEMBLY WILL ELECT HIS REPLACEMENT.

ARTICLE 65. THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY AND OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO:

- 1) CONVENE AND PRESIDE OVER THE SESSIONS OF BOTH ORGANIZATIONS.
- 2) BE THEIR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE
- 3) CREATE THE REQUIRED ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS FOR THEIR OPERATION AND MAKE APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS.
- 4) INSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE RESOLUTIONS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 5) SUBMIT FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 6) PREPARE AND PRESENT THE BUDGET OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 7) PREPARE THE EXPENSE BUDGET OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES. IF THE ASSEMBLY OF POLITICAL PARTIES

DOES NOT APPROVE THE BUDGET WITHIN A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN DAYS, THE BUDGET WILL BE SENT TO THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE FOR PROCESSING.

8) ALL OTHER DUTIES AS CONFERRED BY THE LAW.

CHAPTER VI

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

ARTICLE 66. CITIZENS INTERESTED IN FORMING A POLITICAL PARTY MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION TO UNDERTAKE ITS ACTIVITIES TO FULFILL REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THIS LAW WHICH ARE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN LEGAL STATUS.

THE PERMIT WILL SPECIFY THE ACTIVITIES THAT ARE AUTHORIZED. A TIME LIMIT OF 90 DAYS WILL BE GIVEN TO FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY LAW TO OBTAIN LEGAL STATUS. IF THE 90 DAY TIME PERIOD ELAPSED WITHOUT FULFILLING ALL THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENTS, THE REQUEST WILL BE CONSIDERED EXPIRED AND THE POLITICAL PARTY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RE-APPLY FOR THREE YEARS.

ARTICLE 67. TO OBTAIN AUTHORIZATION, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MUST ACCOMPANY THE APPLICATION:

- 1) THE PUBLIC DOCUMENT ANNOUNCING THE CREATION OF A POLITICAL ASSOCIATION.
- 2) THE NAME AND EMBLEM OR SYMBOL OF THE POLITICAL PARTY SEEKING AUTHORIZATION.
- 3) THE POLITICAL PRINCIPLES, PROGRAMS AND STATUTES OF THE GROUP.

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7735
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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- 4) THE HERITAGE/HISTORY OF THE GROUP.
- 5) THE NAME OF ITS LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS ALTERNATE.

ARTICLE 68. THE NAME AND EMBLEM OR SYMBOL OF THE PARTY REQUESTING APPROVAL MUST BE CLEARLY DIFFERENTIATED FROM THOSE AUTHORIZED FOR EXISTING POLITICAL PARTIES.

ARTICLE 69. ONCE THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED, THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL NOTIFY THE EXISTING POLITICAL PARTIES SO THAT WITHIN A PERIOD OF TEN DAYS THEY MAY PRESENT ANY OBJECTIONS.

AFTER THIS PERIOD, THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL RESOLVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE STRUCTURE AND THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROPOSED PARTY. IF THE APPLICATION IS APPROVED, THE PARTY WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES ACCORDING TO ITS CONSTITUTION. IF THE APPLICATION IS DENIED, THE APPLICANTS WILL HAVE 15 DAYS TO CORRECT THE DEFICIENCIES NOTED IN THE APPLICATION.

ARTICLE 70. TO OBTAIN LEGAL STATUS, PARTIES SHOULD DEVELOP THE FOLLOWING LEVELS OF ORGANIZATION:

- 1) NATIONAL LEVEL DIRECTORATE WITH NO LESS THAN NINE MEMBERS.
- 2) REGIONAL DIRECTORATES FOR EACH ELECTORAL REGION ESTABLISHED BY THIS LAW, WITH NO LESS THAN SEVEN MEMBERS PER REGIONAL DIRECTORATE.
- 3) DEPARTMENTAL DIRECTORATES WILL HAVE NO LESS THAN SIX MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION.
- 4) MUNICIPAL DIRECTORATES WILL HAVE NO LESS THAN FIVE MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTORATES SHOULD BE REGISTERED IN THE ELECTORAL RECORD BOOKS OF THE PREVIOUS ELECTION. EXCEPTED ARE THOSE NICARAGUAN CITIZENS WHO WERE NOT OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE, OR UNLESS THE CITIZENS HAVE AN EXCUSE CONSIDERED ACCEPTABLE UNDER THIS LAW.

ARTICLE 71. APPLICANTS WILL SUBMIT TO THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES DOCUMENTS CONTAINING THE NAMES OF MEMBERS OF THE DIRECTORATES. THE COUNCIL WILL NOTIFY

THE POLITICAL PARTIES OF THE RECEIPT OF THEIR APPLICATION AND WILL ALLOW DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE APPLICATION DURING FIFTEEN DAYS.

ARTICLE 72. POLITICAL PARTIES WHICH OPPOSE THE APPLICATION MUST DO SO IN A WRITTEN STATEMENT PROVIDING THE REASONS AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR OPPOSITION.

ARTICLE 73. IF THERE IS OPPOSITION TO THE APPLICATION, THE COUNCIL WILL NOTIFY THE GROUP APPLYING FOR LEGAL STATUS SO THAT IT MAY RESPOND TO THE CHALLENGE TO THE APPLICATION WITHIN 10 DAYS. WITH OR WITHOUT A RESPONSE, THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL RESOLVE THE ISSUE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW.

ARTICLE 74. APPLICANTS CAN AMEND THE DEFICIENCIES IN THE APPLICATION NOTED BY THE COUNCIL ANY TIME DURING THE PROCESSING.

ARTICLE 75. ONCE THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLES HAVE BEEN MET, THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL DECIDE EITHER TO AUTHORIZE OR TO DENY THE APPLICATION FOR LEGAL STATUS UNDER THE RULE OF "CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM".

ARTICLE 76. PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN THIS CHAPTER WILL ALSO BE APPLIED TO ANY REQUEST BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO CHANGE ITS NAME AND SYMBOL OR EMBLEM.

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7736
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS SECTION 13 OF 33 MANAGUA 01664

E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PG0V, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

CHAPTER VII

THE CANCELLATION OR SUSPENSION OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF
THE POLITICAL PARTIES

ARTICLE 77. IF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES IS
REQUESTED TO CANCEL OR SUSPEND THE LEGAL STATUS OF A
POLITICAL PARTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE OF THE OBLIGATIONS
ESTABLISHED WITHIN THIS LAW BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR
ANY OTHER POLITICAL PARTY, IT HAS THE AUTHORITY TO DO SO.

THE SUSPENSION OF A POLITICAL PARTY PROHIBITS ITS
OPERATION FOR A SPECIFIC PERIOD OF TIME. THE
CANCELLATION OF A PARTY DISSOLVES THE PARTY.

ARTICLE 78. NON-COMPLIANCE WITH NUMBERS 1, 3, 5 AND 6
OF ARTICLE 53 AND ARTICLE 129 OF THIS LAW ARE GROUNDS
FOR SUSPENSION OF A PARTY'S LEGAL STATUS.

ARTICLE 79. THE FOLLOWING ARE GROUNDS FOR CANCELLATION
OF A PARTY'S LEGAL STATUS:

- 1) RECURRENCE OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ELEMENTS OF THE
PREVIOUS ARTICLE.
- 2) VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 53 NUMERALS 2 AND 4 AND
ARTICLES 126 AND 127 OF THIS LAW.
- 3) DISSOLUTION OF THE POLITICAL PARTY OR BY MERGING
WITH OTHER PARTY.

ARTICLE 80. POLITICAL PARTIES MUST RESPOND WITHIN
FIFTEEN DAYS TO PETITIONS CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION OR
CANCELLATION OF THE LEGAL STATUS

WITH OR WITHOUT AN ANSWER FROM THE AFFECTED PARTY, THE
COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL ACCEPT EVIDENCE ON THE
ISSUE FOR FIFTEEN DAYS AND WILL RESOLVE THE QUESTION
WITHIN THIRTY DAYS.

ARTICLE 81. A POLITICAL PARTY MAY APPEAL THE DECISION
OF THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 80 OF
THIS LAW.

TITLE VI
THE VOTING JURISDICTIONS

ARTICLE 82. THE ELECTION OF PRESIDENT AND VICE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WILL BE MADE AT THE NATIONAL
LEVEL.

ARTICLE 83. ELECTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE MADE ON A REGIONAL BASIS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERRITORIAL DIVISION OF THIS LAW AND
DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

REGION I, NINE REPRESENTATIVES.
REGION II, FIFTEEN REPRESENTATIVES.
REGION III, TWENTY-FIVE REPRESENTATIVES.
REGION IV, FOURTEEN REPRESENTATIVES.
REGION V, TEN REPRESENTATIVES.
REGION VI, ELEVEN REPRESENTATIVES.
REGION VII, THREE REPRESENTATIVES.
REGION VIII, TWO REPRESENTATIVES.
REGION IX, ONE REPRESENTATIVE.

THE NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPRESENTATIVES MAY
VARY ACCORDING TO ARTICLE 132 OF THE POLITICAL
CONSTITUTION, WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

ARTICLE 84. THE FORTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF EACH REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST
WILL BE ELECTED FROM FIFTEEN DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO THE
FOLLOWING DIVISIONS: AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE SOUTH
ATLANTIC:

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P 250233Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7737
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
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AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, MU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

1) THE NEIGHBORHOODS WITHIN THE CITY OF BLUEFIELDS:

ONE : BEHOLDEN AND POINTEEN NEIGHBORHOODS.
TWO : OLD BANK AND PANCASAN NEIGHBORHOODS.
THREE : SANTA ROSA AND FATIMA NEIGHBORHOODS.
FOUR : PUNTA FRIA, CANAL AND CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOODS.
FIVE : SAN MATEO, SAN PEDRO AND TEODORO MARTINEZ
- NEIGHBORHOODS.
SIX : TRES CRUCES, NUEVA YORK, RICARDO MORALES AVILES
- AND 19 DE JULIO NEIGHBORHOODS.

