

**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
POLITICAL PARTIES COUNCIL**



**ELECTIONS CODE OF CONDUCT
FOR THE REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES**

15TH AUGUST 2024



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN
**POLITICAL
PARTIES
COUNCIL**
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In the exercise of the powers conferred upon me under the provisions of Section 31 of the Political Parties Act 2012, I, hereby issue this Elections Code of Conduct:

CHAPTER 1 PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. Title and Commencement

This Code of Conduct shall be cited as “**Elections Code of Conduct for the Registered Political Parties 2024**” and it shall come into force on the date of its signature by the Chairperson.

2. Repeal and saving

Any existing Elections Code of Conduct for the Registered Political Parties in South Sudan that governs the Political Parties during Elections is hereby repealed or shall cease to exist provided that all proceedings, orders, acts or directives taken or made under such Code of Conduct, except to the extent to which they are inconsistent with the provisions of this Code of Conduct, shall remain in effect until they are expressly repealed or amended in accordingly.

3. Purpose

This Code of Conduct shall provide legal framework to regulate the conducts, actions, behaviors, ethics, principles and attitudes of the registered Political Parties and their members when exercising politics.

4. Authority

This Code of Conduct is issued in accordance with the provisions of section 31 of the Political Parties Act 2012, of which this Section clearly gives the Political Parties Council (PPC) the inherent right to make rules and regulations for the effective management of the Political Parties Council (PPC).

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5. Application

This Code of Conduct applies to:

- a) All Political Parties and their members fully registered by the Political Parties Council (PPC);
- b) The leaders, officials, candidates, members, agents and representatives of any Political Parties fully registered by Political Parties Council (PPC).

6. Interpretation

In this Code of Conduct, unless the context otherwise requires, the following words, acronym and expressions shall have the meaning prescribed for each of them as follows:

“Council”	Refers to Political Parties Council (PPC);
“Code of Conduct”	Means a set of rules outlining the norms, ethics, values, principles, practices and guidelines of a Political Party before, during or after a democratic Election. It is a set of rules applicable to the behavior of Political Parties and their members relating to their participation in an election process;
“Competent Court”	means the court of competent jurisdiction designated by the Chief Justice to rule on matters presented for adjudication in accordance with the provisions of National Elections Act, 2012;
“Political Party”	means any Political Party registered in accordance with Section 6 (6) of the Political Parties Act 2012 as Amended 2022, and such a Political Party has a proper functional office within Juba, South Sudan.

CHAPTER II PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES

7. Principles

The legitimacy of a government chosen through a democratic multiparty election rests on the following principles:


- (a) that all Political Parties and their members have an inherent duty to provide voters with clear and honest information that can help them make an informed and independent decision to choose the right candidate of their choice;
- (b) that all Political Parties and their members have a duty to ensure that the voters are able to vote freely, without interference, fear, undue influence or bribery;
- (c) that all Political Parties and their members adhere to the principles of this Code of Conduct; and
- (d) that all Political Parties and their members should be mindful of the will of the voters.

8. Objectives

The main objectives of the Code of Conduct for registered Political Parties and their members are to:

- a) Foster fair conditions which are conducive for free, fair, credible, inclusive and transparent democratic elections;
- b) Create an atmosphere of tolerance for democratic debate, free political activities by ensuring free expression of individuals, groups and members of Political Parties by respecting their constitutional rights in the light of their beliefs and opinions;
- c) Create a climate of tolerance by ensuring that political and electoral activities take place without fear or coercion, intimidation or reprisals;
- d) Package patriotic world class leaders that are ethical and put the Republic of South Sudan first above all else; and
- e) Further elaborate the importance of unity, nationalism, patriotism and love for the Republic of South Sudan by adhering to set rules, regulations, conducts and policies of the Political Parties and their members by minimizing any acts and practices of antagonism and animosity during any engagement.

