

Government Decree No. 1/2023, February 17th

Approves the calendar of voter registration operations abroad

Whereas paragraph 2 of article 65 of the Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste provides that “the voter registration is mandatory, official, unique and universal, being updated for each election”;

Given that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 4 of the Law on Elections for the National Parliament, “for the exercise of the right to vote it is mandatory to register in the voter register”;

Considering that, under the terms of paragraph b) of paragraph 1 of article 10 of Law No. 6/2016, of May 25, amended by Law No. 19/ 2021, from September 8, Timorese citizens living abroad register or update their respective registration details at the embassy, consular post or voter registration post with jurisdiction over their area of residence abroad;

Given that during the current year 2023 there will be an election to the National Parliament;

Considering the need to satisfactorily meet the demand for voter registration services abroad;

Considering that it is necessary to reinforce material and human resources to ensure the updating of the voter registration of Timorese citizens who reside abroad, in order to guarantee their enjoyment of the rights to register to vote and to vote,

The Government decrees, pursuant to paragraph 2 of article 22 of Law No. 6/2016, of May 25, amended by Law No. 19/ 2021, of September 8, to be valid as a regulation, the Following:

Article 1

Object

This Government decree approves the calendar of voter registration operations abroad.

Article 2

Reinforcement of material and human resources for voter registration abroad

1. Enrolment and enrolment update activities for voter registration abroad benefit from a reinforcement of material and human resources, in the following terms:

a) Registration activities and registration updates for voter registration will be implemented in diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste in Australia, in South Korea, in England, in Portugal and the Republic of Ireland, between the 1st and 31st March 2023;

b) Activities to update enrolment in the voter register in diplomatic missions and consular posts of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste not listed in the previous paragraph, provided that technical conditions are met and necessary human resources and security measures are in place, are implemented between the 1st and March 31, 2023.

2. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation must, by February 24, 2023:

a) Submit to the Technical Secretariat of Administration Electoral Commission and the National Election Commission the list of nominated diplomatic and consular or other staff relevant for remuneration purposes or protocol treatment, organized by Timor-Leste's diplomatic missions and consular posts abroad;

b) Order the diplomatic missions and consular posts to publicize and promote consular registration and registration in the voter register of Timorese residing abroad;

c) Order the diplomatic missions and consular posts to provide the Voter Registration Commissions with the administrative and logistical support that is necessary for them to exercise their competences and keep their premises open to the public for at least eight hours a day every day, including, Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and leave days.

3. The Technical Secretariat of Electoral Administration and the National Election Commission shall appoint their respective delegates to the Voter Registration Commissions, within a maximum period of twenty-four hours after delivery of the list referred to in sub-paragraph a) of the previous paragraph.

Article 3

Implementation schedule

The calendar for voter registration operations abroad is set out in the annex to this Government Decree, of which it is an integral part.

Article 4

Implementation

This Government Decree comes into force on the day following its publication.

Approved by the Council of Ministers on February 15, 2023.

To be published

The Acting Prime Minister,

Jose Maria dos Reyes

The Minister of State Administration,

Miguel Pereira de Carvalho

ANNEX

(as referred to in Article 3)

Calendar of voter registration operations abroad

	Activity	Date
1	Training of voter registration staff	February 27th and 28th 2023
2	Voter registration abroad	March 1st to March 31st 2023
3	Preparation, extraction and despatch of lists of electors, electronically, by the missions, diplomatic offices and consular posts	April 1 and 2, 2023
4	Period for display of lists of voters registered abroad and receipt of complaints	April 3 to 7, 2023
5	Synchronization of the voter registration system	April 8 to 20, 2023
6	Publication of the number of voters registered	By April 21, 2023