THE DISTRICTS OUTSIDE THE CITY OF BLUEFIELDS:

SEVEN : ZONES OF KUKRA HILL AND RIO KAMA.
EIGHT : ZONES OF MAULOVER, ROCKY POINT, LAGUNA DE
- PERLAS, RAITIPURA, KAKABILA, SET NET AND
- TASBAPAUNI.
NINE : ISLANDS OF CORN ISLAND AND LITTLE ISLAND.
TEN : THE ZONE OF THE MOUTH OF GRANDE RIVER.
ELEVEN : THE ZONES OF GARIFAUROS WHICH INCLUDE:
- BROWN BANK, LA FE, SAN VICENTE, ORINOCO,
- MARSHALL POINT AND WAWASHANG.
TWELVE : THE ZONE OF LAS RAMAS WHICH INCLUDES:
- RAMACAY, TURSWANI, DUKUNU, CANE CREEK, PUNTA
- AGUILA, MONKEY POINT AND WIRING CAY.
THIRTEEN : THE ZONE OF LA CRUZ.
FOURTEEN : THE ZONE OF EL TORTUGUERO.
FIFTEEN : THE ZONE OF KUKRA RIVER AND EL BLUFF.

THE FIRST CANDIDATE ON THE LIST FROM ZONES EIGHT, NINE,
TEN, ELEVEN, TWELVE AND FOURTEEN MUST BE MISQUITO,
CREOLE, SUMO, GARIFONO, RAMA AND MESTIZO, RESPECTIVELY.

THE DISTRICTS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC NORTH:

ONE : ABOVE THE COCO RIVER.
TWO : BELOW THE COCO RIVER.
THREE : VALLEY OF THE COCO RIVER.
FOUR : YULY, TASEA PRI, KUKALAYA.
FIVE : NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN COAST.
SIX : SECTION ONE OF THE CITY OF PUERTO CABEZAS.
SEVEN : SECTION TWO OF THE CITY OF PUERTO CABEZAS,
- VALLEY NORTH.
EIGHT : SECTION THREE OF THE CITY OF PUERTO CABEZAS.
NINE : SECTION ONE, SIUNA.
TEN : SECTION TWO, SIUNA.
ELEVEN : SECTION THREE, SIUNA.

TWELVE : SECTION FOUR, SIUNA.
THIRTEEN : TOWN OF ROSITA.
FOURTEEN : RURAL AREA OF THE TOWN OF ROSITA,
- PRINZAPOLKA AND EL EMPALME HIGHWAY.
FIFTEEN : BONANZA.

THE FIRST CANDIDATE ON THE LIST FROM THE DISTRICTS ONE,
SEVEN, THIRTEEN AND FOURTEEN MUST BE MISQUITO, CREOLE,
SUMO AND MESTIZO, RESPECTIVELY.

ARTICLE 85. THE ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF EACH
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL WILL BE MADE VIA ELECTIONS IN EACH
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT.

ARTICLE 86. THE TWENTY DEPUTIES TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN
PARLIAMENT WILL BE ELECTED THROUGH NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

ARTICLE 87. PLEBISCITES AND REFERENDUMS WILL BE HELD
VIA ELECTIONS CONVOKED BY LEGISLATIVE DECREE.

TITLE VII

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

CHAPTER I

ARTICLE 88. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS REFERRED TO IN
ARTICLE I UNDER THIS LAW, WILL BE NOMINATED TO THE
SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL BY:

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7738
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

- 1) THE POLITICAL PARTIES.
- 2) ALLIANCES OF POLITICAL PARTIES LEGALLY CONSTITUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS LAW.

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTIONS OF REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY CAN ALSO BE PRESENTED BY POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED IN THIS LAW.

CHAPTER II

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORAL ALLIANCES

ARTICLE 89. POLITICAL PARTIES MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN APPLICATION TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL TO NOMINATE THEIR CANDIDATES. THE APPLICATION MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) A CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES ATTESTING TO THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE PARTY.
- 2) THE NAME OF THE PARTY'S LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE AND ALTERNATE.
- 3) THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION OR ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE CANDIDATE WILL PARTICIPATE.
- 4) A LIST OF THE CANDIDATES TO INCLUDE THE ADDRESS, DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH FOR EACH CANDIDATE.
- 5) THE POSITION FOR WHICH THE CANDIDATE IS BEING NOMINATED.
- 6) THE ACRONYM, EMBLEM AND COLORS SELECTED TO IDENTIFY THE PARTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 68 OF THIS LAW.

ARTICLE 90. TO NOMINATE THEIR CANDIDATES, ALLIANCES OF POLITICAL PARTIES MUST SUBMIT A WRITTEN APPLICATION TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WHICH MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) CERTIFICATES OF LEGAL STATUS ISSUED BY THE COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES COMPRISING THE ALLIANCE.
- 2) THE PUBLIC DOCUMENT WHICH CONTAINS THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ALLIANCE AND THE NAME BY WHICH IT WILL BE KNOWN.
- 3) COMPLIANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS LISTED IN NUMBERS 2, 3, 4 AND 5 OF THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE.

ARTICLE 91. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, UPON VERIFICATION THAT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TWO PREVIOUS ARTICLES HAVE BEEN FULFILLED, WILL REGISTER THE NAMES OF THE CANDIDATES PRESENTED.

ARTICLE 92. ALLIANCES HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUEST THAT THEIR CANDIDATES BE IDENTIFIED ON THE ELECTORAL BALLOT WITH THEIR POLITICAL PARTY SYMBOL APPEARING NEXT TO THE CANDIDATE'S NAME.

ARTICLE 93. FOR THE ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, THE REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST, THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT, AND THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, THE POLITICAL PARTIES IN AN ALLIANCE CANNOT NOMINATE CANDIDATES REPRESENTING ONLY THE POLITICAL PARTY FOR ANY DISTRICT.

FOR THE ELECTIONS FOR REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, POLITICAL PARTIES IN ALLIANCES MAY NOMINATE THEIR OWN CANDIDATE IN ANY DISTRICT WHERE THE ALLIANCE HAS NOT NOMINATED A CANDIDATE.

ARTICLE 94. THE FOLLOWING PERSONS CANNOT BE REGISTERED AS CANDIDATES TO POSITIONS LISTED IN ARTICLE 1 OF THIS LAW UNLESS THEY HAVE RESIGNED THEIR JOBS ONE DAY PRIOR TO REGISTERING AS A CANDIDATE:

- 1) MAGISTRATES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF JUSTICE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIAL POWER EMPOWERED TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION.
- 2) MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS.

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC, PRI: ORITY 7739

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, MU

SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

3) ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY FORCES.

CHAPTER III
POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION

ARTICLE 95. NICARAGUAN CITIZENS HAVE THE RIGHT TO PRESENT CANDIDATES OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS MENTIONED IN THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF ARTICLE 83 OF THIS LAW.

ARTICLE 96. TO START THE PROCESS OF PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES BY POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, CITIZENS WHO HAVE ASSOCIATED FOR THAT PURPOSE MUST SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- 1) A WRITTEN APPLICATION SIGNED BY A MINIMUM OF ONE PERCENT OF THE CITIZENS REGISTERED IN THE ELECTORAL BOOK FROM THE PREVIOUS ELECTION.
- 2) THE NAME, ACRONYM, SYMBOL AND COLORS BY WHICH THEY WANT TO BE IDENTIFIED.
- 3) EVIDENCE OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED IN NUMERALS 2, 3 AND 4 OF ARTICLE 89 OF THIS LAW.
- 4) A LIST CONTAINING THE NAMES OF THE CANDIDATES AND THE POSITIONS FOR WHICH THEY ARE BEING PROPOSED.
- 5) A LIST OF NOTARIES WHO HAVE CERTIFIED THE VALIDITY OF THE SIGNATURES ON THE PETITION. WHEN A NOTARY IS NOT AVAILABLE THE RESPECTIVE ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL MAKE A DETERMINATION AS TO THE VALIDITY OF THE SIGNATURES.
- 6) IF THEY DO NOT OBTAIN AT LEAST SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE REQUIRED SIGNATURES ITS MEMBERS WILL GUARANTEE TO PAY AN AMOUNT ESTABLISHED BY THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 97. THE APPLICATION TO PRESENT CANDIDATES WHICH IS MENTIONED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE, WILL BE SPECIFICALLY MADE FOR EACH ELECTION AND FOR EACH DISTRICT. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SUPPORTED BY THE SIGNATURES OF NO LESS THAN TEN PERCENT OF THE NUMBER OF CITIZENS REGISTERED IN THE ELECTORAL BOOK FOR THAT PARTICULAR ELECTORAL DISTRICT.

ARTICLE 98. ONCE THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN APPROVED DURING 30 WORKING DAYS, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL

WILL AUTHORIZE LAWYERS OR DELEGATES TO THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL TO ACCEPT THE SIGNATURES OF THOSE CITIZENS WHO WISH TO SIGN UP IN SUPPORT OF THE CANDIDATES LISTED ON THE APPLICATION.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF CANDIDACY AND REQUEST FOR SIGNATURES WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANTS AND SUBJECT TO THE CODE OF ELECTORAL ETHICS PROMULGATED UNDER THIS LAW.

LAWYERS OR DELEGATES OF THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL WHO ARE VERIFYING SIGNATURES OF SUPPORT WILL REQUIRE CITIZENS TO PRESENT PROPER IDENTIFICATION.

REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTORAL RECORD BOOK DURING THE PREVIOUS ELECTION WILL BE A REQUIREMENT FOR THOSE WISHING TO SIGN IN SUPPORT OF A CANDIDATE. AN EXCEPTION WILL BE THOSE NICARAGUAN CITIZENS WHO AT THE TIME THE LAST REGISTRATION TOOK PLACE, WERE NOT THE REQUIRED AGE OR THOSE WHO PRESENT A VALID EXCUSE FOR NON-REGISTRATION.