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CHAPTER III
COMPLIANCE AND CAMPAIGN MANAGEMENT

9. Compliance

- 1) All registered Political Parties and their members are bound to comply as follows:
 - a) To accept and implement the Code of Conduct;
 - b) To take decisive steps to prohibit their leaders, officials, candidates and members from infringing the Code of Conduct;
 - c) To take all reasonable steps to discourage any type of conduct by their supporters which would, if undertaken by a party official, candidate or member, be in breach of the Code of Conduct;
 - d) To not abuse the right to complain about violations of the Code of Conduct, nor make false, frivolous or vexatious complaints; and
 - e) to respect opponents during any engagement and treat them fairly

- 2) The leaders of all registered Political Parties are required to issue directives to the party's officials, candidates, members and supporters, requiring each of them to:
 - a) observe the Code of Conduct; and
 - b) take all other necessary steps to ensure compliance.

10. Campaign Management

- 1) All registered Political Parties shall:
 - a) respect the right and freedom of all other Political Parties to campaign, and to disseminate their political ideas and principles without fear and intimidation;
 - b) conduct themselves in a manner that respects the rights of other Political Parties, and respect the rights of voters and other members of the community;
 - c) respect the freedom of the press;
 - d) use their good offices to seek to ensure reasonable freedom of access by all Political Parties to all potential voters; and
 - e) Seek to ensure that potential voters wishing to participate in related political activities have freedom to do so.

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- 2) All Registered Political Parties and their members shall not:
- (a) harass or obstruct journalists who are engaged in their professional activities; disrupt, destroy or frustrate the campaign efforts of any other Political Party;
 - (b) prevent the distribution of handbills or leaflets, and the display of posters, of other Political Parties and candidates;
 - (c) deface or destroy the posters of other Political Parties and candidates;
 - (d) prevent any other Political Party from holding rallies, meetings, marches or demonstrations;
 - (e) seek to prevent any person from attending the political rallies of another Political Party; or
 - (f) Permit its supporters to do anything prohibited by this Code of Conduct.

CHAPTER IV ELECTIONS PROCESS, CONDUCT, LANGUAGE AND SYMBOLS

11. The Election Process

- 1) All Registered Political Parties and their members shall:
- (a) co-operate with electoral officials in order to ensure:
 - i) peaceful and orderly polling; and
 - ii) complete freedom for voters to exercise their voter rights without being subjected to any annoyance or obstructions.
 - (b) ensure the safety and security of electoral officials before, during and after the polls;
 - (c) respect and co-operate with officials or accredited election observers;
 - (d) Maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of the voting.
- 2) All Registered Political Parties and their members shall not:
- (a) procure votes by forceful occupation of polling stations or through illegal activities in the polling stations;
 - (b) interfere unjustifiably or act in bad faith with the duties of electoral officials by disturbing the process of casting or counting of votes; or
 - (c) falsely assert to voters that their votes will not be secret.

12. Accepting the outcome of a Free and Fair Election

All Registered Political Parties and their members shall:

- (a) accept the outcome of an election that has been certified by Electoral Commission and independent observers;
- (b) submit any grievance only to the Electoral Commission or to the competent court; and
- (c) accept and comply with the final decisions of the Electoral Commission or competent court.

13. Language

1) All Registered Political Parties and their members shall:

- (a) organize and conduct elections campaigns in a manner that contributes toward a congenial and peaceful atmosphere during the campaign period, the polling, the counting, and the post-election period; and
- (b) act with a sense of responsibility and dignity befitting its status.

2) Speakers at political rallies shall avoid using language that:

- (a) is inflammatory, or defamatory; or
- (b) threatens or incites violence in any form against any other person or group of persons.

3) All Registered Political Parties and their members shall not issue, either officially or anonymously, pamphlets, newsletters or posters containing language or material that threatens or incites violence.

14. Symbols

All Registered Political Parties and their members shall not:

- a) imitate the symbols of another party;
- b) steal, disfigure or destroy political or campaign materials of another Political Party; or
- c) permit its supporters to do anything prohibited by this Code of Conduct.

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CHAPTER V
VIOLENCE PREVENTION, OFFICE ABUSE AND CORRUPTION PRACTICES

15. Intimidation and violence

- 1) All Political Parties and their members accept that intimidation, in any form, is unacceptable, and shall:
 - (a) Issue directives expressly forbidding its officials, candidates, members and supporters from intimidating any person at any time.
 - (b) campaign against violence or threats of violence, and any acts of vandalism or public disorder committed or threatened by their officials, candidates, members or supporters; and
 - (c) respect other persons and Political Parties, and their property.
- 2) The leaders of all Registered Political Parties and their members shall instruct the Political Party's officials, candidates, members and supporters that no weapon of any kind, including any traditional weapon, may be brought to any political rally, meeting, March or other demonstration.
- 3) All Registered Political Parties and their members shall not:
 - (a) engage in or permit any kind of violent activity to demonstrate their Political Party strength or to prove supremacy;
 - (b) cause damage to any public or private property, or permit its supporters to do anything prohibited by this Code of Conduct.

