



Measures against corrupt and illegal practices during referendum registration

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is responsible for deciding on illegal practices during the referendum?

The Southern Sudan Referendum Act 2009 and the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission (SSRC) procedures and regulations have defined illegal practises and established anti-fraud measures during the registration process.

What would be considered corrupt and illegal practices?

The following practices would be termed corrupt and illegal:

- Offering or accepting a bribe with the intention to influence another person's choice in the referendum;
- Use of violence or intimidation;
- Obstructing in any manner referendum officials and activities;
- Providing or publishing intentionally false information during the registration. This applies to both the registrant and any other person providing information about eligibility and identity;
- Registering while pretending to be another person whether living or dead or a fictitious person (impersonation);
- Registering or attempting to register more than once;
- Buying or selling registration cards;
- Altering or stealing registration cards.

Are there any regulations directed at SSRC staff?

Yes, SSRC staff members should not:

- Allow citizens to register if they have traces of indelible ink;
- Refuse to allow accredited observers, media representatives or other persons authorized by the SSRC to exercise their duties;
- Publish or print the Referendum Register or any part thereof which contains false or incorrect

information;

- Destroy written complaints, objections or changes.

What are the sanctions and penalties for illegal practices?

The SSRC has the power to take necessary action against any person who commits an action deemed to be a corrupt practice and take appropriate actions against any employee or worker who contravenes the Southern Sudan Referendum Act and SSRC procedures. The courts may impose penalties up to two years of prison or fines, or both.

Are there any other measures the SSRC would take?

The registration procedures approved by the SSRC provide the following additional measures to ensure the integrity of the registration process:

- Only a person whose identity and eligibility have been established can be registered;
- To register, the applicant must come in person. No one is allowed to register family members, neighbours, friends or others;
- Every registered voter will be issued with a laminated, sealed registration card;
- Indelible ink will be applied on the left index finger of every registered voter;
- By the end of every day of the registration process, all important materials will be packed and sealed in tamper evident bags.

How can voters correct any erroneous information on the register?

At the end of the registration process, the Preliminary Referendum Register (PRR) is displayed at each Referendum Center (RC) for a total of seven days. During this Exhibition and Objections period, any registered voter may submit a written request to correct erroneous information or data regarding his/her registration or object to the registration of another person (ask for the deletion of registrants who are deemed ineligible to participate in the

referendum).

Once the exhibition period has concluded, the Consideration Committees will have 5 days to decide upon all requests. Immediately after that they must publicly display the lists of all corrections and deletions made. Any person who is prejudiced by the decision issued by the committee can appeal to the competent court within 7 days.

What is the role of observers and media presentatives?

Observers and media representatives officially accredited by the SSRC play an important role in discouraging fraud, intimidation and violence. Their presence during registration makes a positive contribution towards transparency and helps ensure the credibility of the referendum process. Observers and media should always perform their duties in an impartial and neutral manner. They are also expected to follow their respective Code of Conduct.

UNITED NATIONS MISSION IN SUDAN

Ebeid Khatim Street
P.O. Box 69
Khartoum, 1111
Sudan

PHONE:
(249) 187-086000

FAX:
- Inside Sudan: 0 187 086200
- Outside Sudan: +1 917 3673523

E-MAIL:
ecomment-pio@un.org

We're on the Web!

See us at:
www.unmis.org