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EXTRAORDINARY

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PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

Government Notifications

PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS ACT No. 1 OF 1981

Notice under Subsection 8 (9)

THE Schedule hereto lists the Orders issued under Subsection 8 (9) of the Act for recognition as a political party by the election commission 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 2022.



SCHEDULE

Orders issued under Sub-section 8 (9) of the Act relating to the provisions of Section 7 of the Act with respect to the recognition as a political party under Sub-section 8 (9) of the Parliamentary Elections Act No. 1 of 1981

Documents to be submitted as

per statutory provisions	Criteria
1. The party constitution	1.1. shall be based on objectives related to political activities. 1.2. shall provide for the appointment, removal and disciplinary action of members and office - bearers in a manner that safeguards the principles of natural justice and democracy. 1.3. Shall clearly state the manner in which the party constitution is amended; 1.4. Shall specify the time frames for convening General Meetings and Special General Meetings; 1.5. Shall not include provisions or clauses that may form the basis for social divisions such as race, religion, caste, or tribe.
2. Office Bearers	2.1. Woman representation in one of the major positions in the office bearers should be enshrined in the party constitution. 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. 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.
3. Reports on the Audited Accounts	3.1. Reports on the Audited accounts for four years prior to the closing date for applications for party registration should be submitted. 3.2. Statements of accounts submitted as per 3.1 above, should have been audited by a registered Auditor.
4. Current policy statement of the party	4.1. The policy statement ought to have been essentially formulated in such a manner so as to achieve the objectives set out in the party constitution. 4.2. The policy statement must have been approved by a simple majority of the central committee/office bearers of the party.
5. Political activities	5.1. Must be actively engaged basically in democracy, suffrage, the rule of law and the rights of the people of the country. 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 each year, and at least two of those five political activities must have been major political activities .

5.2.2 Major Political Activities

- i. A political Party that has submitted applications for recognition must have contested any election in any given year within a period of four years, independently or fielded their candidates in alliance with another recognized political party by way of a Memorandum of Understanding.

When the Election period spans over two consecutive years, both years are treated as having contested the election, and such treatment is subject to conclusive confirmation that the election was contested alone or in alliance with a recognized political party or parties.

- 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 advocacy for public rights is deemed 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. Creating awareness among party activists and the people regarding governing power in the country is considered another political activity.
- v. The functions of the candidates of the party that won the election, within the institution of people's representation to implement the policies of the party are also considered as political activities of the party for the respective year.
- vi. If an organization continues to maintain professional, youth, women's movements affiliated there to and prove that the organization is led by the party; such work is considered yet another political activity of the relevant 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 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. Making written submissions to the competent authorities on matters of National or international importance alone is not considered a political activity of the party. However, in such cases, the regular submission of such letters is treated like press releases issued in the respective 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.
- xii. If an organization shows involvement in social service or social welfare activities or environmental protection as part of 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.

6. Documents to be submitted

- 6.1. It is mandatory to submit formal documents/reports in proof of the activities aforesaid whenever demanded by the Election Commission.

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