

ELECTORAL SUPERVISORY COMMISSION

COMMUNIQUE

REGISTER OF ELECTORS

The Constitution of the Republic of Mauritius and Representation of the People Act

To be able to vote, the Constitution provides that a person shall not be entitled to be registered as an elector in any constituency in which he is not resident on the prescribed date.

According to section 4 of the Representation of the People Act, the prescribed date is on the first of January in any year. The law also provides that a new register is to be compiled and it comes into effect on the 16th of August every year.

The duty to register himself or herself as an elector rests on the citizen.

The Office of the Electoral Commissioner puts in place the required systems for the citizen to register himself or herself and also to verify whether he or she is on that register before it comes into effect on 16th August each year.

THE 2019 REGISTRATION PROCESS

Phase1

7 January, 2019

Accordingly, the Office of the Electoral Commissioner started the registration process this year with a press conference by the Electoral Commissioner held on 7 January, 2019 which was attended by the media.

In the course of that press conference, the Electoral Commissioner specifically drew attention to the fact that 2019 was likely to be an election year and that all citizens should ensure that they duly register themselves.

12 to 26 January, 2019

Thereafter, a house to house enquiry was conducted in all constituencies during the period 12 to 26 January, 2019. A total of 2,533 Assistant Registration Officers were deployed for the said exercise and the team visited 296,533 households across all constituencies, including Rodrigues and Agalega.

Those Assistant Registration Officers visited households after working hours and during weekends in order to reach the maximum number of persons and the heads of each household. In case a house was found closed, the Assistant Registration Officer left a memo card inviting the residents to contact the Office of the Electoral Commissioner and appropriate action was taken accordingly for those who responded.

11 to 24 January, 2019

Several advertisements were issued by the Office of the Electoral Commissioner through electronic media during 11 to 24 January, 2019 to ensure maximum participation of citizens in the house to house enquiry process. It is noteworthy that a number of journalists accompanied the Assistant Registration Officers in the course of that exercise and reported thereon.

The links to the various news articles are set out hereunder;

Le Defi Media

<https://defimedia.info/commission-electorale-lenregistrement-des-electeurs-debut-ce-samedi-12-janvier>

Radio One

<http://www.r1.mu/actu/politique/irfan-raman-cest-le-devoir-du-citoyen-de-sassurerquil-est-sur-la-liste-electorale--p293485>

<http://www.r1.mu/actu/politique/6-de-la-population-toujours-pas-enregistres-p177092>

ION News

<http://www.ionnews.mu/video-irfan-rahman-invite-les-jeunes-a-verifier-sils-sont-sur-la-liste-electorale-080119/?fbclid=IwAR1Qi0bbu1S0BNuVfcmpofxUS4d0cOfX0EHDHgSxNScNmXhJADJr68KJDas>

This Week News

<https://thisweeknews.info/index.php/2019/01/23/video-recensement-electoralelecteurs-enregistrez-vous/>

L'Express

<https://www.lexpress.mu/video/346607/recensement-electoral-journee-dune-canvasser-en-image>

<https://www.lexpress.mu/article/345619/registre-electoral-lenregistrement-debutecette-semaine>

Le Mauricien

<https://www.lemauricien.com/article/registre-electoral-lenregistrement-des-electeurs>

MBC

<https://www.mbcradio.tv/article/début-de-l'enregistrement-des-électeurs-cesamedi-12-janvier>

As a result of this comprehensive exercise, a total of 40,838 new electors were registered. Further 8,885 electors who had been previously registered provided their updated details and were registered accordingly.

Phase 2

16 to 30 May, 2019.

Following the house to house enquiry, a provisional register of electors was compiled by the Office of the Electoral Commissioner. The register was made available to the public for verification of the details at registration centres in all constituencies as well as the Office of the Electoral Commissioner during 16 to 30 May, 2019. This was advertised both in the print and the electronic media.

This provisional register of electors was given wide publicity through different media platforms. Announcements were also made daily on television as well as on national and private radios, between 16 to 30 May 2019.

Additionally, a Hotline 800-2010 and SMS service on 789 was provided by the Office of the Electoral Commissioner for verification of elector details across all telephone service providers (my.t, Emtel and MTML). During this registration exercise, a search engine was also made available on the website of the Office of the Electoral Commissioner, where electors had the possibility of verifying their registration details. This facility was also advertised on television, radio, posters and flyers from 16 to 30 May 2019.

Banners were also put up across different public premises such as Municipal and District Councils and Registration Centres. Posters and Flyers were also distributed at various public places like colleges and universities, post offices, senior citizen councils (all districts), police stations, ministries and departments, youth centres, fire service stations, citizens advice bureaus and bus transport companies amongst others. Members of Parliament were provided with flyers and posters to further sensitise the electorate.

Furthermore, the Office of the Electoral Commissioner invited potential electors to come to the Office so as to ascertain whether they are registered or not.

At the close of this exercise 3,687 citizens had attended the registration centres to verify their registration. Consequently, 998 new electors were registered.

Final phase

August 16, 2019

The register of electors came into force on 16 August, 2019.

According to Statistics Mauritius, the total population of Mauritius was 1,265,985 as at 1 July 2019. The number of registered electors as at 16 August 2019 was 941,719 compared to the 2018 register where the number of registered electors was 923,316.

The Electoral Supervisory Commission notes with regret that, despite its policy of ensuring that the maximum number of citizens entitled to vote are able to do so, a certain number of persons will not be able to vote for the National Assembly Elections 2019 because their names do not appear on the 2019 register.

The Electoral Supervisory Commission again urges the citizens to ensure that their names are included in the registers so as to be able to vote at future Local Governments and National Assembly Elections.

The Electoral Supervisory Commission further avails itself of this opportunity to inform the public that the next registration exercise will start in January 2020.

6 Nov 2019, Port Louis