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THE UNITED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Procedural Regulations for
the Third Round of Voting
for the Election of the President
of the Republic of Suriname
in the United People's Assembly
on
September 6th, 1991

Paramaribo, September 1991

F Clifton White Resource Center 91
International Foundation for Election Systems

**PROCEDURAL REGULATIONS FOR THE THIRD ROUND OF VOTING
FOR THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT
IN THE UNITED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
ON SEPTEMBER 6TH, 1991**

THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

Having considered:

- that in pursuance of article 181 sub 2b of the Constitution of the Republic of Suriname, the third round of voting in the elections of the President of the Republic of Suriname should take place in the United People's Assembly, in view of the fact that after two rounds of voting none of the candidates managed to win the majority as is specified in the Constitution;

- that it is necessary to adopt procedural regulations for the third round of voting in the United People's Assembly, thereby establishing the manner of convening and conducting the meeting.

Ratifies and declares applicable the following procedural regulations only, and absolutely only, to the meeting of the United People's Assembly of today, Friday September the 6th, 1991, in order to elect the President of the Republic of Suriname.

THE CONVENING OF THE UNITED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY

ARTICLE 1

As it is anticipated and regulated by article 181 sub 2b of the Constitution of the Republic of Suriname, the Chairman of the National Assembly convenes the United People's Assembly.

The Speaker of the National Assembly also functions as the Speaker of the United People's Assembly.

The United People's Assembly cannot meet unless at least one more than one half of the members are present in this body.

The Clerk of the National Assembly, and in his absence his substitute, is by virtue of his office, the Clerk of the United People's Assembly.

ARTICLE 2

The United People's Assembly, consisting of the National Assembly, the District and Local Councils, is convened by the Speaker of the National Assembly as is specified in article 1 of these procedural regulations.

The members of the United People's Assembly are to receive their notifications for the meeting on time, through the mediation of the representative body of which they are a member.

The Chairman of the National Assembly makes available to the constituent bodies at least one week prior to the meeting the convocations for the United People's Assembly, which are to include the date, the starting time and the agenda of the meeting. In addition, the above mentioned convocation is to be published in one of the newspapers, and mention must be made of the fact that the invitation is for the United People's Assembly.

ARTICLE 3

The most important responsibilities of the Chairman are:

- to lead the United People's Assembly;
- to see to it that the procedural regulations are closely observed;
- to maintain order during deliberations;
- to give members the floor;
- to formulate the issues about which the United People's Assembly has to make decisions;
- to announce the results of voting;

- to execute decisions taken by the United People's Assembly and;
- to represent the United People's Assembly externally.

CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE CHAIRMAN MAY TAKE THE FLOOR

ARTICLE 4

During deliberations the Chairman may take the floor only to state the position of the various parties, or to draw the discussion back to the topic. However, if the Chairman wishes to take the floor to address the issue being debated, he must leave the chair, and not return to it, until the deliberations and the voting on the topic in question have been concluded.

SUBSTITUTION AND THE VACATING OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP

ARTICLE 5

In those instances where the second sentence of article 4 applies, or in the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman substitutes for the Chairman. In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, the Chairmanship is assumed by the first, second, or third substitute who is to be recruited from and appointed by the United People's Assembly. In the absence of these substitutes, the Chairmanship is assumed by the oldest member.

THE CONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

ARTICLE 6

Meetings are to be convened by day, unless the Chairman decides otherwise.

The United People's Assembly does not commence with the deliberations, nor does it make decisions, until more than half of the members are present.

ATTENDANCE ROSTER

ARTICLE 7

Upon arrival at the meeting, each member will sign one of the attendance registers, on which the names of the members of the United People's Assembly are mentioned. At the opening time which has been set for the meeting of that day, the Clerk gives the attendance roster to the Chairman, and if it is signed by one (1)

more than half of the members, the Chairman opens the meeting; the attendance roster remains on the table of the Clerk, so that the members who arrive late can still sign the list.

In the event it appears that the name of a member does not appear on the list, the Chairman is authorized by virtue of his function, to add the name of this person to the list.

THE ABSENCE OF QUORUM

ARTICLE 8

In the event at the opening time which has been set for the meeting of that day, or shortly thereafter, the required number of members is not present, the Chairman opens the meeting and reads aloud the names of those present, and registers in the official record of the meeting the names of those present and absent. The Chairman is authorized to inform the members of the mail which has been received.

The Chairman will then postpone the meeting to a later date.

GIVING A SPEAKER THE FLOOR

ARTICLE 9

No member will take the floor until a request has been made to the Chairman and this request has been granted. The Chairman gives the members the floor in the order in which the requests were made.