ARTICLE 99. THE MONETARY AMOUNT MENTIONED IN NUMBER (6) OF ARTICLE 96 WILL BE ESTABLISHED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL FOR EACH RESPECTIVE ELECTION.

ARTICLE 100. AT THE END OF THE TIME PERIOD ALLOWED TO COLLECT SIGNATURES, THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL DELIVER THE SIGNATURE DOCUMENTS TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WHICH WILL MAKE A DECISION ON THE APPLICATION.

CHAPTER IV

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ELECTORAL PROPAGANDA

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C-01 SSE-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /055 W

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P 250023Z MAR 89

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7740

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: M/A

TAGS: PGDV, NU

SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN
GENERAL PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 101. POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES CAN PRESENT
CANDIDATES IN ONE, SEVERAL, OR ALL THE ELECTIONS.

THE LISTS PRESENTED FOR EACH TERRITORIAL ELECTORAL
DIVISION DO NOT HAVE TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES FOR EVERY
POSITION.

A CITIZEN SEEKING ELECTION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR MORE
THAN ONE POSITION IN THE SAME ELECTION, UNLESS THE
SECOND POSITION IS FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT.

ARTICLE 102. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL SET THE
DATE ON THE ELECTION CALENDAR FOR THE REGISTRATION OF
CANDIDATES. DURING THE REGISTRATION OF CANDIDATES,
POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR
SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE ABLE TO WITHDRAW OR SUBSTITUTE
THEIR CANDIDATES IN ANY ELECTION.

ONCE THE CANDIDATES REGISTRATION PERIOD HAS EXPIRED, NO
REQUESTS FOR REGISTRATION OR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE LIST OF
CANDIDATES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

ARTICLE 103. WHENEVER THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL,
DENIES A REQUEST FOR REGISTRATION OR REJECTS A CANDIDATE
BECAUSE HE DOES NOT MEET THE REQUIRED STANDARDS
PRESCRIBED BY LAW, THE COUNCIL WILL NOTIFY THE POLITICAL
PARTY, ALLIANCE OR REQUESTING ASSOCIATIONS WITHIN THREE
DAYS AFTER THE DECISION HAS BEEN MADE, TO ALLOW THE
PARTY TO COMPLETE OR CORRECT THE APPLICATION, OR TO
CHANGE THE CANDIDATES. IF THE NOTIFICATION IS MADE
WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF THE END OF THE REGISTRATION PERIOD,
THE COUNCIL WILL GIVE THE APPLICANT AN ADDITIONAL FIVE
DAYS WHICH CAN NOT BE EXTENDED TO CORRECT OR AMEND THE
APPLICATION.

ARTICLE 104. ONCE THE REGISTRATION PERIOD HAS ENDED, THE
SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL PUBLISH THE LIST OF
CANDIDATES IN THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL, NEWSPAPERS AND
CIRCULATE NATIONALLY, AND BY POSTERS.

TITLE VIII
THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 105. DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, THE OPENING
AND CLOSING DATES OF WHICH WILL BE SET BY THE SUPREME
ELECTORAL COUNCIL, THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR
ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION THAT HAVE NOMINATED
THEIR OWN CANDIDATES, WILL PROMOTE ACTIVITIES FOR THE
PURPOSE OF OBTAINING VOTES AND OF EXPLAINING THEIR
IDEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES, POLITICAL, SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
PROGRAMS AND THEIR PLATFORM OF GOVERNMENT.

THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN WILL CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING
PERIODS:

1) EIGHTY DAYS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND FOR
ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2) FORTY-TWO DAYS FOR ELECTION OF DEPUTIES TO THE
CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT, REGIONAL COUNCILS AND
MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

THE CAMPAIGNING PERIOD FOR PLEBISCITES AND REFERENDUMS
WILL LAST THIRTY DAYS.

ARTICLE 106. DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN POLITICAL
PARTIES, ALLIANCES AND ASSOCIATIONS WILL BE ALLOWED,
SEPARATE FROM NORMAL PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES, TO PUBLISH
BOOKS, MAGAZINES, PAMPHLETS, FLYERS, POSTERS, SIGNS,
ETC. AND TO USE THE NEWSMEDIA, RADIO AND T.V. FOR
POLITICAL CAMPAIGNING, AS ALLOWED BY THE LAWS AND THE

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C-01 SSE-01 PRS-01 P-02 T-01 /055 W

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7741
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ALL ELECTORAL PROPAGANDA MUST IDENTIFY THE PARTY, ALLIANCE OR ASSOCIATION WHICH SPONSORS IT. PROPAGANDA MATERIALS MUST HAVE FOOTNOTES INDICATING THE PRINTING COMPANY WHICH PUBLISHED THE MATERIAL.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING CAMPAIGN MEDIA CAN BE USED:

1) LOUSPEAKERS, FIXED OR MOBILE, BETWEEN SEVEN A.M AND EIGHT P.M.

2) BANNERS, PLACARDS, DRAWINGS, POSTERS, ETC. THAT CAN BE FIXED ON WALLS, OR ANY OTHER PLACE WITH THE OWNER'S OR RESIDENT'S PERMISSION; THESE MATERIALS ARE NOT TO BE PLACED ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS, MONUMENTS, CHURCHS OR OTHER RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS.

3) THE NEWSMEDIA, WRITTEN AND SPOKEN, RADIO AND TV SYSTEMS THROUGH CONTRACTING.

ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION THAT HAVE PRESENTED THEIR LIST OF CANDIDATES WILL ALSO BE ACCORDED THE ABOVE MENTIONED RIGHTS.

ARTICLE 107. POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION THAT HAVE NOMINATED CANDIDATES MUST PRESENT THE CREDENTIALS OF THEIR REPRESENTATIVE TOGETHER WITH THAT OF HIS ALTERNATE TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL IN ORDER TO CAMPAIGN.

ARTICLE 108. TO PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC RALLIES, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES MUST BE OBSERVED:

1) POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION MUST REQUEST PERMISSION FROM THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL TO CONDUCT PUBLIC RALLIES, PROVIDING THE DATE, TIME, DAY, PLACE AND ROUTE TO BE FOLLOWED A MINIMUM OF ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE RALLY.

2) THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL MAKE ITS DECISION WITHIN FORTY- EIGHT HOURS FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE REQUEST.

3) IN CASE TWO RALLY REQUESTS COINCIDE IN TIME AND PLACE, THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL AFTER CONSULTATION WITH THE

APPLICANTS CAN MODIFY THE PLANNED PROGRAM TO PREVENT PUBLIC DISORDER. THE FIRST PETITION PRESENTED WILL HAVE PRIORITY.

DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN NO RALLIES OR MARCHES WILL BE AUTHORIZED WHICH ARE NOT SPONSORED BY POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION PARTICIPATING IN THE ELECTIONS.

THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL COORDINATE WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS SO THAT ANY RALLIES SPONSORED BY OTHER INSTITUTIONS DO NOT INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

CHAPTER 11 THE USE OF RADIO AND TV MEDIA

ARTICLE 109. DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND FOR THE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL GUARANTEE TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES THAT HAVE NOMINATED CANDIDATES THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- 1) THIRTY MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH SANDINISTA T.V. CHANNEL.
- 2) FORTY-FIVE MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION.
- 3) THIRTY MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH PRIVATE RADIO STATION.

THIS TIME WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES ACCORDING TO THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTES RECEIVED

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P 250023Z MAR 89

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7742

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION.

IN THE CASE OF ALLIANCES FORMED BY POLITICAL PARTIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION, THE TIME TO BE USED IS THE SAME AS THE PARTY THAT RECEIVED THE GREATER NUMBER OF VOTES IN THE ALLIANCE.

POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES THAT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO A TIME EQUAL TO THAT OF THE PARTIES THAT RECEIVED THE MINIMUM PERCENTAGE OF VOTES IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION; IN NO CASE WILL THE MINIMUM TIME BE LESS THAN SEVEN MINUTES A WEEK EVEN IF IT EXCEEDS THE TOTAL TIME GUARANTEED.

POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES MAY USE THEIR MEDIA TIME ALL AT ONCE OR BROKEN UP DURING THE WEEK. PARTIES WILL PRESENT THEIR PROPOSED CAMPAIGN CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE OF PROGRAMS TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, WHO AFTER EXAMINING IT, WILL PUBLISH THE FINAL CALENDAR AND SCHEDULE, MAKING AN EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION TIME.

EACH POLITICAL PARTY OR ALLIANCES MUST PAY THE AIR TIME AND THE PRODUCTION COSTS OF THEIR TV AND RADIO PROGRAMS. THE SANDINISTA TV SYSTEM AND THE VARIOUS RADIO STATIONS SHALL PRESENT THEIR PRICE LISTS TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL. AFTER EXAMINING THESE PRICE LISTS, THE COUNCIL WILL ESTABLISH FIXED CAMPAIGN TARIFFS.

ARTICLE 110. DURING ELECTIONS FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT THE SAME PROCEDURES AS IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE WILL BE ALLOWED EXCEPT THAT THE MEDIA TIME SCHEDULE WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

1) TWENTY MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH SANDINISTA T.V. CHANNEL.

2) TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH GOVERNMENT RADIO STATION.

3) FIFTEEN MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH OF THE PRIVATE RADIO STATIONS.

ARTICLE 111. FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL GUARANTEE TO EACH OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES THE FOLLOWING:

1) FIFTEEN MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH RADIO STATION THAT DOES NOT HAVE NATION-WIDE COVERAGE IN THOSE REGIONS WHERE THE PARTY IS RUNNING CANDIDATES.

