

**OFFICE OF THE ELECTION COMMISSIONER FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TRIPURA: AGARTALA.**

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NO.F. 2(4)/EC/DC/GEN-ELEC/2020/ 17326

Date 23.02.2021

**MEMORANDUM**

**Sub: Instructions for free access during nomination and regulation for meetings and processions.**

The schedule for Election for the ensuing District Council Constituencies will be announced shortly, with the announcement of election the degree and intensity of political campaign will increase. Further, immediately after issue of notification under Rule -38 and public notice of Election under Rule 39 of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (Constitution, Election and Conduct of Business) Rules 1985, candidates of different political parties and independent candidates would start filing their nominations. Accordingly, it is felt necessary to issue directions for regulating meetings and processions and securing safe entry of all the candidates for filing of nomination. Therefore the following directions are issued by the Commission to ensure safe and secure access to all the candidates in the Offices of respective Returning Officer and also for regulation of the meetings and processions of Political Parties for conduct of free and fair election.

1. In all cases, the guidelines issued by the Commission vide No.F.3(1)SEC/GEN-CORRS/COVID-19/16182 dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020 in connection with conduct of Local Bodies Election during COVID-19 Pandemic , and other restrictions/measures imposed by the Government regarding COVID-19 Pandemic will be applicable during Election process.

**2. Restrictions on Nomination Process.**

- i) No gathering to be allowed within 200 meters periphery of the Returning Officer's office complex from the date of Notification of Election to till the last date of withdrawal of candidature.
- ii) It is anticipated that a good number of vehicles and people accompanying some of the candidates may cause serious threat to maintenance of general law and order in the Office of the Returning Officer. Keeping this in view, the maximum number of vehicles which can be used for conveyance of candidates or accompanying him to be allowed to come within the periphery of 200 meters of Returning Officer's Office Complex has been restricted to 2(Two) light vehicle and maximum number of persons who can be allowed to enter the Office of the Returning Officer at the time of filling of nomination has been limited to 3(three) only including candidate. No other person shall be allowed.
- iii) A police Officer, not below the rank of Sub-Inspector/Assistant Sub-Inspector should be appointed as a Nodal Officer to ensure strict adherence of the above instruction on restricting the number of vehicles and persons accompanying the candidates. Any violation of this instruction at the time of filling of Nomination Paper will be seriously viewed by the Commission. Moreover, all other restrictions /measures imposed by the Government regarding COVID-19 Pandemic should be maintained as per statute.

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- iv) The Police Authority should make arrangement for frequent patrolling of the police forces at all the roads leading to the Returning Officer's Office to prevent any untoward situation and to install confidence among the intended candidates about peaceful situation.
- v) The whole process of filling of Nomination Paper should be video graphed in the room of the Returning Officer. A certificate regarding recording of all events related to the submission of Nomination, Scrutiny and withdrawal of the candidature, must be submitted to the District Election Officer just after the completion of each event. The District Election Officer should check all the video footage and confirm that each of the events completed properly and orderly.

**3. Holding of meetings in a peaceful manner:**

- i) Public meeting/gathering/rallies may be conducted subject to adherence of COVID-19 guidelines. Political parties or candidate shall inform the local police authorities of the venue and time of any proposed meeting well in advance so as to enable the Police to make necessary arrangements for maintaining peace and order.
- ii) 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. If such orders exist, that shall be followed strictly.
- iii) A Register shall be maintained at all the Police Stations for recording the requests received from the Political parties and time and place allotted to them.
- iv) The time and place allotted by Police Station shall be strictly followed by the all Political parties.
- v) Rules regarding use of loudspeakers and the permissible timings shall be strictly followed by the political party seeking/getting permission to hold meetings.
- vi) Any vehicle on which a loudspeaker is used without the written permit , as indicated in the Memorandum issued by the Election Commission for District Council regarding use of loudspeakers for election campaign, shall be confiscated forthwith along with the loudspeakers and all the apparatus used along with it.
- vii) Organisers 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. Organisers themselves shall not take action against such persons.

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**4. Regulations of Processions.**

Prior permission should be taken from the concerned Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of the concerned District. Council Constituency for organizing any rally/procession etc.

- i) A Party or candidate organizing a procession shall decide before hand the time and place of the starting of the procession and where it will terminate. There shall be no deviation from the programme.
- ii) The organizers shall give advance intimation to the local police authorities of the programme so as to enable the later to make necessary arrangements.
- iii) The organisers 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.
- iv) Traffic regulations or restrictions shall also be carefully adhered to.
- v) The organisers 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 divided in segments of suitable lengths, for avoiding heavy traffic congestion.
- vi) Processions shall be so regulated as to keep as much to the right side of the road as possible and the direction and advice of the police on duty shall be strictly complied with.
- vii) 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 organisers 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.
- viii) The political parties or candidates shall exercise control to the maximum possible extent in the matters of processionists carrying articles which may be put to misuse by them or undesirable elements especially in moments of excitement.
- ix) 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.

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**5. Secured access to prospective candidates during Nomination Process.**

- i. Adequate security / police contingent shall be deployed at Returning Officers Office from the date of commencement of notification under Rule-38 of Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (Constitution, Election and Conduct of Business) Rules, 1985.
- ii. A close watch shall kept by the local police such that secured access is available to all candidates for enabling them to exercise their statutory right for filing Nomination without any hindrance.
- iii. The Returning Officer shall be in close contact with local police station and SDPO so that a close coordination is maintained in this regard.

In event of any report by any candidate or political party regarding any threat or intimidation, the Returning Officer concerned shall immediately establish contact with local police station and SDPO concerned.

**By Order of the Election Commissioner for District Council.**

  
**(P. Bhattacharjee)**  
Secretary

Election Commissioner for District Council.  
Tripura

**Copy to:-**

1. The Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura for information.
2. The Director General of Police, Govt. of Tripura for information
3. The DEOs (District Magistrate & Collectors) North/Unokoti/Dhalai/Khowai/ West/Sepahijala/Gomati/South District for information.
4. The Returning Officers (SDMs) for information & necessary action.

**Copy forwarded to:-**

The President/Chairman/General Secretary/Secretary of..... Party.

  
Secretary

Election Commissioner for District Council.  
Tripura