



MINISTRY OF TOURISM
Republic of Maldives

URGENT

C I R C U L A R

Circular no: 88-IIHR/CIR/2021/17
To: All Tourist Resorts
Date: 16th February 2021
Subject: **Local Council Election & Women Development Committee Election 2020**

Dear Sir / Madam,

We refer to our Circular Ref: 88-IIHR/CIR/2021/15 dated 03rd February 2021.

Due to the increasing spread of Covid-19, Health Protection Agency (HPA) has put in place new measures restricting travel movements. With regard to this, as a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19, Elections Commission has instructed ballot boxes to be put in every tourist resort, to allow all locals the right to vote.

As the previously requested information have been revised by Elections Commission we kindly, request all tourist resorts to re-register using the below link before **18 February 2021 at 10:00AM**.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnyF6HU85ulriyak44Xzf701Cy5RNvvctjU_GULT-gP3leQw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Please find attached "Ballot Box Placement Policy for Resorts for the Local Council Election and Women Development Committee Elections 2020" for your perusal.

If you require further clarification please contact the below mentioned focal point.

1. Ministry of Tourism: Ms. Fathmath Shifa, Assistant Director, contact no: 7845323, email: fathmath.shifa@tourism.gov.mv
2. Elections Commission: Ms. Shahula Ismail, Assistant Director, contact no: 7775831, email: shahula.ismail@elections.gov.mv

We anticipate your full cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Yours sincerely,

Ali Shinan
Director
(Acting Permanent Secretary)



Local Councils and Women's Development Committee Election 2020

Guideline on Establishing Polling Stations in Resorts

1. Introduction

By law, all citizens of Maldives above 18 years of age are eligible to cast their vote and it is a responsibility of Elections Commission to make arrangements for polling. So Elections Commission of Maldives wants to make arrangements for polling in resorts, so that Maldivian Staffs who are eligible to vote in **Local Councils Election and Women's Development Committee Election 2020** scheduled for 10th April 2021, can take part in polling. This guideline defines the arrangements which must be arranged from Resort Management and Elections Commission of Maldives. Polling stations can only be established in resorts, if the Management agrees to arrange the following requirements.

2. Arrangements required from Resorts

2.1 Minimum 3 Officials from Resort

Total 5 Maldivians will work as Election Officials in Polling Station. Official who is in-charge and Assistant in-charge of polling station will be arranged by Elections Commission of Maldives. Other 3 officials must be Local Staffs who are working in that particular resort, approved by Elections Commission of Maldives.

2.1.1 Working Hours of Officials

Election is scheduled for 10th April 2020 and polling will take place from 07:00 to 17:00. Vote counting will start after 30 Minutes from the announced time to end polling. Entire polling process will finish when temporary result is announced in that particular polling station after the vote counting.

2.2 Arranging food and accommodation for officials arranged by Elections Commission

Resort Management must arrange food and accommodation for 2 officials (In-charge and Assistant in-charge of polling station) sent by Elections Commission. These officials will go to resort in early morning of voting day or in the afternoon of day before voting day with items required for polling.

2.3 Appointing a Focal Point from resort

For the resorts that agree to establish a polling station, management must appoint a Focal Point within resort staffs and details of that person should be shared with Elections Commission.

2.4 Securing Ballot Papers and all other items sent by Elections Commission

Resort Management must make arrangements to safeguard ballot papers and all other items sent by Elections Commission and details of those arrangements must be shared with Elections Commission. Security will be provided by Maldives Police Services at the time of Ballot Paper transportation to and from resort. Staffs of Maldives Police Services will not stay in resort.

All the items required for polling, including ballot papers will be carried by Officials appointed by elections commission and security will be provided by Maldives Police Services. These items will be sent to resorts in early morning of voting day or in the afternoon of day before voting day with the Officials and Staffs of Maldives Police Services.

When these items arrive to resort, resort management must make arrangement to keep these items in a secure place and must ensure that no one has access to that place.

2.5 Arrangements for Observers, Monitors and Candidate Representatives

Observers, Monitors and Candidate Representatives with permits provided by Elections Commission, must be permitted to travel in and out of resort and the management must arrange a way for them to access to the polling station. List of the permitted Observers, Monitors and Candidate Representatives will be shared with resort management, prior to voting day.

Resort management is not obligated provide food and accommodation for Observers, Monitors and Candidate Representatives. But it is recommended to assist them if required.