16. Abuse of position

- 1) All Registered Political Parties and their members shall not:
 - (a) abuse a position of power, privilege or influence for a political purpose, by offering a reward, threatening a penalty, or by any other means; or
 - (b) use official National Government, State Government, Administrative Area or local Government or other public resources for campaign purposes.
- 2) In this Rule "a position of power, privilege or influence" includes a position of parental, patriarchal, governmental, police, military or traditional authority.

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17. Prohibition of Bribery

All Registered Political Parties and their members shall not:

- (a) coerce or offer monetary or other kinds of inducements or bribery to persons to vote for or against a particular Political Party or candidate, or to abstain from voting;
- (b) coerce or offer monetary or other kinds of inducements to persons to stand or not to stand as candidates, or to withdraw or not to withdraw their candidacies; or
- (c) procure the support or assistance of any official or civil servant to promote or hinder the election of a candidate.

CHAPTER VI

COMMITMENT, CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES AND UPHOLD MEDIA RESPECT

18. Public Commitment

All registered Political Parties, their members, agents, supporters, and all candidates and their supporters shall:

- (a) Promote and publicize the Code of Conduct in their election campaigns and post a copy of this Code of Conduct in a conspicuous place in every contesting Political Party campaign office;
- (b) Take all reasonable steps to publicise and disseminate the Code of Conduct throughout the country;
- (c) Issue directives to their members, agents, and supporters to observe the Code of Conduct and take all other necessary steps to ensure compliance;
- (d) Take decisive steps to prohibit leaders, officials, candidates, agents, and members from infringing the Code of Conduct;
- (e) Publicly condemn any action that may undermine the free and credible conduct of an election;
- (f) Condemn and dissociate themselves unreservedly and publicly from any violence or intimidation, including when these acts benefit them and/or are committed by a stakeholder with whom they are formally or informally associated;
- (g) Co-operate with law enforcement agencies.

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- (h) Desist from abusing the right to complain about violations of the Code of Conduct; and
- (i) Desist from making false, frivolous, or vexatious complaints.

19. Respect for Media and Journalists

Every registered Political Party, candidates and its members shall:

- (a) Respect the role of the news media before, during and after an election.
- (b) Permit access by members of the news media to public political meetings, marches, demonstrations, and rallies;
- (c) Take all reasonable steps to ensure that journalists are not subjected to harassment, intimidation, threat, or physical assault by any of their representatives or supporters.

20. Cooperation with the National Elections Commission (NEC)

- 1) Every contesting Political Party and candidate shall recognize and accept:
 - (a) The authority of the National Elections Commission (NEC) in the conduct of the elections; and
 - (b) The duty of the Political Parties Council (PPC) to take measures to ensure that the elections are conducted under conditions of complete freedom, fairness, and transparency.
- 2) Every contesting Political Party and candidate shall:
 - (a) Give effect to any lawful direction, instruction, or order of the National Elections Commission (NEC) or an authorized member, employee, or officer of the National Elections Commission (NEC);
 - (b) All Political Parties, candidates and members shall facilitate the access of members, employees and officers of the National Elections Commission (NEC) and the Chief Elections Officers, to public meetings, demonstrations and rallies;
 - (c) Co-operate in any inquiry and investigation of the National Elections Commission (NEC);
 - (d) Take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of members, employees, and officers of the National Elections Commission (NEC) in the exercise of their powers or performance of their duty and ensure that representatives of Registered Political Parties and candidates

attend meetings or other forums convened by of National Elections Commission (NEC).

21. Prohibited Venues for Gatherings

All Political Parties shall ensure that assemblies, rallies, and public political speeches shall not be held within government offices, military facilities, churches, mosques, other places of worship, or within marketplaces during their hours of business and shall not be held in the proximity of schools during schooling hours and, always, not in the proximity of hospitals.