2) IF A POLITICAL PARTY OR ALLIANCE HAS CANDIDATES IN AT LEAST EIGHTY PERCENT OF THE MUNICIPALITIES THEY WILL BE ALLOWED TWENTY MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH OF THE RADIO STATIONS WITH NATION-WIDE COVERAGE, AND FIVE MINUTES ON EACH SANDINISTA TV CHANNEL, AT THE CLOSING OF THE CAMPAIGN.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF RADIO TIME FOR EACH REGION WILL BE MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGIONAL PERCENTAGE OF VOTES RECEIVED IN THE PREVIOUS MUNICIPAL ELECTION. IN THE CASE OF ALLIANCES FORMED BY POLITICAL PARTIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION, THE AMOUNT OF TIME WHICH CAN USED WILL BE EQUAL TO THAT GIVEN THE PARTY WHICH RECEIVED THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES. POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES THAT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION WILL HAVE THE RIGHT TO AN AMOUNT OF TIME EQUAL TO THAT GIVEN THE PARTY WHICH RECEIVED THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF VOTES.

IN NO CASE WILL THE MINIMUM TIME BE LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES A WEEK, EVEN IF IT THAT EXCEEDS THE TOTAL TIME GUARANTEED.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF AIR TIME GIVEN EACH PARTY ON THE RADIO, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL CALCULATE THE AIR TIME FOR EACH STATION.

ARTICLE 112. DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN OF THE

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7743
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL GUARANTEE TO POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) THIRTY MINUTES EVERY DAY ON EACH OF THE RADIO STATIONS IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS.
- 2) FIVE MINUTES ON EACH RADIO STATION WITH NATION-WIDE COVERAGE, WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE OPENING AND CLOSING OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. THIS ALSO APPLIES TO TIME ALLOCATED FOR TELEVISION.

THIS TIME WILL BE DIVIDED AMONG THE POLITICAL PARTIES AND ALLIANCES ACCORDING TO THE PERCENTAGE OF VOTES RECEIVED IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION.

IN THE CASE OF ALLIANCES FORMED BY POLITICAL PARTIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION, THE TIME ALLOCATED WILL BE THE SAME AS THAT GIVEN THE PARTY WHICH RECEIVED THE GREATER NUMBER OF VOTES.

POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES THAT DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION WILL BE GIVEN THE SAME AMOUNT OF AIR TIME EQUAL TO THAT OF THE PARTY WHICH RECEIVED THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF VOTES.

IN NO CASE WILL THE MINIMUM RADIO TIME BE LESS THAN FIVE MINUTES A WEEK, EVEN IF IT EXCEEDS THE TOTAL TIME GUARANTEED.

ARTICLE 113. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL GUARANTEE TO THE ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION FIVE MINUTES WEEKLY ON THE RADIO STATIONS WITH LOCAL COVERAGE IN THE REGIONS WHERE THE ASSOCIATIONS ARE RUNNING CANDIDATES.

ARTICLE 114. THE PROCEDURES FOR DISTRIBUTION OF RADIO AND TELEVISION TIME, FOR ESTABLISHING THE CAMPAIGN CALENDAR, FOR PRICE LISTS AND PAYMENT SCHEDULES AS ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLE 109 OF THIS LAW, WILL APPLY TO MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND ELECTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST.

ARTICLE 115. TWO OR MORE ELECTIONS TAKING PLACE AT THE

SAME TIME, WILL NOT PRODUCE A CUMULATIVE EFFECT FOR THE MEDIA TIME ESTABLISHED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLES. THE OPTION WHICH OFFERS THE GREATER AMOUNT OF TIME WILL BE USED.

THOSE POLITICAL PARTIES THAT JOINED AN ALLIANCES FOR ONE ELECTION AND THEN CAMPAIGN SEPARATELY AS A PARTY IN THE NEXT ELECTION, THE MEDIA TIME WILL BE DIVIDED INTO EQUAL PARTS.

ARTICLE 116. RELIGIOUS RADIO STATIONS CANNOT BROADCAST POLITICAL CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA.

CHAPTER III GENERAL PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 117. THE RIGHTS ESTABLISHED IN THE TWO PRECEDING CHAPTERS APPLY EXCLUSIVELY TO POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION THAT HAVE PRESENTED CANDIDATES.

ARTICLE 118. CAMPAIGN PROPAGANDA THAT ENCOURAGES THE POPULACE TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING IS FORBIDDEN.

ARTICLE 119. SEVENTY-TWO HOURS PRIOR TO AN ELECTION, ALL CAMPAIGNING WILL CEASE. THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA WILL BE UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL AND WILL BE USED TO DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT VOTING PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THIS LAW.

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7744
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NU
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

ARTICLE 120. POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION WHICH CONSIDER THAT THEIR RIGHTS HAVE BEEN VIOLATED BY A REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL DECISION MAY APPEAL TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WITHIN SIX DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE DECISION. APPEALS FROM DECISIONS MADE BY COUNCILS LOCATED A LONG DISTANCE FROM MANAGUA WILL BE GRANTED MORE TIME TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TRAVEL TIME.

THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL INVESTIGATE THE APPEAL DURING THE EIGHT DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE APPEAL AND WILL REACH A VERDICT DURING THE FOLLOWING THREE DAYS.

CHAPTER IV FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 121. THE GOVERNMENT WILL BUDGET A SPECIFIC AMOUNT TO BE USED TO FINANCE THE EXPENDITURES OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES AND ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS.

ARTICLE 122. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL SUBMIT TO THE EXECUTIVE POWER A BUDGET TO BE USED DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. THE EXECUTIVE POWER WILL THEN ACT ON THE BUDGET PROPOSAL.

ARTICLE 123. EACH POLITICAL PARTY, ALLIANCE OR ASSOCIATION OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION THAT HAS REGISTERED CANDIDATES WILL BE GIVEN AN ALLOTMENT, PROPORTIONAL TO THE NUMBER OF VOTES THAT IT RECEIVED IN THE PREVIOUS GENERAL ELECTION.

POLITICAL PARTIES THAT DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION WILL BE GIVEN AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO THE PARTY RECEIVING THE LEAST NUMBER OF VOTES IN THE PREVIOUS GENERAL ELECTIONS.

ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE USED AN AMOUNT CALCULATED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE PARAGRAPH, IN PROPORTION TO THE POPULATION OF THE DISTRICTS IN WHICH THEY CAMPAIGN.

ARTICLE 124. ALLIANCES FORMED WITH POLITICAL PARTIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION WILL RECEIVE FINANCING EQUAL TO THAT OF THE PARTY IN THE ALLIANCE WHICH RECEIVED THE GREATEST NUMBER OF VOTES IN THE PREVIOUS ELECTION.

WHEN THE POLITICAL PARTIES THAT FORMED AN ALLIANCE FOR THE PREVIOUS ELECTION DECIDE TO CAMPAIGN SEPARATELY, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WILL BE BASED ON THE AMOUNT GIVEN THE ALLIANCE AND DIVIDED AMONG THE PARTIES THAT FORMED THE PREVIOUS ALLIANCE.

ARTICLE 125. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE EACH POLITICAL PARTY, ALLIANCE OR ASSOCIATION OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, CAN OBTAIN FINANCING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ELECTION IN WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE, THE VOTING DISTRICTS WHERE THEY FIELD CANDIDATES, AND THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES NOMINATED.

ARTICLE 126. POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS WHICH RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE OBLIGED TO USE THESE FUNDS STRICTLY FOR ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES AND MUST ACCOUNT FOR ALL EXPENSES WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.

UNUSED FUNDS OR FUNDS WHICH HAVE BEEN USED FOR PURPOSES NOT INTENDED UNDER THIS LAW, WILL BE REIMBURSED TO THE GOVERNMENT WITHIN THIRTY DAYS AFTER THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN HAS ENDED.

ARTICLE 127. POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR

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P 250023Z MAR 89
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PG 03RITY 7745
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NO
SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION MAY ACCEPT DONATIONS FROM NICARAGUAN CITIZENS RESIDING IN THE COUNTRY. THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE DONATIONS MUST BE REPORTED TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL. DONATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED FROM GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, PRIVATE OR MIXED GOVERNMENT/PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS BE THEY NATIONAL OR FOREIGN. ACCEPTANCE OF FOREIGN DONATIONS IS DEFINITELY PROHIBITED.

ARTICLE 128. TO IMPORT PROPAGANDA ITEMS FROM ABROAD FOR USE IN THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION MUST HAVE A CUSTOMS TAX EXEMPTION. THIS WILL BE GIVEN BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL PRIOR TO IMPORTING THE GOODS.

CHAPTER V ETHICS OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN

ARTICLE 129. PROPAGANDA DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN MUST COMPLY WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE COUNTRY AS DESCRIBED IN THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION AND MUST RESPECT ETHICS AND MORAL STANDARDS WHEN DEALING WITH OTHER POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, CANDIDATES, ELECTORS AND THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE. IT IS PROHIBITED TO DEFAME, INSULT OR SLANDER ANY OF THE CANDIDATES.

ARTICLE 130. THIRTY DAYS BEFORE PRIOR TO EACH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL ISSUE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF EACH ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

TITLE IX THE VOTING CHAPTER I ELECTORAL BALLOTS

ARTICLE 131. A SEPARATE BALLOT WILL BE USED FOR EACH ELECTION. THE BALLOTS WILL CONTAIN, IN PARALLEL COLUMN, THE LIST OF CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY EACH POLITICAL PARTY, ALLIANCE OR ASSOCIATION OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION. THE FOLLOWING BALLOTS WILL BE PREPARED:

1) ONE BALLOT CONTAINING THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

2) ONE BALLOT CONTAINING THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATE TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR EACH REGION.

3) ONE BALLOT CONTAINING THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR THE TWENTY PERMANENT DEPUTY AND ALTERNATE POSITIONS TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT.

4) ONE BALLOT CONTAINING THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST FOR THE THREE POSITIONS IN EACH VOTING DISTRICT.

5) ONE BALLOT CONTAINING THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR PERMANENT MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF EACH MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: TWENTY CANDIDATES FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANAGUA, TEN CANDIDATES FOR EACH DEPARTMENT CAPITAL AND MUNICIPALITIES OF OVER 10,000 IN POPULATION, AND FIVE CANDIDATES FOR OTHER MUNICIPALITIES.