2.6 Preparation of Polling Station

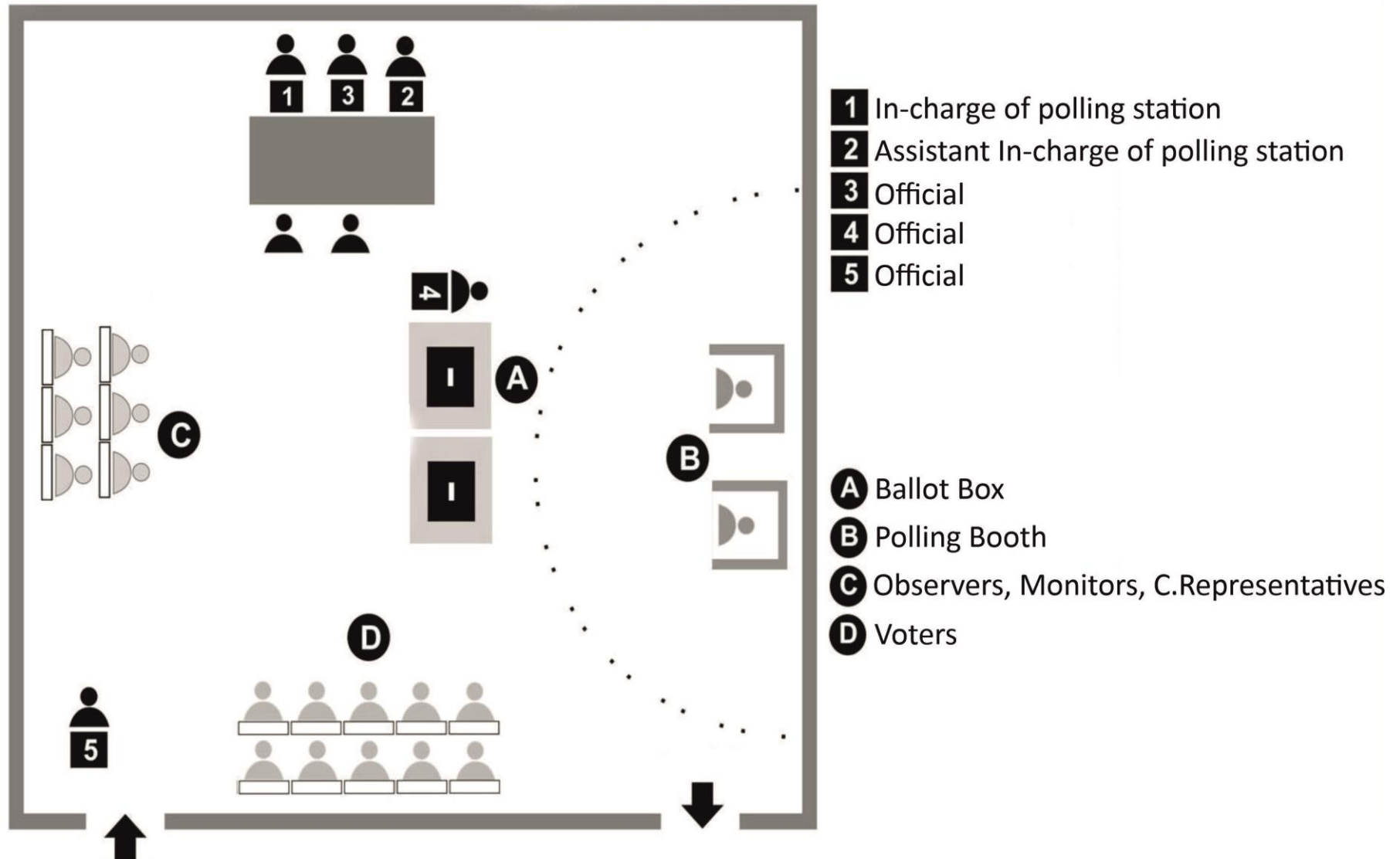
For the resorts that wish to establish a polling station, resort management must share the details of the location with Elections Commission.

Along with details, there should be a map of resort with the location and dimension of polling station marked.

Resort Management must ensure that location allocated for polling station is secure for polling, counting and result announcement. Person appointed as Focal Point and Officials arranged by resort must assist in preparing the polling station.

Elections Commission recommend to allocate a place with the dimension of 25feet by 20feet as a polling station.

POLLING STATION LAYOUT



2.7 Ensuring safety throughout the polling process

Throughout the polling process, resort management must ensure that polling station is safeguarded. Throughout the polling process until everything is packed after vote counting, person In-charge of the polling station will supervise and take action if required. If any violation occurs in the polling station, it is a responsibility of polling station in-charge to inform it to Elections Commission. But this does not prevent resort management to inform it directly to elections commission in case of a violation.

2.8 Providing First Aid

Resort Management must arrange and ensure that First Aid is provided at the earliest, to Voters and Officials if required.

3. Arrangements from Elections Commission

3.1 Transportation of Officials and Items required for polling

Elections Commission will send 2 officials (In-charge and Assistant In-charge of polling station) and items required for polling (excluding table & chair) to resort. Transportation required for this will be arranged by Elections Commission.

3.2 Training Officials

Elections Commission will provide the required training to In-charge and Assistant In-charge of polling station and officials of resorts will be trained by In-charge and Assistant In-charge of polling station.

3.3 Allowances for Officials

Elections Commission will give an allotted allowance for officials.

4. Others

If anything occurs which is not included in this guideline, resort focal point and a responsible staff of Elections Commission must discuss to resolve the matter.