22. Prohibited Activities

The following activities are prohibited during the election period:

- (a) Government officials shall not combine official activities with election campaigns and shall not make use of official facilities or Government personnel during the campaign;
- (b) Government transport including official aircraft, vehicles, and personnel shall not be used in support of the electoral campaign of any Party or candidate;
- (c) Public places and facilities shall be available to all Political Parties and candidates on the same terms and conditions on which they are used by the Political Parties in power;
- (d) Government accommodation shall be made available to all Political Parties and candidates in a fair manner, but no Political Party or candidate shall use or be allowed to use such accommodation as a campaign office or for holding any public meetings for the purposes of campaigning;
- (e) During the election campaign, Ministers and other authorities may not make any ad-hoc appointments in Government or public administration which may have the effect of influencing voters in favour of any Political Party;
- (f) Government Ministers shall not enter any polling station or place of counting except in their capacity as candidates, voters, or authorised agents;
- (g) Security Agencies shall not engage in political activities and shall be none partisan;

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- (h) Security Agencies shall not intimidate or harass any Political Party candidates, their agents, members, or supporters or otherwise obstruct their activities or intimidate or harass members of the press; and
- (i) No Political Party shall use methods that have the effect of denying other Political Parties rent of commercial vehicles, buying fuel or any other materials that facilitates movement during elections.

23. Continued Communications

All Registered Political Parties and their members will make every effort to maintain communications with other Political Parties under the Code of Conduct.

24. Rules of Political Parties

All registered Political Parties and their members shall:

1. Respect, uphold and defend the Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan;
2. Respect and uphold this Code of Conduct and any other written law relating to elections and Political Parties;
3. Respect, uphold and defend the Political Parties Council (PPC)'s legislation, regulation, resolutions, rules, codes of conduct or any other principles;
4. Respect, uphold and promote human dignity, equality, social justice, inclusiveness and nondiscrimination and protection of the marginalized;
5. Respect, uphold and promote human rights and the rule of law.
6. Promote nationalism, patriotism, peace, statesmanship and national unity;
7. Respect, uphold and promote democratic values and principles by performing inclusive participation of Political Party members including all genders;
8. Respect, uphold and promote good governance, integrity, respect, tolerance, transparency and accountability;
9. Promote cooperation in political competition.
10. Promote sharing and devolution of power and resources;
11. Respect, uphold and promote democratic practices through regular free, fair and credible elections within the Political Party and among

others have a democratically elected governing body and Political Party organs;

12. Respect, uphold and promote democratic practices through free, fair and credible Political Party nominations;
13. Respect, uphold and promote leadership and integrity as prescribed in the constitution of the Republic of South Sudan;
14. Perform transparency and accountability in all its legislation and regulations, structures, procedures and performance;
15. Subscribe to the principles of democratic elections, and in doing so, respect electoral laws, strive to maintain public confidence in the electoral process and uphold the democratic rights of the citizens of the Republic of South Sudan;
16. Respect and adhere to the principles and rules of conduct set out in this Code of Conduct and actively promote adherence to the Code of Conduct on the part of other members.
17. Make the Code of Conduct available to their members, agents and other representatives;
18. Maintain and promote respect for the electoral laws, regulations and rules. This involves complying with both the letter and spirit of the provisions of all electoral laws and regulations, including the administrative, regulatory and offence provisions of the law.
19. Maintain and assist in maintaining the fair and proper administration of the vote, and the secrecy of the vote;
20. Conduct themselves in the ways that uphold the integrity of the electoral system and the public's respect of the same;
21. Have equal access to all media;
22. Ensure that their conduct is above reproach and therefore not engage in conduct which could be regarded as unfair or unacceptable by reasonable, fair-minded and informed persons;
23. Co-operate with electoral officials who are charged with the responsibility to conduct elections and shall not interfere with electoral officials in the performance of their duties;
24. Extend all necessary help and co-operation to the law-enforcing authorities, in responding fully and accurately to any inquiries or investigations of electoral offences;
25. Use their good offices to seek to ensure reasonable freedom of access by all Political Parties to potential voters, including those at farms and on state owned properties, outside working hours;

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26. Establish lines of communication with one another at headquarters, state and local levels, and will appoint liaison personnel who will be constantly on call to deal with any problems that may arise;
27. Meet party representatives on a weekly basis to discuss all matters of concern related to the election campaign and the election itself; Emergency meetings, will be convened as and when necessary.
28. Issue directives to their members and supporters to observe this Code of Conduct, and take all other necessary steps to ensure compliance.