6) ONE BALLOT CLEARLY EXPLAINING THE MATTER SUBMITTED TO A PLEBISCITE OR REFERENDUM WITH A VOTING COLUMN INDICATING "YES" OR "NO".

ARTICLE 132. BALLOTS WILL INCLUDE THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES NOMINATED BY EACH OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES, OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION.

ARTICLE 133. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL DESIGN BALLOTS WHICH CLEARLY IDENTIFY POLITICAL PARTY, ALLIANCE

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P 250023Z MAR 89

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PR CRITY 7746

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

AND ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, NAMES, ACRONYMS, SYMBOLS AND COLORS AFTER DISCUSSING THE DESIGN WITH THE LEGAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES AND ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION. THE ORDER IN WHICH NAMES APPEAR ON THE BALLOT WILL BE DETERMINED BY PICKING NAMES AT RANDOM. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL PUBLICIZE SAMPLES OF THE ELECTORAL BALLOTS PRIOR TO THE ELECTION.

CHAPTER II ACT OF VOTING

ARTICLE 134. CITIZENS WILL VOTE AT THE SAME VOTING PLACE WHERE THEY REGISTERED.

ARTICLE 135. ON VOTING DAY, MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE ALTERNATES, WILL GATHER AT THE VOTING PLACE AT SIX A.M. ONCE ALL BOARD MEMBERS ARE PRESENT, THE ALTERNATES MAY LEAVE THE PREMISES. VOTING WILL BEGIN AT SEVEN A.M.

ARTICLE 136. THE VOTING PLACE WILL BE ON THE SAME PREMISES USED FOR VOTER REGISTRATION. THE PREMISES MUST MEET THE REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL TO GUARANTEE A SECRET VOTE.

IF BECAUSE OF CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND THEIR CONTROL, VOTING PLACES MUST CHANGE LOCATION WITHIN THE VOTING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES, THEY MAY DO SO, BUT ONLY AFTER PRIOR AUTHORIZATION FROM THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF THE VOTING DISTRICT.

ARTICLE 137. THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS WILL MAKE A WRITTEN REPORT ON ELECTION ACTIVITIES (ACTA DE CONSTITUCION) AND SEND COPIES TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL. THE REPORTING FORMAT AND THE NUMBER OF COPIES TO BE FURNISHED WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL. THE REPORT WILL CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

- 1) NAMES OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT MEMBERS
- 2) CERTIFICATION THAT THE POLLING PLACE MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS SET BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.
- 3) NUMBER OF BALLOTS CAST.

- 4) CERTIFICATION STATING THAT THE VOTING BOXES WERE CHECKED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE POLL WATCHERS, IF ANY, AND THAT THE BOXES WERE CLOSED AND SEALED.
- 5) SIGNATURES OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD MEMBERS AND OF THE POLL WATCHERS, IF ANY, IF THEY SO DESIRE.

ARTICLE 138. WHILE THE VOTING IS CONTINUING AND SO LONG AS THE SCRUTINY ACT HAS NOT BEEN SIGNED, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WILL BE PROHIBITED:

- 1) TO CHANGE THE VOTING PREMISES.
- 2) TO ILLEGALLY PUT IN OR TAKE OUT BALLOTS FROM THE POLLING BOX.
- 3) REMOVE STATIONERY OR OTHER ELECTORAL MATERIAL FROM THE VOTING PREMISES.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD ARE PROHIBITED FROM BEING ABSENT FROM THEIR POSITIONS. IF BECAUSE OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES, ANY MEMBER HAS TO LEAVE, HIS/HER ALTERNATE WILL TAKE HIS/HER PLACE ON THE BOARD. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, VOTING WILL CONTINUE WITH THE BOARD MEMBERS THAT ARE PRESENT. ALL ABSENCES MUST BE NOTED ON THE VOTING RECORD.

ARTICLE 139. VOTING WILL END AT SIX P.M. BUT WILL CLOSE BEFORE THAT TIME IF ALL THE PEOPLE REGISTERED IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER HAVE VOTED. VOTING STATIONS WILL NOT CLOSE WHILE THERE ARE REGISTERED CITIZENS WAITING TO VOTE.

ARTICLE 140. POLLING BOXES FOR EACH ELECTION WILL BE PROVIDED TO EACH ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD.

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7747

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, NU

SUBJECT: INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE NICARAGUAN

ARTICLE 141. THE VOTING PROCESS WILL BE CONDUCTED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) EACH VOTER WILL PRESENT HIS VOTER'S REGISTRATION CARD TO THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD.
- 2) THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD WILL VERIFY THE VOTER REGISTRATION CARD TO INSURE THAT THE VOTER IS REGISTERED IN THE ELECTORAL BOOK. THE VOTER WILL THEN BE GIVEN HIS ELECTORAL BALLOT.
- 3) THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD WILL EXPLAIN TO THE VOTER HOW TO MARK THE BALLOT AND WARN HIM THAT HE CANNOT STAY MORE THAN TWO MINUTES IN THE VOTING BOOTH IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE A SECRET VOTE.
- 4) THE VOTER WILL MARK EACH ELECTORAL BALLOT WITH AN "X" IN THE BLOCK OF THE POLITICAL PARTY, ALLIANCE AND ASSOCIATION OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION OF HIS CHOICE AND WILL PLACE DULY FOLDED THE BALLOT IN THE APPROPRIATE POLLING BOX.

ARTICLE 142. MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS, POLL WATCHERS ACCREDITED TO THEM AND ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD STAFF WORKING IN ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS DIFFERENT FROM WHERE THEY REGISTERED, MAY VOTE AT THE BOARD WHERE THEY WORK UPON PRESENTATION OF THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION CARD AND CREDENTIALS. THESE VOTES WILL BE RECORDED IN THE RECORD KEPT BY THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD.

ARTICLE 143. UPON COMPLETION OF THE VOTING PROCESS, THE VOTER SHALL DIP HIS RIGHT HAND THUMB INTO INDELIBLE INK, INSURING THAT THE FINGER IS COVERED TO THE BASE OF THE FINGERNAIL. IF THERE IS A DEFECT IN THE RIGHT THUMB HE CAN USE THE LEFT HAND THUMB. THE INK WILL BE PLACED ON THE SAME TABLE WHERE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD MEMBERS ARE SEATED.

ARTICLE 144. PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED PERSONS MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PERSON OF HIS CONFIDENCE WHO WILL HELP HIM VOTE. THIS WILL BE RECORDED IN THE RECORD.

ARTICLE 145. THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD WILL NOTE IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER IF A REGISTERED VOTER HAS VOTED.

ARTICLE 146. THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WILL BE PROHIBITED DURING ELECTION DAY:

- 1) PUBLIC MEETINGS OR SHOWS THAT INTERFERE WITH THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.
- 2) SELLING OR DISTRIBUTING ALCOHOLIC DRINKS.
- 3) ENTERING THE POLLING PLACE CARRYING A WEAPON.
- 4) CAMPAIGNING IN THE POLLING PLACE AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.
- 5) ARRIVING AT THE POLLING PLACE IN A DRUNKEN STATE.
- 6) FORMING GROUPS AROUND THE POLLING PLACE.
- 7) PLACING PROPAGANDA OF POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION IN THE POLLING PLACE.
- 8) ANY OTHER ACTIVITY THAT TENDS TO IMPEDE OR DISTURB THE VOTING PROCESS.
- 9) THE STATIONING OF ELECTORAL POLICE WITHIN THE POLLING PLACE, UNLESS CALLED TO DO SO BY THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD.

THESE PROHIBITIONS WILL BE ALSO APPLICABLE DURING VOTER REGISTRATION.

ARTICLE 147. ONCE THE VOTING PROCESS HAS ENDED, MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS WILL DRAW UP A CLOSING DOCUMENT WHICH MUST CONTAIN THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) THE HOUR VOTING ENDED.
- 2) THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO VOTED.
- 3) THE NAME OF THE POLL WATCHERS THAT WITNESSED THE VOTING PROCESS AND ANY PROTESTS THEY FILED.
- 4) THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS THAT WERE RECEIVED AND THE

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7748
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
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TAGS: PGOV, NU
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NUMBER THAT WERE NOT USED.

THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD AND THE POLL WATCHERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION SHOULD SIGN THE CLOSING DOCUMENT.

IF THE POLL WATCHERS REFUSE TO SIGN THE CLOSING RECORD, ACTION AS STATED IN PARAGRAPH 5, ARTICLE 30, OF THIS LAW WILL BE TAKEN. BUT IF THEY FILE PROTESTS AND DO NOT SIGN, THEIR PROTESTS WILL NOT BE VALID. THE NUMBERS OF VOTES CAST WILL BE WRITTEN IN INK IN BOTH NUMERALS AND SCRIPT, IN THE CLOSING RECORD.

CHAPTER III THE VOTE COUNT

ARTICLE 148. ONCE VOTING HAS ENDED AND THE CLOSING RECORD HAS BEEN SIGNED, THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS WILL COUNT THE VOTES AT THE SAME PLACE WHERE THE VOTING TOOK PLACE AND IN PRESENCE OF THE POLL WATCHERS. THE BALLOT BOXES WILL NOT BE OPENED UNTIL AN INSPECTION OF THEIR CONDITION HAS BEEN MADE AND VERIFIED.

ARTICLE 149. THE BALLOTS WILL FIRST BE COUNTED TO VERIFY WHETHER THE NUMBER OF BALLOTS EQUALS THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO VOTED.

ARTICLE 150. A VALID VOTE MUST BE ON THE OFFICIAL BALLOT AND MARKED WITH AN X IN ONE OF THE CIRCLES DESIGNED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

ARTICLE 151. THOSE BALLOTS WHERE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE FOR WHOM THE VOTE HAS BEEN CAST, OR WHICH HAVE BEEN DEPOSITED WITHOUT MARKING, WILL NOT BE VALID.

