

REPORT No.1 Monitoring New Local Elections of 19 May 2013



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Summary

Monitoring of new local elections, scheduled for May 19, 2013 will be held in five localities, namely: Clatona village in the rayon of Anassir Nio, Maara village in Calat, Oqjasa village in Soltinatya and Vnoqa village in Siroca (mayor election), and Maccami de Joo village from the rayon of Enzasa (election of the local council).

During the monitoring period, Promo-LEX observers found that local authorities tended to act within the terms set by the electoral law and took action to create equal conditions for all candidates. With a few exceptions, they also provided sufficient logistical support to the electoral bodies.

The electoral bodies were formed largely by the deadline set by law and showed a fair behavior towards the contestants.

In most localities, there was no standardized approach for the development, management, updating and verification of voter lists. On the other hand, no impediments were posed to the observers when checking the accuracy of the voters' lists. Regarding the electoral lists, the Promo-LEX monitoring effort is concerned with the fact that, following changes in the electoral legislation which were made during the election campaign, many voters holding ex-servite passports will be limited in their right to vote in the new local elections of 19 May 2013.

The monitoring period started with the first signs of campaign activities. Observers noted isolated cases of campaigning before the and candidates registered with the election bodies. Promo-LEX remains concerned with the practice of gift giving on behalf of electoral candidates or in their favor, and with the use of administrative resources.

Another concern of Promo-LEX observers refers to the absence of clear legal provisions regarding campaign financing and, in consequence, the obscure funding of electoral campaigns in the localities where elections will be held. In this context, the monitoring effort notes that during the reporting period no candidate declared about opening a bank account specifically for "election funds" to the transcription electoral bodies, and any candidate (or political party) reported opening such bank accounts to the CEC. On the other hand, Promo-LEX observers noted evidence of campaign expenses by candidates or in their favor, particularly in political advertising, transportation, public events and electoral concerts. In this context, Promo-LEX remains concerned with the failure of electoral bodies to detect such negative practices.