During their speeches or while making remarks the members may not use insulting language.

PERSONAL ISSUES AND PROCEDURAL ORDER

ARTICLE 10

The sequence in which the speakers take the floor may be interrupted when a member makes a request to address a personal issue or to address a matter of procedure.

The Chairman may not give a member the floor to address a personal issue until the personal issue has been ascertained provisionally. The decision to declare a topic of discussion, a personal issue, rests with the Chairman.

PLACE OF SPEAKING

ARTICLE 11

Every member speaks standing up from the location where he is seated, or at a place to be pointed out by the Chairman. The speakers will address themselves to the Chairman.

PROCEDURAL RULES APPLICABLE TO SPEAKERS

ARTICLE 12

The speaker who has the floor may not be interrupted, unless he has to be reminded to adhere to the rules which apply.

ARTICLE 13

In the event a speaker deviates from the topic of deliberation, this will be brought to his attention by the Chairman, and he will be asked to confine his remarks to the topic being discussed.

In the event a member resorts to insulting language, disturbs the order, or merely through the expression of support intends to bring about the violation of the procedural rules which apply, the member will receive a warning from the Chairman, and in the case of the use of insulting language, which led to a warning by the Chairman, the speaker will be given the opportunity to retract his statement. When the speaker takes advantage of the opportunity to retract his statement, it will not be entered in the official record of the proceedings.

ARTICLE 14

In the event a speaker does not take advantage of the provisions mentioned in the previous article, and/or continues to deviate from the topic of deliberation, uses insulting language, disturbs the order, or merely through the expression of support intends to bring about the violation of the procedural rules which apply, the Chairman may order the person to be seated again.

In the meeting in which this occurs, the member whose speaking turn was terminated by the Chairman, may no longer participate in the deliberations on the proposal which is being debated.

ARTICLE 15

The Chairman may exclude a member, or any other member guilty of behavior referred to in the previous article, from further participation in the meeting or meetings which commenced on the day which the exclusion of the member took place.

ARTICLE 16

It is not possible to appeal, in the United People's Assembly, decisions based on articles 13, 14 and 15.

ARTICLE 17

A member to whom the provisions of article 15 have been applied is required to leave the meeting hall at once.

The Chairman sees to it that the excluded member, if necessary, is forced to leave the meeting hall, or while attempting to enter the building, is prevented from doing so.

ARTICLE 18

Those statements, which have resulted in the application of the measures referred to in articles 13 and 14, are not entered in the official record of the deliberations.

ARTICLE 19

When there are no more requests to take the floor, the Chairman calls an end to the deliberations.

THE ENDING OF THE DELIBERATIONS AT A PREDETERMINED TIME

ARTICLE 20

The Chairman may propose, when necessary, to call an end to the deliberations on a specific topic at a predetermined time. This proposal shall not be debated. When this takes place, the Chairman is entitled to allocate the remaining time equitable.

THE LENGTH OF ORATIONS

ARTICLE 21

The United People's Assembly is entitled to fix the length of orations devoted to a specific topic.

VOTING

ARTICLE 22

After the deliberations have been terminated, the United People's Assembly proceeds to vote. The Chairman is the last one to vote.

Voting on all issues takes place verbally or by roll call, however, in electing or nominating persons, unsigned ballots will be used.

ARTICLE 23

In exceptional circumstances, the Chairman is authorized to decide that voting will take place by raising the hand, or by standing up.

LOCATION OF SEATING AND GIVING THE GOVERNMENT THE FLOOR

ARTICLE 24

An area of seating must be set aside especially for the Government and its accompanying civil servants. The Chairman gives the government the floor, when and as often as it wishes. The government will be given the floor, only after the speaker who has taken the floor has finished his oration.

MAKING DECISIONS

ARTICLE 25

All decisions are taken by a simple majority, except when the applicable laws or regulations specify otherwise.

TERMINATING THE VOTE
(the required majority is not achieved)

ARTICLE 26

When the required majority is not achieved while voting in a meeting, in which all the persons who at that time are a member of the United People's Assembly were present, the proposal will be considered rejected.

When the required majority is not achieved while voting in a meeting, in which not all the persons who at that time are a member of the United People's Assembly were present, a vote will be taken on the proposal in the next meeting. If the required majority is not achieved in this meeting, the proposal is to be considered rejected.

The deliberations on the proposal in question are reopened in the next meeting, referred to above.

SUSPENDING THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRMAN

ARTICLE 27

The Chairman is entitled to suspend the meeting if he considers it necessary.