ARTICLE 152. THE VALID VOTES WILL BE CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF ELECTION (LEGISLATIVE, NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ETC.) AND COUNTED AS STATED IN ARTICLE 131 OF THIS LAW.

ARTICLE 153. THE VOTE COUNT RECORD WILL BE PREPARED IN

THE MANNER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NUMBER OF COPIES DETERMINED BY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL. THE RECORD WILL SHOW THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) TOTAL NUMBER OF BALLOTS DEPOSITED.
- 2) NUMBER OF VALID BALLOTS.
- 3) NUMBER OF INVALID BALLOTS.
- 4) NUMBER OF BALLOTS RECEIVED AND NUMBER THAT WERE NOT USED.
- 5) NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED BY EACH POLITICAL PARTY, ALLIANCE OR ASSOCIATION OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION FOR EACH RESPECTIVE ELECTION.
- 6) CHARGES MADE BY THE POLL WATCHERS QUESTIONING THE VALIDITY OR NON-VALIDITY OF ANY BALLOTS OR CONCERNING ANY INCIDENT.

THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD AND THE POLL WATCHERS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, SHOULD SIGN THE RECORD AS PRESCRIBED BY ARTICLE 147 OF THIS LAW.

ARTICLE 154. ONCE THE VOTE COUNT HAS ENDED, THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD WILL REPORT THE RESULTS OF THE VOTE COUNT, EITHER BY TELEGRAM OR BY WHATEVER OTHER MEANS AVAILABLE, TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL AND THE APPROPRIATE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 155. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, AS IT RECEIVES INFORMATION ON THE VOTE COUNTS, WILL RELEASE THIS INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC PROVISIONALLY.

ARTICLE 156. THE PRESIDENT OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT

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TAGS: PGOV, NU
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BOARD WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR AND WILL DELIVER,
PERSONALLY AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FOLLOWING
DOCUMENTS TO THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF HIS OWN REGION:

- 1) THE ELECTION ACTIVITIES REPORT.
- 2) THE CLOSING DOCUMENT.
- 3) THE VOTING SCRUTINY REPORT.
- 4) THE VALID BALLOTS.
- 5) THE UNUSED BALLOTS.
- 6) THE VOTER REGISTRATION BOOK.

ARTICLE 157. THE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL REVIEW
AND RECOUNT THE VOTES FROM EACH ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD
AND THEN WILL COMPILE ALL THE ELECTORAL DATA FROM THE
REGION.

ONCE THIS HAS BEEN DONE, THE COUNCIL WILL WRITE UP AN
INVENTORY RECORD TO CONTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION REQUIRED
OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS FOR BOTH THE CLOSING
AND VOTING SCRUTINY DOCUMENTS. A COPY OF EACH OF THESE
DOCUMENTS WILL BE SENT IMMEDIATELY TO THE SUPREME
ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

THE INVENTORY RECORD WILL BE SIGNED BY THE POLL WATCHERS
OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATION OF
POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION WHO WERE PRESENT. IF THEY REFUSE
TO SIGN, THE PROCEDURE PRESCRIBED BY SUB-PARAGRAPH 5,
ARTICLE 30, OF THE PRESENT LAW, WILL BE OBSERVED. BUT
IF THE POLL WATCHERS MAKE ANY PROTESTS AND DO NOT SIGN,
THE PROTESTS WILL HAVE NO VALIDITY.

THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL ISSUE A CERTIFICATION OF THE
DOCUMENTS UPON REQUEST OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
POLITICAL PARTIES WHO WERE OR WOULD BE ONE OF POPULAR
SUBSCRIPTION, THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ELECTIONS.

ARTICLE 158. ONCE THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL HAS
RECEIVED THE FINAL RESULTS OF THE VOTE COUNT AND
RECOUNT, IT WILL ADD THE VOTES AND PROCEED AS PRESCRIBED
IN THIS LAW.

TITLE X
PLEBISCITES AND REFERENDUMS

ARTICLE 159. A PLEBISCITE IS A DIRECT, POPULAR,

CONSULTATION ON MEASURES THAT ARE FAR-REACHING, AND
COULD AFFECT THE INTERESTS OF THE NATION.

ARTICLE 160. A REFERENDUM IS THE ACT BY WHICH THE LAWS
AND THE AMENDMENTS OF A COMMON OR CONSTITUTIONAL NATURE
ARE DIRECTLY SUBMITTED FOR POPULAR APPROVAL.

ARTICLE 161. THE LEGISLATIVE DECREE BY WHICH PLEBISCITES
AND REFERENDUMS ARE CALLED WILL CONTAIN THE COMPLETE
TEXT OF THE LAW AND THE POLITICAL DECISION TO WHICH THE
PEOPLE MUST RESPOND.

ARTICLE 162. THE SCHEDULES FOR A PLEBISCITE OR
REFERENDUM WILL CONTAIN THE DATE OF VOTER REGISTRATION,
THE TERM ESTABLISHED FOR CAMPAIGNING, AND THE VOTING
DATE. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL APPLY THE
PRESENT LAW TO PLEBISCITES AND REFERENDUMS.

ARTICLE 163. IN PLEBISCITES AS WELL AS REFERENDUMS, THE
OPTION RECEIVING THE MAJORITY OF VALID VOTES WILL BE
APPROVED.

TITLE XI
RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS
CHAPTER I
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 164. THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL
BE ELECTED BY A RELATIVE MAJORITY OF THE VALID VOTES

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7750
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TAGS: PGOV, NU
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CAST IN THE COUNTRY.

- CHAPTER II
- ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 165. USING THE SYSTEM OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION BY THE ELECTORAL RATIO ESTABLISHED IN THE ARTICLES BELOW, ONLY THE CANDIDATES ON THE LISTS OF POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES THAT RECEIVE 5 PERCENT OR MORE OF THE VALID VOTES DEPOSITED FROM EACH REGION WILL BE ELECTED AS REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

ARTICLE 166. EACH POLITICAL PARTY OR ALLIANCE THAT RECEIVES THE NUMBER OF VOTES STATED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE, WILL BE ASSIGNED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS AFTER DIVIDING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES BY THE ELECTORAL RATIO OF THE REGION. CANDIDATES FOR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES, WILL BE SELECTED FROM EACH LIST OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES, UNTIL THE NUMBER TO WHICH THE PARTY IS ENTITLED IS REACHED.

ARTICLE 167. AFTER IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ARTICLES, SEATS THAT ARE NOT ASSIGNED WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES:

1) POLITICAL PARTIES OR ALLIANCES WILL BE RANK-ORDERED BASED ON THE NUMBER OF VOTES THEY RECEIVED, FROM HIGHEST TO LOWEST, PROVIDED THEY MEET THE REQUIREMENT STATED IN ARTICLE 165 OF THIS LAW (5 PERCENT).

2) EACH POLITICAL PARTY OR ALLIANCE WILL BE ASSIGNED A SEAT IN THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE AS PRESCRIBED BY THE LAW.

3) IF THERE STILL REMAIN UNASSIGNED SEATS, THE SAME PROCEDURE AS NOTED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE WILL APPLY AND WILL BE REPEATED AS OFTEN AS NEEDED TO ASSIGN ALL SEATS.

4) THE CANDIDATES FOR PERMANENT OR ALTERNATE MEMBER FOR EACH POLITICAL PARTY OR ALLIANCE, WILL BE CHOSEN IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE LISTED AFTER BEING ELECTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUB-PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF THIS ARTICLE.

ARTICLE 168. IN REGIONS VII AND VIII THE ELECTORAL RATE WILL BE DETERMINED BY DIVIDING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VALID VOTES BY THE NUMBER OF SEATS TO THE ASSIGNED PLUS ONE. IN REGION IX, THE ELECTORAL RATE WILL BE DETERMINED BY DIVIDING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES BY THE NUMBER OF SEATS TO BE DISTRIBUTED PLUS TWO.

ARTICLE 169. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 180 OF THIS LAW AND TO COMPLY WITH ARTICLE 133 OF THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION, THE REGIONAL ELECTORAL RATES WILL BE ADDED UP AND THE RESULT WILL BE DIVIDED BY NINE.

ARTICLE 170. IN THE CASE OF THE LONG-TERM ABSENCE OF A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE ASSEMBLY, HIS ALTERNATE WILL BECOME THE PERMANENT MEMBER.

THE SECRETARIAT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WILL NOTIFY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF THIS CHANGE IN STATUS.

IF THE ALTERNATE MEMBER IS ABSENT FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME, BEFORE OR AFTER BEING APPOINTED AS PERMANENT MEMBER, THE NEXT ALTERNATE ON THE LIST WILL BE CALLED TO ASSUME HIS DUTIES. IF THERE ARE NO OTHER NAMES ON THE LIST OF ALTERNATES ELECTED IN THIS REGION, THE PROCESS WILL CONTINUE IN SUBSEQUENT ORDER WITH THE ALTERNATES ELECTED FROM OTHER REGIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED.

- CHAPTER III
- ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT

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TAGS: PGOV, MU
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ARTICLE 171. CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION AS DELEGATES TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLAMENT, TO WHICH ARTICLES 1, 3, 86 AND 131 IN THIS LAW REFERS, CAN BE ELECTED IF THE POLITICAL PARTY OR ALLIANCE NOMINATING THEM, RECEIVES AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT OF THE VALID VOTES IN THE NATIONAL ELECTION.

ARTICLE 172. FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURE ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLES 166 AND 167 OF THE PRESENT LAW, SEATS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO EACH POLITICAL PARTY OR ALLIANCE USING THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM OF THE ELECTORAL RATIO.

CHAPTER IV

ELECTION OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST

ARTICLE 173 THE ONLY CANDIDATES ON THE LIST THAT CAN BE ELECTED AS MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST ARE THOSE WHO RECEIVE FIVE PERCENT OR MORE OF THE VALID VOTES.