CHAPTER VII MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

25. Intimidation and Corrupt Practices

All registered Political Parties shall not:

1. Use defamatory language, abusive language, act and/or or behave in any way that may provoke or promote violence or intimidate candidates, members of Political Parties, representatives or supporters of Political Parties, or voters during the electoral process;
2. Engage in or encourage violence by its members or supporters;
3. Engage in or encourage any kind of intimidation of opponents, any other person or any other Political Party;
4. Engage in influence peddling, bribery or any other form of corruption;
5. Accept or use illicit or illegal money;
6. Accept or use public resources other than those allocated to the Political Party through the Political Party fund;
7. Advocate hatred that constitutes ethnic incitement, vilification of others or incitement to cause harm;
8. Carry or display arms or weapons, including traditional weapons, at political meetings, polling stations, or during any gathering of a political and electoral nature;
9. Aid, abet, tolerate, or promote intimidation in any form. All parties and candidates shall reinforce this prohibition in their manuals and instructions to members and supporters;
10. Publish false or defamatory allegations in connection with an election in respect to a Political Party, its candidates, representatives, or members, or a candidate or that candidate's representative and /or Carry any statue, caricature or anything which tends to ridicule, revile, or

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- scandalize any Political Party or its leader at any public political gathering, meeting, or procession;
11. Obstruct, disrupt, break-up or in any other way whatsoever interfere with a meeting, rally or demonstration of another Political Party or its leadership;
 12. Plagiarize the symbols, speeches, colors, acronyms, or publications of other registered Political Parties or impersonate any other person;
 13. Destroy or spoil the ballot paper intentionally or refuses to leave the polling center or station or fail to obey lawful instructions of polling officials;
 14. Continuously stay, without permission, inside the polling center or station during the voting process;
 15. Deface or destroy any public notice, Political Party list or any other document displayed at the polling center or destroy any other asset of the polling center during or after the polling;
 16. Remove the publication notice of results posted at the polling center;
 17. Establish or maintain a para-military force, militia or similar organization or have any links with such organizations;
 18. Infringe on the secrecy of voting through, asking another person about the way he or she voted, inducing a person to review how he or she voted, attempt to see how another person voted and obtain knowledge by unlawful means on how a voter has voted;
 19. Interfere in any manner with the independence or impartiality of the Political Parties Council (PPC) and its staff;
 20. Use state resources for partisan campaigns;
 21. Misinform or disinform the public for purposes of gaining a political advantage over opponents;
 22. Discriminate on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sex/gender, disability, class, or religion in connection with an election or political activity, except for legally justified discrimination that addresses proven inequalities such as those that adversely affect women and persons with disabilities in the electoral process;
 23. Block access of Political Parties to voters for purposes of voter education, fundraising, collecting signatures, recruiting members, or canvassing support for a Political Party or its candidate;
 24. Intimidation, in any form, is impermissible;
 25. Reject the outcome of an election conducted in accordance with the law. All Political Parties, candidates, agents, and supporters should accept the authority of the constitutionally established government;

26. Use the cyber space to promote hate speech and inflammatory language;
27. Hold rallies, meetings, marches or demonstrations physically close to one another during the same time of the day;
28. Utilize public address systems, either fixed or mobile between 21:00pm and 07:00am hours and which could constitute a public nuisance;
29. Disrupt other parties, rallies, meetings, marches or demonstrations;
30. Seek to obstruct other persons from attending the political rallies of other Political Parties; and
31. Disfigure or destroy political or campaign materials of other Political Parties.

26. Offences and Penalties

Any person, who violates any of the provisions of this Code of Conduct, commits an offence and will face penalties based on the nature and magnitude of the offence.

27. Rules and Orders

The Chairperson may issue rules and orders for the efficient and effective implementation of this Code of Conduct.

Issued under my hand on this 18th day of August 2024


James Akol Zakayo

Hon. Eng. James Akol Zakayo
Chairperson
Political Parties Council
Republic of South Sudan
Juba



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