



GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
DISTRICT COUNCIL AFFAIR DEPARTMENT

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR THE GUIDANCE
OF POLITICAL PARTIES
AND CANDIDATES DURING
THE ELECTIONS
TO THE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GUIDANCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND CANDIDATES DURING THE ELECTIONS TO THE AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS

I. General Conduct

1. No party or candidate shall indulge in any activity which may aggravate existing differences or create mutual hatred or cause tension between different castes and communities, religious or linguistic.
2. Criticism of other political parties, when made, shall be confined to their policies and programmes, past record and work. Parties and Candidates shall refrain from criticism of all aspects of private life, not connected with the public activities of the leaders or workers of other parties. Criticism of other parties or their workers based on unverified allegations or distortion shall be avoided.
3. There shall be no appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes. Mosques, Churches, Temples or other places of worship shall not be used as forum for election propaganda.
4. All parties and candidates shall avoid scrupulously all activities which are “corrupt practices” and offences under the election law, such as bribing of voters, intimidation of voters, impersonation of voters, canvassing within 100 meters of polling stations, holding public meeting during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for the close of the poll, and the transport and conveyance of voters to and from polling station.
5. The right of every individual for peaceful and undisturbed home-life shall be respected, however much the political parties or candidates may resent his political opinions or activities. Organizing demonstrations or picketing before the houses of individuals by way of protesting against their opinions or activities shall not be resorted to under any circumstances.
6. No political party or candidate shall permit its or his followers to make use of any individual’s land, building, compound wall etc., without his permission for erecting flag-staffs, suspending banners, pasting notices, writing\ slogans etc.
7. Political parties and candidates shall ensure that their supporters do not create obstructions in or break up meetings and processions organized by other parties. Workers or sympathizers of one political party shall not create disturbances at public meetings organized by another political party by putting questions orally or in

writing or by distributing leaflets of their own party. Processions shall not be taken out by one party along places at which meetings are held by another party. Posters issued by one party shall not be removed by workers of another party.

II. Meetings

1. All political parties and contesting candidates require prior permission from the Deputy Commissioner / Sub Divisional Officer Civil before holding any public Meeting, Procession, and Rally etc.
2. The party or candidate shall inform the local police authorities of the venue and time any proposed meeting well in time so as to enable the police to make necessary arrangements for controlling traffic and maintaining peace and order.
3. A Party or candidate shall ascertain in advance if there is any restrictive or prohibitory order in force in the place proposed for the meeting and if such orders exist, they shall be followed strictly. If any exemption is required from such orders, it shall be applied for and obtained well in time.
4. If permission or license is to be obtained for the use of loudspeakers or any other facility in connection with any proposed meeting, the party or candidate shall apply to the authority concerned well in advance and obtain such permission or license.
5. Organizers of a meeting shall invariably seek the assistance of the police on duty for dealing with persons disturbing a meeting or otherwise attempting to create disorder. Organizers themselves shall not take action against such persons.

III. Processions

1. A Party or candidate organizing a procession shall decide before hand the time and place of the starting of the procession, the route to be followed and the time and place at which the procession will terminate. There shall ordinary be no deviation from the programmes.
2. The organizers shall give advance intimation to the local police authorities of the programme so as to enable the latter to make necessary arrangement.
3. The organizers shall ascertain if any restrictive orders are in force in the localities through which the procession has to pass and shall comply with the restrictions unless exempted specially by the competent authority. Any traffic regulations or restrictions shall also be carefully adhered to.
4. The organizers shall take steps in advance to arrange for passage of the procession so that there is no block or hindrance to traffic. If the procession is very long, it shall be

organized in segments of suitable lengths, so that at convenient intervals, especially at points where the procession has to pass road junctions, the passage of held up traffic could be allowed by stages thus avoiding heavy traffic congestion.

5. Processions shall be so regulated as to keep as much to the right of the road as possible and the direction and advice of the police on duty shall be strictly complied with.
6. If two or more political parties or candidates propose to take processions over the same route or parts thereof at about the same time, the organizers shall establish contact well in advance and decide upon the measures to be taken to see that the processions do not clash or cause hindrance to traffic. The assistance of the local police shall be availed of for arriving at a satisfactory arrangement. For this purpose, the parties shall contact the police at the earliest opportunity.
7. The political parties or candidates shall exercise control to the maximum extent possible in the matter of processionists carrying articles which may be put to misuse by undesirable elements especially in moments of excitement.
8. The carrying of effigies purporting to represent member of other political parties or their leaders, burning such effigies in public and such other forms demonstration shall not be countenanced by any political party or candidate.