APPLYING THE ELECTORAL RATIO SYSTEM MEANS THAT EACH LIST WILL BE ASSIGNED AS MANY SEATS AS THE RESULT OF DIVIDING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES CAST BY THE ELECTORAL RATIO. THE CANDIDATES WILL BE SELECTED IN THE SAME ORDER IN WHICH THEY ARE NOMINATED UNTIL THE NUMBER COINCIDING WITH THE NUMBER ON LIST IS REACHED.

ARTICLE 174. THE SEATS THAT ARE NOT ASSIGNED, AS STATED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE, WILL BE ASSIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

1) THE LISTS OF NAMES WILL BE ORGANIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED, RANKED FROM HIGHEST TO LOWEST.

2) A SEAT WILL BE ASSIGNED TO EACH LIST IN THE ORDER STATED IN THE PRECEDING SUB-PARAGRAPH.

3) IF AFTER THIS PROCEDURE HAS BEEN FOLLOWED THERE STILL ARE UNADDITIONED TEATS THE SAME PROCEDURE OUTLINED IN THE PRECEDING SUB-PARAGRAPH WILL BE REPEATED.

4) CANDIDATES WILL BE SELECTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH

THEY WERE PLACED ON THE LIST.

CHAPTER V

ELECTION OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

ARTICLE 179. ONLY CANDIDATES ON LISTS THAT RECEIVE FIVE PERCENT OR MORE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VALID MUNICIPAL VOTES, WILL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

ARTICLE 176. IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANAGUA THE FIRST TEN CANDIDATES WILL BE ELECTED FROM THE LIST THAT RECEIVES THE RELATIVE MAJORITY OF VOTES.

THE FIRST FIVE CANDIDATES FROM DEPARTMENT CAPITALS AND MUNICIPALITIES OF MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE WILL BE ELECTED FROM THE LISTS THAT RECEIVE THE RELATIVE MAJORITY OF VOTES.

ARTICLE 177. COUNCIL POSITIONS THAT ARE NOT FILLED AS INDICATED IN THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE, WILL BE SELECTED BY THE PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM, DIVIDED BY THE ELECTORAL RATIO, AND FOLLOWING THE PROCEDURES STATED BELOW:

1) EACH LIST OF NAMES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE ASSIGNED THE NUMBER OF SEATS WHICH ARE CALCULATED BY DIVIDING THE TOTAL NUMBER OF VOTES RECEIVED, BY THE ELECTORAL RATIO FOR THE MUNICIPALITY. CANDIDATES WILL

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4) CANDIDATES WILL BE SELECTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7752
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BE ELECTED IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN
NOMINATED UNTIL REACHING THE NUMBER APPEARING ON THE
LIST.

2) THE SEATS THAT FAIL TO BE ASSIGNED PER THE ABOVE,
WILL BE ASSIGNED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

AS LONG AS THE LISTS MEET THE REQUIREMENT OF ARTICLE 175
OF THE PRESENT LAW, THEY WILL BE ORGANIZED IN THE SAME
ORDER IN WHICH THEY RECEIVED VOTES - FROM HIGHEST TO
LOWEST, AND EACH SEAT WILL BE ASSIGNED IN THE
ESTABLISHED ORDER.

IF THERE ARE STILL POSITIONS UNFILLED, THE SAME
PROCEDURE WILL BE REPEATED AS MANY TIMES AS IT MAY BE
NECESSARY UNTIL THE QUOTA ASSIGNED HAS BEEN FILLED.

THE NEXT CANDIDATE ON THE LIST, OF THE POLITICAL PARTY,
ALLIANCE OR ASSOCIATION OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE
CHOSEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS ARTICLE.

ARTICLE 178. IN THE CASE OF THE INDEFINITE ABSENCE OF A
PERMANENT MEMBER TO THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, HIS ALTERNATE
WILL BE NAMED TO THE COUNCIL. THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
WILL NOTIFY THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL OF THIS CHANGE.

IF THE ALTERNATE IS ABSENT FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD OF
TIME, THE NEXT ALTERNATE ON THE LIST OF THE POLITICAL
PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS WILL ASSUME THAT
POSITION.

ARTICLE 179. THE FIRST THREE CANDIDATES ON THE LIST FROM
MUNICIPALITIES OF LESS THAN TWENTY THOUSAND PEOPLE WHO
RECEIVE THE RELATIVE MAJORITY OF VOTES, AND THE FIRST
TWO THAT WIN SECOND PLACE, WILL BE ELECTED TO THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

IF THE SECOND LIST DOES NOT RECEIVE FIVE PERCENT OF THE
VALID VOTES FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE TWO REMAINING
SEATS, THE PROCEDURES STATED IN SUB-PARAGRAPH 2, ARTICLE
177, OF THE PRESENT LAW WILL BE FOLLOWED.

CHAPTER VI
GENERAL PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 180. THE ELECTORAL RATIO OF THOSE WHO ARE TO BE
ELECTED TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT WILL BE
DETERMINED BY DIVIDING THE NUMBER OF VALID VOTES, BY THE
NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
DEPUTIES TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT, MEMBERS OF
REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE
ATLANTIC COAST AND MEMBERS OF MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

ARTICLE 181. IN APPLYING THE PROCEDURES IN ARTICLE 172
AND 177 OF THE PRESENT LAW, NO DECIMALS WILL BE USED AND
FRACTIONS WILL BE ELIMINATED.

ARTICLE 182. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL COMPUTE
THE DATA, WILL APPLY THE PROCEDURES OF THIS TITLE BASED
ON THE RECOUNT ACTS AND WILL PUBLISH THE ELECTION
RESULTS.

TITLE III
ERRORS AND INVALIDATIONS
CHAPTER I

ARTICLE 183. AT THE REQUEST OF AN INTERESTED PARTY OR OF
ITS OWN ACCORD, ARITHMETICAL ERRORS OF THE ELECTORAL
PRECINCT BOARD WILL BE CORRECTED BY THE REGIONAL
ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 184. THE FOLLOWING VOTING WILL BE CONSIDERED
VOID AT ANY ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD:

1. WHEN THE BOARD HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY CONSTITUTED.

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TAGS: PGOV, MU
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2. WHEN VOTING TOOK PLACE IN LOCATIONS OTHER THAN THOSE SPECIFIED BY THE ELECTORAL AUTHORITIES.
3. WHEN, FOR NO JUSTIFIED REASON, VOTING RESULTS ARE DELIVERED ON A DATE OUTSIDE THE TERM ESTABLISHED BY LAW.

ARTICLE 185. POLL WATCHERS WILL SUBMIT THEIR REQUESTS FOR CORRECTION OF MISTAKES OR INVALIDATION TO THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS. THESE REQUESTS WILL BE ATTACHED TO THE VOTE COUNT ACT AND WILL BE SENT TOGETHER WITH OTHER VOTING DOCUMENTS TO THE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 186. THE REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL MAKE A DECISION WITHIN FIVE DAYS ON THE REQUEST FOR INVALIDATION OR CORRECTION. ARTICLE 190 OF THIS LAW, CANNOT PREVENT A PROTEST UNDER THIS ARTICLE.

ARTICLE 187. IF A REGIONAL ELECTORAL COUNCIL DECLARES THE VOTING AT ANY ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD VOID, IT MUST INFORM THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL. IF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL ALSO DECLARES THE VOTE VOID, THE DECISION IS NOT SUBJECT TO APPEAL.

ARTICLE 188. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, EITHER ON ITS OWN OR AT THE REQUEST OF AN INTERESTED PARTY, CAN DECLARE THE ELECTION OF ONE OR MORE CANDIDATES VOID ANY TIME BEFORE THE CANDIDATES TAKES OFFICE WHEN FRAUD, SUBORNATION OR VIOLENCE HAS BEEN CONFIRMED, OR WHEN CANDIDATES DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS DEMANDED FOR THE POSITION BY THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION AND OTHER LAWS.

ARTICLE 189. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL ANNOUNCE PUBLICALLY A DECLARATION OF INVALIDITY AND WILL INFORM THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC AND THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

ARTICLE 190. WITHIN THE FOLLOWING FIVE DAYS AFTER THE PUBLICATION OF THE ELECTION DATA REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 182 OF THIS LAW, THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE ELECTION MAY FILE ANY APPEAL FOR REVIEW BEFORE THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL.

ARTICLE 191. ONCE THE APPEAL HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL WILL REQUEST A HEARING WITH THE POLITICAL PARTIES, ALLIANCES OR ASSOCIATIONS OF POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION, SO THAT THEY RESPOND WITHIN FIVE DAYS, STARTING ON THE DATE ON WHICH THEY RECEIVE THE NOTIFICATION OF THE HEARING.

ARTICLE 192. IF THE ELECTION IS DECLARED VOID, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL PROCEED AS PRESCRIBED BY ARTICLE 189 OF THIS LAW.

TITLE XIII
ARTICLE XIII
PROCLAMATION OF THE ELECTION RESULTS
CHAPTER I

ARTICLE 193. ONCE ARTICLE 190 OF THIS LAW HAS EXPIRED OR THE APPEAL PRESENTED IS RESOLVED NEGATIVELY, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL BY RESOLUTION WILL DECLARE THE ELECTION RESULTS FOR:

- 1) THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC.
- 2) THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
- 3) THE PERMANENT DEPUTIES AND ALTERNATES OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT.
- 4) THE MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST.
- 5) THE PERMANENT MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCILS.

ARTICLE 194. THE AFOREMENTIONED RESOLUTION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE AND WILL BE SENT TO

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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, NU
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THE COMMUNICATION MEDIA FOR FURTHER PUBLICATION.