The transfer of the Chairmanship from the Chairman to the Vice-Chairman, or to his substitute, or vice versa, may take place without a suspension of the meeting. The meeting is to be informed verbally of the transfer of the Chairmanship.

SUSPENSION DUE TO PRESENCE OF INSUFFICIENT
MEMBERS TO TAKE THE VOTE

ARTICLE 28

When in taking the vote, or in taking any other decisions, not more than half of the number of members specified in article 1 are present, the Chairman postpones the meeting to another date, after having convinced himself of the number of members present by taking a head count.

MANNER OF DELIBERATING ABOUT A PROPOSAL

ARTICLE 29

In the course of the deliberations on a proposal, only the more general aspects of the total proposal are to be discussed. The United People's Assembly may decide to convene a special meeting to deliberate about a specific section of the proposal.

THE LIST OF SPEAKERS

ARTICLE 30

As soon as the deliberations on a proposal commence, the members may report to the Clerk to have their names entered on the list of speakers.

The registration regulates the sequence in which the members will take the floor.

ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 31

The third round of voting to elect the President of the republic of Suriname, will take place during the meeting convened for this purpose on the 6th of September 1991, in the United People's Assembly to be held in the Anthony Nesty Sports Complex on the Coppenamestraat No. 37.

ARTICLE 32

Only candidates who participated in the first and second round of voting in the National Assembly, and the official record prepared by the National Assembly must certify to this participation, may participate in the voting referred to in article 31.

POLLING STATION

ARTICLE 33

1. On the basis of a proposal by the Chairman of the United People's Assembly a polling station is installed by the United People's Assembly. The polling station will be manned by 7 members, who represent as much as possible the political factions represented in the United People's Assembly.

2. The polling station must first determine if the Presidential candidates are entitled to participate in the third round of voting.
3. The polling station makes decisions by a simple majority and notifies the meeting in clearly audible language the results of the elections.
4. The candidate who receives the greatest number of votes is the winner (is considered to be elected?).

BALLOTS

ARTICLE 34

1. The third round of voting takes place with a ballot on which the names of the candidates have been listed in alphabetical order.
2. The ballots must have a stamp on the back which reads "United People's Assembly," and must be signed by the Chairman or the Clerk of the United People's Assembly.
3. The ballots are distributed among the members during the meeting.
4. The attendance list, which will serve as the voters register, must be initialed by the members to receive their ballot and to participate in the elections.

VOTING

ARTICLE 35

1. The Chairman of the United People's Assembly must take those measures which guarantee a free and secret election.
2. Only those members present, who have signed the attendance register, are entitled to take part in the voting.
3. In the event it appears that, a members who has signed the attendance register, did not cast his vote, but is present in the hall, he will be given the opportunity by the polling station to cast his vote.
4. The member may, after having made a mistake on the ballot, request a second ballot only once, provided the ballot he received first is returned.

5. The ballot which has been returned must be destroyed immediately by the Chairman.
6. The members will only color red the square of the candidate of their choice.
7. Any other intentional mark will render the ballot invalid.
8. The ballots are to be deposited folded in an urn which has been placed near the polling station.

TERMINATING THE VOTE

ARTICLE 36

1. Immediately after the voting has ended, the polling station determines that:
 - a. the number of members who have signed the attendance list;
 - b. the number of ballots which have been issued;
 - c. the number of voided ballots;
 - d. the number of ballots in the urn.

THE COUNTING OF THE VOTES

ARTICLE 37

1. The Chairman of the polling station unfolds the ballots and announces the name of the candidate for whom the vote has been cast.
2. The polling station determines the number of votes which have been cast for each candidate.
3. Ballots which have not been filled in, or partially filled, are not to be added to the number of (valid) votes which were cast.
4. The majority of votes which has been achieved is not valid when the number of ballots encountered in the urn is greater than the number of members who voted.

DETERMINING THE RESULTS

ARTICLE 38

1. The candidate who received the greatest number of votes is considered elected.
2. The polling station announces the results of the election.
3. The Chairman of the United People's Assembly announces the results of the elections in clearly audible language, and concludes thereby who has been elected.
4. The results of the elections are ratified by the United People's Assembly.

INAUGURATION

ARTICLE 39

1. The Chairman announces immediately the time and place of the inauguration of the President and the vice-President, and makes additional announcements about this matter if necessary.
2. The inauguration will take place in a special meeting of the National Assembly, as is specified in article 93 of the Constitution.

Paramaribo, 6 September 1991
The Chairman of the
United People's Assembly

(Mr. J. Lachmon)