IV. Polling Day

All Political parties and candidates shall–

1. Co-operate with the officers on election duty to ensure peaceful and orderly polling and complete freedom to the voters to exercise their franchise without being subjected to any annoyance or obstruction.
2. Supply to their authorized workers suitable badges or identity cards.
3. Agree that the identity slip supplied by them to voters shall be on plain (white)paper and shall not contain any symbol, name of the candidate or the name of the party;
4. Refrain from serving or distributing liquor on polling day and during the forty eight hours preceding it.
5. Not allow unnecessary crowd to be collected near the camps set up by the political parties and candidates near the polling booths so as to avoid Confrontation and tension among workers and sympathizers of the parties and the candidate.
6. Ensure that the candidate's camps shall be simple. They shall not display any posters, flags, symbols or any other propaganda material. No eatable shall be served

or crowd allowed at the camps and;

7. Co-operate with the authorities in complying with the restrictions to be imposed on the plying of vehicles on the polling day and obtain permits for them which should be displayed prominently on those vehicles.

V. Polling Booth

Excepting the polling personals and the voters, no one without a valid pass from the Returning Officer shall enter the polling booths.

VI. Party in Power

The party in power whether at the Centre or in the State, shall ensure that no cause is given for any complaint that it has used its official position for the purposes of its election campaign and in particular –

1. (a) The Cabinet Ministers and political appointees of the State Government, Chief Executive Members, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Members of the Autonomous District Councils shall not combine their official visit with electioneering work and shall not also make use of official machinery or personnel during the electioneering work.

- (b) Government and Autonomous District Council's transport including official vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of the party in power.

2. Public places such as playgrounds etc., for holding election meetings in connection with elections shall not be monopolized by itself. Other parties and candidates shall be allowed the use of such places and facilities on the same terms and conditions on which they are used by the party in power.

3. Issue of advertisement at the cost of public exchequer in the newspapers and other media and the misuse of official mass media shall be scrupulously avoided.

4. No work under the fund placed with the concerned District Council(s) from Central/ State Government for which the work order had been issued but the work has actually not started in the field before the date of issue of the Notification for calling the constituency (ies) to elect their representative(s) under Rule 124 (2) or Rule 126(1) of the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951, should be started. Such work(s) can be started after the completion of the election process. However, if the work has actually started, this can continue.

5. Ceremonies for laying of foundation stones or inauguration or announcement of any new schemes by the Autonomous District Councils should be kept on hold till the election process is over.
6. Announcement of any new schemes to be implemented by the concerned Autonomous District Council(s) or award of any contract, settlement of any agreement with any party (ies) etc. shall be kept on hold till the completion of the Election process.
7. Issue of tender works and construction of ongoing project from Central/State sponsored schemes/programmes by the State Government are exempted under the purview of this model code of conduct, except issue of fresh release of funds under the MLAs local area development fund and MPs local area development fund
8. Use of State Government vehicles and Autonomous District Council's official vehicles by contesting candidates is strictly prohibited from the date of issue of the Notification for calling the constituency (ies) to elect their representative(s) under Rule 124 (2) or Rule 126(1) of the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951, till the election process is over.
9. Carrying of cash money in excess of Rs.50, 000/- (Rupees fifty thousand) only by contesting candidate or their supporters is prohibited and shall be confiscated.
10. Cabinet Ministers, and other authorities of the State Government, MLAs and Chief Executive Members/ Executive Members and other authorities of the concerned Autonomous District Council(s) shall not sanction grants/payments out of discretionary funds from the date of issue of the Notification for calling the constituency (ies) to elect their representative(s) under Rule 124 (2) or Rule 126 (1) of the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951.
11. From the date of issue of the Notification for calling the constituency (ies) to elect their representative(s) under Rule 124 (2) or Rule 126 (1) of the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951, Ministers/MLAs/CEMs/EMs/MDCs and other authorities shall not:
 - (a) Announce any financial grants in any form or promises thereof; or
 - (b) (except civil servants) lay foundation stones etc. of projects or schemes of any kind; or
 - (c) Make any promise of construction of roads, provision of drinking water facilities etc.;

Which may have the effect influencing the voters in favor of the party in power.

VII. Guidelines on Election Manifestos

1. In the interest of free and fair elections, the Political Parties and Candidates while releasing election manifestos for Autonomous District Councils election shall adhere to the following guidelines: -
 - (i) The election manifesto shall not contain anything repugnant to the ideals and principles enshrined in the Constitution and further that it shall be consistent with the letter and spirit of other provisions of Model Code of Conduct.
 - (ii) The Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution enjoin upon the State to frame various welfare measures for the citizens and therefore there can be no objection to the promise of such welfare measures in election manifestos. However, political parties should avoid making those promises which are likely to vitiate the purity of the election process or exert undue influence on the voters in exercising their franchise.
 - (iii) In the interest of transparency, level playing field and credibility of promises, it is expected that manifestos also reflect the rationale for the promises and broadly indicate the ways and means to meet the financial requirements for it. Trust of voters should be sought only on those promises which are possible to be fulfilled.

VIII. Any violation of the MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT shall be addressed to the Deputy Commissioner/Returning Officer concerned.

IX. This MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE ELECTIONS TO THE AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCILS, shall come into force from the date of issue of the Notification under Rule 124 (2) or Rule 126 (1) of the Assam and Meghalaya Autonomous Districts (Constitution of District Councils) Rules, 1951.

Sd/-
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