TITLE XIV ELECTORAL CRIMES CHAPTER I

ARTICLE 195. PERSONS WILL BE PUNISHED BY IMPRISONMENT
FOR FROM 10 TO 180 DAYS WHO:

- 1) DELIBERATELY DISOBEY THE INSTRUCTIONS OF THE
ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD CONCERNING THE MANNER IN WHICH
TO VOTE OR MAKES REGISTRATION AND VOTING DIFFICULT.
- 2) VOLUNTARILY DAMAGES OR DESTROYS ELECTORAL PROPAGANDA.
- 3) DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE PROCEDURES CONTAINED IN THE
PRESENT LAW OR WITH THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SUPREME
ELECTORAL COUNCIL CONCERNING PROPAGANDA MATTERS.
- 4) NON-COMPLIANCE OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES OR
AUTHORITIES WITH THE ORDERS OF THE ELECTORAL
ORGANIZATIONS.
- 5) ATTEMPTS TO REGISTER OR VOTE TWICE.
- 6) KNOWINGLY PROVIDES FALSE INFORMATION DURING
REGISTRATION TO THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS.

ARTICLE 196. PERSONS WILL BE PUNISHED WITH IMPRISONMENT
OF FROM 6 TO 12 MONTHS FOR:

- 1) WITH VIOLENCE, THREAT OR FRAUD FORCING ANOTHER:
 - 1.1 TO VOTE FOR A SPECIFIC CANDIDATE.
 - 1.2 TO VOTE IN A PREDETERMINED MANNER.
 - 1.3 TO ABSTAIN FROM VOTING.
- 2) KNOWINGLY IMPEDING VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTING
ITSELF.
- 3) REGISTERING OR VOTING WHILE CARRYING A GUN, EXCEPT
FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL POLICE, IN COMPLIANCE
WITH THEIR DUTIES.
- 4) KNOWINGLY MISPLACING THE SCRUTINY ACT OF THE
ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS.
- 5) REGISTERING OR VOTING TWO OR MORE TIMES.
- 6) MEMBER OF THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD OR ANY
ELECTORAL OFFICIAL WHO REGISTERS VOTERS OR CONDUCTS
VOTING OUT OF THE PRESCRIBED PLACE AND TIME

ARTICLE 197. PERSONS WILL BE PUNISHED WITH IMPRISONMENT

OF FROM ONE TO TWO YEARS FOR:

- 1) THREATENING OR PHYSICALLY ATTACKING ANY OFFICIAL OF
THE ELECTORAL AUTHORITY.
- 2) TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS POSITION TO PRESSURE HIS
SUBORDINATE TO VOTE IN A PREDETERMINED MANNER OR TO
ABSTAIN FROM VOTING.
- 3) A MEMBER OF THE BOARD FOR PURPOSELY ABSENTING
HIMSELF FROM THE PRESCRIBED PLACE AND TIME FOR THE
ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD TO EXERCISE ITS DUTIES.
- 4) ALTERING THE REGISTRATION IN THE ELECTORAL REGISTER,
DESTROYING ELECTORAL MATERIAL, FRAUDULENTLY ADDING
ELECTORAL BALLOTS OR WITHDRAWING A BALLOT BOX WITH THE
PURPOSE OF CHANGING THE RESULTS OF THE VOTING.
- 5) IMPEDING OR INTERFERING WITH AN ELECTION OR
RESTRAINING ELECTORAL FREEDOM BY THREAT OR ACTS OF
VIOLENCE.
- 6) ALTERING THE REGISTER OR THE ELECTORAL ACTS BY AN
OFFICIAL.
- 7) PERSUADING A LEGALLY REGISTERED CANDIDATE TO
WITHDRAW HIS NOMINATION.

ARTICLE 198. IF THE CRIMES ESTABLISHED IN THIS CHAPTER
ARE PERPETRATED BY REGISTERED CANDIDATES WHO ARE ELECTED
IN THE RESPECTIVE ELECTIONS, ASIDE FROM THE
AFOREMENTIONED PENALTIES, THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE
WILL BE UNABLE TO EXERCISE THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE FOR
FROM ONE TO THREE YEARS.

THE INITIATION OF A CRIMINAL PROCEDURE WILL SUSPEND THE
RIGHT OF THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO TAKE POSSESSION
OF HIS OFFICES.

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7755

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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ARTICLE 199. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WILL PURSUE PUNISHMENT FOR THE CRIMES ESTABLISHED IN THIS LAW.

DEPENDING ON THE CASE ORDINARY CRIMINAL COURTS AND MILITARY COUNCILS WILL HAVE JURISDICTION FOR THESE CRIMES.

TITLE XV
CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 200. EXCEPT AS ESTABLISHED IN ARTICLE 62 OF THIS LAW, NO ORDINARY OR EXTRAORDINARY APPEALS CONCERNING RESOLUTIONS OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL ON ELECTORAL MATTERS ARE ALLOWED.

ARTICLE 201. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL IS AUTHORIZED TO RESOLVE ANY MATTER CONCERNING ELECTORAL ISSUES THAT IS NOT FORESEEN IN THE PRESENT LAW IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES OF COMMON LAW.

ARTICLE 202. INSTITUTIONS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS WILL GIVE ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ELECTORAL OFFICIALS THE SUPPORT REQUIRED IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR DUTIES.

ARTICLE 203. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR WILL DESIGNATE A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF POLICEMEN TO WORK AS ELECTORAL POLICE UNDER JURISDICTION OF THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL FOR THE REGISTRATION PERIOD, ELECTION DAY AND THE FOLLOWING FIVE DAYS.

ARTICLE 204. THE MINISTRY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICE OF NICARAGUA (TELCOR) WILL GIVE PREFERENCE TO THE COMMUNICATIONS SENT BY ELECTORAL ORGANIZATIONS. ELECTION ORGANIZATIONS ARE EXEMPT FROM TELCOR CHARGES.

ARTICLE 205. THE GOVERNMENT WILL GUARANTEE TO THE POLITICAL PARTIES ALL KINDS OF ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CAMPAIGN SUBSCRIPTION, A SUPPLY OF GASOLINE AND OF ALL NECESSARY MATERIALS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

ARTICLE 206. STATE ENTERPRISES, ORGANIZATIONS OR INSTITUTIONS, LABOR OR STUDY CENTERS, PRIVATE OR MIXED, ARE OBLIGED TO GUARANTEE CANDIDATES THEIR JOBS OR GRANT LEAVE DURING THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. THIS LEAVE WILL TAKE EFFECT ON THE DATE WHEN THE CANDIDATES NOTIFIES HIS EMPLOYER OF HIS CANDIDACY.

ARTICLE 207. POLITICAL PARTIES THAT HAVE LEGAL STATUS ON THE DATE THAT THIS LAW GOES INTO EFFECT, WILL CONTINUE TO EXERCISE SAME.

CHAPTER II
TEMPORARY PROCEDURES

ARTICLE 208. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 42 OF THE STATUTE OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST AND WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT, MUNICIPALITIES OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST THAT ARE TEMPORARILY INTEGRATED TO THE FIFTH AND SIXTH ELECTORAL REGIONS WILL BECOME PART OF THE SEVENTH AND EIGHT ELECTORAL REGIONS.

ARTICLE 209. THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 1984 GENERAL ELECTIONS WILL BE USED AS REFERENCE ON "PROPORTIONALITY" FOR THE FIRST ELECTIONS TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT, AND TO MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGIONS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7756

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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ARTICLE 210. THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL WILL ASK THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO TAKE NECESSARY MEASURES TO CARRY OUT REGISTRATION AND VOTING IN AREAS WHICH HAVE COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY AGGRESSION.

ARTICLE 211. ON REGIONS AFFECTED BY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY AGGRESSION, REGISTRATION AND VOTING IN ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE CENTRAL AMERICAN PARLIAMENT, REGIONAL COUNCILS OF THE ATLANTIC COAST AND MUNICIPAL COUNCILS, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

1) SOLDIERS, WHO HAVE REGISTERED IN THE ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARDS OF THE AFFECTED REGIONS, AND HAVE BEEN SUBSEQUENTLY MOBILIZED TO OTHER PLACES, WITHIN THOSE REGIONS OR ZONES, WILL EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE CLOSEST ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD, BY PRESENTING THEIR VOTERS REGISTRATION CARD AND CERTIFICATION TO THE RESPONSIBLE MILITARY OFFICIAL.

2) SOLDIERS, WHO HAVE REGISTERED IN LOCATIONS DIFFERENT FROM THOSE POINTED OUT IN PARAGRAPH 1) OF THIS ARTICLE, AND HAVE BEEN MOBILIZED TO REGIONS OR SPECIAL ZONES AFFECTED BY THE AGGRESSION, WILL EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE CLOSEST ELECTORAL PRECINCT BOARD, BY PRESENTING THEIR VOTER REGISTRATION CARD AND CERTIFICATION TO THE RESPONSIBLE MILITARY OFFICIAL.

IN THE CASE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS, THE SUPREME ELECTORAL COUNCIL IS AUTHORIZED TO REGULATE WHAT IS ESTABLISHED IN THE PRESENT ARTICLE.

ARTICLE 212. THOSE APPLICATIONS FOR LEGAL STATUS THAT ARE BEING PROCESSED BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES OR ARE AWAITING DECISIONS AT THE TIME THIS LAW GOES INTO EFFECT, SHALL BE PROCESSED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF POLITICAL PARTIES PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, NUMBER 210 OF SEPTEMBER 13, 1983.

ARTICLE 213. WHEN THIS LAW GOES INTO EFFECT, MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF POLITICAL PARTIES WILL CONTINUE IN THEIR SAME POSITIONS UNTIL THEIR REPLACEMENTS TAKE OVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS LAW.

ARTICLE 214. THE ELECTORAL LAW, DECREE 1413 AND THE LAW OF POLITICAL PARTIES, DECREE 1312, PUBLISHED IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE NUMBER 63 OF MARCH 28, 1984 AND NUMBER 210 OF SEPTEMBER 13, 1983, RESPECTIVELY, AND ITS PREVIOUS REFORMS AND REGULATIONS ARE NO LONGER IN EFFECT.

ARTICLE 215. THIS ELECTORAL LAW WILL GO INTO EFFECT ON THE DATE OF ITS PUBLICATION IN THE GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

GIVEN IN THE SESSION ROOM OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF MANAGUA ON AUGUST 24, 1988.

END TRANSLATION.

GRIFFITH

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