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The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

EXTRAORDINARY

අංක 2211/49 - 2021 ජනවාරි මස 21 වැනි බ්‍රහස්පතින්දා - 2021.01.21
No. 2211/49 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

(Published by Authority)

PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ACT No. 1 OF 1981

Notice under Sub Section 8(9)

The schedule hereto lists the Orders issued under sub-section 8 (9) of the Act for recognition as a political party under the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981.

On the order of the Election Commission,

SAMAN SRI RATNAYAKE,
Commissioner General of Elections.

Elections Secretariat,
Sarana Mawatha, Rajagiriya,
21st January, 2021.



SCHEDULE

Documents to be submitted as

per statutory provisions

Criteria

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. The party constitution | <p>1.1. It should be based on objectives related to political activities</p> <p>1.2. Provisions should be made for the appointment, removal and disciplinary action of members and office bearers in a manner that safeguards the principles of natural justice and democracy.</p> <p>1.3. Provisions for amending the party constitution should be clearly stated.</p> <p>1.4 The Constitution shall specify the periods for convening General Meetings and Special General Meetings.</p> |
| 2. Office Bearers | <p>2.1. Women officer/ officers should have been appointed to a post mentioned in the party constitution.</p> <p>2.2. The representation of women in the office bearers should have been confirmed within a period of 4 years prior to the last date for calling applications for party registration.</p> <p>2.3. If there are officers / members in the office bearers who are of other parties not in an alliance, information about them should be submitted.</p> |
| 3. Reports on the Audited Accounts | <p>3.1. Reports on the Audited accounts for four years prior to the closing date for applications for party registration should be submitted.</p> <p>3.2. Relevant accounts should have been audited by a registered Auditor.</p> |
| 4. Current policy statement of the party | <p>4.1. It is essential that it is a policy statement formulated to achieve the objectives set out in the Party Constitution.</p> <p>4.2. The policy statement must be approved by a simple majority of the Central Committee of the party / office bearers.</p> |
| 5. Political activities | <p>5.1. Must be actively engaged basically in democracy, suffrage, the rule of law and the rights of the people of the country.</p> <p>5.2. Must have been involved in political activities for at least 4 years before the last date for submission of applications to be recognized as a political party. During those 4 years at least 5 political activities should have been done in each year, and at least two of those five political activities must have been major political activities.</p> |

per statutory provisions

Criteria

5.2.2 **Leading Political Activities**

- i. Political party that has submitted applications for recognition of political parties must independently put forward their candidates within a period of four years or put forward their candidates in alliance with another recognized political party by a memorandum of understanding or contest independently for any election in any given year.

When the voting period includes two consecutive years, the function of contesting that election will be considered for both years. However, both years can be considered only if it is conclusively proven that they have competed alone or in an alliance.

- ii. If a political party has held its annual conference and district assemblies in a given year, and established branch societies, it is considered to be a major political activity in the relevant year.
- iii. Printing of newspapers or magazines continuously for the last four years by a party that engages in political activity to propagate its own party policies and political activism is considered a major political activity.
- iv. Must be engaged throughout the relevant year in various national activities acceptable to the Election Commission on any national or social issue.
- v. It is considered a major political activity to have implemented a continuous program throughout the year to publicize the policy statements, principles and ideas of the relevant political party island wide throughout the country.

5.2.3. **Other political activities**

- i. Active involvement in party or opposition activities related to government policy is considered another political activity.
- ii. Active participation for public rights is seen as another political activity.
- iii. The conduct of various educational programs or other activities related to democracy, the right to vote, the protection of the rule of law in the country or any other related activities are considered as other political activities.
- iv. Educating the party activists and the people relevant to gaining political power in the country is considered as another political activity.

per statutory provisions

Criteria

- v. The activities of the candidates, who have won a particular election, to implement the policies of the party in the relevant public agency are also considered as the political activities of the party for the respective year.
- vi. If an organization continues to maintain affiliated professional, youth, women's, etc. organizations and proves that the organization is led by the party, that work is considered as a other political activity relevant to that party.
- vii. Although the publication of party ideologies through social networking personal accounts or limited groups in the name of the party is a political function relevant to each year it is not considered a major political function. The content of the social media accounts maintained in the personal name of the party activists can be obtained as evidence of the activities of the party, but the maintenance of the accounts in that personal name cannot be considered as an activity of the party.
- viii. Although issuance of announcements by the print / electronic media or social networks on a regular basis or holding regular press conferences in the name of the party by a specific leader or an official of the party may be considered as one of the activities of the party for each year, issuing press releases or holding press conferences alone without public participation or any activity on the ground is not considered a continuous political activity.
- ix. Sending or handing over a letter to the competent authorities on matters of national or international importance alone is not considered as a party political activity. However, in such cases, the regular submission of such letters is considered to be press releases issued in each year.
- x. Receiving invitations or attending to other political parties' anniversaries or annual conventions, or attending public events or government meetings is not considered a political activity of the party.
- xi. Activities related to the subject alone of organizations that are organized solely for one area, such as the environment, religion, welfare, social services, and trade unions, cannot be considered as continuous political activities. If an organization has carried out environmental or welfare or social service or several professional or other activities **and other political activities** in a single year, those environmental activities or welfare activities or social service activities or professional activities done during the year can be considered as one political activity pertaining to that year. Further, when activities are carried out in several such areas along with other political activities, the activities relevant to each field are taken together and considered as separate activities for each field.

per statutory provisions

Criteria

- xii. If an organization shows involvement in social service or social welfare activities or environmental protection as part of political activities, such activities can be considered as political activities **only if they are carried out covering the entire island** or at least covering an entire electoral district or administrative district. For example, engaging in social work for only a few villages in a single electoral district cannot be considered a political activity.